



DECEMBER 7, 2023



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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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

BHCA 28TH ANNUAL BEACON HILL HOLIDAY DECORATING



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Volunteers looped wreaths on mops and brooms as they strode through the community, hanging 2,200 wreaths on posts during the December 2 Beacon Hill Civic Association's Holiday Decorating. Shown are Michelle Lavers and Matthew S. carrying wreaths up Joy Street. See pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Boston restaurateur icon, Tom Kershaw, turns 85

By Dan Murphy

A true Boston icon, Tom Kershaw, the venerable Beacon Hill businessman and philanthropist, as well as longtime owner of Hampshire House whose basement pub inspired the classic sitcom, 'Cheers,' turned 85 on Friday, Dec. 1.

In 1969, Kershaw, then a 30-year-old recent graduate of Harvard Business School, said he "did some psychological testing on what his career path might be," and "the results came back: hospitality, hospitality, hospitality." He initially considered going to work for one of the major hotel chains in the city until a colleague from the Junior Chamber of Commerce suggested to Kershaw that he go into business for himself instead. Later that same year, Kershaw, together with fellow Harvard Business School grad Jack Veasey, assumed ownership of the Hampshire House and took over its existing cocktail lounge, dining room, function room and 12 hotel rooms before beginning to look

for ways to improve the property.

They had a bar custom-built in England, which was shipped back to the U.S. and installed in its current location in the basement of the Hampshire House, and the Bull & Finch Pub opened on Dec. 1, 1969 – Kershaw's 31st birthday.

(In 1972, Kershaw and Vesey opened The Landing on Marblehead Harbor, and Kershaw subsequently traded his interest in The Landing with Vesey for his interest in the Hampshire House.)

In 1981, the creative team behind the TV series "Taxi," and which also included director and producer Jim Burrows, whose father, Abe Burrows, had been a scriptwriter for "Duffy's Tavern," a situation comedy set in a neighborhood bar and broadcast on American radio from 1941 to 1951, was looking for a new project.

Through a stroke of luck, the team discovered the Bull & Finch Pub, which became the inspiration for their next sitcom project,

(KERSHAW Pg. 9)

For over 200 years, the Fragment Society has been helping the less fortunate

By Susanne Beck

In June 1812, Boston was a town divided. President James Madison had just declared war on Great Britain, an act the majority of the Massachusetts House of Representatives condemned. Legislators called the event "awful, unexpected, hostile to your interests, menacing to your liberties, and revolting to your feelings," voting 406 to 240 in opposition. The state Senate disagreed, passing a resolution in favor of the war, declaring it both just and necessary.

The president prevailed, worsening the New England economy that was already in freefall from

an earlier embargo, and effectively closing off access to the region's primary source for commerce, the sea. Almost half of the area's working men were left unemployed. Poor houses, overflowing. Impoverished mothers and children became the unintended casualties.

Into this fray the Fragment Society was born, a group of Beacon Hill-based women less concerned with opinions on the war than with its devastating effects, especially on poor children. They took as their inspiration – and the reference for their name – a quote from the book of John (John 6:12), attributed to Jesus Christ: "Gath-

er up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." Fragments, for them, were not just those left behind economically, but also the scraps of fabric and other materials that they might use to clothe and comfort the same. As stated in their original constitution, adopted in October of 1812 in a private home on Beacon Hill, the women vowed, "Though our means may be small, we may be able to do something toward relieving the want and promoting the comfort of the suffering poor."

One year later, in 1813, the Fragment's director annual report

(FRAGMENT SOCIETY Pg. 2)



PHOTO COURTESY BILL BRETT

Tom Kershaw (center) is seen with Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden (left) and Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the Back Bay Association, at Kershaw's 85th birthday celebration on Nov. 29 at the Hampshire House.

FRAGMENT SOCIETY (from pg. 1)

observed: "Widows and orphans are fast multiplying around us in consequence of our present calamities." The so-called underclass was continuing to fail, calling upon society members to further dedicate themselves to their prescribed work.

