



SEPTEMBER 7, 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

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## Sumner Tunnel reopens to motorists

Staff Report

The Sumner Tunnel in East Boston reopened Friday, Sept. 1 after a two-month closure due to the beginning of the first phase of a \$160 million restoration and renovation project to the 89-year-old tunnel.

State Rep. Adrian Madaro and State Sen. Lydia Edwards joined Gov. Maura Healey, Transportation Secretary Gina Fiandaca, and other state officials on a walking tour of the Sumner Tunnel last Wednesday, Aug. 30.

Edwards, who represents the entire East Boston neighborhood in the Senate, commented, "We are halfway there. I am grateful we got through two months of closure with little injury. We have a lot to learn and certainly need to reassess our mitigation package for next year. Finally, I want to thank outgoing Secretary Gina Fiandaca and the whole MassDOT team for



Photo courtesy Charlotte Hysen of Governor's Press Office

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Rep. Adrian Madaro and Gov. Maura Healey make their way into the Sumner Tunnel on foot to get an up-close look at what repairs the two-month long closure enabled MassDOT to make.

their hard work."

State Rep. Adrian Madaro added, "The weekday openings of the Sumner Tunnel will give residents much-needed relief from the lengthy commutes into the City. I'm grateful for the patience East Boston residents have displayed throughout the summer, and thankful for the hard work of MassDOT employees and the con-

tractors who completed the necessary repairs over the last several months."

State Rep. Jessica Giannino said, "I want to thank MassDOT and each of the contractors involved in this project for all of their hard work on the Sumner Tunnel renovations. Reopening

(TUNNEL Pg. 2)

## 'Let the Children Sing' concert to honor legacy of abolitionist schoolteacher, Susan Paul

Special to Times

Wandering the narrow streets of Beacon Hill, and using a little imagination, it's possible to hear the voices of Bostonians-past who worked, loved, and lived here long before us. And in doing so, it is easy to recall the names of the privileged few that remain present in our everyday vernacular.

After all, their names are memorialized on buildings, streets, parks, monuments, and schools. But step into one of the shadows cast by Beacon Hill's iconic Federal or Greek Revival townhouses, listen a little closer, and the voices of others—long forgotten, marginalized, and relegated to the murky depths of history by censure or by circumstance—begin to emerge. Tragically, their efforts, aspirations, and hard-fought battles that

shaped our history remain in those shadows as well. Count among their numbers Susan Paul.

Paul (1809-1841), a schoolteacher at Abiel Smith School, was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Paul, the first pastor of a Black Baptist congregation housed in a two-story brick building on Belknap (now Joy) Street. Along with two Salem men, John Remond and Prince Farmer, she went on to become one of the first African American (and the first female) members of The New England Anti-Slavery Society (NEASS). After the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS) was formed, she was invited to become one of the first African American members. In the 19th century, a time when it was both controversial and unvirtuous for women of

(CONCERT Pg. 5)

## FABLED ANTIQUES WELCOMES BACK NEIGHBORS



COURTESY PHOTO

Fabled Antiques owner Rebecca Connolly Hackler welcomes back Beacon Hill residents with an original early MBTA enamel "Charles" station sign.

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

The Young Friends Shindig - has been RESCHEDULED to Friday, November 10, 7-10pm; UMass Club.

Join other Young Friends members at The Shindig for a night of cocktails, bites, and dancing, with a spectacular view of the nighttime skyline from the elegant UMass Club! All tickets include one complimentary drink at the cash bar. Non-Members are welcome and creative black-tie attire is encouraged! Tickets purchased for the August date will be honored for November.

Tickets will be available at bhccivic.org on 9/1/23.

BHCA Fall HillFest - Sunday, September 24, 12-4pm; Mt. Ver-

non Street at Charles Street

Meet & Greet - Monday, October 2, 6-8pm, location TDB  
Founders Reception - Thursday, October 5, 6-8pm; Harvard Musical Association (for Founders Circle members only)

Let the Children Sing: A Tribute to Susan Paul (in collaboration with the Museum of African American History) - Sunday, October 15th, 3-5pm; MAAH. Tickets available online at bhccivic.org.

Garlands & Greens - Wednesday, November 15, 6pm, Hampshire House

Holiday Decorating - Saturday/Sunday, December 2 and 3

Contact the BHCA at info@bhccivic.org for details on any of these activities.

### Upcoming In-person meetings on Charles Street

Meet the City's Active Transportation Team in-person on Charles Street on the following days with dates added through October:

- Monthly on Wednesday evenings at the Charles Street Meeting House:
- 10/11 from 4:30-6pm due to earlier sunset
- Monthly on Tuesday mornings at the intersection of Charles and Cambridge Streets:
- 9/19 and 10/17 from 7:45 - 9:15 a.m.

In the case of inclement weather, including a heat emergency, these hours will be cancelled. To learn more, visit boston.gov/connect-downtown.

# EDITORIAL

## GUNS ARE NOW THE LEADING KILLER OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

It used to be that accidents, primarily car accidents, were the leading cause of death of America's children between the ages of 1 and 18.

But last year for the first time, guns were the #1 cause of death of American children. A total of 3597 children died from guns (including suicides), representing 19% of all deaths in that age group, with accidents coming in at 18%. (Cancer is third at 8% and drug overdoses are fourth at 7%.)

To put that number in perspective, 2603 people perished in the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11 -- which means that guns now kill far more American children, each and every year, than were killed by the terrorists on that terrible day.

In addition, another 15,000 children annually are wounded by gunfire, often leaving them with lifelong, debilitating physical injuries as well as psychological trauma.

The 2022 figures represent a dramatic increase of 50% since 2019 and a doubling since 2013. The child firearm mortality rate in 2013 was 1.8 deaths per 100,000, but now is close to 4.0 deaths per 100,000.

The United States has by far the highest rate of children who die from firearms among wealthy nations -- and it's not even close. Deaths by firearms do not rank in the top four for causes of death for children, let alone the number one cause, anywhere else in the developed world.

Moreover, there is no place in America that is safe for our children from gun violence. Even the states with the most gun safety laws, which have lower rates of child firearm deaths than states with few gun safety laws, have rates much higher than what other countries similar to ours experience.

Given that guns and mass shootings continue to proliferate throughout our country -- and Republicans at all levels of government refuse to enact even common-sense gun safety measures -- the number of deaths by firearms for our nation's children only will continue to rise.

## SPORTS BETTING ON PHONES: 21ST CENTURY HIGH TECH CRACK

A general rule of thumb is that when a slew of celebrity pitchmen start endorsing anything that has to do with money, it's a good bet (no pun intended in the context of this editorial) that the public is being conned.

