



JANUARY 19, 2023



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E   A R E   N O   T I M E S   L I K E   T H E S E   T I M E S



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

*"The Embrace" memorial on the Boston Common was unveiled on Friday, Jan. 13.*

## 'The Embrace' memorial unveiled on the Common ahead of MLK Day

By Times staff

Just ahead of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, "The Embrace" - the long-awaited memorial to the civil rights leader and his wife, Coretta Scott King - was unveiled during a ceremony on Friday, Jan. 13, on the Boston Common.

Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cul-

ture, the Boston Art Commission (BAC), and Embrace Boston for the unveiling of The Embrace and the 1965 Freedom Plaza by artist Hank Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group on the Boston Common. The memorial was initiated via a partnership between the City of Boston and Embrace Boston and "aims to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, celebrate their history in Boston, and spark a public conversation on advancing racial and social justice in Boston today," according to a press release from the city.

In her remarks, Mayor Wu said: "The Embrace will be a revolutionary space in our country's old-

(EMBRACE Pg. 8)

## Your Property Matters

By Diana Coldren

Did you know that qualified taxpayers can apply to effectively save up \$3,456.50 on their real estate tax-bill for fiscal year 2023!

If the residential exemption does not appear on your Fiscal Year 2023 third quarter tax bill (recently mailed and due Feb. 1), you may still file an application by April 3 for the fiscal year 2023 exemption.

It is not too late to save on your Fiscal Year 2023 Boston Real Estate Taxes! The City of Boston operates on a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30. For Fiscal Year 2023, the maximum portion exempt from taxation is \$321,834.26. At a rate of \$10.74 per thousand, this translates to a potential savings in real estate taxes of \$3,456.50.

According to the City's Residential Exemption application, "Every taxpayer in the City of Boston

who owns residential property as of January 1, 2022 and uses that property as his or her principal residence for their calendar year 2021 for Massachusetts income taxes, may be eligible for the Fiscal Year 2023 residential exemption. In certain circumstances, you may be eligible if you obtained your principal residence between January 1 and July 1, 2022."

The printable online application is now available and the deadline for submission is Monday April 3, 2023. Even if you have received the exemption in the past, you may want to double check to see if the exemption is in still in effect for your property. It is important to review your tax bill every year to make sure the exemption is in force.

Example:

If you qualify, and the total taxable valuation of your home is

(PROPERTY Pg. 2)

## Eversource facing more than \$333,000 in fines after last July's deadly Bowdoin Street manhole blast

By Dan Murphy

Eversource Energy Service Co. is facing more than \$330,000 in fines after being cited by OSHA (the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration) last week for five violations of workplace safety standards stemming from a deadly manhole explosion last July on Bowdoin Street that claimed the life of one worker, according to a Jan. 12 press release from the federal agency.

On July 12 of last year, Eversource employees were doing maintenance work on electrical equipment located inside an underground vault at 28 Bowdoin St. An arc flash and blast occurred inside the vault as one worker was

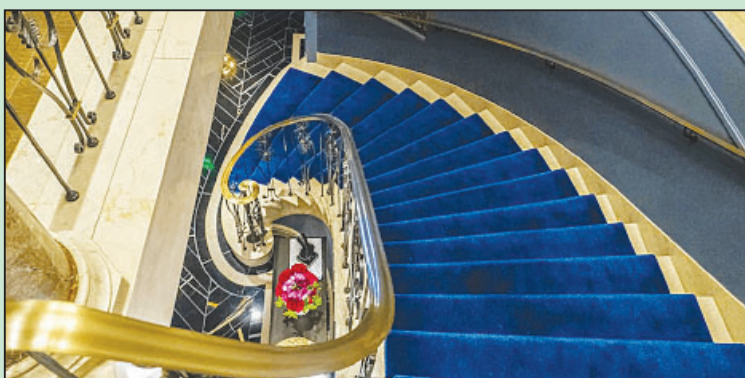
setting the equipment in place. The employee, who was identified by The Boston Globe as 31-year-old Fabio Pires of Brockton, suffered severe burns and later died.

According to OSHA, investigators determined that: "did not fully deenergize the electrical equipment or follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations when employees conducted maintenance; failed to make a reasonable estimate of the heat energy to which employees would be exposed if an arc flash and blast occurred; and did not adequately train the employees on electrical equipment hazards, provide rescue equipment nor test oxygen levels before the employees entered the

(EVERSOURCE Pg. 3)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### 50th Annual Winter Soirée at The Newbury Boston!



The Newbury Boston.

Dress to impress and join us for an elegant evening of celebrating, dancing, and drinks at The Newbury Boston on February 11th. All proceeds from the 50th Annual Winter Soirée will help fund the BHCA and

(BHCA Pg. 5)



# Wu announces launch of \$10 million Cultural Investment Grant program

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) announced the launch of the City of Boston's Cultural Investment Grant, a \$10 million multi-year investment in transformative growth opportunities for an equitable arts sector in Boston. The Cultural Investment Grant is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as part of the City of Boston's recovery efforts. The grant responds to the overlapping, devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sector and on communities of color across Boston.

"This unprecedented City investment will help growing arts and cultural organizations strengthen their roots in our neighborhoods," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This program will elevate and scale arts and culture organizations, particularly in underserved communities, and make transformative, new investments that will deepen the connection to arts for all our residents."

The grant will direct funds to build capacity for arts and cultural organizations working in partnership with communities in Boston most impacted by the pandemic, particularly communities of color. Grant amounts will be between \$600,000 and \$3 million. Distributed over four years, the grants will provide investments in the cultural sector that will give

organizations a path to thrive and sustain in Boston, create long term opportunities for all of Boston's communities to have access to the arts, and strengthen the local arts ecosystem with new and unprecedented investments.

