



DECEMBER 14, 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

HOLIDAY STROLL ON BEACON HILL



The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll was held last Thursday night and resulted in the closing of Charles Street from Cambridge Street to Beacon Street to cars. A community party greeted shoppers as they explored the diverse stores Beacon Hill has to offer. Shown at The Happy Journey Toy Shoppe are Lee Combs and Catarina Mabeira from shop while store owner Melanie Brtani and her daughter Meghan Berger guide them to the perfect gifts to those on their list. See more photos on pages 5 through 9.



Upstairs Downstairs owner Laura Cousineau (right) with John Everett Martin whose crooning soothed and delighted the crowd.



John Spillane and Siobhan Keenan enjoy the holiday cheer at Sevens Ale House.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Mayor Wu announces designation for redevelopment of West End Branch Library

Special to Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and the Boston Public Library (BPL) have announced that the City of Boston's Public Facilities Commission has tentatively designated the development team of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) and Caste Capital to redevelop the West End branch of the Boston Public Library on Cambridge Street.

The renovation will include a new, two-story branch library and 119 income-restricted units of housing above the library through the Housing with Public Assets initiative, an innovative new program designed to maximize the use of municipal properties for the

public good, according to a press release from the city.

The chosen development team was designated by the Public Facilities Commission for their experience in sustainable and community-centric development projects. The proposed project involves transforming the parcel into a mixed-use development with 119 transit-oriented, income-restricted apartments above the library space, along with open space and amenities for library visitors, building residents, and the public. The goal of the project is not only to expand the library's size and offerings but also to address the growing demand to create more income-restricted housing. The

(LIBRARY Pg. 2)

Teuscher Chocolates returns with pop-up inside DeLuca's

By Dan Murphy

Although Teuscher Chocolates closed its Newbury Street retail shop in July, the Swiss candy company has returned to Boston for the holidays with a pop-up location inside DeLuca's Market on Charles Street.

From now through at least mid-February, Teuscher – a family-owned chocolatier based in Zurich, Switzerland, that dates back to 1932 - is partnering with DeLuca's to offer a selection of its signature truffles and chocolate, along with its ornate gift boxes and assorted holiday trinkets,

which will rotate for Hannukah, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Food items are delivered to DeLuca's from Switzerland once a week to ensure their optimum freshness. And to showcase the Teuscher merchandise, the area in the store opposite its small café has been transformed into a small retail space, including a kiosk adorned with the chocolatier's company logo.

"We wanted something really magical for the space during the holidays," Victoria Aiello, who co-owns DeLuca's together with

(DELUCA'S Pg. 12)

FOPG announces future installation of plaque honoring Kershaw

By Dan Murphy

The 85th-birthday luncheon for Tom Kershaw held Nov. 29 at the Hampshire House brought a major announcement that the Friends of the Public Garden intends to honor the venerable Beacon Hill businessman and philanthropist

this spring with the installation of a plaque in the Public Garden acknowledging Kershaw's contributions to the city's parks over the years.

The plaque will be a gift from the nonprofit Friends group, which works in partnership with

the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to care for and maintain the Public Garden and the Common, as well as the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The plaque will be installed in the Public Garden sometime this spring with the

(KERSHAW Pg. 10)

LIBRARY (from pg. 1)

development team will prioritize community input, including the needs and preferences of residents, to create an inclusive environment for all. The new building will be all-electric and designed to minimize the carbon footprint of both the housing and library, in alignment with the City of Boston's climate goals and commitment to sustainability.

"The Mayor's Office of Housing is very appreciative of both the Beacon Hill and West End communities. They were supportive of combining housing with a new branch library and have played an active role in shaping the RFP and associated design criteria," Chief Sheila Dillon said in a press release. "The response to the RFP was significant, with many talented development teams submitting high-quality proposals. We look forward to working with POAH, Caste Capital, and the community to shape this development proposal."

The 119 units of affordable housing will include a mix of bedroom sizes, from studios to three-bedroom units. The high proportion of family-sized units in this proposal was a key factor in its selection and a key community objective for the development. Of the 119 residences, 40 apartments will be affordable to households earning up to 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), and 79 apartments will be designated for households earning up to 80 percent of AMI.