We saw that with the recent cryptocurrency promotions by famous people such as Matt Damon, Tom Brady, and Giselle Bundschen, who now are being sued by those who lost large sums when the cryptocurrency exchange FTX collapsed. (Brady himself reportedly lost \$30 million.)

We are seeing the same dynamic with the new sports betting apps, with stars from Hollywood and the sports world telling us how much "fun" we can have by placing a bet.

However, these sports betting apps are not your grandparents' bookies -- they are far worse. Not only can someone place a bet anywhere and at any time with a few taps on their phone, but they also can bet in real time on just about everything in a particular game with options to bet in-game on every quarter, player, and event.

These gambling companies are publicly-traded corporations and often are partnered with professional sports, thereby making sports betting "acceptable."

However, there are more than six million Americans with sports-gambling addiction problems, and that number only will climb given the spread of sports gaming on cell phones. The individual stories of those who have lost thousands of dollars over their phones on sports gambling are growing exponentially day-by-day -- and the only ones getting rich are the shareholders of these companies and the billionaires who own professional sports teams.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Barker, Buffett, Richardson and extraordinary lives

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Jimmy Buffett, Bob Barker and Bill Richardson all died recently. They all had one thing in common. They lived extraordinary lives.

Buffett had become a billionaire. He had amassed his fortune by capitalizing on his song, "Margaritaville." His hotels, restaurants, resorts and even retirement communities were hugely successful. In his later years, he continued to build new hotels and resorts that were beautiful and hugely successful.

Sadly, Buffett passed from Merkel cell skin cancer. He had been receiving treatment for over four years at was still doing concerts even as late as early July in Rhode Island. There was nothing stopping Buffett, except the skin cancer that took his life even when he had so much he still wanted to do. Yet, few people will ever live the life of Jimmy Buffett

Bill Richardson had spent his last few years helping people internationally. He was very success-

ful in politics serving as a U.S. Congressman, Governor of New Mexico and as an Ambassador to the United Nations. He may best be remembered for his diplomatic work in negotiating the releases of journalist Danny Fenster from a Myanmar prison in 2021 and most recently Britney Griner from a Russian prison, among others. Richardson lived an amazing life.

Bob Barker gets the longevity prize. It's hard to top 99, unless you make it to 100. Barker lived a full life of entertaining us on television. For fifty years he came into our homes as the host and producer of The Price is Right and earlier as the host of Truth of Consequences. Many of us show him in the hit comedy Happy Gilmore. Many Americans felt like Barker was a member of their families since he was in their homes via television for so many years.

Barker, Buffett, and Richardson were all bigger than life personalities who lived extraordinary lives filled with success and prosperity.

Keep in mind the measure of our lives is not meant to be measured beside the lives of national or global personalities or anyone else. The fulfillment and success of your life may be in taking care of an aged parent, a troubled or disabled child, or seeing your spouse or life partner through life's difficult stages. Or, the great success of your life may be remembered in your kindness to your neighbors and to others you meet along the way. Quite possibly, life's most extraordinary people may not be fully recognized until we are beyond this life.

The best we can do is the best we can do. We should trust God and live our lives in as meaningful a way as possible.

*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.*

### TUNNEL (from pg. 1)

the tunnel on time was critical as commuters get back from summer breaks.

"I also want to thank the efforts of Gov. Maura Healey and each of the surrounding communities impacted by this closure for working collaboratively in order to minimize disruptions to our commutes by increasing options for reliable public transportation during the shutdown. This project was a

group effort, and I believe the process went as smoothly as it did because of this. I am very happy to know that commuters can return to their normal routes again, in the improved Sumner Tunnel."

Acting Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe was pleased to see the Sumner Tunnel reopen on schedule.

"The tunnel's reopening is a great sigh of relief to the residents

of Revere as we start to wrap up the summer," said Keefe. "I'm hopeful the learnings we all experienced by relying on public transit and expanded offerings will be sign on more permanent transportation investments that can benefit our community when it comes to our regional traffic mitigation measures."

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Jim P.,  
Beacon Hill

*We love your services, thank you so much! My dad is 90 years old. For my parents to be able to drop their car off right at our front door when they visit is amazing.*

Jennifer H.,  
Beacon Hill

*Acorn has been a complete game-changer for our family of five and after just a few months of using it we could not imagine life without it. While we previously had to dread hurried drop-offs (strollers, car seats, pets, etc) on our busy Boston street and long walks from the garage. We now enjoy timely and stress-free pick-ups and drop-offs right at our front door. The app makes it seamless to track our car or the valets progress and we have removed a major stress point in our lives. The valets always meet us with a smile and help us load and unload the vehicle. Our family and friends also love the guest access to the service when they visit. We recommend Acorn to anyone living in the city looking to remove the daily hassle of parking.*

Andrew & Chelsea O.,  
Beacon Hill

*Acorn Valet parking service is a game changer for living in Back Bay. The service is efficient and reliable, and the employees are professional and personable. The cost is reasonable compared to owning a space. My car is parked in a garage, out of the elements, which is perfect for street cleaning, weather emergencies and when I travel. Now that I have Acorn, I am no longer interested buying or renting alley parking.*

Libby M.  
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# Athenaeum showcases photographers of 1930s and '60s in 'Developing Boston' exhibition

The Boston Athenaeum launched its newest exhibition, "Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott and Irene Shwachman Photograph a Changing City," on Aug. 28, featuring the first joint presentation of work by the two pioneering photographers of the 1930s and 1960s as they captured a Boston in the midst of great change and redevelopment.

Abbott's 1934 photos and Shwachman's 1959-68 images capture many of the same locations 30 years apart, including the Old State House, Faneuil Hall, West End, Beacon Hill, and Adams Square (now Government Center), with some locations and buildings still recognizable today, others utterly transformed by redevelopment. They also include historical images of "New City Hall" and the Prudential Tower under construction in the 1960s. The exhibition will be open through the end of December and available with a first-floor admission ticket.

Leah Rosovsky, the Boston Athenaeum's Stanford Calderwood Director, said in a press release, "For anyone who loves exploring the modern history of Boston and the evolution of photographic technique and composition,

'Developing Boston' promises to be a rich and inspiring experience. We are also so honored and excited to partner with and showcase the teen photographers of Artists For Humanity as we work to deepen the Athenaeum's connections with people from all of Boston neighborhoods and present new perspectives on our city and its history."

The photographers have notable personal connections, as well as differing approaches to photographing the city. Abbott approaches Boston from a distance, offering stoic views, oscillating between straightforward and oblique angles. Shwachman, a onetime student of Abbott's who photographed alongside, and even worked for a time as Abbott's darkroom printer, amended her teacher's approach by photographing Boston through a personal, subjective lens to highlight the city's dynamism.