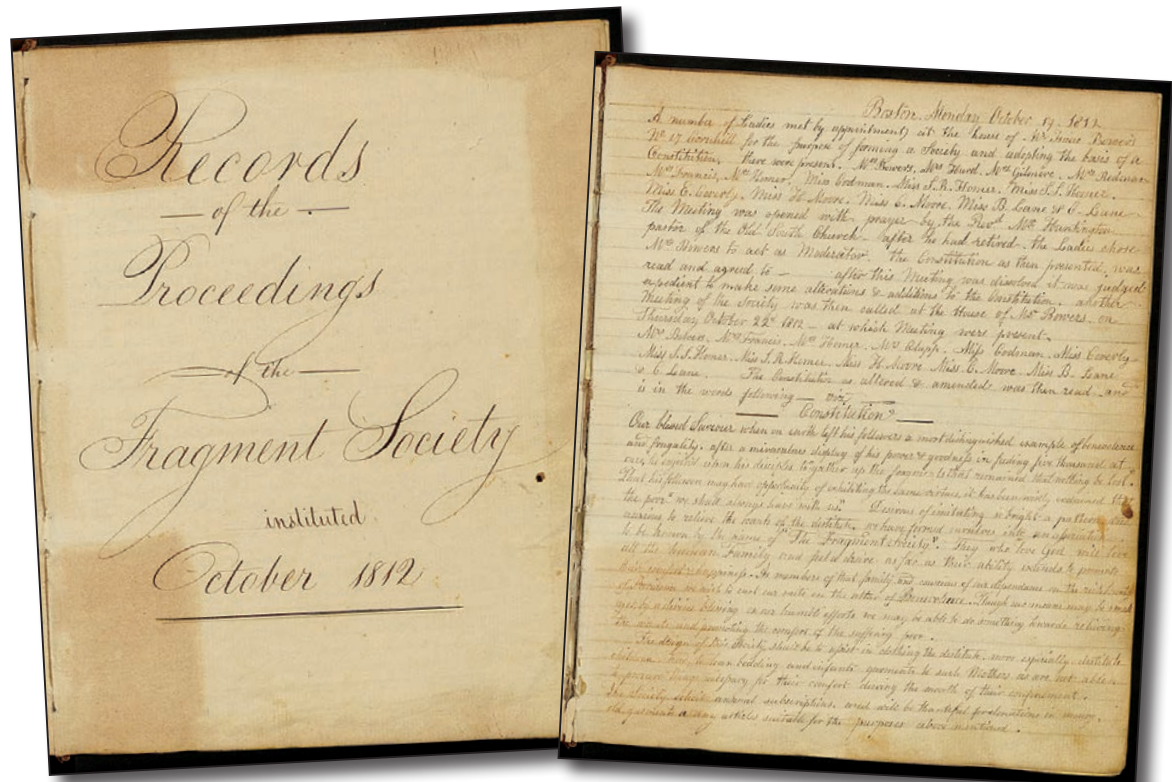
Two hundred and eleven years on, the mission of the "Fragments" and the nature of their work remains much the same. Well-decorated packages are carefully assembled, filled with baby clothing, blankets, and the like – better known as a layette and delivered to those deemed most in need. By tradition, at least one item in each parcel is homemade. The sense of community is also unchanged. Current board chair Kimberlea Jeffries notes that even during the pandemic, camaraderie was strong and the commitment of members to give back, undiminished. "This is a unique group of smart, interesting women who have led very interesting lives. They appreciate the challenges of the world and they [still] want to do their part."

Jeffries notes that, for the most part, only the number of impoverished children has changed, rising consistently over time despite various private interventions and government-sponsored support. "The need is still there," she confirms. "Kids need clothing and school materials, babies need blankets and other goods." Vice President Alison Geyer agrees, adding "it would be an amazing thing to be able to say it's not needed anymore after two hundred years but the reality is it is needed more than ever. So, we fill a gap."

Some of the group's practices and procedures have changed, however, a reflection of mod-



Above, are some of the items prepared for the gift bags. Right, is a copy of the October, 1812 meeting minutes.



ern-day mores and members' lifestyles. In its early years, for instance, Fragments connected directly to those in need, hand-delivering their decorative packages to those most wanting. Today, thirteen agencies act as intermediaries for the 217-member organization, identifying the recipients and protecting their identities in the process. Early on, most Fragments sewed, gathering regularly to create goodies for their bags and to catch up. For a very brief period of its two hundred-plus year history, such get-togethers became exclusively social in fact, with elaborate dinners held at stately homes in and around Beacon Hill. The practice was quickly dropped, however, seen as antithetical to the mission. Many current members laugh when asked if they sew, Maggie Begley, full-time attorney, among them. "My mom was doing knitting and taught us [but] I just didn't have the patience for it. I

would start a sweater and then mom would finish it... I have thought maybe I should try it one of these days, but it's still on the to-do list." Vice President Geyer is no different. "I did growing up," she chuckles, "but you certainly don't need to be a sewer or a knitter to be a member." Anyone who can pitch in, in any way, and for any amount of time each year, is welcome.

In-person meetings are also rarer, especially post-COVID, unless there is a specific purpose like assembling the 635 bags the society provided last year. Members' lives are simply too complicated by careers, kids, and other callings. Communication has been upgraded, as a result, with the addition of a website, an Instagram account, and greater reliance on email. In a nod to the organization's longevity and the age of some long-time Fragments, snail

mail, and the telephone have not been completely abandoned. The recent vote on new by-laws, for instance, was carried out by mail. President Jeffries is quick to note, though, that it is not age alone that defines communication patterns. "Carlotta [a member] texts and she is 101!" she exclaims.

The addition of social media is also intended to raise the profile of what has been documented to be the oldest female charitable organization in Boston that has preserved its autonomy and has continued uninterrupted to honor and perpetuate its original mission – in particular, to recruit new volunteers, whether they sign on as formal members or not. Jeffries estimates that until recently, the average age of the membership was close to 70. Some new, younger Fragments signed up recently helping to lower that number, but work remains. "Last year, we did a

volunteer fair and this year, we participated in HillFest," Jeffries says; more events are planned as the need continues to grow. Begley notes that unless her mother had been involved, she might not have known about the society or its good works at all. "I don't think it's a particularly well-known organization, at least amongst most of the people I know," she observes.

