



FEBRUARY 15, 2024

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Upstairs Downstairs was filled with friends of the boutique know for offering a wide array of unique items.

Upstairs Downstairs has much to celebrate

Special to Times

On Saturday, Feb. 10 between 4 and 6 p.m., Upstairs Downstairs Home celebrated an important anniversary - two anniversaries to be precise.

Thirteen years ago, in 2011, Laura Cousineau became the sole owner of Upstairs Downstairs. She is also now celebrating her third anniversary in her new spacious location located at 69 Charles St. During Saturday's celebratory

festivities, customers, friends, family, and neighbors were greeted at the front door with a display of magnificent celebratory balloons. Then upon entering, everyone was treated with great cheer, some bubbly sparkling water, and special hors d'oeuvres. Furthermore, with a welcoming announcement, Laura was pleased to offer to all who entered special promotions throughout the afternoon on various items beautifully displayed around the store. And to great applause, another wonderful entertaining appearance by Boston's beloved balladeer, John Everett Martin. Once again he had everybody singing and dancing. Another recent reason to celebrate was Upstairs Downstairs was featured as a must-see on the recent Boston Insider 's 2024 list as one of "Boston's Best Vintage Stores." Posted on their website were these words of praise..."Let me



Friends Amy Gamble, Lindsey Tucker, Ashley Wernher-Collins, and Katie Bloom sing along with John Everett Martin. See Pages 6-8 for more photos

(CELEBRATION Pg. 6)

Ducklings sculptor's proposed North End project would tell the story of immigration

By Dan Murphy

Nancy Schön, who brought Robert McCloskey's classic children's book, 'Make Way for Ducklings,' to life in the Public Garden with her iconic sculpture, is now hoping to tell the story of immigration with another work of public art proposed for the grounds of St. Leonard Church in the North End. The project, called 'Noble Journey Sculpture: Italy to America,' will comprise a bronze pathway imprinted with sets of footprints leading into the entrance of St. Leonard Church - the first Italian Catholic Church in New England, and which, today, is the congregation of Sacred Heart and St. Stephen Church, St. Mary Chapel,

and St. John's parochial school. Once installed, the sculpture will allow ancestors of the church's earliest members to literally 'walk' in the footsteps of their immigrant forebearers. It will symbolize the trek that Italians and other immigrants took after crossing the Atlantic between the 1850s and the 1920s, including the Italian immigrants who built St. Leonard Church in 1873. "We're all immigrants so it's not just Italians," Schön, now 95, told this reporter. "[The project] represents how we're all immigrants and how we all follow in each other's footsteps and stand on each other's shoulders, so it's a way to

(SCULPTOR Pg. 12)



COURTESY OF NANCY SCHÖN

A top view of Nancy Schön's scale-model maquette for her proposed project, 'Noble Journey Sculpture: Italy to America.'

VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

EDITORIAL

OL' MAN WINTER IS NO MATCH FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The record-high temperatures and beautiful weather this past weekend and Monday may have lulled us into thinking that the worst of winter was behind us. But Ol' Man Winter gave us a head-fake worthy of Patrick Mahomes by bringing our region the threat of a major nor'easter with high winds, significant snow, and coastal flooding on Tuesday, although the Greater Boston area escaped the worst of it.

But try as he might, Ol' Man Winter just ain't what he used to be thanks to the effects of climate change.

Eight of the 24 warmest winter days on record in Boston over the past 110 years have occurred since 2016. But it isn't just our corner of the globe that is feeling the effects of a warming planet. World-wide, December 2023 was the warmest December ever, completing a year in which the seven months from June to December all broke temperature records, making 2023 the warmest year since record-keeping began.

With ocean water temperatures now following the same trend, it is expected that a warming planet and a warming ocean will create a positive feedback loop that will accelerate both trends at a far more rapid rate than even the most-pessimistic climate change scientists had predicted.

For those among us who think that the worst effects of climate change will have to be addressed by future generations, the rapidity of the onset of climate change effectively means that there is no place on Earth that is safe for any of us.

In other words, the future is now.