"By examining the works of Abbott and Shwachman in conversation, Developing Boston explores how each photographer viewed, dissected, and preserved Boston as it evolved throughout the twentieth century. As Abbott employed her documentary prac-



COURTESY OF BOSTON ATHENAEUM

Berenice Abbott's 1958 images (above and below) show a changing Boston amid development.

lice to create clear sightlines between the past and present, Shwachman developed her practice to signal towards Boston's uncertain future," Lauren Graves, Ph.D., assistant curator at the Athenaeum, said in a press release. "The documentary approaches of both photographers, whose work has never previously been presented in a joint exhibition, shine together to present a side of Boston's buildings and public spaces that would have otherwise been lost. We hope that this exhibition helps Bostonians and visitors alike to find their place in the city."

Building on this documentary photography exhibition, the Boston Athenaeum has also partnered with Artists For Humanity to add to the exhibition a selection of contemporary images of Boston made over the last two years, bringing teenage AFH photographers and their visual take on Boston into conversation with the seminal works of Abbott and Shwachman.

"Boston Athenaeum was so invested in the teens' vision—from start to finish," AFH's Photography Director Mary Nguyen said in a press release. "They trusted that the teens were the experts in representing their own city through their lenses. The teens felt empowered, embraced, and celebrated as artists, and as young people, by such a historic institution and a great partner."

"This will be the first time having my artwork in an exhi-



bition outside of AFH," added AFH Teen Photographer, Victoria "Tori" Kutta. "Being able to tour a famous place like Boston Athenaeum, where thousands of people visit, and then exhibit my own photography there—it's surreal!"

AFH's Studio team is so proud of their artwork being added to the Athenaeum's collections, con-

tinuing the photographic story of Boston started by Abbott and Schwachman, added Kutta.

This exhibition is generously funded by the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust. The Mass Cultural Council supports the collaboration with Artists For Humanity.

Visit [bostonathenaeum.org](http://bostonathenaeum.org) for more information.

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SHAWMUT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PHOTO

A view from the balcony of the Museum of African American History.

**CONCERT** (from pg. 1)

any race to be outspoken, this carried a great amount of risk.

Alongside notables such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, Paul changed antislavery discourse by challenging the often presumptuous if not dictatorial

methodology of white activists of the time. But among these giants of the abolitionist cause Paul remains unique. She, like her contemporaries, challenged the status quo of white abolitionism with activism, but not through fiery speech,

marches, or demonstrations. Instead, Paul used music; and more specifically, a children’s choir.

Throughout the 1830s, Paul’s “juvenile choir” publicly performed political, patriotic, and anti-slavery songs to sold out crowds at abolitionist events across Boston. The choir was successful in accomplishing two of Paul’s primary objectives: to prevent white reformers from holding dominion over the anti-slavery struggle and to instill in her students a commitment to social justice and change.

On October 15, at 3 p.m., Susan Paul will triumphantly emerge from the shadows of history as the voices of children will resound in the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill. “Let the Children Sing” will be presented by the Beacon Hill Civic Association and the Museum of African American History, a site that authentically carries meaning for both Paul and her abolitionist message. The program of joyous music will feature some of Boston’s premiere youth enrichment groups, including the

Hamilton Garrett-Youth Choir, the Eastern Mass Children’s Choir, and City Strings, who will perform alongside literary performer and educator Regie Gibson and other notable speakers.

The program is generously sponsored by F.H. Perry Builder, Suffolk University, Florina Pizza and Paninoteca, Blackstones of Beacon Hill, and The Whaley Ring Team/Coldwell Banker. Tickets range from \$10-\$25 and are available at Eventbrite or crescendo-productions.com.

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# WU ANNOUNCES 2023 MAYOR'S GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS

COURTESY PHOTOS

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced the winners of the 27th annual Mayor's Garden Contest with a grand prize provided by JetBlue, prize packages donated by Mahoney's Garden Centers, and additional support from in-kind sponsor Polar Beverages.

The Mayor's Garden Contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods.

First place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Wu in a ceremony held August 21 in the Boston Public Garden while second and third place winners were awarded certifi-

icates.

Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years were automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are no longer eligible to enter as contestants but are invited to return as judges.

First place winners were also entered into a drawing for a Jet-Blue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston. In addition, Mahoney's Garden Centers provided gardener's gift certificates to the top three winners in each category, as well as gift certificates for the 2023 Hall of Fame winners and judges.

Local winners include:

### Small Yard Garden

1. Julia Fairclough - Roslindale
2. Blair Campbell - Dorchester
3. John Carroll - Jamaica Plain

### Medium Yard Garden

1. Sandra Jordan and Robert Monahan - Jamaica Plain
2. Jessica von Ammon - Roxbury
3. Matthew Delisle - Charlestown

### Large Yard Garden

1. Rick Malkasian - Fenway-Kenmore

2. Kevin McKenna - Roslindale

3. Joe Fallon & Whit Hendon - Dorchester

### Storefront, Organization, or Main Street District Garden

1. Gardening Enthusiasts at Primus - Beacon Hill
2. Hancock Garden Club (under the leadership of Anne Sheetz and Gillian Gattie) - Beacon Hill
3. Comfort Kitchen (Chitz Regmi) - Dorchester

### Porch Balcony or Container Garden Category

1. Salil Sharma - South End
2. Alex & Stephanie Tsalagas - South End
3. Kolea Zimmerman - Charlestown

### Community Garden

1. Joe and Dolores Fazio - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens
2. Kristen L. Corman - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens
3. Laura Poulin & Brian Harty - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens



Porch Balcony or Container Garden Category: Salil Sharma - South End.



Storefront, Organization, or Main Street District Garden: Gardening Enthusiasts at Primus - Beacon Hill.