The Fragment Society leadership is clear-eyed about the challenge it faces to stay relevant and of interest to younger women in the Boston area. People continue to be pressed for time. And the organization is hardly alone in the kind of work it does and for whom. So why take the time to participate? Words like "sweet," "unique," and "tradition," are often cited by those who have been Fragments. But they quickly give way to more considered expressions of joy and heart-felt gratification from what ultimately seem to be a deeply personal acts. "There is always satisfaction when [the packages are] done," Geyer says quietly. "You know, [I feel] I helped our group of volunteers, but also I helped someone who I don't know who's going to receive a beautiful layette bag, and that's a really satisfying feeling."



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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

THE WEST END MUSEUM'S HONOREE NIGHT SET FOR DEC. 8

The West End Museum will be holding its 2023 Honoree Night on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at The Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway Street (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

Every year, the museum honors a few people who have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the neighborhood and the city, including this year's recipient: Richie Hartnett, Claudia and Stephen Edgell, and Cathleen Griffin. Light refreshments will be served.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-book-month-story-time-the-boston-chocolate-party-tickets-to-reserve-your-space-and-for-more-information-on-the-event>.

YOUNG FRIENDS WINTER PARTY SET FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 8 AT 8 PARK ST.

The Young Friends of the Public Garden will hold its Young Friends Winter Party on Friday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at 8 Park St., fifth floor.

Enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres overlooking the holiday lights in the #threeparks. Gather with friends, meet new ones, and spread festive cheer at this annual celebration benefiting our continued care and maintenance of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

It's holiday time, so come dressed to dazzle; no sneakers, jeans, or athletic attire will be permitted inside the venue.

Ticket cost \$95 each and include two drink tickets and passed hors d'oeuvres. VIP tickets include four drink tickets, passed hors d'oeuvres, and two raffle tickets.

Visit <https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2023/11/07/winter-party/> to purchase tickets and for more information on the event.

DEC. 13 LECTURE AT ATHENAEUM LOOKS AT BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT

In conjunction with its "Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott and Irene Shwachman Photograph A Changing City" exhibit running now through Dec. 30 in the Calderwood Gallery, the Boston Athenaeum at 10½ Beacon St. will

offer "Photographic Coordinates: The Geographies of Abbott and Shwachman's Boston," set for Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

At this time, Garrett Dash Nelson, president and head curator of the Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library, will examine both how the sites captured by these photographers did (and did not) cover the various 'spatialities' of midcentury Boston and share historic map collections, which put this moment of urban change into its geographic context.

To register for and to learn more about the lecture, visit <https://community.bostonathenaeum.org/s/events?event=a2K8a-0000077kVG>.

The Athenaeum welcomes people of all abilities; email events@bostonathenaeum.org with any questions.

Visit bostonathenaeum.com for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. will offer "Exploring Sephardi Culture" on Wednesdays, Dec. 13, and 20, and Jan. 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Explore the history of Sephardic Jews through music, film, and literature. Experiment with the ancient Jewish language of Ladino, spoken by Jews in Spain and throughout the Ottoman Empire beginning in the 15th century. No background experience is required.

Additionally, The Vilna will offer "American Jewish Women in Television" on Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, and Jan. 10 and 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

During this course, which costs \$120 per participant, attendees will analyze the ways in which contemporary American television is establishing a new take on Jewish female identity that challenges the stereotypes of Jewish femininity proliferated on television since its inception. Register online at www.vilnashul.org.

The Vilna will also offer "A Meeting of The Arts: Live Guitar and Contemporary Dance for 20s/30s" on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of music, dance, and art celebrating the mysterious Catalan Mahzor, a 14th century Jewish illuminated manuscript from Spain. This program is offered in partnership with Boston Festival of New Jewish Music and features guitarist Ira Klein, dancer

Rachel Linsky, and instrumentalist Beth Bahia Cohen. Admission is \$18 per person; register online at www.vilnashul.org.

Additionally, The Vilna will offer its Hanukkah Celebration for Families with Young Children on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Admission is \$25 per family; register at www.vilnashul.org.

For more information on The Vilna Shul, visit www.vilnashul.org or call 617-523-2324.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

The Nichols House Museum will sponsor its annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour on Sunday, Dec. 10, from noon to 4 p.m.

Guests will have the rare opportunity to experience a select group of remarkable private residences at their festive best. Each year, the tour showcases outstanding examples of historic preservation, as well as creative modern interpretations and adaptations in a broad range of architectural and interior design styles throughout Beacon Hill.

For this day full of music and cheer, the museum at 55 Mt. Vernon St. will be open for self-guided tours for guests to experience historically inspired holiday traditions. Throughout the day there will be strolling performances by the Olde Towne Carolers. Solo performances on piano will be held at the King's Chapel Parish House and the William Hickling Prescott House, headquarters of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Holiday House Tour reception will be held at the Kings Chapel Parish House from 3 to 5 pm.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-hill-holiday-house-tour-2023-tickets> or by calling the Nichols House Museum's offices at 617-227-6993.

Also, the Nichols House Museum will kick off the holiday season with its traditional Eggnog Party on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 55 Mt. Vernon St.