Twenty of the most deeply affordable apartments will be created using a dedicated subsidy, in partnership with the Boston Housing Authority, that allows new public housing to be built. The new development will also include a courtyard, multiple residential amenity spaces, and a shared plaza with the neighboring Otis House museum, library, and archives.

The new development will result in a new, two-floor branch

library – approximately 70 percent larger than the size of the current branch – to serve the West End community. The design of the new space will be informed by a comprehensive programming study, which was carried out by the BPL in conjunction with the City's Public Facilities Department, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and Ann Beha Architects. The study identified potential new additions to the branch's offerings, including a new community room, a space reserved for teens, an updated outdoor space, and a learning lab, along with updated technology and audio-visual capabilities.

"As library leaders, we are charged to use all of our resources to serve the public. I can think of no higher level of public service than to co-locate a public library and its critical offerings together with affordable housing," David Leonard, president of the Boston Public Library, said in a press release. "In continued partnership with the Mayor's Office of Housing, we are also looking forward to additional projects that co-locate library services with housing, including in Upham's Corner and Chinatown. The Housing with Public Assets initiative uses current City-owned land to its highest and best use, and we are extremely proud to be a part of it."

Aaron Gornstein, president and CEO of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), said: "POAH has been invested in the West End since 2012 when we acquired The Blackstone Apartments, a key senior affordable housing resource in a rapidly developing neighborhood. We are excited to further expand access to affordable housing in a neighborhood of opportunity that once housed generations of diverse, lower-income Bostonians. The new development at 151 Cambridge Street will be a community resource, underpinned by a re-envisioned library and a sustainable, intergenerational



CREDIT: D. MURPHY

Existing conditions at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library.

affordable housing community."

Patrick Kimble, Founder and Managing Partner for Caste Capital, said: "The West End Library project will not only revitalize the West End and Beacon Hill neighborhoods but also leave a lasting impact on the entire Greater Boston community. Through our partnership with the Mayor's Office of Housing to develop a new library branch and much-needed affordable housing supply, we aim to combat the pressing affordable housing crisis that impacts countless Boston residents from diverse backgrounds. This endeavor represents our unwavering commitment to creating a public asset that uplifts and empowers individuals from all walks of life. Together, we will shape a brighter future for Boston, where everyone has access to quality housing and vital educational resources."

The Boston Public Library and Mayor's Office of Housing, along with the Public Facilities Department and other City departments, co-hosted nine public meetings to set clear expectations for what a mixed-use building at this location could be. The participation of multiple community groups, including the West End Civic Association, Beacon Hill Civic Association, Historic New England, and others was essential to laying out a compelling vision. All told, eight different applicants responded to the Request for Proposals, demonstrating the rare and exciting opportunity to deliver multiple public benefits to the neighborhood. All the respondents presented their designs to the community over the summer, with extensive public input factoring into the evaluation and selection.

"The BHCA is very excited to

see this important project move to its next phase," Meghan Awe, Chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association, said in a press release "Converting the West End Library to a mixed-use building with affordable housing was hatched by three former leaders of BHCA. The BHCA has long been a strong supporter of this project and appreciates the spirit of transparency and thoughtful collaboration that the City has displayed through Senior Development Officer, Joe Backer of the Mayor's Office of Housing. The BHCA looks forward to continuing to work with the City and seeing the project through to completion."

Sebastian A. Belfanti, President of the West End Civic Association, said, "The West End Civic Association appreciates the work that went into selecting a developer for the West End Library, including the extensive community input included during this phase of the process. We are pleased that the City selected a project the Association's Board and planning committee approved of, and are excited to see how the project develops from this point. We look forward to continuing clear and open public dialogue as this innovative project moves forward."

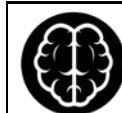
The City's Housing With Public Assets program seeks to build low- and moderate-income housing above municipal assets. The program explores ways to build housing above City properties such as libraries, police stations, fire stations, and parking lots, as a way to maximize the utility of those locations while maintaining and improving the core functions of those properties. The program is one of many initiatives spearheaded by the Mayor's Office of

Housing and the Housing Innovation Lab in recent years to address the housing crisis, including the Acquisition Opportunity Program, the Additional Dwelling Unit Program, and the Future Decker initiative.

"We applaud Mayor Wu's innovative strategy to maximize city resources and return desperately needed affordable housing to the West End, while forming an important cultural and civic anchor in the neighborhood," Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of Historic New England, said in a press release. "We are so grateful to the City for its collaborative approach, which will have such a positive impact on the neighborhood through culture, community, and meaningful partnerships."