**FABLED ANTIQUES**

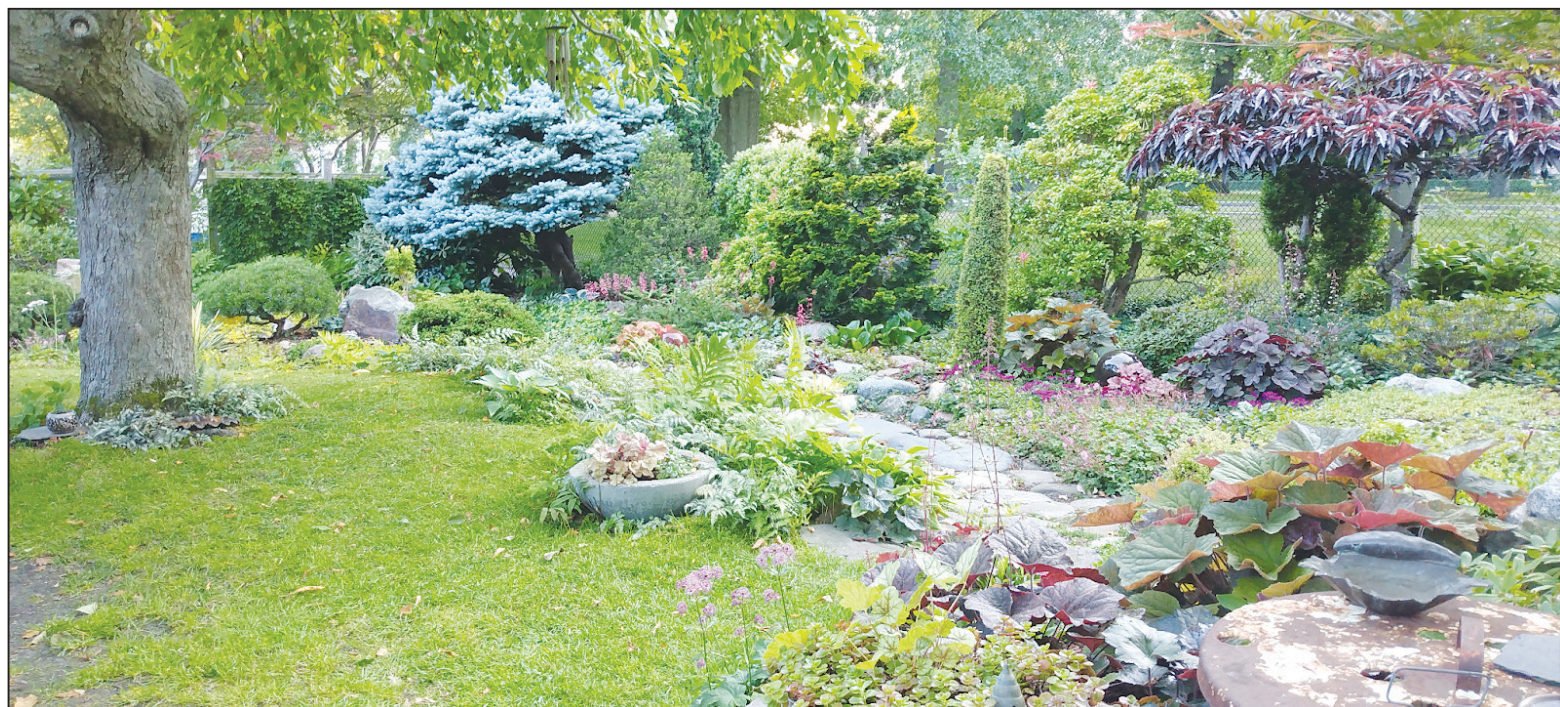
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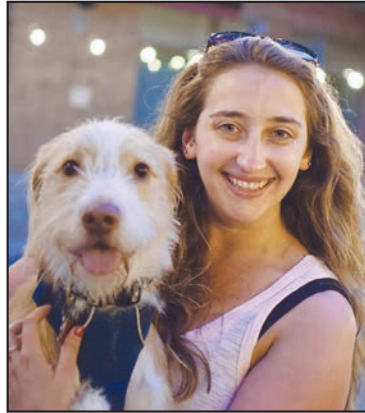
# THE BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S YOUNG FRIENDS SOCIAL

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Paola Rossetti and Richard Noel.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) held a Young Friends Social during Yappier Hour at The Liberty Hotel on August 30. Young professionals gathered after work for the casual evening while dogs chased one another through the courtyard.



Meagan Costello and Jasper.



Dracena Schultz and Ronny Wu with Fable and Lovy.



The BHCA held a Young Friends Social during Yappier Hour in the courtyard of The Liberty Hotel on August 30.



Willy Charleton and Jinx.



Michelle Caplan and Sarah Reid with Walnut.



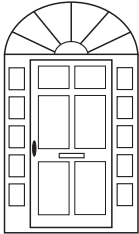
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# BPL announces Book it Around Boston 2023 fun run set for September 23

The Boston Public Library (BPL) last week announced Book it Around Boston 2023, a fun run/walk/bike event designed to reintroduce residents to BPL branches across the city while incentivizing movement across Boston's neighborhoods.

BPL has partnered with Heartbreak Hill Running Company to offer guided routes kicking off and concluding at the Roxbury branch. As part of the event, participants will walk, run, or bike to other BPL branches.

The family-friendly event is the kickoff of this year's BPL Passport initiative, which will roll out in September during Library Card Signup Month.

"We are thrilled to partner again with Heartbreak Hill Running Company for Book it Around Boston," said Michael Colford, BPL Director of Library Services.

"We appreciate their support for the Passport program during Library Card Signup Month and beyond.

"This event provides a fantastic opportunity for residents to get out and visit the diverse neighborhoods of Boston and their local branches, which are the heart of our community. We hope Bostonians will get out, explore, and sign up for a library card if they don't already have one!"

Book it Around Boston will take place on September 23, at 9:30 a.m. Participants can choose one of five routes starting and ending at the Roxbury branch, depending on how far they would like to walk, run, or bike. These include:

- Route 1 (3.5 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit South End Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch
- Route 2 (5.9 miles): start at

Roxbury Branch, visit Egleston Branch, Jamaica Plain Branch, Connolly Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

- Route 3 (8 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit Fields Corner Branch, Adams Street Branch, Codman Square Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

- Route 4 (10 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit Parker Hill Branch, South End Branch, West End Branch, North End Branch, South Boston Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

- Bike Route (20 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit South Boston Branch, Fields Corner Branch, Adams Street Branch, Lower Mills Branch, Mattapan Branch, Roslindale Branch, Jamaica Plain Branch, Connolly Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

There will be a reception at

10:30 a.m. at the Roxbury branch, the final stop on all the Book it Around Boston routes. There will be light snacks and refreshments and closing remarks. The first 200 participants to register for the event will also receive a free Book it Around Boston lapel pin.

"We're so excited to celebrate cross-community movement using our world-class library system," said Dan Fitzgerald, co-founder of Heartbreak Hill Running Company. "This is the second annual Passport run, so we're delighted and grateful to build on the momentum from last year. BPL exists in every corner of our city offering free, democratic access to information and education. Running, for us, is always an opportunity to unite people and communities of all background in sport. I can't wait to bring both together on September 23rd!"

All participants will receive a BPL Passport: a new booklet outlining routes to walk, run, or bike between each of the BPL's 26 locations, encouraging residents to get out and explore the city. For each branch participants visit, they will receive a branch stamp in their BPL Passport.

The BPL Passport program is open to everyone. Visit a local BPL branch to pick up a Passport, then use the routes outlined in the booklet to visit branches across the city and collect stamps. Exclusive swag is available to participants for visiting specific numbers of branches; visit [bpl.org/passport/](http://bpl.org/passport/) to learn more.