PATS FANS, ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

The Super Bowl has become our biggest national holiday. There is no other event that even comes close to grabbing the attention of just about every American, even more so this year with the addition of Taylor Swift into the mix.

For the 19 years from 2001 to 2019, the Patriots made it to the big game nine times, an amazing run, especially when you consider that they made the playoffs in 17 of those years and therefore their success rate -- measured by how many times they made it to the Super Bowl -- was better than 50 percent.

We often wrote during those years that we shouldn't take the Pats' success for granted because even the greatest of dynasties eventually comes to an end. We were around when the Celtics' dynasty ended with the retirement of Bill Russell in 1969 after winning 11 championships in 13 seasons and the next season and the Celts went from top dog to a near doormat (although they soon rebounded when they drafted Dave Cowens.)

So as we were watching the Chiefs and the 49ers, and all of the hoopla surrounding the Super Bowl (which somehow gets even bigger and bigger every year), we were reminded of the Pats' glory years, when our entire region was united in the common cause of rooting on Tom Brady and the team. Our kids wore their Patriot gear to school and businesses of all kinds exhibited support for the Pats.

But those days seem like a lifetime ago. With the Pats now having been out of the Super Bowl picture for five years (and with no hope of getting there anytime soon), watching Sunday's game made us feel that we were on the outside looking in at a party to which we had not been invited.

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I DISAGREE VEHEMENTLY

To the Editor,

The paper's February 1, 2024 editorial, "Environmentalists: Putin's 'Useful Idiots,' needs a reply.

The editorial criticizes environmentalists for encouraging President Biden to instruct the Department of Energy to evaluate more closely the Global Warming impacts if permits are granted for new Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facilities along the Gulf coast. The editorial, also, takes aim at the President for 'bowing to pressure from environmental groups' and agreeing to refer the permitting process for further study.

The editorial makes three assertions: First, that Western Europe, having boycotted Russian gas after Putin's invasion of Ukraine, has had to use coal and oil-- fossil fuels with worse Green House Gas impact than LNG—to compensate for the loss of Russian gas. Second, that Biden's decision "encourages sociopathic dictators like Putin, who want to see the Western nations divided, to continue their campaign against democracies across the globe." Third, that "the action by Biden at the behest of environmentalists accomplishes nothing (and even is a negative) in our battle against climate change in both the short and long terms." I disagree with each.

Putting aside the editorial's unfortunate attempt, as captured both in the title and content, to associate disagreement around policy matters with diminished mental capacity and naivety about authoritarian leaders (Lenin, Stalin and Putin are repeatedly mentioned), I wish to examine these three assertions.

As to the first --that Western Europe has been forced to use additional coal and oil in response to the invasion: According to the Center for Clean Energy and Air (CREA), the invasion of Ukraine, 'has not increased fossil fuel consumptions in the EU.' There was a temporary and short-term spike in the use of coal and oil, but the sustained impact of the invasion on energy flow was not just to open up a new market for the replacement of Russian gas with LNG from the United States, but—more positively-- to accelerate the EU's effort to further develop alternative clean energy sources and to achieve a form of energy independence.

Has Europe's demands for new sources of gas been fully met—and without additional LNG plants being built in the US? Absolute-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ly. In fact, the demand was met rather quickly after the invasion with a combination of energy conservation measures in Western Europe, increases in clean energy alternatives, and LNG imports from several countries. According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, the European gas demand, which hit a seven year high in 2021, declined in 2022 (the year Russia invaded) and declined again in 2023. Of longer-term note, the Institute commented in its January 2024 report, that, "The U.S. continues to construct more LNG terminals; just taking into account projects that are currently being built, the country's LNG export capacity in 2030 will be 76% higher than Europe's forecasted demand for the supper-chilled fuel in that year." This projection makes one wonder about what the U.S. LNG industry could possibly be thinking!

One final comment about the editorial's first assertion which includes the suggestion that LNG produces fewer GHG emissions than oil or coal. There is research indicating that when LNG's 'life cycle' is taken into consideration the exact opposite might be the case.