Drop by for a cup of cheer and get a sneak peek at the museum's historically inspired holiday decorations. In honor of Arthur and Margaret Nichols' passion for handbell ringing, the Back Bay Ringers will be performing. Sponsors of the Holiday House Tour

receive complimentary tickets to the Eggnog Pre-Party. Nichols House Museum Members have access to discounted tickets. Patron Members are free. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eggnog-pre-party-tickets> to purchase tickets for the event.

JOIN THE HIDDEN GALLERY FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND A CUP OF COCOA

Strolling Beacon Hill this holiday season?

The Hidden Art Gallery at 25 Myrtle St. will offer a warming cup of hot chocolate as you peruse the holiday and seasonal artwork for sale on weekend days, including Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 9 and 10; and Dec 16. Hours are on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Greeting cards, prints, small paintings, and watercolors, are offered for unique gift giving this year. Enjoy shopping in person and feel the warmth of the holiday spirit with a cup of cocoa as you discover some of the stories in the creation of the artwork.

PLAN AHEAD BY SHOPPING FOR GOOD AT J. MCLAUGHLIN.

Shop J. McLaughlin at 34 Charles St. for Holiday Gifts on Saturday, Dec. 16, and your shopping will also benefit the New England Musicians Resource Fund, a non-profit formed in 2020 and dedicated to helping professional musicians. Stop by J. McLaughlin then for shopping, festive sips, music, and good cheer, with 15 percent of sales made from noon to 4 p.m. to benefit NEMRF, as well as your holiday gift recipients. For more about NEMRF, visit www.nemrf.org.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Gibson House Museum at 137 Beacon St. will offer its annual Holiday Open House on Sunday Dec. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come see the Gibson House decorated in all its finery, and experience 19th-century Christmas. Light seasonal refreshments will be served, and select rooms will be open for viewing. The event is free to attend, and no reservation is necessary.

COFFEE HOURS FOR CITY'S BEACON HILL-BACK BAY NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Maggie Van Scoy, the city's neighborhood liaison for Beacon Hill and Back Bay, will hold Coffee Hours on Friday, Dec. 29, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the West End Branch Library.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

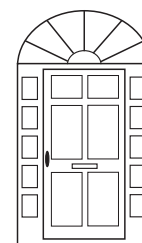
The Friends of the West End Library will be offering lessons in American Mahjong to new and experienced players at no cost.

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) or Julia Forbes (jmaforbes@gmail.com).

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EDITORIAL

PEARL HARBOR WAS 82 YEARS AGO BUT HAS LESSONS FOR US TODAY

It was 82 years ago this week that the nation of Japan launched its attack on the United States at the Pearl Harbor Naval base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Japan. Germany and Italy, allies of Japan who collectively were known as the Axis, then declared war on the U.S., setting the stage for World War II, the most destructive war in world history.

A total of 407,316 American soldiers made the Supreme Sacrifice (in addition to more than 10,000 members of the Merchant Marine) and another 671,278 were wounded in battlefronts stretching from Africa to the European continent to the jungle islands of the Pacific over the next three and one-half years before the German and Japanese war machines finally were subdued.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed most of the rest of the world in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. Americans had no appetite for re-engaging in another conflict just 23 years removed from the memories of World War I that still were fresh in our nation's psyche. But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand. Although the United State had re-instituted the draft some months prior to Pearl Harbor and had ramped up our military production capabilities, the suddenness of the Japanese sneak attack still came as a shock to every American.

Americans realized that thanks to the capabilities of modern armaments such as Japanese aircraft carriers and German U-boats, even the continental United States was not insulated from an attack by a foreign enemy. Citizens on the West Coast braced for a Japanese invasion in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and curfews were instituted on the Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks to the countless number of documentaries and movies over the past 25 years that have told the stories of the brave Americans who fought in WWII, we are fortunate to have a living history of the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation.

In 1941, the Axis of Evil was formed by Germany under Hitler, Italy under Mussolini, and Japan under Tojo. Eighty-two years later, we similarly are facing a new Axis of Evil: Putin in Russia, Xi in China, and Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran (including its terrorist proxies of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis), who are threatening the peace and security of democracies and freedom-loving people everywhere.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free. We always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life. That is a lesson that is as true today as it was in 1941.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Thursday evening, December 7, and will culminate on Friday, December 15.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes. Needless to say, in the aftermath of the events of October 7, as well as the appalling subsequent increase in anti-semitic incidents in America and around the world, Hanukkah this year will have special meaning for Jews the world over.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season and we join them in solidarity against anti-semitism in all its forms.

Nichols House Museum presents musical events during annual Holiday House Tour

Special to Times

For the second year, the Nichols House Museum will present a performance by acclaimed musicians as part of the annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour festivities.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, pianist Joe Mulholland will perform at the King's Chapel Parish House at 64 Beacon St. during the reception for Nichols House Museum's Holiday House Tour. Well-known locally as a soloist and ensemble instrumentalist, Mulholland has released five critically acclaimed albums. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, he is a professor at Berklee College of Music. From 3 to 4 p.m., he will play holiday music and American songbook standards on the Parish House's Mason and Hamlin piano. At the turn of the 20th Century, Boston-based Mason and Hamlin's instruments were favored by performing artists around the world for their purity of tone. Following these upbeat selections, Mulholland will perform Bach Preludes, excerpts from Meditations by composer John Kramer, jazz standards, and original compositions from his recent solo release.