The tentative designation to redevelop the West End branch of the Boston Public Library aligns Mayor Wu's commitment to the principles of smart growth and transit-oriented development in Boston. In the fiscal year 2023, the Mayor allocated substantial resources to address housing challenges in the city. A substantial portion of the \$200 million committed from ARPA funds has been designated for diverse housing initiatives, including affordable homeownership development, strategic acquisitions to combat displacement, energy retrofits for multifamily homes, permanent supportive housing with specialized services, and upgrades to Boston Housing Authority properties.

For more information and updates on the West End Library development, visit the City of Boston website at <https://www.boston.gov/buildinghousing/west-end-library-housing-public-assets>.



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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SET FOR DEC. 16 AT FIRST CHURCH BOSTON

Director of Music Gigi Mitchell-Velasco leads the First Church Boston Choral Ensemble in 'A Ceremony of Carols: A Christmas Celebration' featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. at First Church in Boston at 66 Marlborough St.

Other works by Whitacre and Lauridsen, as well as carols from across the globe sung in Ukrainian, Scottish Gaelic, and Latin. Special guests include harpist Hyunjung Choi, cellist Eleanor Blake, and organist Heinrich Christensen. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome to benefit the Music Program of First Church Boston. Complimentary hot cider and cider donuts will also be provided to guests.

Visit <https://firstchurchboston.org/events/fcb-music-concert/> for more information.

ANNUAL MESSIAH-SING AT CHURCH ON THE HILL

There are many opportunities to hear the Messiah this season in various venues in and around Boston.

The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem and the Sounds on the Hill Concert Series invite you to raise your voice at their annual

Messiah-Sing on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at Church on the Hill at 140 Bowdoin St. Join The Choir of the New Jerusalem and Soloists, under the direction of Andrew David Mattfeld. BSNJ.

For information, call 617-523-4575.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. will offer "Exploring Sephardi Culture" on Wednesdays, Dec. 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. 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.

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

JOIN THE HIDDEN GALLERY FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING 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 Saturday, 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.

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).

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

FIND WALDO



CREDIT: COURTESY PHOTO

Readers are encouraged to drop by Dave Poutré Fine Framing at 82 Charles St. during the holidays to see if they can spot Waldo of 'Where's Waldo' fame among the miscellaneous figures in the shop's window.

Proprietor Dave Poutré is seen here dressed as Waldo.

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.

Construction Look-Ahead for the North Washington Street project through December 23

The scheduled work is as follows:

Traffic to Shift to New North Washington Street Bridge

- MassDOT will shift all pedestrian and vehicle traffic from the temporary bridge to the east side of the new bridge beginning at 6 a.m. on Saturday, December 9 and is expected to be completed by 6 p.m.

- The pedestrian sidewalk will be located on the eastern portion of the permanent bridge. There are no bike lanes as part of this stage of construction. Cyclists seeking to use the bridge's east sidewalk are asked to dismount and proceed as a pedestrian.

- Once traffic is switched, crews will mobilize to begin the dismantling and removal of the temporary bridge.

- Please see the image below for more information.

Scheduled Work

- Traffic monitoring
- Removal of temporary bridge roadway surface and guardrail

- Preliminary demolition activities on old bridge structure

- West sidewalk demolition (Charlestown)

Work Hours

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

Travel Tips

For everyone using the east sidewalk of the new 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:

- BRUINS: December 16, at 7 p.m. and December 19, at 7 p.m.
- CELTICS: December 12, at 7:30 p.m., December 14 at 7:30 p.m., December 15 at 7:30 p.m., and December 17 at 3 p.m.
- OTHER EVENTS: December

10 at 6 p.m., December 11 at 7:30 p.m., and December 23 at 8 p.m.

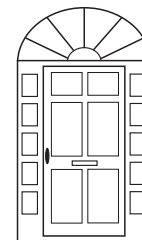
How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed

by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

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EDITORIAL

YES, THOSE COLLEGE PRESIDENTS WERE WRONG

We never thought that we would find ourselves agreeing on anything with Elise Stefanik, the obnoxious Congresswoman from New York. But, as the saying goes, "Even a broken clock is right twice a day," and we concur with the call by Stefanik (who appeared to be auditioning for the role of running mate with Donald Trump) for the presidents of Penn (who has resigned), Harvard, and MIT to step down after their widely-publicized testimony last week in Washington.