How can that be? LNG is 85%-95% methane—essentially natural gas cooled to -260F to convert it to a liquid state—and less volume for shipping purposes. During the multiple steps of gas extraction, cooling, loading, shipping, unloading, distributing to households and factories through pipelines, and then being used at different locations, invariably some amount of LNG leaks into the atmosphere. And when those leaking molecules of methane rise into the atmosphere, for the first 20 years they retain 80 times more heat than an equivalent amount of CO2. In other words, as bad as burning methane is in terms of CO2 emissions, letting methane escape as unburned methane is far worse. "Newly published research," cli-

mate activist Bill McKibben has written, "demonstrate[s] that huge amounts of LNG leak out to the atmosphere during shipping, making it far, far worse for the climate even than coal." In short, the editorial's enthusiasm for LNG is misguided.

The editorial's second assertion—that Biden's decision encourages sociopathic dictators like Putin—can be quickly dispatched. The assertion defies logic and reason in light of the massive amount of evidence that Biden is doing everything he can to achieve exactly the opposite outcome-- to discourage Putin's imperial impulses and to let other sociopathic dictators know that invading another country will be strongly opposed by the U.S.

The third assertion—that Biden's decision 'accomplishes nothing in our battle against Climate Change'—also defies reason. What does, in fact, defy reason is the proposed build-out of new LNG facilities in Louisiana and Texas for the shipping of more LNG abroad. That idea is being pushed by an industry desperate to survive in a world shifting away from its product; by an industry hoping to find ways to lock in the fossil fuel addiction for generations to come; and by an industry unwilling to read the 'writing on the wall' that increasing demand for LNG is unlikely. Clean energy is the future.

What accomplishes "nothing" in terms of global GHG reductions is shipping fossil fuels to other countries to burn. This immoral strategy is reminiscent of the tobacco industry off-loading cigarettes to foreign markets when industry leaders feared that citizens in this country, once informed of the health dangers of smoking, would buy fewer cigarettes. According, to McKibben again) if the build-out of LNG facilities continues as planned, "U.S. LNG exports will eventually account for more green-

(LETTER Pg. 3)

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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City convenes first IAG meeting for proposed 11-story life science building

By Dan Murphy

The Boston Planning & Development Agency convened its first IAG (Impact Advisory Group) meeting virtually on Tuesday, Feb. 6, to discuss an 11-story life science building proposed for 222 Friend St. in the West End.

KS Partners intends to raze an existing three-story commercial building, with a 32-space surface parking lot, and replace it with a building comprising approximately 162,000 square feet of gross floor area. The new building will measure approximately 170 feet to the top of its highest occupied floor, with a setback mechanical penthouse surrounded by acoustic screening, which would occupy less than 30 percent of the roof area.

While no parking would be provided due to the site's convenient access to a variety of public-transit options, the project includes plans for 72 bike spaces, as well as for the creation of a fully enclosed loading area on the ground level. The project will also incorporate numerous public-realm enhancements, including a reduction in paved area; the widening of adjacent sidewalks; the addition of urban landscape elements; and the creation of new ground-floor retail spaces on Portland Street and at the corner of Friend Street and Valenti Way; and the elimination of approximately 109 feet of curb-cuts on Portland and Friend streets (loading off Valenti Way would be limited to one curb-cut for service).

The project site consists of a combination of a "couple of parcels" within the in Bulfinch Triangle

Neighborhood District and has three front-facing sides, off Friend Street, Valenti Way, and Portland Street, respectively, said Dartagnan Brown of Embarc Design.

Asked why the address for the project had been changed to its current from the original 141 Portland St., Johanna Schneider, an attorney for the applicant, responded the address is determined by where the building would front, and in this case, the entrance would be located on Friend Street.

Mary Lin Farrell, a first-time IAG member, said the proposed building would be far too tall for this location, especially given the allowable height of between 80 and 100 feet for the site per current zoning regulations.

Schneider acknowledged that the project would require zoning relief from the city for its proposed height. But she said the applicant believes the project is an "appropriate height" for its location, and that the added height is necessary for them to make the project financially feasible.