To register for Book it Around Boston, visit: [bplrun.splashthat.com](http://bplrun.splashthat.com). For a complete list of BPL branches, visit: [bpl.bibliocommons.com/locations](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/locations).

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### WARD 5 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPTEMBER 5

The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee will hold its 2024 Republican U.S. Presidential Primary meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 6-8 p.m. at the Boston Park Plaza.

### WECA MEETING SLATED FOR SEPT. 14 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its next meeting in person on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Amy Lowell Apartments at 65 Martha Road.

A representative from the West End Museum will introduce museum staff and speak about the museum's recovery from the January 2022 flood, as well as about their upcoming events and future plans.

Masks are encouraged.

### SECRET GARDEN TOUR SET FOR SEPT. 14

The Friends of the West End Library, in partnership with the West End Branch Library, is offering a Secret Garden Tour on Thursday, Sept. 14 (rain date: Thursday, Sept. 21).

Tour-goers will meet outside the entrance of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St., at 5:15 p.m., sharp for the one-hour tour. The tour's hostess and guide

is a member of the Beacon Hill Garden Club and a horticulture volunteer at the Rose Kennedy Greenway, who will introduce the group to a unique private urban garden and answer questions about its history, plantings, and maintenance.

Meanwhile, tour-goers are urged to wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for an uphill walk, with cobblestones and uneven footing.

This tour is free, but registration is required: to register, email your name to [annefitzgerald1960@gmail.com](mailto:annefitzgerald1960@gmail.com), or [jean.lawr@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.lawr@yahoo.com). The headcount is limited to 15-20 guests so interested parties are encouraged to respond quickly if they wish to attend the tour.

Call 617-870-6864 for more information.

### EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHTS 'TREASURES FROM THE WEST END MUSEUM ARCHIVES'

The West End Museum presents "Treasures from the West End Museum Archives" on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 6 to 7 p.m. at The Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway St. (located along the alleyway next to Hub-50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

Journey Back in Time: Through exploration of the illuminatingly detailed 1766 Osgood Carleton map, the beautifully illustrated 1922 Bromley Atlas, the unflinching photographs of the Edgell Collection, and more, you'll have

the unique opportunity to interact with history in its raw form.

The museum's archivist, Bob Potenza, will lead the exhibit, which features the 1766 Osgood Carleton map, the 1922 Bromley Atlas, and photographs from the Edgell Collection.

Admission is free, but there is a freewill donation of \$10 requested per guest. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/treasures-from-the-west-end-museum-archives-tickets=oddtcreator> to reserve a space.

### PROGRAM FOCUSES ON MIT'S WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The Nichols House Museum, in partnership with, MIT Libraries, presents "Skirts and Slide Rules: Women at MIT from the Nichols Sisters to Now" on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

This is a hybrid event; the Zoom link will be sent to all registrants. The in-person program will be held in The Nexus, MIT Room 14S-130, situated on the first floor of the Hayden Library at MIT, 160 Memorial Drive in Cambridge.

Women have attended MIT since 1870. Among the first generation of women who studied there were Margaret and Rose Nichols. Rose was a special student in a design class, where she learned to apply architectural principles to the plans of gardens - a skill she put to good use in her career as a garden designer. Margaret Homer (Nichols) Shurcliff took courses in

chemistry and physics, then studied carpentry and woodturning; she subsequently opened a furniture business, Pegleggers, and taught carpentry lessons in the North End.

Panelists will discuss early women students including the Nichols sisters, as well as women's experiences at MIT throughout the 20th century and into the current day.

Admission is free; visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skirts-and-slide-rules-women-at-mit-from-the-nichols-sisters-to-now-tickets-705589115037?aff=oddtcreator> to register.

### REGISTER TODAY FOR BEACON HILL SEMINARS FALL COURSES

Beacon Hill Seminars is offering 20 courses this fall on a range of topics including art, history, literature, religion, economics, politics, and more. Classes meet in person in historic venues in Back Bay and Beacon Hill, or online via Zoom. The deadline for registration is Sunday, Sept. 10. Visit <https://beaconhillseminars.org/> or call 617-523-0970 to learn more.

### PICKLE BALL GROUP LESSONS OFFERED ON THE COMMON

Pickle ball group lessons are offered every Friday and Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. at the pickle ball/ (tennis) court on the Boston Com-

mon. Register and pay in person \$24 per session, or \$80 for four sessions.

Call 585-448-2005 or email [vessy.jivkova@gmail.com](mailto:vessy.jivkova@gmail.com) for more information.

### FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED

The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Community Room of the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St.

To sign up or for more information, email Audrey Tedeman ([artedeman@gmail.com](mailto:artedeman@gmail.com)) or Julia Forbes ([jmaforbes@gmail.com](mailto:jmaforbes@gmail.com)).

### CALL FOR WALKERS: REGISTER FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL BOSTON MARATHON JIMMY FUND WALK

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Visit [www.celebrityseries.org/jatc](http://www.celebrityseries.org/jatc) for more information.



# City of Boston announces gender equity updates to marriage licenses

Building on Mayor Wu's vision of an inclusive City that serves all residents, the City of Boston today announced that it has updated its marriage licenses by no longer requiring sex or gender identification on the licenses. This change is the first the City has made based on new gender-aware guidelines for City resources and the collection of gender-identity data throughout government processes. These guidelines will support City staff who design and operate services, programs, and policies in the City of Boston and are intended to provide more dignified experiences for all residents, including those whose gender and sexual identities have historically not been recognized or supported by government agencies. This effort was led by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement, and the City's Registry Department. Boston residents who wish to have an updated marriage license issued without sex or gender identification can contact the City Registry for a new copy.

"Our fundamental charge in public service is ensuring that our services and opportunities reach everyone, and that starts with affirming and supporting constituents of all identities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Boston must continue to work to dismantle the historic inequities and injustices that persist. This update to Boston marriage licenses is a huge step in building a City that is truly inclusive, and I'm excited to see how these critical changes for accessibility at City Hall serve Bostonians."

Data can be a powerful tool to understand disparities and to drive equitable outcomes. However, embedding the collection of data into government programs can often have negative consequences for the people those services and programs were intended to help in

the first place. The consequences can be magnified when data collection is mandatory or tied to other personally identifying information. As these are complex issues that involve trade-offs, the City expects these standards and guidelines to evolve.