Boston-based arts and cultural organizations that have both budgets under \$3 million and 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship can apply. Priority will be given to organizations located within or working with communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations will also be evaluated on their demonstrated commitment to equity, the representation of the communities with which they work in their visions, missions, and programming, and their active partnerships within their communities.

The funding structure of the Cultural Investment Grant is divided into three tiers to include a range of arts and cultural organizations for which these funds will be transformative. The amount of funding allocated to each tier is informed by an organization's operating budget:

- At least three grassroots organizations with operating budgets under \$500,000 will each receive up to \$600,000 over four years.
- Up to two organizations with operating budgets between \$500,000 and \$2 million will each

receive \$1 million over four years.

- Up to two organizations with budgets between \$2 million and \$3 million will each receive \$3 million over four years.

"Creativity is vital to a healthy, equitable, and thriving community, and investing in increased access to the arts and creative expression throughout the city is crucial," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "We hope this transformative funding enables cultural organizations to anchor themselves in their communities and build sustainable futures for lasting impact."

"This grant opportunity will amplify and empower grassroots organizations, creatives, and cultural leaders who continuously keep Boston's rich, diverse history front and center," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "This is the first step in creating sustainable solutions for celebrating and preserving local arts and culture."

"This grant for Boston's arts and culture organizations is both a pivotal moment and a necessary direction for our city," said Catherine Morris, Director of Arts and Culture at the Boston Foundation and Founder and Artistic Director of BAMS Fest. "Our local organizations are not only the backbone of our neighborhoods but are vital lifelines to ensuring that programs are accessible, available and

affordable; and that the next generation of cultural workers, artists, leaders and the like have pathways to economic freedom, space, career development, and creative autonomy. We, at the Boston Foundation hope that this type of grant opportunity inspires people to see the value and contribution that local organizations provide, and invest in the people within the arts and culture ecosystem, so that it remains sustainable, strong, and deeply connected."

"It is wonderful to start this year with an announcement like this," said Elsa Mosquera, Principal and Co-Founder of Agora Cultural Architects. "This is an absolutely extraordinary initiative because it acknowledges the transformative value that arts and cultural organizations have in their communities. This type of support represents an enormous opportunity for these organizations to have the economic stability they need to carry out their mission in an organized way, with well-paid cultural resources, while simultaneously amplifying the work they carry out in their communities."

"Boston needs to invest in organizations and artists that have been working to provide high quality and culturally responsive programming the BIPOC community for a long time, like Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC), which serves more than 200 Lat-

inx artists in the city and provides them with a venue and paid opportunities to showcase their talent," said Veronica Robles, Executive Director of Veronica Robles Cultural Center. "We are very excited about the transformative investment in Boston's cultural sector through this \$10 million multi-year funding opportunity."

"Across the City of Boston in the last few years, creativity and culture have been instrumental in strengthening bonds and providing connection and healing," said Cynthia Woo, Director of Pao Arts Center. "Art is embedded everywhere in our lives, in places we may not expect or take for granted. The arts have the power to bring people together for important conversations and to share joyful experiences. You'll find arts, culture, and creativity as crucial components of programs at community centers, in religious spaces, and in public spaces and parks. The City's new investment in communities of color is a much needed start to supporting work that has been vital to the wellbeing of our neighborhoods, including Pao Arts Center's own Chinatown neighborhood, as we move forward to visioning a Boston that is not merely surviving, but thriving."

Interested organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) by February 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

**CORRECTION:** Regarding the photo caption for Nancy Schön's Myrtle the Turtle sculpture published on Page 6 of last week's edition of this publication, the sculpture was a gift to the community and the City of Boston from many members of the Beacon Hill Garden Club, including Miguel Rosales and John Corey. The sculpture was installed in Myrtle Street Playground in 2019 to commemorate the Garden Club's 90th anniversary.

## Real Estate AUCTION



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Property Preview:  
Friday, January 27  
(11am-1pm)

## PROPERTY (from pg. 1)

\$2 million you will owe approximately \$21,480 (\$2,000,000 x tax rate of \$10.74 per thousand) without the residential exemption. With the exemption, your taxable valuation may be \$2 million minus the fiscal year 2023 residential tax exemption of \$321,834 resulting in a total taxable valuation of \$1,678,166. The tax owed would be \$18,023.50 (\$1,678,166 x \$10.74 per thousand) resulting in a tax savings of \$3,456.50. Please note that this example does not include the Community Preservation Tax or other factors that may impact your individual situation.

How can I apply for the exemption or see if the exemption has been applied for my property?

Visit the City of Boston assessing site at <https://www.cityofboston.gov/assessing/search/>.

Or use the QR code below to take you to the site with the link

to the application. Type in your address, click on the "details" link, and if eligible, click on the link to the application in the abatements/exemptions section. You can also verify if it has already been applied.

Applications need to be mailed to:

Assessing Department  
1 City Hall Square, Room 301  
Boston, MA 02201-2011

or submitted in person at City Hall by the Monday April 3, 2023, deadline. You may have to note the date your deed was recorded. You can find this date online at <https://www.masslandrecords.com/suffolk/> or by calling the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds office at (617) 788-8575.

When will I receive the Exemption?

The third Quarter tax bill is the earliest that a resident can confirm that they are receiving a residential

exemption. Once an application is approved, you will receive a credit toward your fiscal 2023 taxes. If taxes have already been paid in full, the amount of overpayment will be refunded to the homeowner. You are encouraged to call the taxpayer and Referral Assistance Center to check the status of your application. See contact info below.

Questions?

Please contact the city of Boston taxpayer and Referral Assistance Center at (617) 635 4287. Please have your ward and parcel number available to help the staff member access your information. This number is located on your tax bill.

*Diana Coldren is a real estate agent with Compass and a longtime resident of Beacon Hill.*

**PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM](http://WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM)**



# Esplanade Association's Frost Fit winter fitness series returns Jan. 28 to the Esplanade

By Dan Murphy

The Esplanade Association's Frost Fit winter fitness series returns for its fifth season, kicking off Saturday, Jan. 28, on the Esplanade.

