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THE Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 50 NUMBER 3 • MARCH 1 - MARCH 29, 2024

IMPs Show Area Campuses Reaching For the Skies

IMAGE: WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN



Wentworth's proposed 23-story dorm on Huntington Ave.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Since local campuses occupy tight urban sites without much room for expansion (except for surface parking lots), high-rise dormitories loom in the future for Fenway-area colleges.

Both Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute of Technology have new residential projects in the pipeline. Boston University will renovate its 18-story Warren Towers (700 Comm. Ave.), the largest dormitory in the city, one wing at a time, with a planned construction start of May 2025.

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) requires colleges and universities to file 10-year institutional master plans (IMPs) but allows enough flexibility that schools can file multiple extensions and amendments before they need to produce a new plan. After five amendments, Northeastern received a two-year extension of its 2013 IMP last fall. B.U. will also seek a two-year extension of its 2013-2023 master plan.

Wentworth Institute of Technology just filed its latest IMP, with public comments due by March 20. As of Feb. 28 the BPDA had not announced a public meeting schedule for reviewing the plan. The IMP follows the school's initial submission a year ago and a December BPDA request for supplemental information. Oddly—likely a cut-and-paste mistake—that 10-page document includes three pages related to Boston University.

The plan no longer includes the controversial seven-story parking garage Wentworth previously proposed, although the IMP emphasizes the school's continuing need for parking. As stated in the document: "The majority of Wentworth's faculty and

SENIOR EVENTS

To attend, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For information, visit operationpeaceboston.org. Events this month all take place at the Peterborough Senior Center.

- Tue, March 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2pm: MUSIC4WELLNESS with Berklee College of Music
- Wed, March 6, 13, 20, & 27, 1pm: TECH CAFE with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Thu, March 7, 12pm: Presentation on FRIENDSHIPWORKS PROGRAMS
- Wed, March 13, 20, & 27, 11:45am: ORAL HISTORY with Northeastern and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Thu, March 28, 12pm: 10-Minute CHAIR MASSAGES

VOTE TUE, MAR 5

- Massachusetts joins 15 other states for the **SUPER TUESDAY PARTY PRIMARIES**. You can pull a ballot for Democrats, Libertarians, or Republicans.
- Vote for a **PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE** as well as state committee representatives and

- precinct committee members.
- Vote at your neighborhood polling station from 7am to 8pm.
- **FIND YOUR POLLING STATION** at www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx.

staff commute by car, on average, from over 10 miles away from the University, and Wentworth's co-op model increases the need for many students to commute by car."

Key proposals foresee multiple demolitions, including the landmarked but vacant Vienna Brewery building at Parker and Halleck streets in Mission Hill. Other expected takedowns include older dormitories facing Huntington Avenue: Baker Hall and the Edwards/Rogers residence, currently leased to Northeastern. Wentworth plans to replace them with two high-rise dorms on Huntington adjacent to Massachusetts College of Art and Design's 20-story Treehouse dorm. That 2014 project, whose state involvement exempted it from municipal zoning regulations, has set the context for Wentworth's new proposal.

The plan contains additional teardowns: the Annex complex on Parker Street (the former Ira Allen School, renovated and enlarged in 2012) as well as three older academic buildings on the main campus.

MassArt has its own high-rise plan, to be funded by the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. This involves renovation of the notorious Tower building at the corner of Huntington and Evans Way. The college has hired William Rawn Architects to complete a feasibility study this year to replace the exterior curtain wall and revitalize the interiors, with a focus on making critical repairs in the building's outdated systems.

Just in time—or perhaps too late, given that part of the upper façade fell onto the Evans Way sidewalk—MassArt has now barricaded the lower levels of the building. According to media coverage, large chunks of insulation and other components fell after a structure hanging over an entrance collapsed in the severe wind and rainstorm on Dec. 18, leaving a large hole in an exterior ceiling.

A dormitory at 840 Columbus Ave. drew controversy in Roxbury when Northeastern first proposed it in 2019, because of both its 22-story height and its location. Residents raised concerns about the impact of so many students on nearby housing and referred to broken promises—decades-old commitments to economic revitalization of the community after the land was taken for the Inner Belt.

The school has resurrected the dorm plan with some changes, reducing the height of



Joseph Aoun's Northeastern-owned residence at 34 Beacon St.

the wing facing Tremont Street from 15 to 13 stories and housing more students, with a jump from 800 beds to 1,266, by eliminating five floors of academic space. Like the LightView residence on Burke Street, American Campus Communities will manage the building. Northeastern hopes to open it by fall 2028.

The Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) is expected to vote on the current design on March 5, and the BPDA Board votes on the project on March 14. At the most recent BCDC design subcommittee hearing, commissioner Kirk Sykes expressed continued concern about the wall-like character of the three tall wings facing the neighborhood and the approach from Melnea Cass Boulevard. The ground floor will serve as programming and community space for the public but will not include retail.

A real estate deal for Northeastern—one that doesn't appear to benefit students— Involves the recent acquisition of another condo at 1A Joy Street on Beacon Hill. The two-story penthouse sold for \$5 million. The building sits next door to President Joseph Aoun's residence at 34 Beacon St., currently assessed at \$12,064,400, which the university also owns.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

WITH AGASSIZ ROAD REOPENED, IS IT TIME TO REVISIT ITS NAME?



Following completion of the dredging, flood-control, and re-landscaping project along the Muddy River last fall, Agassiz Road remained closed to traffic. Late last year, some West Fens residents began campaigning to reopen the road, which the state's Department of Conservation & Recreation finally did on Feb. 23.

The focus on the road revived questions about the legacy of its namesake, Louis Agassiz. A prominent 19th-century biologist and geologist, Agassiz (pronounced "ah-guh-see") championed polygenism, a troubling and discredited theory of "scientific racism." Recalling community efforts to rename Yawkey Way and other thoroughfares honoring people associated with historic acts of racism, The Fenway News wants to know: Should we rename Agassiz Road? If so, what name would you suggest? Send your thoughts to fenwaynews@gmail.com.

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

PHOTO: RUTH KHOVANIS

FENS VIEWS

New Rules Boost Affordable Housing, But We Can Do Even More

BY PORTIA BUCHANAN

In February 2000, then-Mayor Thomas Menino established Boston's first inclusionary development policy. Often referred to as IDP, the policy was created to increase the production of affordable housing in Boston. Under IDP, housing developments of ten or more units that require a zoning variance must meet certain affordability standards. In the 24 years since IDP was established, the program has undergone several reforms, the most recent proposed by Mayor Wu in 2022 and approved by the BPDA and the Zoning Commission in 2023. The changes are set to go into effect this October.