Collecting the right amount of data in the right way will ensure that the City delivers services equitably and effectively to people of all gender identities while protecting privacy and safety to the best of its ability. Building on the Gender Inclusion ordinance filed by then-Councilor Wu and Councilor Liz Breadon and the amendment to the ordinance filed by Councilor Gabriela Coletta and feedback received regarding various constituent experiences, the City has created this new set of standards and guidelines that will support City workers in determining when and how they should collect gender identity information. To achieve this purpose, these guidelines and standards have four goals:

1. Define key terms City staff should understand related to gender identity
2. Help City departments determine when it is necessary and appropriate to ask constituents about their gender identity
3. Provide standard language that City departments should use when they have determined they need to ask constituents about their gender identity
4. Align the standards in the guidelines with state, federal, or other data systems that have limitations in how they record this data

"We're committed to ensuring that all City employees and departments get the proper support to embed gender inclusive language and practices into the way they engage with residents and ask for personal information," said Julia Gutierrez, Chief Digital Officer. "Just as the language for talking

about gender is dynamic and changes over time, we expect to regularly review and continuously improve these standards and guidelines in response to the feedback we receive."

The LGBTQ+ community across the country continues to face marginalization, discrimination, and violence - particularly Black and Brown trans and gender non-conforming community members. A person's gender and sexual identity can be tremendously important to their overall identity. These guidelines and standards seek to balance the right to be affirmed against risks and constraints. Government agencies create harm by not allowing people to affirm their identities, espe-

cially if information is collected that misrepresents who they are. At the same time, collecting information increases risks for vulnerable groups and creates barriers to participation.

"Good government is responsive to an evolving world where everyone has access to city services in a way that feels equitable, safe and inclusive" said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "Massachusetts was the first state to legally recognize marriage equality, but we know that the work of creating a more just world is ongoing. I am proud to be part of the City of Boston's trajectory as a continued leader in equity, inclusion, and justice."

"The City is proud to imple-

ment these new important standards," said Paul Chong, City Registrar. "We believe that all constituents should have equitable access to City services."

This announcement builds on Mayor Wu's work to ensure that Boston is an inclusive and equitable city for residents of all gender identities. In 2020, the Boston City Council unanimously passed an ordinance authored by then-City Councilor Wu and Councilor Liz Breadon to ensure gender inclusivity on all City-issued forms, documents, and certificates. In March 2022, Mayor Wu announced the creation of the Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement.

The Beacon Hill Times - [beaconhilltimes.com](http://beaconhilltimes.com)  
 The North End Regional Review - [northendregionalreview.com](http://northendregionalreview.com)  
 The Boston Sun - [thebostonsun.com](http://thebostonsun.com)  
 The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - [charlestownbridge.com](http://charlestownbridge.com)



Our annual Guide to Schools is a resource for parents running in 4 Boston newspapers on September 21  
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## ADVERTISING IN THE GUIDE:

### LISTINGS

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A brief text descriptive and contact information \$75 per listing. {not included with ads}  
 We have sections for Schools, DayCare, After School Programs, kids related retailers.

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING - all ads run in color in all 4 papers.

\$60 per column inch -(2x5 and under) ads that run in the guide can run at this rate through October.

### COMMON AD SIZES

2 col (3.9") X 2" - \$240

2 col (3.9") X 5" - \$600

Quarter Page = 2 col x 8" (3.9" wide) \$850

Half page = 5 col x 6.5" (10.25" wide) \$1,500.00 Full page = 5 col x 13" \$2,500.00

Prior sections are available if you would like to see samples.  
 Please call or email with questions. Deadline September 13, 2023

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### North Washington Street Bridge

The Construction Look-Ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through September 16 is as follows:

#### Scheduled Work

- Installation of concrete bridge barriers and sidewalks
- Off-bridge utility work and cutover to permanent bridge
- Off-bridge approach barrier and curb work

#### Work Hours

• Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

#### Contraflow Pilot

• The MassDOT-implemented contraflow pilot will continue to be in effect during evening peak traffic (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

• Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic during set up and operation of the contraflow.

#### Travel Tips

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if

walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- Other Events: Sept. 8 at 7:45 p.m., Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 14 at 8 p.m., and Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

## BCC announces rehearsal locations in neighborhoods

Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) announced the six locations across the city at which the organization will host choir rehearsals for their 21st season. BCC will provide access to high-quality chorus programs in neighborhoods including the South End, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury during the upcoming season.

The organization will continue their relationship with First Parish Dorchester, and ZUMIX, East Boston while moving into four new locations: United South End Settlements, Footlight Club, Union Church Boston, and Roxbury Community College. Please find additional information on choir locations below.

"We are excited for the opportunity to be located within communities, increasing access to culturally responsive music programs for children by being right in the neighborhoods they reside," said BCC Executive Director Andrés Holder. "The new rehearsal locations will allow Boston Children's Chorus to better serve its community of students and families through improved accessibility, helping our organization to

harness the power of music to connect our city's diverse communities, cultivate empathy, and inspire social inquiry."

In keeping with its mission, BCC is entering partnerships with organizations that represent a vibrant cross-section of locations and organizations that are important to the cultural fabric of Boston.

For example, in the South End, BCC is partnering with United South End Settlements, a historic institution that has provided services for immigrant communities and communities of color for more than 130 years, dating back to the original settlement house in Boston. BCC programming will take place at its Rutland Street headquarters.

BCC will also be hosting rehearsals at Union Church in the South End, a historically Black faith community with a 200-year commitment to love and social justice. In Jamaica Plain, they will host rehearsals at Footlight Club, America's oldest community theater, which has produced perfor-

## HILL ACTRESS TO MAKE SPEAKEASY STAGE DEBUT IN 'POTUS'

Monique Ward Loneran, appearing as 'Dusty,' is making her SpeakEasy Stage debut in the female-led, political comedy "POTUS," directed by Paula Plum.

A graduate of The Boston Conservatory, Loneran, recently celebrated the premiere of her short film, "Into The Valley" at the LA International Short Film Festival.

The New England premiere of this Broadway hit, which runs from Sept 15 through Oct 15,

"tells the story of seven brilliant and beleaguered women in the president's inner circle who take increasingly desperate measures to save the country when his sexist and sex-related scandals spark a global crisis," according to a press release for the show.

For tickets and more information on "POTUS," visit <https://speakeasystage.com/shows/2023/09/potus-2/>.