The free fitness series for people of all ages, abilities, and levels of fitness, created in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and again presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, gets started with a three-hour event on Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fiedler Field. The day's activities will include a Morning Walk with the 261 Fearless Club New England – a nonprofit organization dedicated to “female-specific running” – from 10:15-10:45 a.m., followed by a midday workout session with Lynx Fitness Club – a Back Bay-based, self-described “forward-thinking, luxury fitness club” – from 11 a.m. to noon. Complimentary hot chocolate will be available to guests between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-launch-event-tickets-507619833587?aff=odcleoeventsincollection/> to reserve your spot for this free event.

Other free Frost Fit offerings will include Monday Workouts with November Project every Monday from Jan. 30 to Feb. 27, between 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Fiedler Field. Instructors from November Project – a Boston-based, free “fitness movement” for the winter months – will be on hand to lead guests through running loops, body-weight exercises, and other energetic activities. Register for Monday Work-

outs with November Project at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-monday-workouts-with-november-project-tickets-506606532777?aff=odcleoeventsincollection/>.

Also, Winter Walks: 261 Fearless Club New England take place on Tuesdays between Jan. 31 and Feb. 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. on the Hatch Shell lawn. Each walk, led by certified 261 coaches, will be 45 minutes in length and include various speeds of walking to elevate the heart rate for optimal fitness. Register for Winter Walks with 261 Fearless Club New England at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-261-fearless-club-new-england-tuesday-walks-tickets-506661426967?aff=odcleoeventsincollection/>.

The Frost Fit series will also include Lynx Saturday Workouts on Saturdays between Feb. 4 and March 4 from 11 a.m. to noon at Fiedler Field. Instructors from Lynx Fitness Club will lead participants through “45-minute high-intensity interval training (HIIT) classes that incorporate bodyweight strength training with high-intensity cardio bursts for maximum calorie-burning effect, set to fun and upbeat music,” according to the Esplanade Association. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frost-fit-2023-saturday-workouts-with-lynx-tickets-506646452177?aff=odcleoeventsincollection/> to register for Lynx Saturday Workouts.

For additional information on the Frost Fit winter fitness series, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/frost-fit-2023-1531439>.



Scene from past Frost Fit fitness events with November Project on the Esplanade.

## EVERSOURCE (from pg. 1)

vault, an enclosed space.”

OSHA Area Director James Mulligan in Braintree, Mass., stated in the press release: “Eversource could have prevented this arc flash and blast – and its tragic outcome – by ensuring effective and necessary training, procedures and work practices were provided

and followed. The company knew the hazards related to this type of high voltage equipment, yet it failed to safeguard its employees as the law requires.”

Eversource was cited by OSHA for two willful and three serious violations with a total of \$333,560 in proposed penalties.



COURTESY OF THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION

Scene from past Frost Fit fitness events with November Project on the Esplanade.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### AGENCIES ANNOUNCE NEW ROUND OF HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL EDUCATION FAIR FUNDING

The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Banks (DOB) and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), announced additional funding for the 2022-2023 Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant. This grant opportunity provides financial assistance for Massachusetts high schools hosting financial education fairs during the 2022-2023 school year.

Known as Credit for Life fairs, these workshops offer fun and unique experiences for students to learn about personal finance topics before they graduate. Massachusetts public or charter high schools and special education programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) are eligible to apply.

Schools that were already awarded a grant for the 2022-2023 school year are not eligible to receive additional funding.

Applications are open until Friday, February 17th. Schools can learn more and apply here.

This marks the 11th round of the grant since its inception in 2015 and the second round for the 2022-2023 school year. In December, the agencies awarded a total of \$115,400 to 39 schools to create new or expand pre-existing financial education fairs, which

will serve around 9,000 students according to the grantees' estimates.

Since 2015, over 40,000 Massachusetts students have attended Credit for Life Fairs. The Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant was established as an ongoing effort to strengthen access to financial literacy throughout Massachusetts. This financial education program is funded by the Division of Banks through a settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices.

### ALL ABOUT HEAT PUMPS-WEBINAR FEBRUARY 1

Heat pumps have been getting a lot of buzz—and a lot of questions. This free webinar, Wednesday February 1 from 7-8 pm, is your chance to learn. It's worth learning even if you think heat pumps don't apply to your housing situation.

The Downtown Chapter of Mothers Out Front, a non-profit mobilizing for a livable future, is presenting Loie Hayes of the Green Energy Consumers, a non-profit that harnesses consumer power to speed the transition to a low-carbon future.

Why Should I Care About Heat Pumps? They are a necessary part of our future. We must move away from fossil fuels to mitigate climate change and meet our city and state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Buildings in Boston account for a whopping 70% of the City's emissions.

What Are Heat Pumps? Heat pumps can transfer heat into your home from air, water, or the

ground outside your home. The webinar will focus on air-source heat pumps, which have a compressor unit outside connected to either a system of heating/cooling ducts or to one or more ductless air handlers or “heads”.

Do They Really Work in New England? Yes! They work in low temperatures—and provide cooling in summer as well!

Really-- a Heat Pump Could Replace My Air Conditioner? Absolutely. Some suggest they should be called “heat and cool pumps”.

Aren't They Expensive? The webinar will note a variety of subsidies, credits, and tax incentives that help with the initial investment, as well as the savings over time.

Do they work in small apartments, or only in single family homes? Heat pumps can be effective in a great variety of settings, including a single room or office, a single-family home, or a multi-unit building. Configurations vary. Ductless systems can work for a single room or apartment, with a “mini-split” fixture mounted on the floor or wall or ceiling. Buildings with a central duct system for a furnace or air conditioning can often use those duct systems.

