



DECEMBER 21, 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

## BEACON HILL WOMENS FORUM HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA  
*Friends gathering for cocktails at the Hampshire House during the Beacon Hill Women's Forum Holiday Party on December 12. Shown to the left, Betty Murray and Lorie Conway, BHWF Programs Co-Director. See more photos on Page 6 and 7.*

## Bellringers take to the streets on Christmas Eve

By Times staff

A beloved holiday tradition returns to the neighborhood on Christmas Eve, with the annual performance by the Beacon Hill Bellringers, including caroling and the pealing of historic handbells, set to kick off on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 8 p.m. on the steps of 17 Louisburg Square.

The Ringers, comprising Pamela Madigan and her daughter, Victoria Madigan; Robert Johnson; Charles Gibson; and Griff Gall, will offer an approximately hour-long concert, which will feature 'St. Paul's Steeple' – the traditional opening and closing peal inspired by the change ringers at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Other song selections will include 'Joy To the World'; 'The First Noel'; 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'; 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'; 'Angels We Have Heard on High'; 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'; 'Good

King Wenceslas'; 'Jingle Bells'; 'Away In A Manger'; 'Deck The Halls'; 'O Christmas Tree'; 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen'; 'Silent Night'; and 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas.'

For the event, which typically draws between 200 and 300 guests, the Ringers will distribute around 100 complimentary programs, as well as sleigh bells for children to accompany them on 'Jingle Bells.' All are welcome to attend, and guests are encouraged to dress warmly and bring a small flashlight to read carols.

In the past, guests have traveled from all over Massachusetts, among other locations, to attend the event, according to Pamela Madigan, coordinator of the Ringers.

"To them, this is an incredibly spiritual time," she said. "It's almost indescribable, which is why

(BEACON HILL BELLRINGERS Pg. 2)

## Upcoming lecture looks at Madeline Yale Wynne's 'Garden of Hearts' chest and the Arts and Craft Movement

By Dan Murphy

A lecture sponsored next month by the Nichols House Museum will examine Madeline Yale Wynne's recently rediscovered 'Garden of Hearts' chest in the context of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which came to prominence in Deerfield, Mass., during the early 20th century.

Daniel Sousa, the assistant curator of Historic Deerfield, will be on hand Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at Grögan & Company, located

at 20 Charles St., for a discussion on Wynne (1847-1918), who has been called the "leading intellectual light of the Deerfield Arts and Crafts Movement," as well as the 'Garden of Hearts' bride's chest she created in 1903.

Adorned with paint, decorative carving, hammered-copper panels, wrought-iron hinges, and semi-precious stones, the chest was inspired by 18th-century Connecticut Valley chests and can now be found in Historic Deerfield's collection. Its front lid depicts a landscape with

three inverted heart-shaped trees along a winding river. The chest has been called "a tour-de-force of Arts and Crafts design" that showcases Wynne's talents as a painter, metalsmith, and woodworker, and it's widely considered her greatest artistic accomplishment.

Camille Arbogast, public engagement manager for the Nichols House Museum, said the discussion will also look at how the Arts and Crafts Movement

(GARDEN OF HEARTS Pg. 3)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Holiday Decorating Thank You

Thank you to everyone who joined our annual Garlands & Greens event at Hampshire House to kick off the Holiday Season! A very special thank you to our generous sponsor,

Mr. Tom Kershaw of Hampshire House, and to all our local businesses that made this event such a success!

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Beacon Hill Chocolates  
Barnaby's  
Townhouse Beauty  
Crush Boutique  
December Thieves  
Cheers  
Fabled Antiques

(BHCA Pg. 3)





COURTESY PHOTO

The Beacon Hill Bellringers, including, left to right: Victoria Madigan, Pamela Madigan, Robert Johnson, Charles Gibson, and Griff Gall.

## BEACON HILL BELLRINGERS (from pg. 1)

the Ringers feel the importance of continuing this wonderful tradition. At least there's peace on earth and goodwill to all [at this event], and that's something we need more of in the world."

The tradition dates back 99 years to 1924, when Margaret Shurcliff, who was born in 1879 and raised at 55 Mt. Vernon St. — now the site of the Nichols House Museum — began bell-caroling with family and friends on Christmas Eve around Beacon Hill. Her inspiration and interest in bell-ringing was drawn from her father Dr. Arthur Howard Nichols, a prominent Boston physician who was

also an accomplished ringer.

Margaret and her father traveled to England in 1902, where she became the first American woman to ring a complete peal of tower bells. She was presented with an octave of Whitechapel handbells from London to take back to America. Her love and enthusiasm for handbells subsequently led to the creation of The New England Guild of English Handbell Ringers, which grew to become The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and is now known as The Handbell Musicians of America.

# Centennial Fountain on the Charles River Esplanade will return to the Dartmouth Street Lagoon in 2024

Special to the Times

To mark 30 years since the installation of the Centennial Fountain on the Charles River Esplanade, the Esplanade Association (EA) is pleased to announce that the fountain's long-dormant site within the Dartmouth Street Lagoon will be reactivated with a new programmable fountain next spring.