COURTESY OF SPEAKEASY STAGE  
Monique Ward Loneran.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B,  
Section 5-304  
Docket No.  
SU23P1818GD

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate  
and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston MA, 02114  
In the matter of:  
Debora White of:  
Boston, MA

### RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Debora White is in need of a Guardian and requesting that DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain

a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 09/26/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the

return date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 23, 2023  
Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate

9/7/23  
BH

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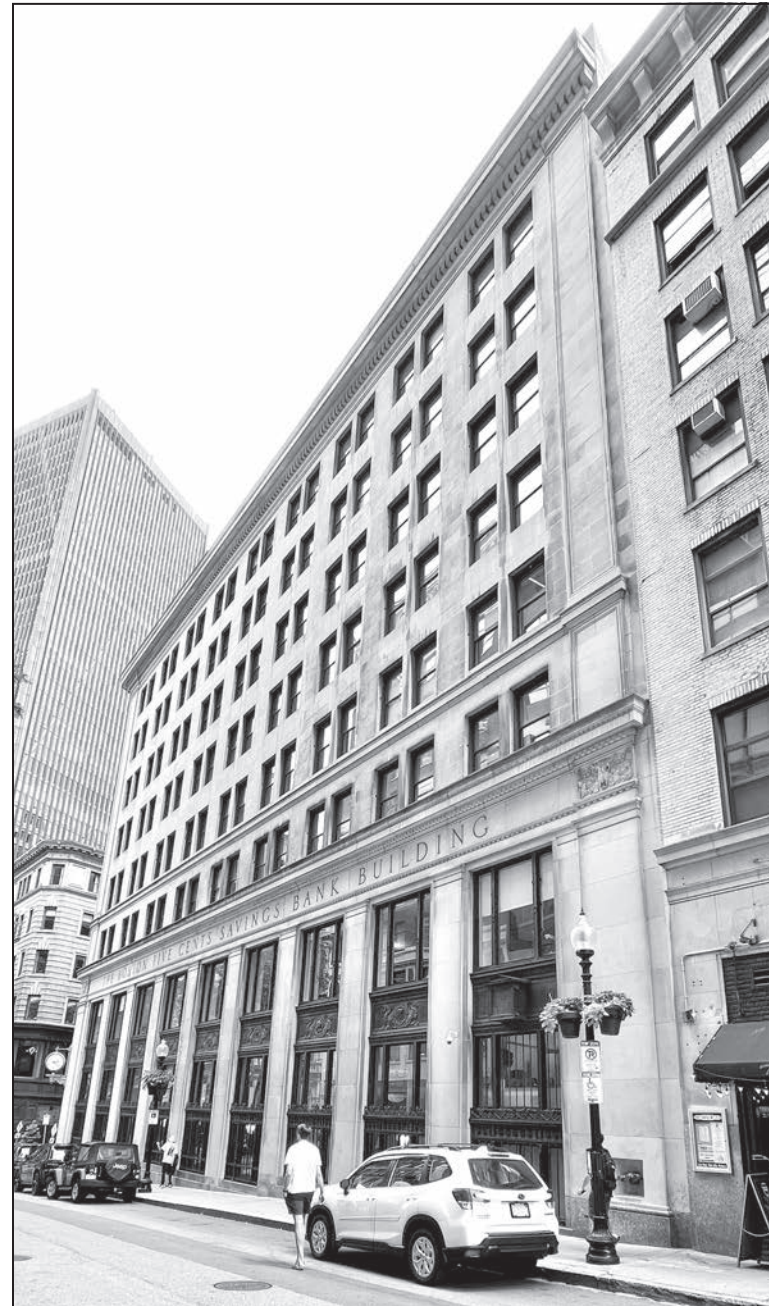
# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1 SELLER 1	ADDRESS ADDRESS	PRICE PRICE
Prashad, Hardatt B	Poulos, Anthony	171 Beacon St #B2	\$460,000
Zoghby, Fadi	Ascend Properties LLC	265 Beacon St #B	\$395,000
Weissbach, Karen G	Johnston, Robert D	60 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$629,000
Smith, Molly F	43 Tennessee Avenue Rt	35 Marlborough St #1	\$550,000
Cheng, Fang	Journeys Investments LLC	464 Commonwealth Ave #36	\$464,000
Lapatin, Philip S	Sweeney, Robert C	34-36 Grove St #2	\$525,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Becker, Christopher	Bpg Mount Vernon LLC	63 Mount Vernon St #1	\$1,100,000
Norkunas, Matthew W	Clark, Stuart	66 Mount Vernon St #1	\$3,400,000
Perdue, Andrea K	Perdue, Patrick	11 Phillips St #4	\$500,000
Berman, Joseph S	Russo, Amy E	17 W Cedar St	\$6,170,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Potash, Chloe M	Bean David R Est	54 Appleton St #1	\$700,000
Beresneva, Olga	Lyons, Joseph M	72 Chandler St #3	\$1,850,000
Renodon, Anthony	Copeland, Marnine N	138 Chandler St #3	\$779,000
Alsawaha, Ahmad	Kiessling, Scott B	8 Garrison St #704	\$415,000
1 Huntington Ave 1802 Nt	Conway, Timothy J	1 Huntington Ave #PH1802	\$6,500,000
Foley, Colm	Fpg Lagrange Owner One L	55 Lagrange St #706	\$590,000
Evans, Andrew W	Ahre LLC	400 Stuart St #24B	\$2,250,000
Love Raffles LLC	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1501	\$890,000
Love Raffles LLC	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1502	\$960,000
Pearlstein, Donna	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1503	\$1,075,000
Mrd Raffles LLC	Ts Pied-A-Terre Hldg LLC	430 Stuart St #1510	\$875,000
Yang, Liyu	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #25H	\$2,961,503
Raffles Rt	Ts Residences Hld LLC	430 Stuart St #28F	\$3,700,000
505 Tremont St Unit 613 R	Atelier 613 Nt	505 Tremont St #613	\$1,337,500
Kolb, Michele	Philip A Sigel RET	520 Beacon St #5A	\$1,200,000
Chen, Tina W	Murong, Xinyao	188 Brookline Ave #22D	\$1,285,000
Ceylan, Haken	Schneider, James R	4 Charlesgate E #107	\$665,000
Anne O Capodilupo RET	Huang, Chuyan	4 Charlesgate E #802	\$777,500
Goyette, Tori	Milke, James T	553 Columbus Ave #2R	\$500,000
Grimm, Iris	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #204	\$326,000
Crawford-Badilla, Kengy P	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #209	\$213,700
Li, Xuexian	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #510	\$1,625,000
Channing Devine Irt	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #614	\$1,975,000
Donnellan, Heather	Chadwell, Gary B	26 Concord Sq #4	\$870,000
Hogan & Sally White RET	Flynn, Hilary H	30-34 E Concord St #12	\$575,000
Berg, Alexandra A	Li, Hong	74 Fenway #15	\$615,000
Levine, Adam M	761 Harrison Church LLC	771 Harrison Ave #PH10	\$1,575,000
Finger, Mara K	761 Harrison Church LLC	771 Harrison Ave #PH2	\$1,575,000
Asgari-Tari, Nader A	Bina, Azita	125 Park Dr #34	\$390,000
Fontes, Nicole	Div Shawmut LLC	100 Shawmut Ave #403	\$1,075,000
Pag Tremont Realty LLC	N I C Lp	647 Tremont St #A	\$1,550,000
Paparsenos, Stephanie	Lynda Barfield T	671 Tremont St #4	\$670,000
Kilpin Ft	46 Wareham Street LLC	76 Wareham St #4A	\$2,900,000

# Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The bucrania in the last clue are on the corner of School and Province Streets. Parker, Thomas, and Rice designed this part of the building in 1926. This detail was discovered by Adam Gafin of Universal Hub. He noted "Bucrania, basically ox skulls with garlands, are an old Roman symbol that would decorate temples - at which an ox or two were commonly sacrificed."