How Do I Figure Out Whether Heat Pumps Make Sense for My Apartment or Building? The webinar is a great first step. It will address these and many other questions and invite you to ask your own.

To join the webinar, you can sign up at [https://www.mothersoutfront.org/events/boston\\_ma\\_20230201/](https://www.mothersoutfront.org/events/boston_ma_20230201/).



# EDITORIAL

## SO FAR, WE'VE DODGED THE ENERGY BULLET

The winter season can be viewed in two ways.

Meteorological winter is considered to be the three months of December, January, and February. Astronomical winter runs from December 22, the date of the winter solstice, to March 21, the date of the vernal or spring equinox.

So, ever the optimists that we are, we'll take the former version of the winter season, which means that as of this week, we've crossed the midpoint of this winter.

With the war in Ukraine disrupting world energy supplies, government policy-makers and energy experts across the globe analyzed the approaching winter season with trepidation. A harsh winter had the potential to leave Europe with severe energy shortages and America with sky-high prices for oil and natural gas, with some even predicting rolling blackouts in New England in the event of a cold winter because of a lack of energy supplies to power our electrical grid.

However, the winter of 2022-23 has been exceptionally mild in the Northern Hemisphere, reducing world demand for energy. Here in New England, other than a brief cold snap at Christmas-time, we have been fortunate to have experienced a warmer-than-normal weather pattern that has extended from the beginning of November through all of January.

A colder-than-normal winter could have had a devastating impact on the pocketbooks of New Englanders. The inability to construct a natural gas pipeline from the Marcellus Shale in nearby Pennsylvania (which is estimated to have the second-largest natural gas reserves in the world), coupled with the outdated Jones Act (which essentially means that we cannot transport liquefied natural gas via ship from our own Gulf of Mexico), has left us vulnerable to the wild swings of the global energy market and an unnecessary reliance on dirtier-burning oil.

There has been a large, negative impact to the environment because of our shortsightedness in assuring access to our domestic natural gas supplies here in the U.S.: We have had to use so much oil to power our electric grid -- which normally relies on natural gas -- that we have negated many of the gains of recent years in reducing our carbon emissions. Coupled with the increase in the use of coal for electricity generation in Europe (which they have used to replace their natural gas shortfalls because of the cutoff of supply by the Russians), the climate has been made far dirtier this year.

The warm winter thus far has been a good news/bad news situation: Our energy supplies have been sufficient to keep us warm at manageable (though still-high) prices, but it has come at a great cost to the environment.

And beyond the immediate aspect of this winter, that we are having such a mild winter in the first place is just further evidence that climate change is here to stay.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Renting or buying, which is best for you?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A retired minister and his wife had never owned a house. They had spent all their married lives living in housing provided by churches. At age 65 they bought a house and financed it for 15 years. They had been frugal and had saved a good down payment. They paid for the house by age 80. The value of the house increased over the years and at age 83 they sold the house and received a very nice check. The money from the sale was enough to help them fund their next ten years in a nice assisted living apartment. While taking on a mortgage at 65 appeared crazy to some it afforded them financial security further down the road.

Many years ago, I bought a modest new house that cost \$151,000. I barely scraped together the nearly \$30,000 down payment. The house was financed for 15 years. I began the laborious journey of writing a monthly check to the bank. After about eight years, I needed money to pay medical bills and was able to borrow \$30,000 against my equity. It was nice that I had the equity because at that time I really needed the cash. Looking back, I would never do that again because it made the actual cost of my house increase to \$181,000. For a couple of years, I had two payments to make to the bank. A couple of years later my wife passed. If I had needed to borrow \$10,000 against my house, I could have done so to

pay for funeral expenses. Fortunately, we had both taken out small insurance policies that covered that cost. Eventually I refinanced and consolidated the mortgages. By the grace of God I still paid for the house in 15 years.

I don't like monthly payments or paying rent. For most of us, at some point in our lives there will be a monthly payment of some kind. I've lived in apartments on several occasions and even houses furnished to me by congregations I served. I didn't care for either one. I'm not saying I wouldn't do it again but my preference is to live in a place that is actually mine for as long as possible.

Renting a house or an apartment works for many at different stages of life. Buying a house is tough because it is a major financial commitment. You normally have to come up with 20% of the price to pay down as well as have the income to make the payments. That's not always easy.

New houses in a nearby neighborhood are presently selling for \$400,000. Most of them are modest three to four-bedroom houses. Having enough money to make the down payment and monthly payments is a lot for any person or family.

However, rent is expensive. Depending on where you live you may be paying \$800 to \$3,000 a month for a small apartment. You don't have maintenance or property taxes but you'll also never

see that money again. A friend of mine sold her house at age 70 and moved into an apartment complex for people over age 55. She pays rent but she says the landlord treats her well and is timely with upkeep. A landlord who is very untimely with upkeep is very frustrating.

There are pros and cons to owning and renting. Choosing depends on your situation and personal preferences. A landlord can raise your rent and have rules pertaining to pets, painting, and more. However, it may be just exactly what you need. Typically, you don't want to sink your money into property if you are going to move in three or four years. You might come out ahead if you buy a fixer upper and have the time and money to improve the property. You don't want to make a bad buy. Buying property that you can't resell is a bad idea, unless you love it and plan to live there a long time.

Keep in mind that a big chunk of most American's wealth is in the house they own. If you pay for it and maintain it you can normally sell it to someone and recoup a lot of your money. You might even make a nice profit.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

### Hearing health and hearing loss with Steven D. Rauch, MD

Hearing loss is the invisible disability that half of us 75 and older experience every day. Join Dr. Steven Rauch – clinician, researcher and educator – for a fascinating discussion of how hearing works, how and why it fails and what we can do about it.