Stefanik tossed each of them what should have been a softball question:

"Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate your school's rules or code of conduct, yes or no?"

The obvious answer was an unequivocal "Yes!" for the simple reason that calling for the genocide of any group should constitute a violation of their schools' rules of conduct against intimidation or harassment of their students.

But all three presidents prevaricated, answering with a variation of, "It is a context-dependent decision, congresswoman."

We wish to make two points:

First, there is no stronger advocate of free speech than this newspaper. However, that does not mean that if we received a letter to the editor from say, the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, or a similar group, that we would print it on the pages of our newspaper. If someone wants to stand on a soapbox in their town square and give a hate speech, they are free to do so -- good luck with that. Hate speech is protected from government interference per the First Amendment (unless it incites violence), but it does not require private individuals or media organizations to allow the use of their platforms by someone who espouses hate. Similarly, universities have a right -- and an obligation -- to ensure that hate speech does not find an outlet on their campuses.

Secondly, universities such as Penn, Harvard, and MIT typically enforce rules against hate speech when it comes to statements against other groups. For example, every one of those schools would never give permission for students to organize a KKK group or allow the KKK to hold a rally on their campus. But there seems to be a double-standard when it comes to Israel and the Jews. If a student group wants to protest Israel's bombing of civilians in Gaza, that's a perfectly-appropriate discussion. On the other hand, demonstrations "calling for the genocide of Jews" (or any other group) never should be allowed under any circumstances.

In the "context" of the current situation in the Middle East, two things can be true at the same time: It is appropriate to acknowledge that Israel has a right to eliminate the threat posed by the Iran-backed Hamas terrorists and also fair to criticize the Israeli government for its seeming indifference to the ongoing humanitarian disaster facing the people of Gaza.

But when opposition to the policies of the Israeli government veers into obvious anti-Semitism, good people on all sides of the issue must take a stand on behalf of basic moral principles. Those college presidents, who relied on the notes from their attorneys to parse what was a simple and straightforward question, flunked their oral exam. Their subsequent "apologies" have been feckless and meaningless -- and they should step down from their position as the heads of universities where moral leadership is as important as academic credentials.

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State and local officials cut the ribbon for the new Veterans Home

State and federal leaders cut the ribbon on Veterans Home

By Adam Swift

There were big names on hand from the State House and Washington, DC last Friday for a ribbon cutting at the new Massachusetts Veterans Home in Chelsea, but the focus was on the services the new state-of-the-art facility will provide for those who have served and sacrificed for their country.

"The new Veterans Home in Chelsea is what our veterans earned and deserve, and it represents a new era of care and commitment to our veterans in Massachusetts," said Governor Healey. "It offers a sense of community for our veterans, allows them to have dignity and autonomy in a home-like environment, and makes sure their physical, mental, and emotional needs are met."

Healey was joined at the event by U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Executive Office of Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago.

The officials visited the home and toured the facility, exploring its features and amenities, including the rehabilitation room and environmentally sustainable elements. They also visited several of the veteran residents living in the building.

The Veterans Home is designed to foster community among residents, with 154 private resident rooms organized around shared community and green spaces. The home is also fossil-fuel free and features geothermal wells and a rooftop solar array.

"Cutting a ribbon on a new community living center really resonates because today's Department of Veterans Affairs traces its very roots to what were essentially community living centers for vets," said McDonough. "The first

one was in Maine ... the second one was in Massachusetts."

McDonough said today's community living centers offer a full spectrum of care that includes skilled nursing, rehabilitative services, mental health services and integrate support services like physical therapy and recreational activities and social engagement programs.

"What hasn't changed in that time is the courage, the character, and the dignity of the veterans who call this, and will call this, home," he said.

Santiago said the mission of the new facility is to honor those who have selflessly served the nation.

"Although we can't change the past, we can shape the future," said Santiago. "The Veterans Home at Chelsea represents a pivotal juncture in our ongoing mission to honor our veterans through top-tier care and support."

Currently, 22 residents have moved into the new home, and all residents are expected to be fully moved into the new home by early 2024.

"This is a chance to show just how much we care about our veterans," said Warren. "This is not just about words, this is about putting those words into action."