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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## 'Wildflower' book reading and signing with Aurora James set for Sept. 14 at Beacon Hill Books

Special to Times

Beacon Hill Books at 71 Charles St. welcomes activist and fashion pioneer Aurora James, founder of Brother Vellies, in conversation with MFA Boston Curator of Fashion Arts Theo Tyson, on Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A and book signing for James' memoir, 'Wildflower.'

James' life is a great American "success story"—precisely because it looks so different from others we've seen.

Born in Canada to a counter-culture mother, James was raised to question everything—specifically the very institutions that have shaped so many of us. When James was 7, her mother married a man who would move them to Jamaica, where James would learn harsh lessons about control, power, abuse, and belonging. Eventually she would find her way back home to Toronto, where her blue-eyed and fair-haired grandmother welcomed her with unconditional love—and inadvertently showed her that rac-

ism is the water in which we are all submerged.

Scouted as a model in eighth grade, James struggled with body image and became disenchanted by the industry's objectification of women and commodification of race and culture. After she dropped out of high school, a flirtation with street racing led to her eventual arrest. She'd hit rock bottom, but as a visionary and optimist, she allowed that experience to become one of many that reshaped her way of thinking about the world. A slew of fashion-related jobs led James to discover the real power in creating for the runway, and she started her own business in a flea market: a sustainable fashion line showcasing traditional African designs that would become an award-winning international brand. But none of this came from a drive to "succeed." It came from a desire to



forge a new creative path—and to lift others up alongside her.

Already a rising star in fashion and the first Black female designer to win a Council of Fashion Designers of America Award, James posted a revolutionary idea in the wake of George Floyd's murder that connected economics to racial justice in a way that has forever changed the American economic landscape. With that Instagram post, she founded the Fifteen Percent Pledge, which challenges retailers to commit 15 percent of their shelf space and spending power to Black businesses and is one of the fastest-growing social justice nonprofits. To date, more than two dozen of the world's most recognized retailers have taken the pledge, redirecting \$10 billion in annual revenue to Black and BIPOC brands.

Additionally, James is the Creative Director and Founder of luxury accessories brand Brother Vellies. Founded in 2013 with the goal of keeping traditional African design practices and techniques alive, while also creating and sustaining artisanal jobs, Brother Vellies is now handmade across the globe.

In praise of James' memoir, Rupi Kaur, New York Times best-selling author of 'milk and honey,' wrote: "With community and sisterhood at its center, 'Wildflower' teaches us that against all odds, we can overcome."

Tickets for the Sept. 14 event include a signed, personalized copy of the book. Admission is \$30 per guest, and capacity is limited. Visit <https://bhbooks.gatherlearning.com/events/author-talks-wildflower-by-aurora-james-in-conversation-with-theo-tyson> to register for the event.

## Boston recognizes International Overdose Awareness Day

Last Thursday Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston recognize International Overdose Awareness Day by bringing attention to the opioid epidemic that continues to harm communities and devastate families. The City extends its heartfelt condolences to everyone who has lost a loved one to a fatal overdose and reaffirms its commitment to expanding access to lifesaving care and harm reduction services and dismantling the stigma associated with substance use disorders and overdose.

In recognition of National Recovery Month, which began on September 1, City Hall will be illuminated in purple this evening in honor of all the lives lost to fatal overdoses. Bridges and government buildings across the state will also be lit in purple as part of this observance. Boston is once again joining with volunteers and State partners in planting 20,000 purple flags at Boston Common to memorialize the lives lost to overdoses over the past decade.

"Today, we grieve individuals who have lost their lives to overdose, honor the resiliency of their loved ones, and celebrate those who are in recovery," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Boston will do everything we can to support residents experiencing or surviving substance use disorder toward a path of recovery and prevent the tragedies of overdose wherever possible."

Earlier this year, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) issued a reminder to residents about the dangers of opioid use after new data revealed a 7 percent increase in fatal overdoses in Boston in 2022. Equally concerning were the significant racial disparities in overdose deaths and how this crisis is disproportionately harming communities of color.

From 2017-2021 in Boston, the leading cause of premature deaths among male Black and Latinx residents combined was accidents, with opioid overdoses accounting for most of these deaths. In 2022, 30% of all opioid-related overdose deaths were among Black individuals and 21% were among Latinx individuals. From 2020-2022, the average annual opioid overdose death rate among Black and Latinx citizens was 66% and 31% greater than white residents, respectively. The City is committed to working with government and community partners in ensuring that harm reduction, treatment, and prevention is accessible to all Bostonians.

Another key factor driving these increases is the toxic drug supply. Fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, was involved in more than 90% of opioid-related deaths in both the state and among Boston residents in 2022. The increasing presence of Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer known as "tranq," in the drug supply also heightens the overdose risk due to its oversedation effects.

"The opioid epidemic has had a profound impact on our city. Every community and neighborhood in Boston has felt the pain of a fatal overdose," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "We honor the lives tragically cut short by overdoses by continuing to provide critical lifesaving treatment and harm reduction to anyone who is struggling with substance use disorders."

National Recovery Month serves as a platform to honor those living in recovery and underscore the programs and supports available to people experiencing substance use disorder.

### BCC (from pg. 10)

mances every year since 1877.

Please find additional information on choir locations below:

Footlight Club  
Address: 7 Eliot Street A, Jamaica Plain 02130

Neighborhood: Jamaica Plain  
Choirs: Jamaica Plain Training Choir

Union Church Boston  
Address: 485 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Neighborhood: South End  
Choirs: Premier Choir, Concert Choir, & Central Training Choir

United South End Settlements (USES) Art Center & Basement

Address: 48 Rutland Street, Boston, MA 02118

Neighborhood: South End  
Choirs: South End Training Choir

ZUMIX  
Address: 260 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Neighborhood: East Boston  
Choirs: East Boston Training Choir

Rehearsals start September 11, 2023. Those interested in learning more can contact BCC at [info@bostonchildrenschorus.org](mailto:info@bostonchildrenschorus.org) or visit [bostonchildrenschorus.org](http://bostonchildrenschorus.org).

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