Steven Rauch, MD is Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical Research of the Otolaryngology Department at Harvard Medical School. He is the Vestibular Division Chief at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and a member of the Otology Division of Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Rauch provides medical care to patients with hearing and balance disorders. His research and speaking are focused primarily on com-

bined disorders of hearing and balance, including Meniere's disease, autoimmune inner ear disease, sudden deafness, acoustic trauma, and migraine. He consults with biotech and pharmaceutical firms designing clinical trials for inner ear drug development and delivery. Dr. Rauch is also a Professor in the Liberal Arts Department at Berklee College of Music, where he teaches an undergraduate course on Health and Wellness.

This Zoom webinar is presented by Beacon Hill Village in partnership with Boston Public Library as part of their Living Well Ending Well series. Registration required at [https://beaconhillvillage.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=4002&club\\_id=332658&item\\_](https://beaconhillvillage.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=332658&item_)



Steven D. Rauch, MD

id=1829285&event\_date\_id=255 or by calling 617-723-9713. Registrants will receive a link the day before the event.

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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**BHCA** (from pg. 1)

support our efforts in community building, civic engagement, and historic preservation - the results of which are showcased every day throughout the neighborhood.

Visit [bhcciv.org](http://bhcciv.org) or contact the office at 617-227-1922 to buy your tickets and learn more!

### 2022 Beacon Hill Community Fund Grants Awarded

In 2019, the Beacon Hill Civic Association decided that a special purpose fund – the Beacon Hill Community Fund - should be created within the BHCA for the purpose of making annual grants to community-based Beacon Hill, Cambridge Street and adjacent neighborhood non-profit organizations, community development corporations, and other civic groups dedicated to promoting and enhancing quality of life in the community.

In 2022, twenty-three applications were received through the Beacon Hill Community Fund website. Of those twenty-three applications, twelve were chosen by the BHCA Board of Directors to receive grants totaling \$20,000. Those organizations were:

Beacon Hill Art Walk  
Beacon Hill Seminars  
Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company

Friday Night Supper Program, Inc.

Friends of the Phillips Street Play Area

Myrtle Street Playground

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America – Massachusetts

Rogerson Communities, Inc.

The Advent School

Tunefoolery Music, Inc.

West End Museum, Inc.

The 2023 grant application period will run from September 15 through November 1st. you can find out more at <https://www.bhcciv.org/community-fund.html>.

### Upcoming Meetings

Green Committee – Thursday, January 18th, 5pm via Zoom

Young Friends – Wednesday, January 25th at Teddy's; 7pm

50th Annual Winter Soirée – February 11th at The Newbury Boston.

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website [www.bhcciv.org](http://www.bhcciv.org) or call the office (617-227-1922) to learn more about these events.

## Your Neighbor and Real Estate Expert

Trust and accountability are the foundation of Wendy's career as a top-selling agent. Her in-depth knowledge of the market and extensive network provide Wendy's clients with a competitive advantage, and exceptional results.

Wendy Oleksiak

Vice President | REALTOR®

781.267.0400

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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THE BEACON HILL WOMEN’S FORUM WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER CHERI MCCUTCHEN

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Cheri McCutchen, Founder of The Blessing Barn and Director of Operations for Compassion New England, believes in the power of taking initiative and acts of kindness. The Beacon Hill Women’s Forum (BHWF) featured speaker shared stories about the charitable organizations during her January 10 presentation, “Do Something... How Every Little Bit Adds Up To Hope and Help...It’s The Story of Compassion New England.”

“I came to be the person who believes in doing something from my mom and dad,” explained McCutchen, whose 91-year-old parents were public school teachers. “They were united in the idea that part of why we come into this world is to be part of a community. There is an opportunity to make a difference.”

The Blessing Barn Thrift Store & Sharing Centers in Mendon, Beacon Hill, and Mattapan sell donated clothes and household items to raise funds for those in need. Profits from sales sponsor crisis programs operated by Compassion New England.

“The Blessing Barn is a beautiful facility with a simple plan: local need/local aid,” continued McCutchen. “We will invest our best energy and resources.

The 35,000 square foot space at the main Mendon location has curated vignettes and a comfortable community room for guests to gather around a fireplace on comfortable couches, free of charge.

“Our store is not your typical thrift store,” boasted McCutchen. “Our team makes sure that the product that comes into us is presented in the most honorable way. If you come, you will never see the same thing. We change our displays every 15 days because everything sells.”

The Mendon and Mattapan Blessing Barns also offer crisis centers for individuals to share their hardships in dignified, cozy spaces.



Co-President Wendy Oleksiak, Neighborhood Narratives speaker, Kristin Jenkins, Owner of 1928 Beacon Hill, and Programs Co-Director Cindy Sullivan.

“If anyone was in need, they could come in and take it for free; but we required them to tell us their stories,” said McCutchen. “Within a few years, we partnered with different organizations like the police, WIC, and shelters. We do our best to create an environment where people are able to share their stories as though they are at an appointment with a physician or counselor; not begging for something.”

Seasonal items sold at the Beacon Hill Blessing Barn supplement Room in the City: free, short-term housing for families of patients seeking medical attention in Boston hospitals. When McCutchen’s grandson suffered a brain bleed 14 years ago, she remembered witnessing exhausted parents sleeping in the Boston Children’s Hospital lobby. She launched Room in the City in November 2020 to offer a comforting space for guests to focus on their loved ones’ recovery.

“Room in the City is a wonderful place that has helped many families,” added McCutchen, a mother of three, and grandmother. “The first couple of days we were in Beacon Hill, people kept coming by. People know and love each other. The community of Beacon



Fergus McKerracher and Sadaf Sahrabi.

Hill has been amazing to be a part of.”

Compassion New England also has a special needs program for students and adults who have aged out of the public school system. The Happy Place serves 195 members and offers free opportunities for families and caregivers. Friendships are formed and vocational skills are learned in a sensory space, club house, and apparel store.