The current policy only requires setting aside 13 percent of units in new developments as affordable. The latest changes increase that requirement to 17 percent. They also mandate that an additional 3 percent of a new development be set aside for people with Section 8 vouchers. The recent changes also require developers

to calculate these percentages based on a development's square footage

rather than unit quantity, encouraging the development of more family-sized units. The new changes also lower the threshold to cover all new housing of seven or more units, increasing the number of developments covered by IDP.

Income eligibility for IDP units is determined by Boston's area median income, or AMI. The policy currently restricts IDP units to 70 percent AMI, meaning that the rent must be affordable for households making 70 percent of the area median income (meaning individuals earning up to \$72,730 and families of four earning up to \$103,880). Once the new changes go into effect, the income-restriction for IDP rental units will drop to an average of 50 to 60 percent AMI. This change will require that rents on IDP units be affordable to individuals making up to \$51,950 to \$62,340 and families of four making as much as \$74,200 to \$89,040.

Opponents to the recent updates—including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce—have raised concerns about the feasibility of these changes. These concerns have been addressed: a feasibility analysis produced by RKG Associates (tinyurl.com/2s22aha8) demonstrates that the IDP updates are financially feasible for developers. Opponents have also argued that the policy will discourage housing construction, ultimately stunting housing production in Boston. Supporters of the IDP increase, such as The

Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston (CTAB) and its 20-plus member organizations (including Fenway CDC) argue the opposite: increasing IDP requirements will secure affordable housing for more people without discouraging new developments. In fact, CTAB believes the recent changes don't go far enough.

There is a demonstrable mismatch between the current Inclusionary Development Policy and what Bostonians, particularly Bostonians of color, need to afford to stay in the city. The CTAB website explains that in 2019, 44 percent of Boston's households were considered low- to moderate-income (earning zero to 60 percent of AMI). They could only afford nine percent of new housing developments in Boston. Households making zero to 30 percent of AMI (individuals making up to \$23,800 and families of four making up to \$34,000) could only afford three percent of new housing in Boston.

CTAB has shown that 16 percent of Boston's new housing was only affordable to households making more than 135 percent AMI. Only individuals making more than \$107,100 and families of four making more than \$152,950 could afford new housing in Boston in 2019. Additionally, CTAB notes that the incomes of people living in wealthier cities and towns such as Newton and Brookline inflate Boston's AMI, making AMI an unreliable measure of Bostonians' true income levels.

These statistics have only gotten worse over the past five years. CTAB has four major demands:

1. that the threshold of units needed to trigger IDP be lowered;
2. that over time, the required percentage of affordable housing increase from 20 percent to, potentially, 24 or 25 percent at 50 percent AMI;
3. that "affordability" be defined as an average of 40 percent AMI for rentals and 50 to 100 percent for home-ownership units, and;
4. that affordable units be made permanently affordable rather than affordable for 50 years under current policy.

Kathy Brown, a CTAB leader, also notes that a study by a leading national IDP expert, commissioned by CTAB, shows that using subsidies would make it possible to require 22 to 25 percent of units to be affordable at 40 percent AMI.

Though CTAB does favor of the IDP's recent changes, the coalition feels more work remains to be done to make new development affordable for Boston residents.

Portia Buchanan is the Planning & Organizing Graduate Intern for the Fenway Community Development Corporation.

GUEST OPINION

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IN MEMORIAM

Jana Peretz, 1936–2024

COMPILED BY RUTH KHOWAIS

West Fens resident Jana Peretz died on Jan. 29. Well-traveled, Jana was known for being knowledgeable and artistic. She was also an accomplished pianist.

In lieu of a funeral, a memorial celebration was held on Feb. 8 at the Peterborough Senior Center where friends and neighbors shared stories about Jana.

She was born in California in 1936 and attended the University of California, Berkeley as a music major. Jana lived in Binghamton, New York, where her husband was a political science professor at Binghamton University–SUNY, then moved to Beirut, Lebanon, for several years. There, she taught at the American University. When she arrived in Boston, she lived on Beacon Hill and owned an antique shop. Then, she moved to the Fenway.

After retirement, she taught an art history class at the Peterborough Senior Center. Fenway resident Helen Cox, who took that class, said, "what I remember the most was that she was very knowledgeable and conscientious. She brought



in a lot of backup material. She was a very cultured and well-informed woman." Resident Gerry Cooper, who knew Jana for 35 years and traveled throughout Mexico and Canada with her, said that she had traveled all over the world, attended lots of concerts, and was very knowledgeable about music.

East Fens resident Barbara Fay said that Jana threw herself 100 percent into anything she did. She and Jana started a book club years ago and Jana recommended a book by an author whom she knew, a memoir of a man who lived in Denmark during World War II. Barbara said that Jana not only brought the book to the book club, but she also brought the author.

As she got older and her vision declined, Jana received services from Friendship Works. Felicia Andresen was her Friendship Works volunteer aide and said that Jana loved everyone around her. Felicia, who is from Germany, said that

despite their age difference, Jana was "the first friend I made when coming to the U.S."

Jana leaves a son Jonathan, a daughter Deborah, and many friends.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

Happy Anniversary...To Us!

When a group of activists planned to launch a neighborhood newspaper, they didn't have posterity in mind. They had a more immediate goal: Fill a yawning gap in mainstream media coverage of nearby neighborhoods by providing news with a local focus, local relevance, and local control. Our first issue hit the streets in

March 1974, and of about a dozen community newspapers that sprang up around Boston in that period, only The Fenway News remains.

We plan to mark this milestone year with public presentations, a walking tour, a festive gathering, and excerpts from our archives that provide a taste of the issues and events that have shaped the Fenway, Mission Hill, and

Audubon Circle over the past 50 years. We also want to explore the issues that will shape the community's future.

We'll announce specific events over the coming months. And you'll read about them first right here, in The Fenway News—still locally focused, locally relevant, and locally controlled.

The Fenway News

Serving the Fenway, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle, upper Back Bay, lower Roxbury, Prudential, Mission Hill, and Longwood since 1974

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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. While the Fenway may have changed since then, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

> NEXT ISSUE <

Our next issue will appear on Friday, March 29.

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is Friday, March 22.

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IN MEMORIAM

ADAPTED FROM FENWAY HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Larry Kessler, one of the founders of the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, died on Feb. 1. He was 81.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1942, Larry worked as an ironworker and seminarian. In his twenties, he started civil rights and anti-poverty work, founding and directing Project Appalachia in the late 1960s and co-founding and directing Pittsburgh's Thomas Merton Center in the early 1970s. He moved to Boston to work at the Paulist Center on Boston Common, where he helped expand the Walk for Hunger into Project Bread.

Larry was running a small card and souvenir shop called Copley Flair and serving on the Board of Fenway Community Health Center (now Fenway Health) in the early 1980s when the initial reports of what is now known as HIV/AIDS began to emerge. Larry joined fellow board member John Stein in forming a special committee of the health center's board of directors that would eventually become AIDS Action, which incorporated as a stand-alone nonprofit in 1986 with Larry as executive director.