The prior fountain had been dedicated in 1993 with a bronze medallion on the nearby granite landing to hail the centenary of the Commonwealth's Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). Founded in 1893, MDC is the precursor to our steward of the State Park System since 2003: the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). As the Esplanade is the most frequented State Park in the Commonwealth, and as 2023 has been an exceptional year of partnership with DCR, EA is thrilled that this installation of a new commemorative focal point will reanimate the park lagoon ecologically, aesthetically, and historically, and honor the ongoing commitment of our DCR partners season after season.

EA has used visuals on the medallion and from DCR and news archives to select a fountain

that is historically accurate to the original, but with new features. Rather than continuous white lights and less efficient power, the new fountain will function with more ecologically sustainable systems and programmable LEDs. Expect more efficient water flows that enhance the lagoon's water aeration and circulation to improve river ecology, increasing beneficial oxygenation and reducing harmful algae growth. EA will also have the capacity to present community-responsive light and water displays in ranging colors as a signal for national awareness causes, local team pride, holidays, programmed events, and more.

EA's James and Audrey Foster Executive Director Jen Mergel notes: "It has been a joy to work closely with DCR to steward our historic greenspace with contemporary upgrades that keep pace with our evolving park ecosystem and community input. This lit fountain not only echoes the majesty of the original monument, but its updated features will improve both the water habitat and social atmosphere of the park. The fountain will be a beacon that reaffirms the park's purpose as a destination for connection—with nature and each other. By introducing dynamic displays, Dartmouth Street

Landing can once again be notable destination for communal gathering, celebration, and commemoration. We are extremely grateful to the Lawrence and Lilian Solomon Foundation, especially emeritus EA board member David Solomon, for leadership support of this project."

"DCR is committed to working with our partners to ensure we can fulfill our mission of protecting, promoting, and enhancing the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources for generations to come," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "The Esplanade Association has been a tremendous partner for many years, and we are excited to continue working together on the Centennial Fountain project, and future projects, that will bring new life to one of our most visited parks, the Esplanade."

### Next Steps:

EA has secured funds to purchase a seasonal Aquamaster fountain. In 2024, when risks of fresh water freezing pass, EA will coordinate with local vendor Water & Wetland and DCR for annual seasonal installation and deinstallation. Be on the lookout for a Save the Date early next year for a Spring 2024 Ribbon Cutting!

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### TOUR FESTIVE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM DURING DECEMBER

The Nichols House Museum at 55 Mt. Vernon St. is decorated for the holiday season during the month of December. Each of the museum's rooms is bedecked with trimming inspired by Nichols family traditions and the styles of the turn of the 20th century. The museum can be viewed by guided tour Thursday through Sunday at 10 and 11 a.m., and at noon.

For more information and to schedule a tour, visit <https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/visit/>.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul at 18 Phillips St. will offer "Exploring Sephardic Culture" on Wednesday, 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

(NRU Pg. 3)

### MASS. GLBTQ POLITICAL CAUCUS CO-CHAIR HONORED AT 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR BOSTON TEA PARTY

COURTESY PHOTO

Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts GLBTQ Political Caucus (formerly known as the Mass Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus), as well as a longtime Beacon Hill resident, was honored at a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Old South Meeting House. "I was deeply appreciative to receive this honor," Isaacson wrote in an email. "But it takes a village to garner legislative victories. For the LGBTQ community, the village included [thousands] of LGBTQs and many, many allies as well." Others honored by the Mayor Michelle Wu and leaders from the Massachusetts State House at that time included Rahsaan Hall, president and CEO of the Urban League of Eastern MA; and Sean Simonini, founder of MA Association of Student Representatives.



Our Offices will be closed on  
**MONDAY, DEC. 25**  
in observance of the Christmas holiday  
See you again on the 26<sup>th</sup>

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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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, 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](http://www.vilnashul.org).

For more information on The Vilna Shul, visit [www.vilnashul.org](http://www.vilnashul.org) or call 617-523-2324.

## ‘ART FOR A WOMAN’S SOUL’ COMING JAN. 11 TO WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The Friends of the West End Public Library are sponsoring a free program, “Art for a Woman’s Soul,” on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Commu-

nity Room at the Library at 151 Cambridge St.

At this time, Mikki Zeitouni will present a 10-minute meditation to release the day’s stress followed by a fun gathering for women to do art and socialize.

There is seating for 20 people and registration is required.

R.S.V.P. and sign up early by emailing Mikki at [mikkizeitouni@gmail.com](mailto:mikkizeitouni@gmail.com).

## 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.

## SECOND BACK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON FEB. 1

The Esplanade Association

will hold its second Back Street Neighborhood Project Meeting to discuss ongoing safety projects at Esplanade entrances on Back Street. The meeting will take place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

During this gathering, EA representatives will review progress made to-date, hear neighborhood feedback, and discuss proposed plans for additional safety improvements. Your presence and insights will greatly contribute to the success of the meeting, and the project.

Register for the meeting via zoom at <https://bit.ly/BackStMeeting>.

To learn more about the project, visit [esplanade.org/crosswalks](http://esplanade.org/crosswalks); and to learn about other pathway safety initiatives, visit [esplanade.org/pathways](http://esplanade.org/pathways).