Blessing Barn Books and Happy Eats food truck, provided by The Happy Place, will be opening in February at the Mendon Blessing

(BHWF Pg. 7)



Featured speaker, Cheri McCutchen, Founder of The Blessing Barn



Programs Co-Director Cindy Sullivan speaking with members during cocktail hour.



Regina Fuertes, Public Relations Jayne Damesek, new member Cynthia Kelley, Stacie D'Eramo-Burns, and Maura Harty.



Co-President Shaili Gupta and Secretary Michelle Burian.



Membership Co-Directors Sarah Hidey and Lisa Purcell.

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BHWF (from pg. 6)

Barn to offer career opportunities for adults with special needs.

Visit The Blessing Barn at 122 Charles Street, Beacon Hill, Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm, call (508) 634-2276, or visit [www.TheBlessingBarn.com](http://www.TheBlessingBarn.com) to donate seasonal items, learn more about contributing, or pay for a one-night stay at Room in the City.

“I encourage you to get to know yourself, and what you want to engage in,” said McCutchen. “Your happiness is tied to other people’s happiness. You can bring joy to people by being a person who does something. When we’re serving each other, we are creating an opportunity for softness in our culture.”



Christy Milner, Erin Moore, Courtney Jones, Connections Co-Director Richelle Gewertz, Secretary Michelle Burian, and Treasurer Janine Jay.



Advisor Sandra Gilpatrick, Co-President Shaili Gupta, Treasurer Janine Jay, Secretary Michelle Burian, Vice President Jackie Knapp, Co-President Wendy Oleksiak, and Programs Co-Director Cindy Sullivan.

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## EMBRACE (from pg. 1)

est public park for conversation, education, and reflection on the Kings’ impact in Boston and the ideals that continue to shape the fabric of our city. The recognition of Coretta Scott King shows that we are a city that will take on the full legacy of Kings and challenge injustice everywhere from a place of love. As we continue our work to ensure Boston is a city for everyone, this memorial is a powerful call to embrace each other more, embrace our nation’s history and embrace what’s possible when we center community.”

Also on hand for the event was Martin Luther King, III, the oldest son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, who said: “My parents’ time in Boston is often a forgotten part of their history – and the history of the movement they helped inspire. The Embrace is a commemoration



Gov. Maura Healey speaks at “The Embrace” unveiling ceremony on the Boston Common.

of their relationship and journey and represents the meaningful role Boston served in our history. This



Mayor Michelle Wu offers her remarks during the unveiling ceremony for “The Embrace.”

is more than just a sculpture, this historic monument is a symbol of the enduring power of love and beacon of hope for so many people across the globe see my parents life’s work as a calling to make this world a better place. I hope it will inspire the next generation of Martin Luther and Coretta Scott Kings as we continue the fight for peace, justice, and equity for all.”

Described as “a bronze figural abstraction” based on a photo of an embrace between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King after he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the Embrace measures 20 feet tall and 25 feet wide. It was the result of a public-private partnership initiated by entrepreneur Paul English, who established the fund at the Boston Foundation and co-chaired the project with Rev. Liz Walker and Rev. Jeffrey Brown. The City of Boston and Embrace Boston convened an Art Committee comprising many of Boston’s cultural leaders to begin the artist selection and design process for the memorial. The Committee was co-chaired by Barry Gaither, Director and Curator of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists and



Martin Luther King, III, offers remarks, flanked by his wife, Arndrea Waters, and their daughter, Yolanda Renee King.

Special Consultant at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Karin Goodfellow, Director of Public Art for the City of Boston. The Boston Art Commission voted to approve the final design of the memorial in the spring of 2021.

The memorial sculpture, which will be voted into the city’s public arts collection, sits within the 1965 Freedom Plaza, which is emblazoned with a quotation attributed to Coretta Scott King. It’s located adjacent to the Parkman Bandstand, where Dr. King spoke in 1965.

Said the artist, Hank Willis Thomas: “There are so many monuments that are memorials, but this is intended to really celebrate not only the Kings, but also their legacy and how their legacy plays out in our lives. I really wanted to make the work a call to action. A reminder that each of us has in us the capacity to be either of those two people or actually something inspired by and more influential. Through embracing another person our opportunities grow. I wanted to highlight the power and beauty of coming together with another person to manifest our shared goals. I am honored to be a part of the team that has built this

centerpiece and gathering place in the historic city of Boston, and the location where the Kings met.”

In addition to Thomas, Mayor Wu, and members of the King Family, the unveiling program also included remarks from Gov. Maura Healey, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and former Gov. Deval Patrick, as well as performances by local artists.

Gov. Maura Healey said: “This is a historic year for Boston and Massachusetts. The Embrace’s presence on the Boston Common, the nation’s oldest public park, will forever serve as a reminder to all of us of the progress we’ve made and all that is still possible.”

In her remarks, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley said: “The Embrace memorial commemorates the Kings’ sacrifice, radical dream, and radical love, and what a source of pride that their story together began right here in the city of Boston. This historic tribute is also a symbol of their vision for radical, revolutionary change, and a reminder of the work that remains in Boston and beyond to build a world that centers justice, equity, and our collective liberation. I was honored to participate in such a groundbreaking event today.”

The Embrace is expected open fully to the public in February, according to the city.

To learn more about the project, visit [www.embraceboston.org](http://www.embraceboston.org).