AIDS Action provided critical services for people living with HIV/AIDS and



Larry Kessler

created groundbreaking HIV-prevention programs and educational campaigns. The organization also engaged in public policy advocacy work.

Under Larry's leadership, AIDS Action founded the AIDS Walk, now known as Strides for Action, which has raised millions of dollars for HIV services at AIDS Action, Fenway Health, and other organizations.

In 1988, Larry was appointed to the National Commission on AIDS, created by Congress in reaction to President Ronald Reagan's failure to respond to the recommendations of the President's Commission on the HIV Epidemic.

Larry moved into the role of AIDS Action's founding director in 2002 and retired in 2006. After a merger in 2013, AIDS Action and its programs and services once again became a part of Fenway Health.

That same year, the nonprofit Victory Programs tapped Larry to run the Boston Living Center, which offered support groups, congregate meals, and other resources for people living with HIV. Larry retired for a second time in 2015. In his later years, Larry enjoyed spending time with his husband and friends.

A memorial service took place on Feb. 15.

Q&A with D7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson

District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson represents the East Fens, Roxbury, Dorchester, and part of the South End. The Fenway News board submitted questions to Fernandes Anderson, and she responded via email.

District 7 encompasses a wide array of neighborhoods and communities, including the East Fens and most of Roxbury. What are the common urgencies for these communities—and other D7 areas that you represent?

Climate, commercial, and housing displacement in District 7—fueled by urban development, gentrification, and economic shifts—require urgent attention. To address this, fostering economic development for marginalized groups, improving access to essential services, and empowering community engagement are crucial priorities for promoting inclusive growth and mitigating disparities.

How do you interact with other city councilors to tackle shared priorities?

I advocate for transparency, accountability, and equitable outcomes in the Council. Actively engaging in meetings and committees, I address citywide issues and promote coalition-building for shared priorities. Fostering open communication with fellow councilors enables effective collaboration and alignment in our efforts.

How do your agendas for the committees you lead [Arts, Culture & Special Events, and Civil Rights & Racial Equity] intersect?

I am committed to embedding civil rights and racial equity considerations in the development and execution of arts and cultural policies and programs. My advocacy centers on policies facilitating equal access to artistic opportunities for all residents, irrespective of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Leveraging the Civil Rights & Racial Equity committee, I actively address systemic barriers and discrimination experienced by marginalized communities, encompassing communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and religious minorities.

What are the key elements of your “equal outcomes for all” D7 Action Plan?

My foremost objective is to focus on revitalizing District 7 as my top priority. I am dedicated to combating displacement, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents, and creating walkable communities to reduce carbon emissions. Additionally, I aim to develop thriving commercial corridors and business districts that contribute to a prosperous economy for everyone in the district.

What is one initiative that you've championed whose progress or completion you look forward to celebrating in 2024?

I am thrilled to announce the RFP for arts in the Art Corridor connecting South End and Roxbury, enhancing the area's aesthetic appeal and revitalizing business corridors in District 7. I am delighted

to release the RFP for the rent-to-own pilot program, a collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Housing, aiming to boost affordable homeownership opportunities in our city. I am eagerly anticipating progress on the District 7 App and Website initiative, focused on refining the platform for enhanced user-friendliness and comprehensive community resourcefulness.

Do you ally with local community organizations to achieve your goals?

Engaging in District 7, I conduct weekly tours, visiting various community entities and collaborating with advocates to develop policies. I also formed the District 7 Advisory Council, meeting weekly for two years to address district concerns and formulate comprehensive policies and projects.

Your lived experiences and preparation for your City Council position include many firsts. How do you see your role in terms of catalyzing opportunities for new and upcoming leaders?

I plan to establish mentorship programs and networking opportunities, connecting emerging leaders with experienced professionals and community stakeholders to facilitate knowledge-sharing and skill-building. Additionally, I will advocate for inclusive policies that remove barriers to entry and create pathways for diverse voices in civic engagement and leadership roles.

What do you think about the way the BPDA balances developers' desire for speedier, easier project approvals, and how do you weigh that against reduced neighborhood involvement?

While efficiency in the approval process is important for development, it should not come at the expense of excluding community input. The challenge lies in finding a middle ground that facilitates efficient project approvals while ensuring that the concerns and perspectives of the neighborhoods are adequately and equitably considered. It's essential to prioritize a process that values both development expediency and community engagement to create a more inclusive and sustainable urban development strategy.

Serious questions have been raised about the rush to approve bioscience labs all over the city without City government's seeming to have either the will or the capacity to evaluate safety risks and inspect labs once they get built. Is this issue on your radar and the Council's?

I am in active discussions with community partners and the administration to assess the feasibility of creating a science commission. This commission would be instrumental in addressing safety concerns, promoting responsible development practices within the bioscience sector, and contributing to well-informed decisions regarding science in Boston.

The Globe reported several years ago that the BPDA was still tracking developer agreements using handwritten ledgers and lacked a unified database for

recording promised community benefits. That, of course, made it impossible to determine whether benefits that played a role in winning project approvals ever got delivered. Comments?

I believe it's crucial to support an audit

that can shed light on the effectiveness of the current tracking system. We need to ensure that there's a reliable and transparent process in place to guarantee that the community receives the benefits it was promised during the approval of development projects.

Some Questions Still Hang After BPDA Votes to Approve 1400 Boylston



View From Boylston Street

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Some questions remain amid enthusiastic support for Samuels & Associates' redevelopment of the Fenway Star Market site at 1400 Boylston St. The lot includes the store, two surface parking lots, and the adjacent former Gulf station at the corner of Boylston and Park Drive.

Support appeared strong at a Feb. 16 hearing, during which the agency's board approved the proposal. Board member Raheem Shepard said he'd never seen another large project receive so much positive response from neighbors.

The new lab/office building, designed by Elkus Manfredi, will have a façade 500 feet long and a primary entrance facing Boylston.

The long list of community benefits is impressive and includes a landscaped park facing Park Drive; a \$12 million commitment for a separate "civic building"; \$18 million for 48 income-restricted condominiums at the nearby Transom project [165 Park Dr. behind Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral]; \$1.3 million for the Fenway CDC's planned six condominiums at 43 Hemenway St.; \$250,000 for Ramler Park's trust fund; and \$1.5 million for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department as mitigation for impacts on the Emerald Necklace. This is in addition to promised streetscape and intersection improvements.

The promised civic building would potentially serve as a Boston Public Library branch, for which Fenway residents have long advocated out of frustration that the neighborhood lacks the public facilities other communities take for granted. There is a standard process for planning a new branch library that will likely consider local programming

needs. A possible bypass to a prolonged public review would involve a home-rule petition from the mayor's office to the state legislature.