## 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 info, email Audrey Tedeman ([artedeman@gmail.com](mailto:artedeman@gmail.com)) or Julia Forbes ([jmaforbes@gmail.com](mailto:jmaforbes@gmail.com)).

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

Crane River Cheese Club  
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Zena Rose  
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Covet  
75 Chestnut  
Upstairs Downstairs  
Sara Campbell  
Cobblestones  
Blackstone’s of Beacon Hill  
Flat of the Hill  
Happy Journey  
Paws on Charles  
Le Svelte Spa  
Tip Tap Room  
Tess  
Harvard Gardens  
J Grady Home

## Upcoming BHCA Meetings and Events

Zoning & Licensing Committee – Wednesday, January 3rd, 6:00pm via Zoom

Volunteer Breakfast – Sunday, January 7th, 10am, Hampshire House

BHCA Board of Directors – Monday, January 8th, 7pm via Zoom

Beacon Hill Gala 2024 – Saturday, February 3rd, 6:30pm, the Four Seasons Hotel Boston

Contact the BHCA at [info@bhcvic.org](mailto:info@bhcvic.org) for details on any of these activities or to sign up as a volunteer.

## Join the BHCA!

We invite you to join our growing membership of friends - young and old - who are contributing to make life better on the Hill. Your membership allows us to continue our efforts to preserve our unique and historic neighborhood, and your voice adds strength and credibility to our mission as advocates for Beacon Hill residents. Join or renew your membership today at [bhcvic.org](http://bhcvic.org) or by calling us at 617-227-1922!

We’d also like to thank our generous members and donors who contributed to cover the cost of this annual effort.

Please note that Mr. Tom Ker-shaw will be offering his annual BHCA Volunteer Breakfast for all holiday decorators on Sunday, January 7th, at 10am. We will not remove the wreaths until later in January however, so stay tuned for more details on that!

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

emerged in the early 20th century, with artisans, primarily women, making beautiful, handmade objects as “a reaction against the growing industrialization of society.”

Arbogast said the Nichols House Museum is particularly excited by the rediscovery of the chest and Wynne’s story because Rose Nichols was also herself a wood carver and one of her chests can be found on permanent display in the museum’s collection.

Moreover, Arbogast points out that the Arts and Crafts Movement was sweeping Deerfield at the same time as the movement was growing in popularity on Beacon Hill, with women like Rose Nichols working from their homes, while more professional artisans could be found living in the boarding houses on Pinckney Street.

“We hope this [discussion] can provide more context for Rose’s work,” said Arbogast.

Tickets for this event cost \$10 each for Nichols House Museum members; \$15 each general admission; and \$8 each for the Student/Discounted rate. For more information and to purchase tickets, <https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/events/garden-of-hearts/>.

Visit [www.nicholshousemuseum.org](http://www.nicholshousemuseum.org) for more information on the Nichols House Museum.



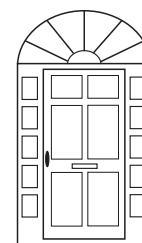
COURTESY OF HISTORIC DEERFIELD

Madeline Yale Wynne’s ‘Garden of Hearts’ chest.

**CORRECTION:** In a front-page caption for the Holiday Stroll in last week’s edition of this publication, Melanie Bertani was misidentified as the owner of The Happy Journey children’s store at 73 Charles St. Lindsay Perrelli is the proprietor of that business.

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# EDITORIAL

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the most-jaded among us.

Despite our hectic rushing to and fro, everybody, it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

## THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The stock market is booming and unemployment is near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans has increased by 12 percent in the past year.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2023 is that the promise of a booming economy still is only a dream in our country, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the pressure of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers, who have the means to do so, to take a deep breath and a brief "time-out" in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that you make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that you can make this holiday season.

## ENJOY THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND SAFELY

The upcoming long-weekend means that most of us will be partaking in traditional gatherings with our families, friends, and co-workers to share the joy of the holiday season.

Unfortunately, this also means that many among us will be overindulging in holiday "spirits."

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that where alcohol is present, it is used responsibly, not only by ourselves, but by those around us at our holiday gatherings. None of us wants to wake up the next morning with the regret, "If only I had taken their car keys."

We wish all of our readers a happy, and safe, holiday weekend.

# Opening night for Author Mark Duffield

Special to Times

On Saturday night, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the small Footlights Theater in Falmouth, Maine, the curtain was raised before a packed house for the first time on any stage, an adapted radio play of Mark Duffield's classical Beacon Hill Christmas story, "The Last Shepard and Tales of the Tenth Ornament: A Wee Yarn of Wonder at Christmastime."

"I wrote the book 15 years ago. It was self-published and has been out of print for a long time. I never had the money to reprint it. So, I am always amazed when from time to time people find this little tale of mine and want to bring it to another level. And always grateful for those who find my words worth passing along," said Mark.

To help celebrate this event, Laura and Bob Cousineau of Upstairs Downstairs Home generously chartered a bus to transport 35 Beacon Hillers and guests to this once-in-a-lifetime performance. In addition, Jennifer Gallagher of Cobblestones graciously pitched in to supply food and sustenance for all. Finally, Boston's beloved balladeer, John Everett Martin, led everybody in joyous song with the many carols of the season! It was a wonderful Christmas journey to Maine reminiscent of any holiday movie you may have enjoyed over the years.