Mulholland will be joined by renowned bassist Bruce Gertz, a veteran professor at Berklee, who has toured nationally and internationally. Their performance, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Parish House chapel, offers an opportunity for a moment of serenity amidst the bustle of the holiday season. This musical event is included with tickets to the Holiday House Tour.

Music often filled the Nichols House. In 1902, Metropolitan Opera star Louise (Beatty) Homer performed in the parlor for an overflow crowd of select friends. The family's piano was also enjoyed during less grand gatherings. Arthur Nichols, who studied piano in Vienna while a medical student, often played for his daughters, and later his grandchildren. Both Arthur and his youngest daughter, Margaret, were talented bell ringers, known for their church-bell change-ringing and handbell-playing. In their honor, the Back Bay Ringers will perform at the Eggnog Pre-Party on Wednesday, Dec. 6. Caroling was another Nichols family's favorite, and one of the Beacon Hill holiday traditions they most enjoyed. Holiday House Tour guests can experience the fun on Sunday, Dec. 10, when the Olde Towne



COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

Joe Mulholland.



Bruce Gertz.

Carolers will grace the streets of Beacon Hill with strolling performances during the Tour. Holiday House Tour guests will also be treated to music played on an 1823 Tomkison English Square piano at the William Hickling Prescott House.

For more information about the Holiday House Tour, and to purchase tickets, visit the Nichols House Museum website at <https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/events/holiday-house-tour-2023/>, or call 617-227-6993

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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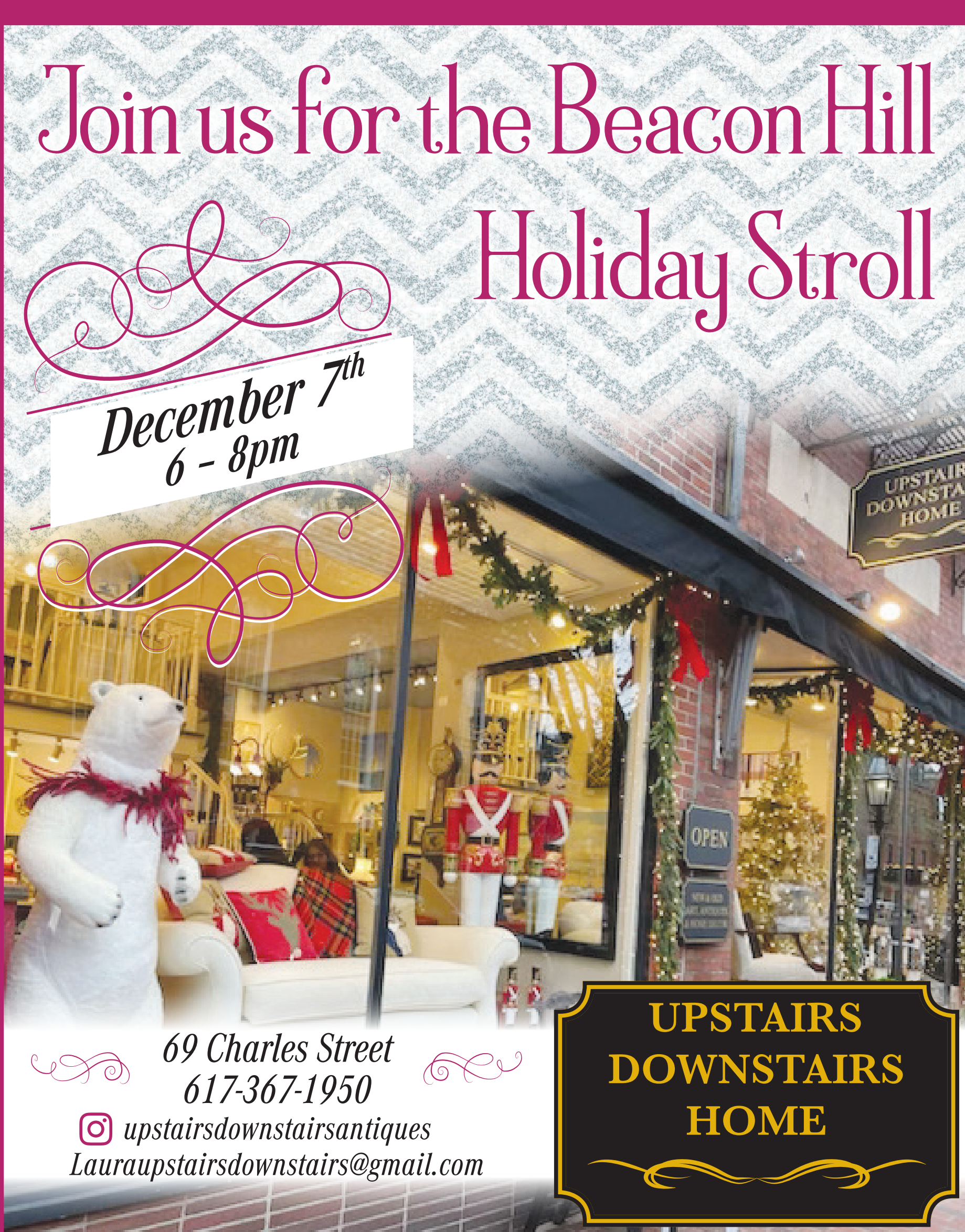
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**UPSTAIRS
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HOME**