Questions raised in detailed letters from Boston Parks remain unanswered. The letters focus on how the project's green space will be permanently protected and concern about new shadows on Emerald Necklace parkland. There were also more than a dozen comments about the project's underground parking garage. Those note that adding parking contradicts the proponent's stated commitment to aggressive strategies for reducing climate impacts. At the hearing, resident and Brookline Avenue CAC member Ryan Hatcher explained his concern about the planned 409 parking spaces—246 more than the 163 in the existing two parking lots.

There are ambiguities in the description of who will use the garage. In a memo, BPDA Project Manager Quinn Valcich stated that the parking will be for project-related and neighborhood uses. Does this refer to Fenway Park events? Rideshare vehicles will be accommodated along Boylston.

The timeline for 1400 Boylston depends on several variables, such as financing and final approvals. Most significantly, the timeline hinges on when Star Market can move from the site to another Samuels project under construction at 421 Park Dr. next to the Landmark Center. [Yet another promised community benefit is three years of shuttle service for West Fens residents to the new store.]

As residents know, Samuels has devised creative uses for the former Gulf station, now with its own website, thefenway.com/locations/the-station.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

With Green Line Shut Through March 8, Work-Arounds and Silver Linings

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Amid breakdowns, shutdowns, and negative media, there are unexpected sweet spots in the current closure of the Green Line's B, C and D branches—set to end March 8—but only if your schedule allows for a slower trip.

First, the E Line continues to provide regular service at all stops. And the fare gates at Copley are open (meaning no fare is charged) for travelling downtown, although

be warned that those trains will be packed.

The T suggests several alternatives for travelers who would normally use the closed branches:

- Orange Line travel is free from Back Bay Station.
- Commuter rail service is free from Lansdowne to Back Bay and South stations.
- The 57 bus is operating free along Comm. Ave. between Kenmore and the B Line's Babcock Street Station.
- Free shuttle buses are operating to/from

Copley and Babcock Street (B Line); Cleveland Circle (C Line); and Brookline Hills (D Line).

Most of the shuttle service is on yellow Yankee buses more commonly used for long-distance routes, so they offer cushioned seats, footrests, tray tables, and individual seat lights. Outbound buses from Copley travel on Comm. Ave. from Berkeley to Kenmore Square. A leisurely ride on a sunny day in February almost felt like a sightseeing trip, offering the pleasure of enjoying the Back Bay architecture. At night, riders

can see the display of white lights on the Commonwealth Mall trees and green lights on trees at Charlesgate.

Granted, not all is rosy. The need to transfer, weather, and crowds can all be unpleasant. And the bigger question remains: will the track and tunnel work result in improved conditions? The MBTA will hold a remote public meeting on March 7 to review the track improvements. Visit mbta.com/projects/track-improvement-program for more information.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Across from the Museum School

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

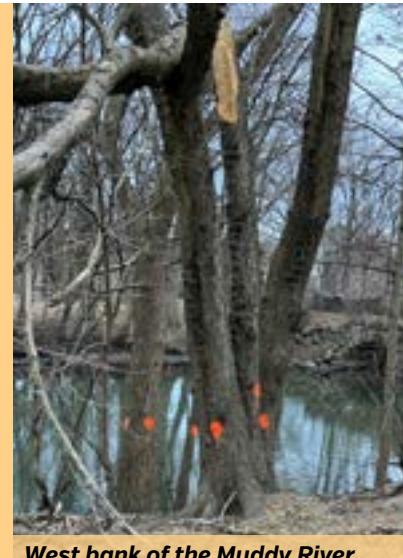
CITY BEGINS REMOVAL OF 46 TREES IN THE FENS TAGGED AS INFESTED OR DEAD

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has begun felling and removing 46 dead or diseased trees, marked with orange spray paint, in the Back Bay Fens. In an announcement from the department, Lauren Bryant, project manager, said "The trees are being removed due to their condition...." The removals, she said, are "unrelated to the Back Bay Fens Pathways project" and "are in no way related to any design needs."

The announcement said that three certified arborists had agreed on which trees needed removal; two work in the department's Urban Forestry Division and the third is a consultant. Trees "marked for removal are dead or high risk trees, many of which are ash trees that have emerald ash borer and elm trees [that] have died due to [D]utch elm disease."

Bryant gave two reasons for carrying out the work in late winter. "First, the ground is hard, which means the work can be done without causing damage to the surrounding ground. Second, it is best management practice to remove trees with emerald ash borer in the dormant season to decrease further spread."

—ALISON PULTINAS



West bank of the Muddy River near the Agassiz Road Bridge.

Name That Tree!

LEARNING TO I.D. SOME LEAFY NEIGHBORS

BY LESLIE POND

A list of 16 types of trees. A record turnout of 60 people. A brisk, sunny Sunday for a walk in the neighborhood.

While I very much appreciate the beauty and benefits of trees in a general way, this year I'm looking to deepen my understanding of the importance of my tree neighbors. And upping my tree-identification game is a first step, akin to learning the names of my human neighbors.

So, I was all in when C. J. Lori, the painter I'd interviewed for our February issue, sent me information about the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance's Winter Tree Identification Walk led by Tom Brady, the Town of Brookline's long-time arborist, tree warden, and conservation administrator.

It's a lot easier to identify trees when they have leaves and much harder once the branches are bare. Brady started with a quick guide on what to look for in the winter: overall form (height, width, shape, branching), bark characteristics (color, mottle, ridges), fruit display, and additional features such as buds, flowers, pods, or residual leaves.

He also emphasized the use of



PHOTO: HUGH MATTISON

Latin names to avoid confusion, since a common name may refer to different trees depending on the region or country.

Our route started with the American elms (*Ulmus Americana*) near the Longwood T stop, wound around the Longwood Mall with its impressive European beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*), and crossed the Carlton Street Footbridge to end on the Riverway section of the Emerald Necklace, where Brady pointed out the two large red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) flanking the footbridge and an invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) nearby.

Beyond tree identification, Brady included anecdotes along the way, such as the need for a special construction crane during rehabilitation of the Carlton Street Footbridge to preserve those 80-feet-tall red oaks.

The 90-minute walk was an excellent primer on our area's street trees, but I'll want more practice to match trees with names and correct my tree myopia. Two of the books Brady suggested are: *Winter Tree Finder: A Manual for Identifying Deciduous Trees in Winter* by May Theilgaard Watts and Tom Watts, and *What Tree is That?* from the National Arbor Association.

A big thank-you to Sean Lynn-Jones, BGSA's President, who graciously registered this non-Brookline resident for the walk, responding: "We actually would love to increase the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance's outreach to the Fenway neighborhood, because residents of Boston and Brookline have such a strong shared interest in enjoying and protecting the Muddy River and the Emerald Necklace parks."