Mark's book, along with the raising of thousands of dollars for childhood cancer at Massachusetts



Illustrator Sharon Duffield and Author Mark Duffield get ready to watch the show.

General Hospital, came at the suggestion of actor Richard Thomas of 'The Waltons' TV show fame. Mark has remained friends with Richard over the years and has attended many of his stage plays - most recently, when Richard played Atticus Finch in 'To Kill A Mockingbird' here in Boston. Richard was kind enough to offer a printed message of congratulations that was read by Producer/Director Michael Tobin in his introductory remarks.

Here it is: "Good evening, everybody. What a wonderful thing, to have the beautiful story of the Last Shepard on the stage!

"I want to congratulate Mark and Sharon on all they've done over the years to keep this story alive. It has proven itself over and over to be an inspiring addition to our Holiday literature. As Mark and Sharon know, the theater is precious to me. Its communal

nature and intimacy make it the perfect storytelling place; and I'm especially proud of my association with 'The Last Shepard' and its creators.

"So, sit back and enjoy the delight and inspiration of our newest Christmas Classic. And let us all congratulate and applaud producer/director Michael Tobin celebrating 11 years of live year-round theatre and dedicating his professional life to bringing the best stage productions seen anywhere. Congrats, Michael!

"And now, under Michael Tobin's direction, for the first time on any stage let us watch and enjoy 'The Last Shepard and Tales of the Tenth Ornament' as it comes to life on the boards! Congratulations to all and to all a Merry Christmas!"

There was a second performance of 'The Last Shepard' on Monday Dec. 11, before another packed house.



Theatergoers on the set seen left to right: Aldy Duffield, Laurie Holljes, Sebastien Duffield, Chuck Conti, Lynn Rhyon, Tracy Conti, Mark Duffield, Sharon Duffield, Ruth Vosburgh, Mark Vosburgh, Debbie Thomas, and Liz Callanan.

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# West End Museum hosts West End Heritage Honoree Night

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

The West End Museum (WEM) celebrated Richie Harnett, Cathleen Griffin, and the late Claudia and Stephen Edgell for their significant impact in the community during West End Heritage Honoree Night on December 8.

“I love Honoree Night because it’s not only about people doing things today in the West End,” said Representative Jay Livingstone. “What comes through with all of these stories is how strong a sense of community people have in the West End. The West End Museum is representative of that. They keep alive what existed before, and recognize people coming to the community to make it better.”

Displaced West End, Richie Hartnett, served as WEM’s first president. He guided the museum during its formative years, and remains active on its board.

Hartnett is “an original West End, born and raised in the Charlesbank Homes,” described Duane Lucia, WEM secretary. “When the neighborhood was demolished, and later referred to as Charles River Park, he was there, alongside a cadre of other old West

Enders, to remind the city and the world what was lost. What started as a reunion of displaced residents in the 1980s turned into a newspaper, a housing corporation, and a museum. Richie Hartnett has been there every step of the way.”

Cathleen Griffin founded West End Tree Boston, a non-profit organization that protects, plants, and maintains trees in the West End.

“It’s a wonderful community, and we’re glad to have moved to the West End,” exclaimed Griffin, who hung 100 holiday wreaths around the neighborhood with volunteers. “If you see things getting greener, it’s because everyone is doing their part.”

Claudia and Stephen Edgell documented the destruction of the West End -- before, after, and during urban renewal. The compilation of over 2,000 photographs and negatives was donated to WEM by their son, Stephen Edgell III, and is the largest collection of West End photographs in existence. Although never published, Claudia and Stephen Edgell’s book, “The Old West End of Boston” features over 300 pages of

Claudia’s text and Stephen’s photographs.

“My mother did not like the idea of bulldozing buildings and destroying communities,” recalled Stephen Edgell III, who remembered attending mayoral meetings with his mother as a child. “As a family, we took lots of photographs of the West End to preserve that era and area. The old West End may be gone, but it will live forever because of the creation of the West End Museum.”



Rep. Jay Livingstone commenting on the strong sense of community that past and present West Enders exude.



Bruce Guarino, former 32 Grove Street resident, and Bob Sullivan, museum volunteer.



Attendees gathering at the HUB50 Community Room on December 8 for the WEM Honoree Night.



John and Janey Wilson, Katie Burke, Glenn Fearnley, and Chat Kindregan.



Katherine Dander, Janey Wilson, Laura Guadagno, Tom and Cathy Griffin.

## B·H·S

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# BEACON HILL WOMENS FORUM HOLIDAY PARTY



Meghan Smith, Dov Derin, Amy Tannenbaum, Bryan Ferrigno, Jeanine Jay, BHWF Finance Director, Paola Rossetti, Richard Noel, and Richelle Gewertz, BHWF Connections Co-Director

Photos by Marianne Salza

Ladies sparkled in champagne sequin and Christmas plaid during the Beacon Hill Women's Forum (BHWF) Holiday Party on December 12 at the Hampshire House.

Friends gathered to sing "12 Day of Christmas," swinging their arms in the air and holding their hands as they spun in circles, with Hampshire House owner, Tom Kershaw, as the "partridge in a pear tree."