BHCA 28TH ANNUAL BEACON HILL HOLIDAY DECORATING

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Kneeling on a corner with red ribbons tied in her hair, 17-year-old, Mariella Mattaliano, attached 64 bows on wreaths to be delivered to her father and two friends who were embellishing gas lamps along Joy Street during the December 2 Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) Holiday Decorating.

Volunteers looped wreaths on mops and brooms as they strode through the community, hanging 2,200 wreaths on posts. Like many, this year was Mattaliano's first time participating in the tradition; and she enjoyed meeting new neighbors.

"I care about this because I have lived in the neighborhood for my entire life. I love seeing the neighborhood festive, and I know it



John Sullivan, Matthew Young, and Paul Mattaliano adorning gas lamps on the corner of Joy Street and Mount Vernon Place.

brings joy to other people," shared Mattaliano, Junior BHCA mem-

ber. "It's a great way to connect with the community. I love the holidays."



Andy Buckler hanging a wreath behind the Massachusetts State House on Hancock Street.



Genean Stec and Nancy Kingman delivering bows to their husbands decorating on Myrtle Street.



Alison Reichert, Carole Gunst, and Ryan Kaiser decorating lamp posts along Branch Street.

holiday shopping - festive sips - music & good cheer

A SHOPPING FOR GOOD

EVENT ON DECEMBER 16

This Holiday season, please support the **New England Musicians Resource Fund** by shopping for us on December 16 at **J. McLaughlin at 34 Charles St.**

15% of all sales between 2p.m.- 4p.m. will be donated to NEMRF.



To learn more about NEMRF visit www.NEMRF.org

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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases & photos to deb@reverejournal.com

BHCA 28TH ANNUAL BEACON HILL HOLIDAY DECORATING

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Meghan Berger and her mother, Melanie Bertani on Charles Street.



Jennifer Stevens, Catarina Madeira, and Patricia Tully, BHCA Executive Director.



Mariella Mattaliano tying red bows on wreaths.

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TURNING ON THE COMMONWEALTH AVE MALL HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks Department again joined the Friends of the Public Garden and the all-volunteer Committee to Light the Common-

wealth Avenue Mall on Thursday, Nov. 30, to flip the switch on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall holiday lights between Arlington Street and Kenmore Square.

Meanwhile, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Charlesgate Alliance are bringing green lights again to the Charlesgate Park block of the Mall.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY ISABEL LEON

Mayor Michelle Wu (fifth from right) is seen with Rep. Jay Livingstone to her left and to her right: City Councilor at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune; Maggie Van Scoy, the city's neighborhood liaison for Beacon Hill and Back Bay; Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden; and Boston Parks Department Commissioner Ryan Woods.



Pictured, left to right, are Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city's Chief of Environment, Energy; Rep. Jay Livingstone; Mayor Michelle Wu; and City Councilor at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune.



Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden.

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BRIEFS

FIRST CHURCH BOSTON CHORAL ENSEMBLE

On December 16, at 7 p.m., Director of Music Gigi Mitchell-Velasco leads the First Church Boston Choral Ensemble in a program featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. Other works by Whitacre, Lauridsen as well as carols from across the globe sung in Ukranian, Scottish Gaelic and Latin. Special guests include harpist Hyunjung Choi, cellist Eleanor Blake, and organist Heinrich Christensen. Free and open to the public. Donations are welcome to benefit the Music Program of First Church Boston. Come for the beautiful music and stay for a carol sing, hot cider and cider donuts!

Please Recycle this paper

KERSHAW (from pg. 1)

‘Cheers.’

‘Cheers’ premiered on NBC on Sept. 20, 1982, but it wasn’t a success in the ratings until then-Speaker of the House Tip O’Neil made a cameo in an episode the following February. “Everyone tuned in... and it made the news both locally and nationally,” Kershaw told this reporter in 2019 as Hampshire House was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

In August of 1983, Kershaw traveled to Hollywood to attend a filming of an episode, where he negotiated the rights to sell ‘Cheers’ T-shirts from behind the bar at the Bull & Finch.

With the show’s continued success in the ratings, the bartenders were soon selling more T-shirts than drinks, so Kershaw was compelled to open an on-site gift store to vend ‘Cheers’ gear. The merchandising business expanded to boutiques, stores and kiosks throughout the city, and at one time, Kershaw held the national rights to sell ‘Cheers’ merchandise.

“It was a fabulous business back then,” Kershaw recalled in 2019. “It’s still very nice, but not like it once was.”

After earning 28 Primetime Emmy Awards from a record 117 nominations, the 275th and final episode of “Cheers” aired on May 20, 1993, and to mark the occasion, Jay Leno brought “The Tonight Show” to the Bull & Finch for only the third remote filming in its history.