To learn more about BGSA, visit brooklinegreenspace.org.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

PHOTO: HUGH MATTISON



Save The Date

APRIL 25

Fenway CDC holds its 51st annual meeting on Thursday, April 25, from 5:45 to 8:00pm. at Simmons University's Linda K. Paresky Conference Center, 300 The Fenway.

Join us for an evening of socializing with neighbors, updates on the past year's work, plans for the coming year, awards, a raffle, and more!

Watch for more information.
We hope to see you there!



USE THE QR CODE TO RSVP ➡

FENWAY CDC ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 25 | 5:45-8:00PM
PARESKY CONFERENCE CENTER
300 THE FENWAY



NEWSLINES

Berklee Institute Funds Five Neighborhood Projects

Berklee Institute of Music recently announced winners of its Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Grants. The school's Office of Government and Community Relations established the \$25,000 program in 2023 to support community-based initiatives that enhance the neighborhood. The application period closed Dec. 1 and produced nine applications, of which it will fund five:

- **Kaji Aso Studio** for Japanese cultural programming at Symphony Park celebrating the

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Seiji Ozawa, who served just shy of 30 years as the BSO's music director [1973-2002], died of heart failure at age 88. **The Emerald Necklace Conservancy joined 15 Boston residents in a suing to stop the City's plan for renovating White Stadium in Franklin Park.** The proposal—which had moved through the approval process at lightning speed—would let a newly formed professional women's soccer team pour \$30 million into renovations [with the City kicking in another \$50 million]. In return for its investment, team practice sessions would freeze out neighbors and BPS student athletes for a significant part of every week over 30 years. The plaintiffs slammed the deal as a traffic-generating privatization of public parkland in an environmental-justice community. **the Globe's Adrian Walker noted that it marks the first time that the ENC has sued anyone in its 25-year history.** Roxbury Community College made news at its 50th-anniversary gala in the Seaport.

Headliners included Rep. Ayanna Pressley and Dr. Anita Hill, who received the inaugural RCC "Drum Major for Social Justice Award." During the event the college announced that it had raised \$6.3 million for its foundation—chump change for Harvard, but a significant total for a public college whose graduates often work in modestly-paying social-service fields. The money will underwrite several initiatives, including scholarships, and some will flow to a new gap-needs fund for students, established to honor interim President Jackie Jenkins-Scott. Jenkins-Scott has brought welcome stability to an institution rocked by several administrative scandals in the 2010s. **During the pandemic, Audubon Circle's beloved Mei-Mei pivoted to remote dumpling-making classes and the sale of dumpling kits. So it somehow seems fitting that the new occupant of Mei-Mei's old storefront—Mei-mei left last year for much larger digs in Southie—serves noodles. Not exactly dumplings, of course, but a kissing cousin. Kenzoku Mazesoba specializes in inventive noodle bowls, and initial on-line reviews look positive.**

ICYMI

TANABATA summer festival. Performances and the traditional observance in which people write wishes on small slips of colored paper and hang them on bamboo branches (Sunday, July 7; 1pm-8pm).

- **Friends of Ramler Park** for care and maintenance of 80 species of trees that define the park's perimeters, paths, gardens, and seating areas.
- **Fenway Civic Association** to support planning for community-inspired artwork replacing brown vinyl on the rear windows of Whole Foods at Burbank Street and Edgerly Road.
- **Fenway CDC/Fenway Community Center** for the costs of hosting 14 Fenway Free Market events at the Fenway Community Center. Attendees donate household goods and clothing that they no longer need but that could be welcome by other households. The event aims to build a spirit of mutual aid among community members.
- **Charlesgate Alliance** for the plantings of eleven trees this year to offset the loss of mature trees from the upcoming reconstruction of the Bowker Overpass.

Mission Hill Prices Close In On New High

Is \$3 million the magic number in Mission Hill? Recent sales of triple deckers at 813 Parker St., 180 Calumet St., and 228 Calumet St. either hit or came close to that number. Alp Kantar, a well-known Fenway real estate broker based at 58 Gainsborough St., purchased the two Calumet properties. Both are located near the epicenter of neighborhood complaints about student parties and fraternities.

Fenway CDC Names New Executive Director

Following a yearlong process, the Fenway CDC selected Steven Farrell as its new executive director. Farrell most recently served as chief operating officer of Metro Housing | Boston. Fenway CDC will formally introduce Farrell at its annual meeting on April 25.

Renew Your Dog's License By March 31

The annual deadline for licensing pets with the City is March 31. All dogs six months or older require a new license each year. Owners must provide a copy of a dog's current rabies certificate and must submit proof of spaying or neutering if they have not done so previously. For details, fees, and locations visit boston.gov/animals or call (617) 635-1800.

Sojuba Must Pay \$320,000 In Damages For Wage Theft

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division recently announced that it had uncovered violations of labor laws at West Fens restaurant Sojuba, which seriously mishandled tip distribution, minimum wages, and overtime pay. The department's investigation found that some staff members ineligible for the tip pool—such as management—collected money from it anyway, which meant qualified workers didn't receive all the tips they'd earned. Investigators also found that the restaurant failed to pay the minimum wage to tipped employees for every hour worked. The restaurant also took a lax approach to overtime pay, keeping inaccurate payroll records. Sojuba must pay \$147,500 in back wages; \$147,500 in damages; \$25,000 for the retaliation action; and \$40,000 in penalties to the Department of Labor for "willful wage violations."

Free Sundays Begin for BPS Students at MFA and Elsewhere

In early February, the City announced BPS Sundays, program that establishes twice-monthly free-access days for BPS students and their families at seven institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts.

N Northeastern
City and Community Engagement

2024 Community Wellness Series

Financial Literacy Workshop



The
V
VINCITA
INSTITUTE

ENGAGE EDUCATE EMPOWER

Register Below!



Free!

March 11th
March 18th

6:00-7:30pm
Northeastern Crossing
1175 Tremont St,
Roxbury, MA



communityengagement@northeastern.edu

communityengagement.northeastern.edu

617-373-2555

@nuengaged

Faded, Frayed, and Flying



For many, the American flag represents unity and integrity. So what does it mean that more than a few flags in the area, on both private and public property, are coming apart? Do the flags [in the Fenway, in Longwood, near the Pru and on Beacon Hill] reflect the nation's political and social divisions? Or do they suggest resilience despite division?

—LESLIE POND

FENWAY CARES GETS COVETED MARATHON BIB

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

As part of its Boston Marathon sponsorship, CITGO offers runner's bibs to local nonprofits and individuals who exemplify the spirit of Kenmore Square and City of Boston. The bibs allow the recipients to run in the marathon on behalf of charitable groups that can use the event for fundraising.

For this year's Marathon, April 15, CITGO has offered a bib to Fenway Cares. Since March 2020, Fenway Cares and volunteers have worked to fund and facilitate the distribution of more than 20,000 bags of fresh, free produce to neighbors in need. The Fenway Cares team distributes food in West Fens at Fenway Community Center and in the East Fens at Symphony Community Park.