Spencer Macalaster, Tom Kershaw, Owner of the Hampshire House, and Lisa Macalaster, BHWF Co-President.



Maggie O'Connell and Margaret Dener.



Shannon Hanna and Karen Hensey



"Ladies dancing" during the "12 Day of Christmas."



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*We look forward to seeing you!*

58 Tremont Street in Boston



# BEACON HILL WOMENS FORUM HOLIDAY PARTY



Jackie Knapp, BHWF Vice President, and Jason Simituk.



Lisa Macalaster, BHWF Co-President, Tricia Herring, Eva Lichtenberger, Christy Milner, BHWF Membership, Anne West, Paola Rossetti, and Jill Stansky.



Courtney Colonese, Hannah Schur, and Richelle Gewertz as "three French hens" singing the "12 Day of Christmas."



Yvonne Kowalczewski, Melanie Bertani, Cynthia Kelly, Nancy Michaels, and Janet Meaney.



Shown to the left, Jackie McBride enjoying conversation at the Hampshire House

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# Beacon Hill Architectural Comm. holding public meeting tonight

Special to the Times

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold a public hearing today, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to: <https://zoom.us/j/91348462645> or calling 1 (929) 205-6099 and entering meeting id #9134 846 2645. You can also submit written comments or questions to [BeaconHillAC@boston.gov](mailto:BeaconHillAC@boston.gov).

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 616 of the Acts of 1955 of the Massachusetts General Law as amended. Applications are available for review during business hours at the office of the Environment Department. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

## I. VIOLATIONS

APP # 24.0487 BH 29 Branch Street

Applicant: Tim Burke; Timothy Burke Architecture Proposed Work: Ratification of unapproved light fixtures.

## II. DESIGN REVIEW

APP # 24.0348 BH 54 Pinckney Street

Applicant: Ian Masters; Sam Kachmar Architects Proposed Work: New roofdeck.

APP # 24.0449 BH 22 Revere Street

Applicant: Chrissy Sack Proposed Work: New door hardware, repaint front door black (in kind).

APP # 24.0485 BH 127 Mount Vernon Street

Applicant: Mike Morton; Architectural Window Proposed Work: Replace door at side elevation.

APP # 24.0494 BH 76 Revere Street

Applicant: Vanessa Pinhancos Proposed Work: Paint front door Codman Claret.

(See Additional Items Under Administrative Review)

APP # 24.0498 BH 45 Beacon Street

Applicant: Caitlin Garrison; AMS

Proposed Work: Replace wood flag pole with metal option.

APP # 24.0522 BH 7 Chestnut Street

Applicant: Mark Van Brocklin; Embarc Proposed Work: Repaint front door black (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

APP # 24.0532 BH 1 Otis Place Applicant: Patrick Guthrie; Design Associates Inc. Proposed Work: New light fixture.

APP # 24.0545 BH 11 Louisburg Square

Applicant: Jay Hebert Proposed Work: New handrails, door hardware and EV charging port.

APP # 24.0559 BH 73 Charles Street

Applicant: Emma Walsh Proposed Work: New Blade Sign

APP # 24.0430 BH 31 Chestnut Street

Applicant: Guy Grassi; Grassi Design Group Proposed Work: New intercom, new door hardware, replace existing shutters in kind (See Additional Items Under Administrative Review).

APP # 24.0544 BH 46 Beacon Street

Applicant: Guy Grassi; Grassi Designs

Proposed Work: New garage door at rear, rebuild front sidewalk.

## III. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL:

In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact on a building's appearance, to commission staff pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

- Applicants whose projects are listed under this heading need not appear at the hearing. Following the hearing, you will be issued a Determination Sheet to present at the Inspectional Services Department (1010 Massachusetts Ave-

ne) as proof of project approval when applying for permits. ISD personnel will send an electronic copy of your building-permit application to the commission staff for review. (To avoid potential confusion, the text of your building-permit application should be consistent with the project description given below.) Commission staff will accordingly authorize the execution of the work, attaching any applicable provisos, reflecting the relevant guidelines and precedents.

- please note that following issuance of the determination sheet no further correspondence will be issued for the applications listed

BELOW. The electronic building-permit application as annotated by commission staff will constitute your Certificate of Appropriateness; this will be valid for two years from the date of the approval letter. The applicant is required to notify the commission of any project changes; failure to do so may affect the status of the approval.

- If you have any questions not addressed by the above information, please contact staff at 617.635.1935 or [BeaconHillAC@boston.gov](mailto:BeaconHillAC@boston.gov) Thank you.