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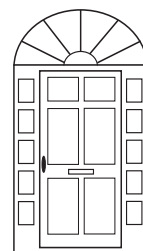
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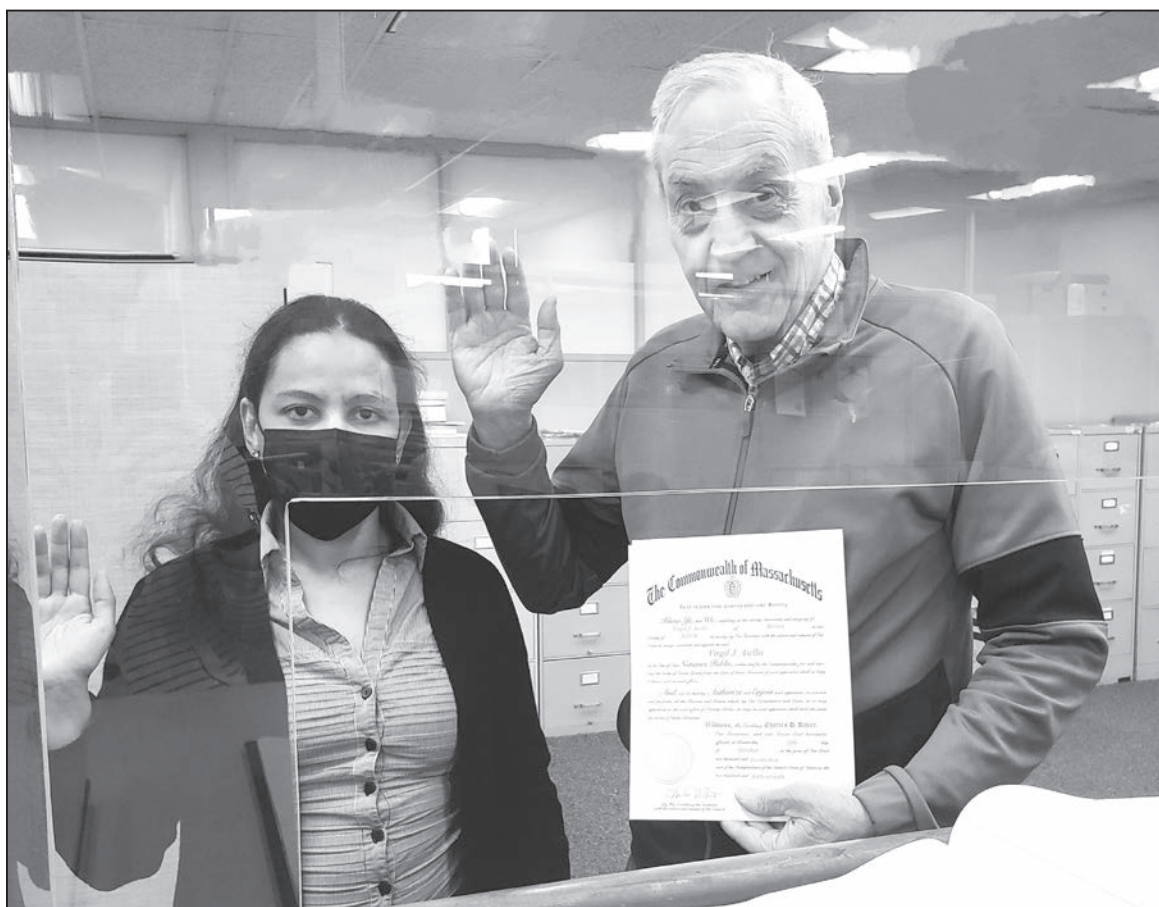
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Virgil J. Aiello is shown being sworn in as a Notary Public for the ninth time. He is approaching 60 years as a Notary Public, the first being July 4, 1964. Although he is retired from DeLuca's Market, he still offers Notary Public service.

## EBNHC opens applications for Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its third cohort of residents to join its Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Residency Program. This residency program aims to expand the pool of primary care providers who are well-prepared and committed to serving underserved populations.

EBNHC was one of five health care organizations in the Commonwealth selected to participate in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) Statewide Investments Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Program in 2021. Since then, the program has shown to be invaluable in the training of new Family Nurse Practitioners.

The residency is a highly structured year of intensive clinical training that provides mentorship in a high-performance model of care. Training includes primary care sessions with a preceptor in a community health center setting, specialty rotations, didactic sessions, and quality improvement training. By the end of the program, residents will have gained the competence, mastery and confidence needed to be a NP primary care provider that serves culturally diverse and clinically complex patients.

"We are thrilled to continue our Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program," said Jackie Fantes, MD, FAAFP Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. "Our goal is to bridge the gap between academia and practice for new FNPs so that they feel competent and confident to hit the ground running as they enter the fast-paced world of health care. We want every patient to have a provider who empowers their decision making and respects their language, culture, race or ethnicity, and health care preferences."

The goal of the FNP training program is to ensure every new provider is prepared, supported, and satisfied with their career in primary care. "When I started at EBNHC 14 years ago as a new NP, the support, training and mentorship I received shaped me as a clinician and has driven me to want to do the same for the next generation of providers," said Residency Program Director Katherine O'Brien, MSN, FNP-C. "This individualized residency, with an abundance of hands-on teaching, feedback and clinical mentoring, does just that."

Based at EBNHC sites in the South End, East Boston and Winthrop, the program will run from September 2023 to August

2024. The residency is a full-time, 12-month salaried position. Three slots are available. New Family Nurse Practitioners graduating in May 2023 or within the previous 18 months are encouraged to apply. Bilingual candidates preferred. Visit Family Nurse Practitioner Residency: Overview — EBNHC 2022 for more information and an online application.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston's South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, please visit [www.ebnhc.org](http://www.ebnhc.org).

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### Memorial service for Michael Henry set for Jan. 20 at Church on the Hill

A memorial service for Michael Henry will be on Friday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. at the Church on the Hill, 140 Bowdoin St.