Nehal Munshi will run on behalf

of Fenway Cares. Munshi works as operations manager for the Brigham and Women's Hospital Community Care Van program. The program offers residents free health services in conjunction with the Fenway Cares distribution at Symphony Park. Munshi

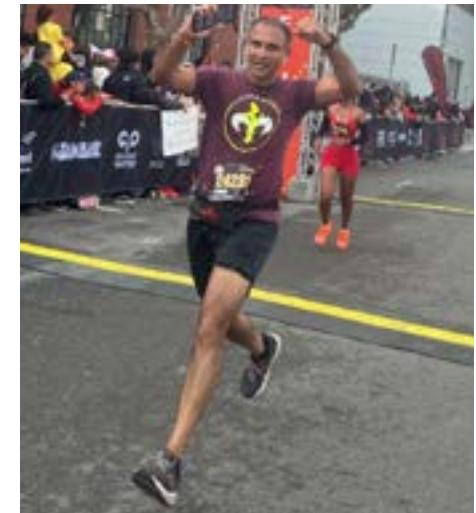


IMAGE COURTESY OF NEHAL MUNSHI

IN WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, CELEBRATING TWO PARKS LEADERS

BY LESLIE POND

In 1981, the U.S. government proclaimed the first Women's History Week to honor women's contributions to American history. In 1987, March became Women's History Month with a theme chosen by the National Women's History Alliance. This year's theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion."

In celebration, we highlight two women who left enduring legacies in Boston and our coverage area, by preserving and restoring public green spaces—a truly democratic and inclusive concept.

- **EUGENIE "GENIE" BEAL (1921–2013)**. Called "the mother of green space" by former

Mayor Thomas Menino, Beal had a vision for world-class open space in Boston. She was the first chair of Boston's Conservation Commission and over four decades was "one of the city's most successful advocates for preserving open spaces," according to *The Boston Globe*. Among her accomplishments, she served as the first director of the City's Environment Department and helped launch the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC).

- **JUSTINE MEE LIFF (1947–2002)**. Known as a visionary, inclusive, and collaborative leader, Liff was Boston's first woman Parks Commissioner and a green space advocate who led the city's

reclamation of the former Sears parking lot and its restoration as parkland across from what is now 401 Park. Following completion of Phase I of the Muddy River Restoration Project in 2017, this part of the Emerald Necklace was named Justine Mee Liff Park. The ENC's annual Party in the Park, begun in 2003, celebrates Liff with the Liff Spirit Award and directs proceeds to the Justine Mee Liff Fund for park maintenance, restoration, and improvements.

For self-guided tours of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail, visit bwht.org.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens and thanks the Fenway Civic Association for inspiring this article.

recently moved to Boston from New Orleans. As an amateur runner, he said, it's a dream to run the Marathon.

Munshi ran cross country in high school and has completed many half marathons, including the Golden Gate half marathon (the photo above shows him crossing the finish line in that race). He has also participated in the Disney marathon.

Munshi hopes to raise \$5,000 for Fenway Cares through the website GivenGain. "Making a positive impact on the world has always been my passion, and I believe that together, we can create real change," he says on the website. "The Brigham and Women's program gets a lot of support from Fenway Cares day in and day out."

Ruth Khawais lives in the West Fens. To support Munshi's fundraising Marathon run on behalf of Fenway Cares, visit givengain.com/champion/nehal-munshi-955033.

Winter Stroll Goes to the Dog

The Longwood Collective—the nonprofit that provides programs and services from Longwood area institutions—sponsored the first Longwood Winter Stroll on Feb. 15. The event featured ice sculptures at 15 member institutions, including hospitals, colleges, cultural institutions, and companies. Staff at the Gardner Museum voted for their ice sculpture to depict Gardner with one of her dogs. The sculpture, near the museum's Evans Way entrance, riffs on the photo on the cover of the book, "Isabella Stewart Gardner: Dog Lover," below.



PHOTO: LESLIE POND



Virtual Public Meeting

716 Columbus Avenue

MARCH

6

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/4bDhVpf

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 049 4415



Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting to discuss the Project Notification Form (PNF) for the proposed 716 Columbus Avenue project, received by the Boston Planning & Development Agency on 1/16/24. This meeting will include a presentation from the University team followed by Q&A and comments from the public. The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a Boston resident. Language Access services are available at no cost to you. If you require these services, please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov no later than 3/1/24.

La información de esta reunión es fundamental para usted como residente de Boston y parte interesada. Dispone de servicios de idiomas de forma gratuita. Si los requiere, comuníquese con quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov antes de la siguiente fecha: 3/1/24.

对于您作为波士顿的居民和利益相关者，本次会议的信息至关重要。与会的语言服务免费。如果您需要这些语言翻译服务，请在下方的日期时间之前联系 quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov: 3/1/24。

作為波士頓居民和利益相關者，這次會議中的資訊對您非常重要。我們可以向您免費提供語言輔助服務。如果您要求這些服務，請在以下時間之前聯絡 quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov: 3/1/24。

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4219
email: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov

Project Proponent:
Northeastern University
Close of Public Comment Period: **3/1/2024**

The Arts

What Lies Beneath: McQueen's 'Lynching Tree' at Gardner

BY LESLIE POND

In the stark, intimate space of the Gardner Museum's Fenway Gallery, the only work of art was a photograph: Steve McQueen's "Lynching Tree." He took the photograph on a former plantation in Louisiana while directing *12 Years A Slave*, which won an Academy Award for best picture in 2014.

Lee Pelton, president and CEO of The Boston Foundation, first encountered "Lynching Tree" at the Yale Center for British Art and was moved to co-curate the exhibit with Peggy Fogelman, Norma Jean Calderwood Director at the Gardner, for a special two-week presentation that started in late January.

In an interview on WGBH's "Boston Public Radio," Pelton shared his response upon seeing the photograph for the first time: "I was really overcome with grief and a kind of horrific pain. What it represented for me is the way in which history, particularly of Black Americans, is hidden."

At the Gardner, the gallery's anteroom wall included this brief history: "Although we often associate lynching with slavery, most lynchings took place between the end of the Civil War [1865] and the 1950s. Lynching was a tool of white dominance intended to dehumanize and terrorize victims of color through the spectacle of public brutality. Lynching occurred throughout the United States,



including in Massachusetts, although it was most frequent in the South."

In the gallery, a small bench served as an invitation for visitors to sit with the backlit color photograph, which transports us to a sun-dappled landscape with a large oak tree, its canopy hovering above other greenery and casting shadow on a dirt path. This simple image—and its title—encouraged viewers to bring their own experience and imagination to the exhibit.

The curators intentionally placed the photograph in a gallery adjacent to the courtyard, with its lush greenery, to offer "a space for us to contemplate the hidden scars revealed in 'Lynching Tree,' even as we absorb the natural beauty around us."