Meanwhile, Kershaw opened a Cheers replica bar in Faneuil Hall Marketplace in 1983; 75 Chestnut right behind the Hampshire House in 1997; and 75 on Liberty Wharf in 2012. Hampshire House, Cheers, 75 on Chestnut, and 75 on Liberty Wharf are Kershaw’s active business interests today.

But before “Cheers” ever hit the air, Kershaw and Hampshire House were already well known throughout the neighborhood for their philanthropy.

Kershaw’s own charity, Cheers for Children, began as Globe Santa in 1980, after two Bull & Finch bartenders – the aforementioned Doyle and John Grasso – read a story in The Boston Globe about two underprivileged boys trying to raise money to purchase holiday gifts for their needy siblings. This inspired the bartenders to hold an auction at the Bull & Finch that raised \$570 for the newspaper’s gift fund for needy children and paved the way for Cheers for Children, which has since gone to donate more than \$2 million to children’s charities.

Since 1995, Kershaw has also sponsored the annual ‘Garlands and Greens’ event at the Hamp-

shire House to help the Beacon Hill Civic Association raise the money needed to decorate the neighborhood’s nearly 1,100 gaslamps for the holiday season. He now hosts a pancake breakfast at Hampshire House for those who help “undecorate” the lampposts as well. Kershaw also served on the BHCA board of directors for one term and has supported the group in countless ways over the years.

Patricia Tully, executive director of the Beacon Hill Civic Association, extolled Kershaw for everything he’s done for the organization and for the neighborhood.

“There are so many different ways he supports what we do, and he just never says, ‘no,’” Tully said of Kershaw in a video produced for Kershaw’s 85th birthday celebration, which took place on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Hampshire House. “He’s just a wonderful man.”

In 2003, Kershaw was selected as one of three individuals to receive the BHCA’s annual Beacon Award that year in acknowledgment of his “significant and sustained contribution” to the community.

Kershaw also assumed the mantle of the Charles Street Merchants Association in the early ‘80s, which he rechristened the ‘Beacon Hill Business Association’ to be more inclusive of all businesses in the neighborhood.

In 1982, then-Mayor Kevin White asked Kershaw to undertake a study of Charles Street, which informed White’s decision to repave the street. And when Charles Street reopened two days later, the direction of traffic had been reversed. So as the well-worn expression now goes: “Thomas Kershaw turned traffic around on Charles Street.”

“All in all, it has been a good thing for Beacon Hill and made it into a little village in the middle of the city,” Kershaw said earlier this week of the decision to permanently modify the flow of traffic on Charles Street.

Jack Gurnon, the owner of Charles Street Supply who was among those in attendance at Kershaw’s 85th birthday celebration, said in a statement: “Tom is one of the most valued and treasured icons of not only Beacon Hill, but also the whole city of Boston and Massachusetts. His generosity of not only his time and talents, but the kindness and openness of being such a gracious host at the Hampshire House for all occasions is legendary. We should all strive to be more like Tom Kershaw.”

Kershaw was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from



Tom Kershaw, at the recent Beacon Hill Civic Association’s Garlands & Greens event, is shown with Jeremy Bell, Linda Roethlisberger, Lisa Macalaster, Wayne Gaffield, and Peter Jones.

the Beacon Hill Business Association and remains Chairman Emeritus of the organization.

Additionally, Kershaw visited Aspen, Colo., circa 1993, on a skiing trip, and after seeing an outdoor skating rink there, he was inspired to bring the concept back to Boston. He successfully pitched the idea to then-Mayor Thomas Menino as a year-round facility, and using capital funds, the city, opened the Frog Pond Skating Rink on the Boston Common in January of 1997. Besides skating in the winter, the facility also serves as a spray pool in the summer and a reflecting pool in the spring and fall. Kershaw operated and maintained the rink for its first 14 years, installing a skate rental amenity, new restrooms, a snack bar and garage for the Zamboni. At Kershaw’s suggestion, the Boston Common Frog Pond Carousel also opened nearby on the Common.

Among the many noteworthy individuals who offered Kershaw well wishes during the video produced for his 85th birthday was Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, who said Kershaw “represents Beantown better than anyone I know.”

In a statement, Rep. Jay Livingstone, who was in attendance for Kershaw’s 85th birthday celebration, said: “I appreciate Tom for his dedication and leadership, and for providing hospitality in Beacon Hill, Boston and throughout our Commonwealth. He has had a profound positive impact on our community, and I was so happy to celebrate his birthday with him.”

Also in attendance at Kershaw’s birthday celebration was City Councilor Ed Flynn, who said in a statement: “Tom Kershaw is an exceptional friend to the City of Boston. He truly believes in the city and has always generously supported Boston and so many

worthy organizations. Tom has provided invaluable leadership and inspiration in Boston’s tourism, hospitality, and trade industries. We are proud to call him a loyal friend and true son of the city.”

Likewise, Jim Brett, president of New England Council, said, “I wish someday the city would create a position, ambassador at large. Tom Kershaw would be my candidate. His impact has been enormous. Tom is an extraordinary business leader but more importantly, he’s a really extraordinary human being.”