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Betsy B Shirley Irt	Joanne S Gill RET Agmt	303 Berkeley St #2	\$4,150,000
Richards, Blake	Northern Standard Lt	25 Dartmouth St #1	\$1,292,500
Noureddine, Mohsen	Cuadra, Ruy A	497 Beacon St #7	\$510,000
Fandino, Carola	Charlesview 904 Rt	534 Beacon St #904	\$575,000
Jatoba LLC	Shs Holdings LLC	16 Marlborough St	\$16,286,000
Bozdemir, Ozgur	Pmc Marlborough Rt	298 Marlborough St #5	\$1,150,000
Wajk LLC	Devitre, Rustam K	390 Commonwealth Ave #102	\$1,200,000

### BEACON HILL

Petsko, Gregory A	Ladybug Boylston Prop LL	70 Brimmer St #330	\$500,000
Sarasin, Thomas J	Rebecca Ann Greven RET	51 Hancock St #12	\$415,000
Doane, Alec	Oleksiak, Stephen	40 Phillips St #1	\$775,000
Lasson, James R	Remo, Lawrence J	93 Pinckney St #1	\$495,000

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

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Cspedes-Yaffar, Larissa N	Gospel LLC	11 Cumston St	\$2,185,000
Pozzi, Jonathan L	Schwartz Mark N Est	12 Stoneholm St #318	\$400,000
Beerman, Adam	Pease, Danielle K	110 Union Park St #4	\$925,000
Mei Sheng Duh 2010 RET	Peng, Yanhua	43 Westland Ave #204	\$1,215,000
Galvez, Miguel A	Engstrand, Ian	9-11 Worcester St #4	\$740,000

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## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The door knocker in the last clue is on 25 Beaver Street, built circa 1920 and designed by Richardson, Barott, and Richardson. The Richardsons listed in this firm's name were two sons of Henry Hobson Richardson, for whom the "Richardson Romanesque" style was named.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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## BEACON HILL SEMINARS SPRING SEMESTER KICK-OFF

Photos by Marianne Salza

Beacon Hill Seminars (BHWS) held its first in-person kick-off since 2020 in celebration of the spring semester on January 11 at the Chilton Club. Group leaders introduced the 22 courses offered on subjects such as biomedical advances, science fiction, and history. Some 200 students will be continuing their educational growth through engaging classes that explore arts, culture, and political relations.



Harold Weintraub, Barbara Sinclair, and Mary Thomsen.



Lynn Smiledge, Maureen Marcucci, who will be teaching "The Governors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," and Bill Sherden.



Bart Menitove and Cathleen Doonan.



Executive Director Judy Tedeschi, Renata Hauser, John Hern, and Stephen Sanders.



Robert Manning, who will be teaching, "Opening Pandora's Box: A Masterwork of Silent Cinema," and Lee Behnke, who will be instructing a course about cathedrals in the middle ages during the fall semester.



Kathryn Aberle, Alma Dell Smith, Maria Luisa Mansfield, who will be teaching "Ephemeral Architecture and Portable Artifacts in Islamic Culture," and Beth Sanders, who will be teaching, "Color: A Cultural and Scientific Journey."

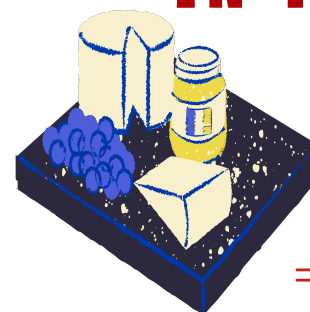


Liz Morgan, Rebecca Brooks, and Jill Christians.



Peggy Kelleher and Executive Director Judy Tedeschi speaking after group leader introductions.

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

# Home economics

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Home economics is commonly defined as “cooking and other

aspects of household management, especially as taught at school.” From the early 1900s, this subject was promoted for females.

In the 1960s, the women’s rights movement objected to the traditional stereotype that girls should be taught cooking and homemaking and boys woodworking and mechanical skills.

Today, in places where this subject is taught, it’s referred to as “family and consumer sciences”



*This photo of a home economics class was taken circa 1900–1919 when it was thought that only women needed the skills to manage a home.*

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(FCS) and is open to all students. In a recent interview, Ben Mervis, author of “The British Cookbook,” related that his interest in food came from an assignment in his “home economics” class.

His exposure to household management resulted in a career path. It might provide the skills needed to be a great single parent, partner, caregiver, or healthier human for a different person.

### Vital Life Skills

Feeding yourself and your family food that is healthy, nutritious, safe, and within your budget takes more education than you can obtain by watching a few TikTok videos or following food influencers on Instagram. Training in these vital life skills could result in better decisions about how we spend our food dollars, differentiate between good nutritional information and puffery, and minimize food waste. These topics are essential to our personal well-being, economy, and environment.

Going back to that definition of home economics, we like the idea of teaching anyone who wants to learn how to be the CEO and CFO of an organization called a household. In addition to classes held in schools, community-based continuing education could make it possible for anyone suddenly responsible for feeding themselves and others to learn how to do it well. This might include young people on their own for the first time, seniors who need to adapt to cooking for one, or those who become single parents and need to feed a family.

### So Much To Learn

WBUR reported on the diminished availability of home economics classes and teachers. In that

article, they quoted Carol Werhan, an FCS educator and member of the board of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The article’s author, Tove Danovich wrote, “...cooking taught through FCS courses is more about having the confidence to experiment in the kitchen than becoming a trained chef. ‘People don’t need to have perfection — you have to know what are the failures that are OK.’ ‘Burnt edges can be cut off. Overcooked meat can still be served.’ Werhan said.”

### Valuable Lessons

Learning that you must practice a skill to master it and that failure along the way is to be expected is a valuable lesson. The WBUR article also talked about students seeing the relevance of what they were doing and learning in FCS classes. At first, they may not realize they are using mathematics, chemistry, resource management, financial acumen, and organizational skills to follow a recipe or set up a menu. Still, before long, they see the connection.

Once, these skills were passed from generation to generation as they shared space in multi-generational households and large connected families. However, now we also hear of cases where the young are teaching their older family members to make better choices for the family and the environment. Any knowledge we can provide through FCS education at school or in the community can help ensure we have a new generation of home-ec teachers, young and old.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.*