Warren thanked the Healey-Driscoll administration and Santiago for ensuring that the Veterans Home in Chelsea provides first-rate care to all veterans. She also thanked McDonough for coming up to the ribbon cutting to help celebrate the progress that is being made for veterans in Massachusetts.

"A very special thank you to Senator (Sal) DiDomenico and Representative (Judith) Garcia who are champions for their community every day and helped get the funding so we could do this,"

said Warren.

The Healey-Driscoll administration utilized federal funding in its Capital Improvement Plan to construct new veterans homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. The federal government is offering up to 65 percent reimbursement for the projects, with the state contributing a 35 percent match, resulting in a total five-year state investment of \$280.1 million. The cost of the Chelsea Home is approximately \$200 million, with a significant portion covered by the federal investment.

Representing the families of the veterans families, Mary Bender spoke about the experience of her family and her brother, who lives at the home.

"My brother Jim, a proud Army veteran, has been a resident here since April of 2022," said Bender. "Jim had a long career as an ATF investigator when he first began having strokes. He soon became disabled."

When her brother was first accepted into the Chelsea home, Bender said she and her four sisters were on hand to make sure he was well taken care of.

"When we first got here, this building was standing, but not yet open," she said. "We were not impressed by the (old) building at all, but it did not take us long to realize that Jim had a host of dedicated caregivers. So we would look longingly at this building, waiting for the day when the building would be as wonderful as his staff."

"On Oct. 18, that day arrived, Jim moved into a clean, bright room with breathtaking views and a new TV," said Bender. "As family members, we were also glad to see all the safety features ... but most importantly to us, this place is so welcoming and open."

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS HOLIDAY STROLL

Photos by Marianne Salza

Charles Street was closed to evening traffic on December 7, allowing residents and visitors to reign, during the Beacon Hill Civic Association Holiday Stroll and Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Shoppers were served wine and chocolates as they selected chic, cozy, and unique presents. Some boutiques offered commemorative ornaments and candles that smelled like a snowy, Victorian holiday. Visitors also sang along with a brass ensemble, jazz band, and bell ringers, who performed Christmas carols.



Beacon Hill resident, Kate McGowan, of Crush, helping Dan, and his daughter, Caroline Ford, shop for a present for his wife.



Crosby and Lindsay Johnson, Becky Bratt, and Julie Rotan shopping at Whitney + Winston for a child's hooded towel.



Beacon Hill resident, Charlottee Allard, with friends, Caroline Godfrey, Sarah Murphy, and Mary French.



Stephen Curtis, Ben Pilon, Hitomi Taguchi Bowman, and Hiro Tokushige, of Coventry Brass, performing "Deck the Halls" on the corner of Pinckney and Charles Streets.



Beacon Hill residents William and Alexandra Gruppo, with Milou, Chris Eramo, Paul Santos, and Poppy.



Annalee Nezhad, Lola Cochran, Sabine Nezhad, and Coco Cochran with Bobo.

Upstairs Downstairs welcomes holiday revelers

Special to Times

Once again, the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll on Thursday, Dec. 7, was a wonderful and joyous event.

The street was alive with the sights and sounds of the season. Joyful residents and their children paraded up and down the street sampling all this generous community event had to offer.

At Upstairs Downstairs it was home for the holidays for hundreds and hundreds of Beacon Hill residents. It was once again a



Pictured, left to right, are: Lucas Tejada, Mark Duffield, and Taryn Corey.



Upstairs Downstairs Owner Laura Cousineau (second from right) and her crew of Christmas elves.

COURTESY PHOTOS

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS HOLIDAY STROLL



Ali Shybut and Sloane Merril Gallery owner Ali Ringenburg toast a Holiday Season and unique art.



The Coventry Brass band: Stephen Curtis, Hitomi Taguchi Bowman, Hiro Tokoushige, and Ben Pilon were making their musical rounds on Charles Street.



Colleges Of Festivity musician Angela Jones poses with her xylophone.



Mark Brown dances with Colescott Rubin and his groovy bass lines.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



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We look forward to seeing you!

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Happy Holidays!



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BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS HOLIDAY STROLL



Ramsey and Elizabeth Fretz took advantage of the Holiday Stroll to enjoy their neighborhood.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Mark Brown dances with Colescott Rubin and his groovy bass lines.