Despite all the accolades

bestowed upon him, Kershaw, a committed member of the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America who received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and was the first inductee into the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame, said he considers himself first and foremost “a grown-up Eagle Scout.”

“I took the lessons I learned in Scouting seriously and am pleased to be in a position where I can help in a variety of ways,” said Kershaw. “I like making things happen and leading people to a successful conclusion in whatever projects they set out to do.”

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Growing leaders at Park Street School, by building character, poise, confidence, and resilience

Special to Times

What makes a leader? While speaking ability, performing with others, and taking initiative – all opportunities we provide for and teach at Park Street School (PSS) – are important, we believe leadership starts with character development.

Across our campuses, we seek to recognize the God-given gifts of each child. As we do that, we want to intentionally cultivate and encourage our students' unique development in key areas — academic, spiritual, social-emotional, and physical. In recent years, social-emotional growth in particular has become an important focus. Having support from thoughtful, caring teachers, students at PSS are encouraged to build and grow in resolving conflict, work together, listen to one another, and express feelings. We seek to build into students' agency the ability to communicate and be heard.



COURTESY OF PARK STREET SCHOOL

Kindergartner Mikayla and Grade 3B buddy Marlowe learn more about their leaf from Science teacher, Mr. Lofstedt.

One of the places where we see this growth is in the mentoring of younger friends across grade levels. We provide many opportunities for our older students to mentor, encourage, and teach our younger friends. These activities entail creating, trying out, regrouping, redesigning, and trying again. Along

the way, we develop resilience and perseverance, and so much more!

This year, our third-grade students have become mentors to our Kindergarten students. Paired with a buddy for the year, third-grade students have already had the opportunity to read to their buddies, create ornaments and decorations for Christmas together, as well as share a science lesson.

In third-grade Science, one of our main themes is classification. Third graders learn the value of observation and what attributes are, learning to classify vertebrates versus non-vertebrates. In October, third graders were asked to teach what they had learned to their Kindergarten buddies, applying the lesson of classification to 10 different leaves and their corresponding trees.

The third graders met their Kindergarten buddies in their classrooms, showed them different leaves, and asked them what they noticed about the leaves - shape, size, color. They introduced the word 'ATTRIBUTE' and explained how scientists identify living things by their attributes.



Grade 3A scientists help their younger Kindergarten counterparts figure out the attributes of their leaf.

After identifying each leaf and what tree it belonged to, the Grade 3 students helped their buddies make rubbings of each leaf to add to their leaf books.

Not only have our third graders been learning that their younger friends enjoy the same authors or books as them; or have discovered character traits of kindness or the capacity to share, or are actually fun despite being younger, but the lessons have gone deeper. From their own reflections, third graders shared these thoughts:

- "One thing I've learned working with my reading buddy is how to work together with my friend," said Maddie.

- "One thing I've learned with my Kindergarten buddy is to learn how to take responsibility – [that] feeling that you are the older one and how to set an example," said Preston.

- "One thing I've learned is

that you can learn from your Kindergarten buddy, even if they are younger," said Alanna.

As a Christian school, PSS invites students to take a stance of humility regarding our differences in the ways we think or what we believe. We practice loving dialog and an understanding and empathy in listening, an important skill in today's world. We also reinforce the idea that our students' identities are secure - lovingly created in the image of God, perfectly made. It is in this context that we see leaders of influence emerge who demonstrate character through responsible behavior, empathy, collaboration, and perseverance. These work together to create a foundation in students from which they will flourish in high school and college, developing an emotional intelligence, paramount to future academic and relational success.



Grade 3B's Teddy helps his Kindergarten buddy Carolyn add glitter to her star ornament.

Real Estate Transfers

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Larceny

11/30/23 - A victim informed the front desk officer that their delivery package had been removed and left in an empty box in front of their residence. The value of the package was approximately \$600. Area A Detectives were supposed to further investigate the matter.

Robbery

12/02/23 - Officers spoke with a victim who stated that she met with an individual at 250 Cambridge St. to sell her cell phone. This meetup was arranged via Facebook Marketplace. When the victim handed over the phone, the suspect pushed the victim and fled towards Grove Street without paying. Area detectives are further investigating the matter.

CITY CELEBRATES 82ND ANNUAL LIGHTING OF COMMON HOLIDAY TREE



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston and representatives from the Boston Parks Department on Thursday, Nov. 30, for the 82nd annual lighting of the Boston Common holiday tree – a 45-foot white spruce. Each year, a tree is delivered to the city from Nova Scotia as a token of appreciation for Boston's help after two military ships collided in Halifax Harbor in 1917, resulting in an explosion that killed approximately 2,000.



Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The mailbox in the last clue is near the door to the Dubliner Irish Bar & Restaurant at Two Center Plaza across from City Hall. This crescent-shaped collection of three buildings was designed by CBT Architects and built between 1965 and 1969.

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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Libby M.,
Back Bay

"We've been really impressed with the ease of Acorn, and how much it has made day-to-day city life stress free. We can't imagine living in the city without this fantastic service-we save so much time not walking to and from the garage, or trolling for a spot. Bravo to the Acorn staff!"

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.,
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