And initially, the gallery was a space for quiet reflection on the contrast of this apparently peaceful rural landscape that was also the site of "violent, racialized lynchings." For people whose ancestors were victims

of lynching, how is it possible to appreciate the beauty of scenes such as the one depicted here?

But during the late afternoon when I visited, the courtyard soon became a bustling scene as more visitors arrived and musicians warmed up. Hearing this soundscape while viewing "Lynching Tree" was chilling and deeply emotional, as it suggested part of Pelton's interview with WBUR: "Lynching was an act of terrorism. But I think that some people don't fully realize how horrific it was. It was a celebratory event that people brought their kids to. Bodies were burned, pieces of flesh were cut off and kept as souvenirs, postcards were made and kept and remembered."

It is one thing to know intellectually about horrors that have occurred and quite another to sit with an image and allow it to evoke distinctly uncomfortable sensations.

The only other objects in the gallery were memory cards placed on a small shelf, with the invitation to "Take a card to remember this truth." A card now sits on my bookshelf, an ever-present reminder of the history hidden in our landscape and the obligation that comes with this awareness.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. For more about the exhibit and to read Lee Pelton's blog post, visit gardnermuseum.org/calendar/steve-mcqueens-lynching-tree.

The Myth Of Normal Speaks To Today's World

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The current exhibit at MassArt, *The Myth of Normal: A Celebration of Authentic Expression*, celebrates the 150-year anniversary of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. In that spirit, all the works exhibited were created by MassArt alumnae/i, and they stir our sense visually of where we've been as a society. MassArt graduates have traveled some of these roads and seek a conscious appreciation by the viewer of this past while raising the questions of where we are today and where we're going as a society.

The exhibit was curated by Mari Spirito, class of 1992 and director of Protocinema, a cross-cultural organization that strives to integrate art, public programs and the relationship between cognition and perception. Gabor Mate's book, *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic*

Culture (co-written by Daniel Maté) inspires the focus of the exhibit, which celebrates art as a means toward overall well-being. Each work is a form of self-expression that fosters healing from within.

The exhibit contains three thematic zones. The first, on the façade and in the lobby, uses architecture as an extension of the body and a bridge to internal perceptions. As the exhibit continues, the works reflect struggles with racism, homophobia, and classism.

The exhibit then expands into art that reflects struggles of our wider world, the pressure to conform in a toxic world, and the presence of world conflict and life-threatening diseases.

Of note is the large mural (above)

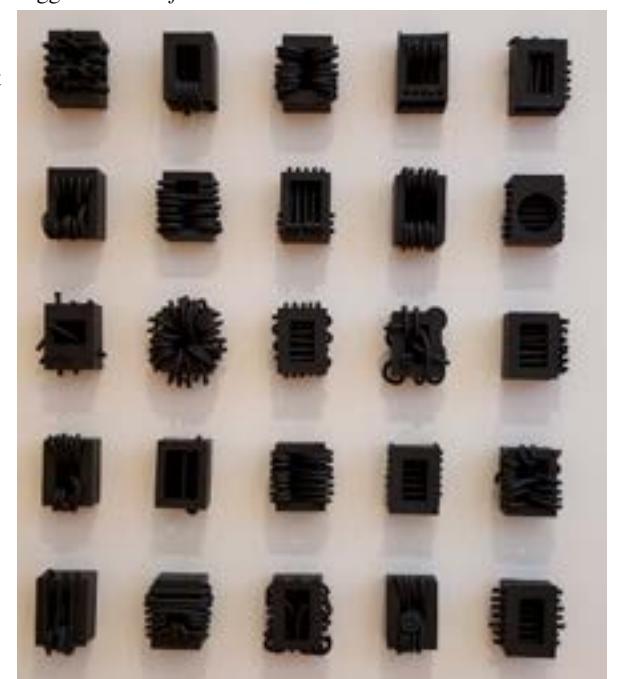


PHOTO: MARY ANN BROGAN

by Maya Hayuk, who pays homage to her native Ukraine with the Tryzub, an ancient Ukrainian symbol of a three-pronged spear.

A sculpture by Paul Briggs "Cell Personae: The Impact of Incarceration on Black Lives" (right) brings the impact of racial injustice to the forefront. Briggs explains that each of the ceramic components measures 6-by-8 inches, replicating the 6-by-8-feet dimensions of cell blocks where black inmates experience both "containment and escape."

Another hanging installation, "Spirits of Manhattan" by Kathleen White, features belongings of drag performers who died during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s. These bits of wigs and other gear, once discarded and retrieved from the streets of New York, seem lost in the open space of the room where it hangs, but maybe that's the whole point. So many people and things can become invisible in our hurried society. While the exhibit lacks an immediate "wow" factor, it invites personal introspection and thought.



BOSTON'S BEST FOOD HALL

15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS.
ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

TimeOut MARKET

401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON

March

CALENDAR

Now → Tue 5/7

The exhibit **A LEGACY OF DESIGN INNOVATION: SHEPLEY BULLFINCH AT 150 AND BEYOND** explores the rich history of one of Boston's oldest architectural firms—started by none other than H.H. Richardson himself. Boston Architectural College ground-floor gallery. 320 Newbury St., 8am–12am. **FREE.**

Fri 3/1 → Sun 3/3

B.U.'s College of Fine Arts presents the opera **CENDRILLON**, Jules Massenet's ethereal take on the Cinderella legend. Fri-Sat 7:30pm; Sun 2pm. Sung in French with English supertitles. Booth Theater, 800 Comm. Ave. See www.bu.edu/cfa/news/calendar/?eid=291344 for details and tickets (\$20).

Sun 3/3

Benjamin Zander leads the Boston **PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA** in a program of Britten, Tchaikovsky, Ives and Ravel. Symphony Hall, 3pm. Tickets \$20–75 in person, \$20 for the live stream; \$10 student tickets for both. Details and tickets at bostonphil.org.

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is open six days a week. Visit fenwaycommunitycenter.org for details.

- Wed, March 6, 6:30pm: **COMMUNITY YOGA** with Therlande, supported by the Northeastern City and Community Engagement Office
- Tue, March 19, 6pm: **KNIT AND CROCHET GROUP**
- Fri, March 29, 6pm: **TAYLOR SWIFT TRIVIA NIGHT**
- Saturdays, 10:30am: **MUSIC AND MOVEMENT FOR LITTLES** with Little Groove

Sun 3/3, Sat 3/16 & Fri 3/29

The MFA hosts the **UNIQLO FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM JAPAN**. On 3/3 and 3/29, catch *Blue Giant*, where high school student Dai Miyamoto's life is turned upside down on the day he discovers jazz. On 3/16, see *Seven Samurai*, a cinema classic tracing what happens when desperate villagers in 16th-century Japan hire a band of samurai to protect them from marauding bandits. Visit mfa.org/series/uniqlo-festival-of-films-from-japan for times and tickets (\$12 MFA members; \$15 nonmembers).