APP # 24.0540 BH 30 CEDAR LANE WAY: At front façade garden level, replace two non-historic wood double-hung windows in existing masonry openings; replace wood window surrounds and trim to match historic wood brick mold; restore and paint existing stone lintels as required; install new double-hung storm windows with recessed frames. At level one, front and side facades, restore three historic, wood, double-hung windows; restore and paint historic wood brickmold;

restore and paint existing wood sills as required; restore and paint existing stone lintels as required; restore painted wood shutters with new hardware; install new double-hung storm windows with recessed frame; paint entry doors and trim surround; repair and

paint existing wood fence and gate as required. At level two front and side facades: restore two historic wood double-hung windows and (1) historic wood casement window; install one new wood, 6 over 6, true divided light, double-hung window where missing in existing masonry opening; restore and paint historic wood brickmold; restore and paint existing wood sills as required; restore and paint existing stone lintels as required; restore painted wood shutters with new hardware; install new double-hung storm windows with recessed frame. At level two, front façade ell: install one new wood, 6 over 6, true divided light, double-hung window in existing opening; restore and paint wood trim as required; install new painted wood shutters with new hardware; install new double-hung storm window with recessed frame. At level three, front and side facades: restore one historic, wood, double-hung window and two historic wood casement windows; restore and paint historic wood brick mold; restore and paint existing stone lintels as required; restore painted wood shutters with new hardware; install new double-hung storm windows with recessed frame; install new painted wood shutters with new hardware.

APP # 24.0522 BH 7 Chestnut Street: Install new shutters (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 24.0430 BH 31 Chestnut Street: Install new storm windows, restore/repaint existing wood work and iron work in kind (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 24.0446 BH 32 Chestnut Street: Patch and repair trim in kind. APP # 24.0510 BH 62 Chestnut Street: Cut 3/4" joints in the mortar and repoint with Type O mortar with joint size and tooling to match existing joints

(BHAC Pg. 12)



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FRESH AND LOCAL

# Braising can save time and money

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

You might ask, “How can I save time by braising? Those recipes can take hours to cook.” A braise may take a long time to simmer away. However, it doesn’t need much attention while that’s happening. An occasional peek, turn, or stir is all that’s required. Moreover, the aroma drifting from the kitchen reminds you that something delicious is cooking and invites you to check on it.

### A Braise Can Wait

Many braised dishes are better after the flavors have had an opportunity to meld. That means you can prepare a meal for family or a gathering ahead of time and pop it in the oven to warm when needed. That also makes braises great leftovers or, in some cases, meals to freeze for later use.

If you’re entertaining, a braise makes timing easy. While a roast leg of lamb has a rosy moment when the meat is perfect, a braise can sit in a warm oven and wait until your friends and family are seated at the table. This ability to improve from reheating makes braises great dishes for potluck meals or buffets. A crockpot or warming tray can keep this dish at a safe temperature.

We often double a braising recipe to have ingredients for a different meal. We might braise a big batch of chicken thighs and freeze some meat for another day. Braised pork butt, when shredded, makes fabulous pulled pork sandwiches. Our favorite braised lamb shank recipe becomes an amazing lamb chili later in the week.

### Homey, Comfort Food

Many classic braises are comfort foods that use this long cooking process to tenderize and stretch less expensive cuts of meat. Our favorite braises include lamb shanks, short ribs, chicken thighs,

whole chicken, and beef or pork pot roasts. These simmer away in delicious stocks and share the pot with lots of vegetables to balance the meal and stretch the meat.

While earlier generations learned to braise by helping the family cook, today, we may have to do a bit of self-education. That said, braising is a very forgiving technique. You can substitute a similar ingredient or more vegetables if you don’t have everything a recipe calls for. (The exception to this rule is powerful flavors like chilis.)

If you’re watching your budget, you can reduce the ratio of meat to vegetables or serve your braise over a filling side dish like rice, polenta, beans, or legumes.

Another way a braise is excellent for your budget is that very little special equipment is needed. You need a big pot and a heat source. You can braise on the stove top, an induction burner, in the oven, crockpot, or Instant Pot. You can combine stovetop and oven as long as your pot (and its handle) can go into an oven.

### How to Braise

For a Braising 101 course, we recommend Michael Ruhlman’s book, “How to Braise: Foolproof Techniques and Recipes for the Home Cook.” Rhuman has a way of breaking down cooking concepts into step-by-step lessons with photos and a selection of recipes that invite you to follow his lead.

While we braise all year round, winter is the perfect time to braise. A bubbling pot of comfort food will add warmth and humidity