Art lover Bonnie Parrott is rocking some impressive boots.



Liz Warren and Shauna Williams with their daughter Emmy take some time on the beach chair and heat lamp to imagine a completely different holiday season Boston would provide.



One of the intriguing items for sale at The Happy Journey Toy Shop was a toy dog that seemingly breathed.

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



THIS WEEK AT DELUCA'S

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14TH

FREE TASTING IN THE CELLAR

FEAT: SEASONAL LIQUORS 5-7PM



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THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL



Glen Cunningham, Michael Carter, Lisa Macalaster, and Colescott Rubin, of Beacon Hill Jazz, performing "Frosty the Snowman" at The Paramount.



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

A long line forming at the Upstairs/Downstairs cash register, where shoppers received glasses of wine.



Beacon Hill residents Hannah B. and Maddie U. with Carissa C., Adam S., and Erin F.



Mia Holtz, Tookie Wilson, Siobhan Pender, Matt Russo, Bridget Clark, Michaela Towfighi.



Back Bay Ringers performing "Jingle Bells."



Annalee Nezhad, Lola Cochran, Sabine Nezhad, and Coco Cochran with Bobo.

THE BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL



Whitney + Winston co-owner, Laura Ayres, and Brianna Stief, brand manager, holding a commemorative Holiday Stroll candle and ornament



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

A Christmas tree was lit at Charles Circle during the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll on December 7



Jarrab, Michaela, Margot, and Ryder Lankas

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS (from pg. 5)

gathering place and was filled with friends and neighbors at the outset and lasted packed to the gills well past 9 p.m.

Throughout, holiday shoppers were entertained by Bell Ringers out front; Jeremy Bell's magical accordion; the amazing, all-evening-long singing performance by John Everett Martin, Boston's beloved balladeer; and even a visit from Santa Claus. Appreciative parents and wide-eyed children cheered and applauded throughout this magical evening, giving special meaning to being home for the holidays - home at Upstairs Downstairs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeremy Bell (at far left) is seen with, left to right: Jacob Kingsley, Sarah Perry, and Tony Kingsley.



Jeremy Bell with Santa



The window of Upstairs Downstairs Home is seen decorated for the holidays.

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KERSHAW (from pg. 1)

permission of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and it will be emblazoned with an inscription reading: ‘Cheers to our good Friend Tom Kershaw In celebration of all you do for our parks and our city.’

In 1969, Kershaw, who now serves as chairman of the Hampshire House Corporation restaurant group, and Jack Vesey, a fellow recent Harvard Business School grad and Kershaw’s business partner at the time, purchased the Hampshire House at 84 Beacon St., located just across the street from the Public Garden. (The Hampshire House’s basement pub, originally called The Bull & Finch Pub, would go on to inspire the classic, long-running sitcom, ‘Cheers.’)

“Quite frankly, the Public Garden is my front yard,” said Kershaw. “Even as a young man who had newly acquired 84 Beacon St., I looked out this window and saw this beautiful park.”

A year later in 1970, Henry Lee was launching the Friends of the Public Garden and asked Kershaw to get involved.

Kershaw readily complied, going on to serve on the group’s board of directors and pitching in where he could with the Friends’ myriad campaigns over the years.

In 1980, Henry Lee broached Kershaw with the idea of trying to raise money to decorate the Common with lights for the holiday season. Kershaw agreed and began selling “Light a Light” buttons for \$1 each, bringing in 87 cents-a-piece profit and going on to raise around \$35,000 for the cause, which was enough money to illuminate most of the Common. He would continue to help spearhead this effort for approximately the next 15 years.

“I kept moving from that and kept my eyes on the parks,” said Kershaw, “and when I could contribute, I did, and I think that is the key.”

Around 40 years ago, Kershaw also started People Power for the Public Garden to help maintain the park, paving the way the Rose Brigade, which continues to care for the Public Garden’s four rose beds under the leadership of former People Power member China Altman.

On the Common, Kershaw’s lasting influence is evident in the Frog Pond skating rink and the nearby carousel.

Around 1993, Kershaw visited

Aspen, Colo., on a skiing trip and was immediately impressed with the town’s outdoor skating rink. Kershaw wanted to bring the concept back to Boston, so he successfully pitched the idea to then-Mayor Thomas Menino as a year-round facility. 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, which continues to be a popular draw and today helps The Skating Club of Boston offset the operating costs for the skating rink. (The Skating Club of Boston manages and operates both the skating rink and the carousel.)