Mon, 3/4

NECESSARY TROUBLE: A CONVERSATION WITH DREW FAUST. The president emerita of Harvard discusses her memoir, *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury*. The book revisits the experiences of her youth in the 1950s and 1960s that shaped her as a civil rights activist, historian of the South, and the first woman to lead Harvard. In-person reception at 5:30pm; program at 6pm. In-person tickets free for MHS members, \$10 for others; remote attendance is free. Register for either at <https://www.masshist.org/events/Drew-Faust-Necessary-Trouble>.

Wed 3/6

At the **HUNDRED-YEAR RETROACTIVE BOOK AWARD** a panel debates the literary merits of three bestsellers published 100 years ago, in 1924. This year's contenders: E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, Herman Melville's *Billy Budd*, and W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Gift of Black Folk*. Panelists: Prof. Paul B. Armstrong (Brown); Prof. Richard Deming (Yale); and Prof. Paula C. Austin (B.U.). Following the debate, the audience votes to choose a winner. A reception follows the debate. Register at 1924bookaward.eventbrite.com/?aff=BPLnewsletter. Hybrid event: in person at the Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall at 700 Boylston St. and remotely. **FREE**

Thu 3/7

- The **MISSION HILL WOMEN'S WRITING GROUP** hosts a public reading of stories from their most recent workshop and anthology. 5:30–7:30pm. Parker Hill Branch Library, 1497 Tremont St. **FREE.**
- The third **INTERNATIONAL HIP-HOP SYMPOSIUM** unites globally renowned artists, creatives, and entrepreneurs with students to celebrate hip-hop's cultural impact. Featuring Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, known as SAMMUS, a Black feminist rapper, producer, and scholar, whose recent "Pieces in Space" charted on *Billboard*. Berklee's David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston St. 5pm. **FREE.**

Tue 3/12

PIANIST WILLIAM WOLFRAM, acclaimed soloist with major orchestras, performs two of the giant works of the Romantic Era: Schumann's *C Major Fantasy* and Liszt's *B minor Sonata*. Tickets \$12 advance/\$17 day of. Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, 8pm. Details and tickets at <https://bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events>

Fri 3/15 & Sat 3/16

Guest Conductor Raphaël Pichon leads the **HANDEL & HAYDN SOCIETY ORCHESTRA** in "a freshly fervent take" on Beethoven's *9th Symphony* to celebrate the bicentennial of the work's 1824 debut. Fri 7:30pm and Sat 2pm at Symphony Hall. Details and tickets (\$49–144) at handelandhaydn.org. H+H's Historically Informed Performance Fellow, Teresa M. Neff, provides historical and musical context 45 minutes before the performance (included with ticket).

Sat 3/16

Famed jazz singer and composer Ann Hampton Calloway joins the **BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS IN "TYLER'S SUITE."** Created by 11 prominent American

composers, the choral work honors Tyler Clementi, a young queer musician who committed suicide after being bullied in his first weeks of college. BGMC calls the piece not just a "remembrance of Tyler Clementi, but a celebration of his life and a resounding declaration against cyber-harassment and bullying endured by LGBTQ+ youth." Jordan Hall, 8pm. Tickets \$29–129. Visit bgmc.org/2023/09/01/melodies-for-a-movement for details and tickets.

Thu 3/21 → Sat 4/6

Boston Playwrights Theater presents *Driving In Circles*, a mix of "confessional monologue, stand-up comedy, and rock concert" that traces an a journey from the trauma of violence toward "something like happiness." Tue-Thu 7:30pm; Fri-Sat 8pm; plus Mon, 3/25 at 7pm; Sat, 4/6 at 2pm. Tickets \$40 general; \$25 BU facult/staff; \$15 students. Details and tickets at www.bu.edu/bpt/performances/driving-in-circles/

Fri 3/22 & Sun 3/24

HANDEL & HAYDN returns with a program of baroque-era love songs by Handel, Porpora, and Scarlatti. New Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen leads the orchestra. Jordan Hall, Fri 7:30pm; Sun, 3pm. Details and tickets (\$15–134) at handelandhaydn.org. Come 45 minutes before the performance for a presentation on musical and historical context (included with ticket).

Sat 3/23

RUN THE FENS FOR BIG SISTER BOSTON.

The inaugural edition of a 5k race that benefits the Big Sister organization begins and ends at Time Out Market on Brookline Ave. If the cause doesn't convince you, how about a \$10 Time Out Market gift card and a free post-race beer? Visit raceroster.com/events/2024/85089/run-the-fens for details. and to register.

COMMUNITY meetings

WED, MARCH 6 The BPDA hosts a meeting to discuss the Project Notification Form for the proposed **716 COLUMBUS AVE. PROJECT**. This meeting will include a presentation from Northeastern University, the proponent, followed by Q&A and comments from the public. Register at bit.ly/4bDhVpf. Call-in number is (833) 568-8864, meeting ID is 161 049 4415. Contact Quinn Valcich at quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov with questions. 6pm.

SAT, MARCH 9 Join the **WARD 10 DEMOCRATS CAUCUS**. Everyone registered as a Democrat in Ward 10 is eligible and encouraged to submit their names as delegates to represent Ward 10 at the statewide Massachusetts Democratic Convention. Flynn Building, 805 Huntington Ave. Learn more at ward10dem.org. 9am.

WED, MARCH 13 Join Boston Public Schools for a **GREEN NEW DEAL COMMUNITY**

WORKSHOP. The workshop will discuss the Green New Deal for BPS, focusing on high schools and the district's ten-year facility plan. 6–8pm. Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington St.

THU, MARCH 14 The Fenway CDC hosts its monthly **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING**, 6–7:30pm, in person at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. Contact lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org with any questions.

SAT, MARCH 16 Boston Ward 4 Dems invite you to **TESTING THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**, a public forum on the MCAS Test and its impact on students, educators, and the community. Attendees will take a sample of the 10th grade MCAS (would you graduate?). 10:30am–noon @ 300 The Fenway. Register. 1 Room A-070. Register at MCASForum_Ward4Dems.eventbrite.com.

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.



DEADLINE: Submit your proposal no later than 5pm on March 31, 2024. Please email HELLO@MISSIONHILLFENWAYNT.ORG with any questions.

Spring Awakenings
ART • MUSIC • POETRY
Saturday, March 2 | In Person | 7 pm
Saturday, April 6 | Online | 7 pm

Oscar Jiang, piano
Saturday, April 7 | In Person | 3 pm

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
KAJI ASO STUDIO, 40 ST. STEPHEN STREET
RSVP to administrator@kajiasostudio.com

THANKS TO
OUR FUNDERS