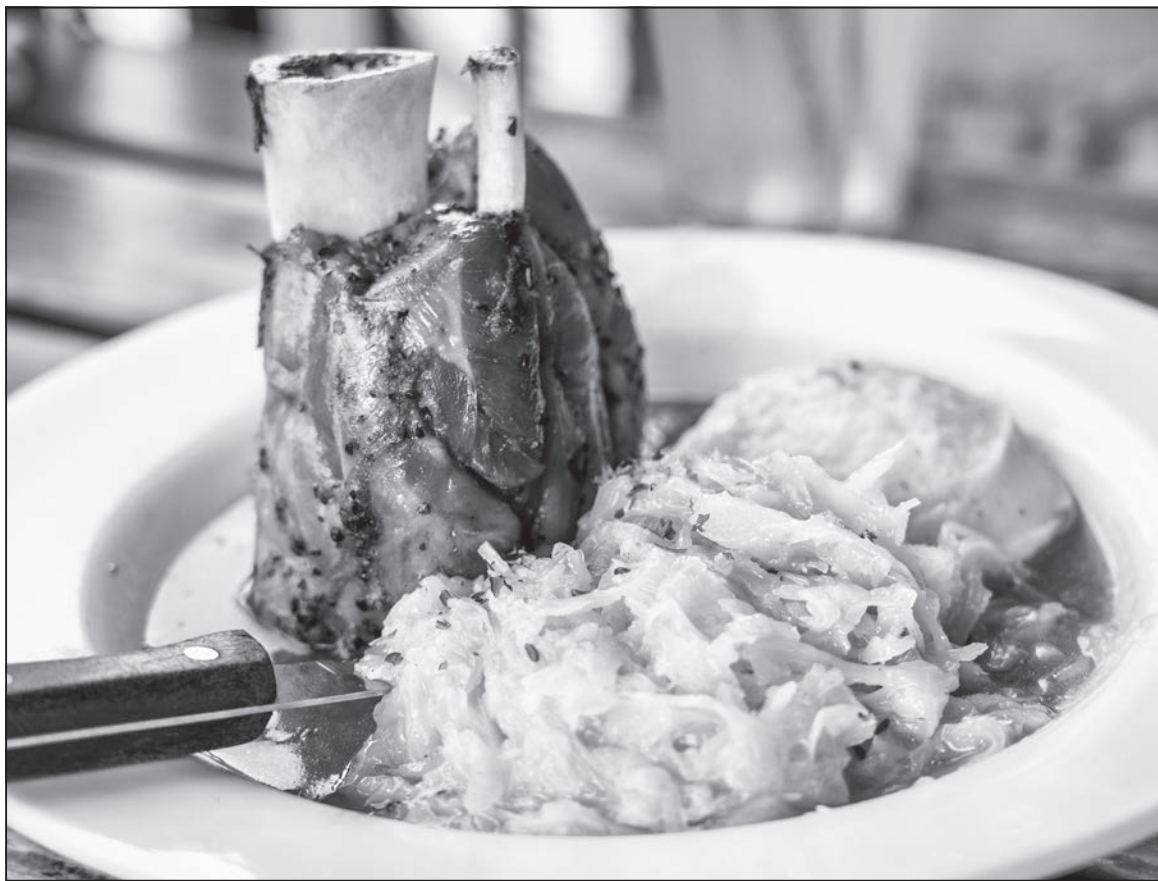


PHOTO BY YUHAN DU.

Besides braising meat, you can braise vegetables like the cabbage served alongside this braised shank.

to your home in this dry season. When the forecast indicates you might want to work from home and stay close to the hearth in

the days ahead, add something to braise to your grocery run for milk and bread.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

## BEACON HILL BEAT

### From Boston Police Area A-1

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: 617-343-4627  
DRUG UNIT: 617-343-4879 • EMERGENCIES: 911

#### Motor Vehicle Stop

12/14/2023 - Officers conducted a motor vehicle stop at Beacon and Park streets.

Police observed multiple vehicles beeping at a White Land Rover, which was obstructing traffic by sitting idle in a travel lane. During the traffic stop, the operator attempted used vulgar language towards the officer,

attempted to put the vehicle in reverse to perhaps flee, all while using their cellphone to video/take pictures. The driver was cited for Obstructing Traffic, Impeded Operation- Cell Phone, and Reckless Operation of a Vehicle.

#### Shoplifting

12/16/2023 - Officers were informed by East Coast Ivy Bou-

tique that the business had fallen prey to a larceny just a few days prior. The suspect was then scanning items, and while doing so, allegedly placed a ring on her finger, hoping that no one would realize. The attempted larceny was captured on video surveillance. Area Detectives were scheduled to further investigate the matter.

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# YOUNG FRIENDS FIFTH ANNUAL WINTER PARTY

Photos by Hurley Event Photography

Friends from Boston and beyond came out to celebrate in style at the Young Friends Fifth Annual Winter Party on Dec. 8.

Over 150 guests enjoyed drinks and light hors d'oeuvres overlooking the holiday lights on Boston

Common. All were dressed to dazzle and shared holiday cheer in celebration of the season, and to raise funds to support the Friends of the Public Garden for the care and maintenance of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.



## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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 e-mail news releases and photos to [deb@thebostonsun.com](mailto:deb@thebostonsun.com).



## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Chung Ft Agreement	Rothermere Rt	8 Arlington St #4	\$11,275,000
Shamari, Hisham A	Kirby, Ella L	165 Beacon St #4&5	\$1,850,000
Doherty, Sean M	Gonen, Shay	280 Commonwealth Ave #109	\$2,200,000
Beaudoin, Thomas	Koch, Wayne	195 Marlborough St #2	\$2,250,000
Jafry Ft	Lucas, Sky M	201 Newbury St #204	\$1,730,000
Bhb Re Ventures LLC	Wise, John	351 Commonwealth Ave #8	\$700,000
Nicholson, Katharine	Lanita C Scott RET	406 Marlborough St #4	\$1,735,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Modi, Jignesh	Lauri A Varga Irt	112 Pinckney St #41	\$675,000
Loqman, Tahsin	Rimkus, Modestas	32 Temple St #2	\$849,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Park, Young	Dolce, Jeffrey	1 Charles St S #412	\$1,850,000
2014 Cheung Ft	Kirker, Scott	110 Stuart St #22F	\$970,000
New England LLC	Ckg Columbus LLC	566 Columbus Ave #503	\$1,550,000
Mei Pointe 80 LLC	B E Bozliniski Separate R	566 Columbus Ave #612	\$955,000
Rosenberg, David H	30 Concord Mainsail LLC	30 Concord Sq #1	\$3,750,000
Paulette A Deschenes RET	Boot, Brendon	12 Durham St #1	\$1,950,000
Hrd LLC	Haydon, Charles P	14-16 E Springfield St	\$609,000
Chen, Samuel S	Dorfman, Jon D	725 Harrison Ave #E303	\$785,000
Serrao, Gregory	Bittenbinder Nt	28 Rutland Sq #1	\$2,830,000
Wallace, James C	Davidson, Rachel	474 Shawmut Ave #2	\$935,000
18 Symphony Road LLC	Williams RET	18 Symphony Rd	\$1,935,000
Solomon, Peter	Clark, Stephen	32 Traveler St #204	\$1,230,000
Choi, Catherine S	Sepia 209 Rt	32 Traveler St #209	\$1,250,000
Curtis, Mark	Wencis, Michael	40 Traveler St #601	\$1,250,000
Saris Rt	Aps Tremont Realty LLC	572 Tremont St #572	\$1,200,000
Trauger, Nicholas	Atkinson, Jodi	43 Upton St #3	\$1,055,000
Camile Hannoush Ft LLC	Deprisco, Frank E	333 Washington St #401	\$1,600,000
Camile Hannoush Ft LLC	Deprisco, Frank E	333 Washington St #439	\$1,600,000
Melissa P Mattison RET	Doe, Jacqueline M	31 Worcester Sq #1	\$2,100,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Rehm, Cynthia A	Leishman, David	343 Commercial St #104	\$1,380,000
240 Devonshire Unit 6006	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #6006	\$7,536,000
Broadly-Carp Ent LLC	Mcnamara-Watt, Mary E	65 E India Row #19G	\$940,000
Zhao, Luming	Cicma, Harry	1 Franklin St #1809	\$1,100,000

## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The line of round concrete bollards in the last clue is on the City Hall Plaza side of 15 Sudbury Street. According to the U.S. General Services Administration, this building houses the: "Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, Social Security Administration, U.S. Health and Human Services, and our U.S. Senators' offices."

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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# 'A Christmas Carol' comes to the Omni Parker House

Special to the Times

On Saturday, Dec. 9, over 150 attendees grabbed their holly, cast aside their "bahs and humbugs," and dashed over to the historic Omni Parker House for a live reading of Charles Dickens' timeless holiday classic "A Christmas Carol."

The tale about curmudgeonly old Scrooge and his encounters with the ghosts of holidays past, present, and future was presented by Crescendo Productions, and brought to life by veteran actor Johnny Kinsman, soprano Ann Moss, classical violinist

Justin Ouellet. It was directed by award-winning Bryn Boice. The performance took place in the historic Press Room and was preceded by a talk about Dickens and his connection to the iconic landmark hotel by House Historian Susan Wilson.

In the mezzanine hallway next to the Press Room stands the huge mirror Dickens used to practice his animated and very theatrical readings. The eight-foot tall "Dickens Door" displayed in the lower lobby level History Gallery stood at the entrance to the third-floor suite occupied by Dickens in 1867-

1868.

Wilson noted that Dickens' novella contributed greatly to the modern version of Christmas that Boston came to embrace — one that stressed the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind.

Following the performance, the hotel's bar, "The Last Hurrah," provided a bit of jolly holiday cheer to one and all, making this a festive way to ring in the holiday season.

Actor Johnny Kinsman is seen bringing Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to life.



CREDIT: ELIZABETH MCCONCHIE PHOTO

## BHAC (from pg. 8)

on garden level and first floor of rear elevation. Remove black stains on masonry with light restoration cleaner and wash brick at completion of work. Remove spalled cement on lintels and sills and refinish to match existing with tamscoat paint.

Scrape, prime, caulk and paint wood trim in color to match existing.

APP # 24.0450 BH 144 Chestnut Street: repair/seal windows and repaint in kind.

APP # 24.0538 BH 44 Garden Street: Repair fire escape in kind.

APP # 24.0458 BH 93 Beacon Street: Repoint chimney using historic mortar mixture and tooling.

APP # 24.0494 BH 76 Revere Street: Restore original windows at basement, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. Restoring the entryway including the front door. Adding a ring doorbell camera with a brass plate. Restoring the basement door that leads into the alleyway. Repointing the brick in the front façade in kind using historic mortar mix and tooling. Replace the 4th floor windows with historically appropriate true divided lights, all wood, 6 over 6, double hung windows. Replace all shutters in kind (See Additional Items Under Design Review).

APP # 24.0508 BH 1 SPRUCE STREET: Rebuild chimney histor-

ic mortar mix, dimensions tooling, and original brick.

APP # 24.0534 BH 11 West Cedar Street: Replace front door in kind, same color, design and door hardware. Original door was damaged beyond repair.

### IV. RATIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

### V. STAFF UPDATES

### VI. PROJECTED ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 PM DATE POSTED: 12/8/2023

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