Liz Vizza, president of the Friends group, who, together with Lee, presented Kershaw with the plaque during the Nov. 29 event at the Hampshire House, said: “Our parks and our community would not be what they are today without the generosity and vision of Tom Kershaw. He was an early advocate for, and supporter of the potential of the Common, Garden, and Mall, recognizing how critical these greenspaces are to the health of the city and everyone who enjoys them, visitors and residents alike. Tom has been steadfast in his commitment to these beloved parks, and we, the downtown parks, and the community as a whole, are so much the better for it.”

Likewise, Ryan Woods, commissioner of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, said: “Tom Kershaw’s unwavering commitment to the Public Garden, Boston Common, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall has been transformative. His instrumental role in bringing the Frog Pond to life and his dedicated efforts in raising funds for lighting installations are not merely acts of philanthropy; they are pillars of his vision for activating our parks. Tom’s contributions extend beyond beautification; they testify to his understanding of the pivotal role parks play in ensuring economic vitality, promoting tourism, and enhancing safety in the downtown area.”



CREDIT: BILL BRETT

Tom Kershaw (center) is seen with Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden (left); and Henry Lee, a founding member and president emeritus of the Friends group, during Kershaw’s 85th birthday luncheon on Nov. 29 at the Hampshire House. At this time, Vizza and Lee presented Kershaw with the plaque that will be installed in his honor in the Public Garden this spring.

Cheers to our good Friend
Tom Kershaw
In celebration of all you
do for our parks and our city

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Huang, Jiamin	Samantha Y-R Laudano RET	105 Beacon St #9	\$587,000
Rigel-125 Beacon LLC	Sarah S Smith RET	125 Beacon St #5	\$835,000
Atalla, Imad	Landay, William	56 Commonwealth Ave #32	\$520,000
Parks, Ken	257 Commonwealth Ave LLC	257 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$1,950,000
Cieri Jr, Frank A	257 Commonwealth Ave LLC	257 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$1,275,000
Gorgone, Andrew	Marcia Waterman T	330 Dartmouth St #7N	\$1,695,000
Bocca Di Lupo LLC	Theise, Brian	32 Fairfield St #4	\$1,335,000
Tsai, Victor	Lester, Jennifer	483 Beacon St #97	\$650,000
BEACON HILL			
M Squared26 LLC	Newfield, Regina	40 Mount Vernon St #4A	\$1,475,000
Biotech Consulting Grp LL	Mccue Harry James Est	54-1/2 Temple St #2	\$629,900
Katz, Paul H	Kopacz, Karol	8 Whittier Pl #4H	\$1,000,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Rocca Hoops 98 LLC	Latonord Nt	776 Boylston St #PH2B	\$14,125,000
Hunter, Scott	Vanmeter Nickolas Est	77 Chandler St #1	\$1,540,000
Brushy Ln Qprt	John F Giblin Jr RET	1 Charles St S #1612	\$1,520,000
Thomas M Ripp RET	Hamrick, William L	52 Fayette St #1	\$1,320,000
Larsen, Victoria I	Dukhan, Faisal A	110 Stuart St #16H	\$1,265,000
Cheng, Fang	Kelleher, John J	29 Bay State Rd #3	\$1,200,000
A T Borden Non Exempt T	Mark A Moore 2016 RET	19 Bradford St	\$3,700,000
Abbas, Atif	Valentine, Derek	80 E Brookline St #2	\$580,000
Dambazau, Hadiza B	Quinn South End LLC	370 Harrison Ave #1006	\$999,000
Kaninu, David	Jocelyn A Valte RET	127 Hyde Park Ave #B	\$630,000
Dsilva, Benedict	Noriega, David E	82 Jersey St #44	\$550,000
Zepaj, Marenglen	Allen, Eleanor	193 Saint Botolph St #5	\$1,250,000
Weyer, Stephanie	Creagh, Charles R	67 Spring Park Ave #2	\$835,000
Bayt LLC	Solomon, Emma	11-C Waltham St #3	\$570,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Michienzi, Noreen P	Sweeny, Nicole	39 Commercial Wharf #1	\$1,075,000
Sweeney, Nicole	Coppola, John	55 Commercial Wharf #4	\$1,850,000
Yu, Shu	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #5114	\$1,745,000
132 Lincoln Street Rd LLC	Ha Lincoln Loft T	132 Lincoln St #4	\$475,000
Jeffrey R Black Bus T	Tocco, Stephen P	350 North St #902	\$2,300,000
Treanton, Karen N	Morrissey Rt	170 Tremont St #1601	\$1,499,000
Heliconia Rt	Zou, Rachel	100 Lovejoy Wharf #4L	\$630,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The shield with crowns in the last clue is on 16 Beacon Street. It was built in 1808. In 1826, it became the home of portrait painter Chester Harding. It was donated to The American Unitarian Association in the early 1900s. Since 1962, it has been the home of the Boston Bar Association.

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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DeLUCA'S (from pg. 1)

her sister, Caroline, said of the pop-up that opened in time for the Beacon Hill Business Association's annual Holiday Stroll on Thurs-

day, Dec. 7.

Hot chocolate is among the noteworthy offerings at the pop-up location, and one that Victoria

said reminds her of the time she spent living in Manhattan, where it's served in select bakeries.

DeLuca's proprietary blend of hot chocolate has a high percentage of cocoa, using a 65/77 percent cocoa blend, said Stefan Bieri, proprietor of Teuscher Boston, which opened at 230 Newbury St. in 1996 and continued operating there until closing last summer.

The hot chocolate and its preparation are left in the hands of Victoria's husband, Andy Kaeser, who in October, visited Teuscher's Zurich headquarters, where he was personally trained in the fine points of hot chocolate by the company's owner, Dolf Teuscher

Jr.

Teuscher's best-selling and signature candy, is its Champagne Truffles - a consistently popular item with candy lovers.

"It's the key to our success, It combines celebratory, romantic, and all aspects of life," Bieri said of Teuscher's Champagne Truffles. "Women can't resist the combination of chocolate and champagne - what a package of romance."

The Golden Nugget candied chestnuts - something Victoria said she hasn't seen anywhere else in Boston.- is another product of interest.

Meanwhile, the seeds of this venture were planted about a year

ago when Kaeser, who originally hails from Bern, the capital of Switzerland, by chance wandered into Teuscher's now-shuttered retail store on Newbury Street, where he met Bieri, another native of Bern. Bieri quickly identified Kaeser's accent, and they struck up a conversation that has since blossomed into a friendship, as well as a business arrangement between the two men who have partnered to bring the Teuscher pop-up to DeLuca's on Charles Street.

The Teuscher Chocolates pop-up location is now open at DeLuca's Market at 11 Charles St. Call DeLuca's at 617-523-4343 for more information.

ANTONIO'S Cucina Italiana Party Platters

	Half Tray (4-6 people)	Full Tray (8-10 people)
House Salad	\$40.00	\$80.00
Caesar Salad	\$50.00	\$85.00
Antipasto	\$50.00	\$100.00
Eggplant Parmigiana	\$55.00	\$110.00
Ziti Saldate	\$45.00	\$80.00
Baked Ziti	\$50.00	\$90.00
Fusilli & Broccoli	\$50.00	\$90.00
Fusilli, Eggplant, Garlic & Oil	\$50.00	\$90.00
Chicken & Ziti Saldate	\$60.00	\$120.00
Chicken, Pasta & Broccoli	\$60.00	\$120.00
Chicken Marsala	\$60.00	\$120.00
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana	\$60.00	\$100.00
Sausage Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$65.00	\$130.00
Chicken Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$65.00	\$130.00
Shrimp Margarita	\$70.00	\$140.00
Swordfish, Pasta & Broccoli	\$70.00	\$140.00
Shrimp Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$70.00	\$140.00
Veal, Pasta & Broccoli	\$70.00	\$140.00
Veal Marsala	\$70.00	\$140.00
Veal Parmigiana	\$60.00	\$115.00
Chicken w/Sausage, Vinegar, Peppers and Potatoes	\$70.00	\$140.00

Meatballs \$3.50 each

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GRUBHUB

Uber Eats DOORDASH



Andy Kaeser is seen with his wife and DeLuca's Market co-owner Victoria Aiello, at Teuscher Chocolates pop-up location inside the market's Charles Street location.

CREDIT: COURTESY OF DELUCA'S MARKET



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