Moreover, the project is expected to help repopulate Downtown Boston, following the post-pandemic downturn of its office landscape, said Schneider, while the permanent life-science jobs created by the project wouldn't be remote and would therefore bring in a "couple of hundred" workers, five days a week, to help revitalize the area.

During public testimony, Louise Thomas, a longtime West End resident and community activist, expressed a strong preference for housing in the project, especially in light of the site's easy access to the



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A rendering of the 11-story life science building proposed for 222 Friend St. in the West End.

T. She said housing at this location would align with the stated intentions of both Mayor Michelle Wu and Gov. Maura Healey to create more housing accessible to public transit throughout the city and the Commonwealth.

"I would love to see housing there," said Thomas. "And I think you could get housing in that spot a lot easier than this building."

Schneider replied that the project as proposed is allowed by right, whereas a project with housing would require a zoning variance from the city. She also

said the project would intend to create "synergy" with other nearby life-science projects, including One Congress.

The BPDA will hold a virtual public meeting on the project on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Register for the meeting at <http://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2024/02/06/222-friend-street-impact-advisory-group-meeting>.) Another virtual IAG meeting is also tentatively scheduled for Feb. 26, said Stephen Harvey, BPDA project manager.

While the BPDA's public-comment period for the project is set to run through March 1, that deadline could likely be extended past that date, said Harvey.

Harvey said the project would also be reviewed by the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC), "so [the process] won't be wrapped up by March 1."

To learn more, or to submit a public comment on the project, visit the BPDA's project page for 222 Friend St. at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/222-friend-street>.

LETTER (from pg. 2)

house gas emissions than every car and home and factory in Europe." While that is unlikely to happen because Europe is not about to put up with it, is that really a goal we want our country to pursue? How can stopping us from advocating for a dystopian future not be viewed as a significant accomplishment?

There are many reasons to be hopeful about our planet's future and none of them have to do with LNG. Consider this fact: Western Europe (a focal point of the editorial's concern) has made phenomenal strides in preparing for a clean energy future built on wind and solar power, coupled with the widespread installation of heat pumps. The coldest countries in Europe, in fact, currently have the highest level of heat pump penetration in the world measured by per-

centage of households with heat pumps. As of May 2022: 60% in Norway; 43% in Sweden; 41% in Finland. (FYI: the US is around 16%)

Such advances in Western Europe, driven by clear, sensible and supportive governmental policies, are the critical steps that are moving that continent away not just from oil and coal, but also from natural gas and LNG. That should be our energy goal as well. And, in fact it is in many states, our own for sure, and increasingly at a national level under Biden's able leadership.

Meanwhile, and separately, we should keep a close eye on sociopathic dictators like Putin, or aspiring sociopathic dictators elsewhere, and work to prevent them from accomplishing their goals.

Michael McCord



Virtual Public Meeting

Public Meeting: 222 Friend Street

FEBRUARY

27

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/493JgPb

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 804 0195



Project Description:
 The Project Site is currently developed with a three-story commercial building and approximately 32-space surface parking lot. KS Partners proposes to replace the existing structure and paved parking area with an eleven-story life science building. The proposed building will be approximately 160,195 sf (gross floor area) and will measure approximately 170 feet to the top of its highest occupied floor, with a mechanical penthouse occupying less than 30% of the roof area (the "Project"). Because the Project Site has exceptional access to transit, no parking spaces will be provided within the Project; a fully enclosed loading area will be provided on the ground level of the Project.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

UPCOMING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul, located at 18 Phillips St., presents 'Dinner and a Movie: A Night Out for Young Professionals

Boston Jewish Film at The Vilna: "Moos" on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Join The Vilna for dinner and an engaging conversation after we watch 'Moos,' a Dutch romantic comedy. It's Hanukkah, and for Moos, nothing has changed: She's still living in her hometown, taking care of her elderly father. But when her childhood friend Sam unexpectedly arrives from Israel, all of Moos' decisions are called into question. Tickets are \$25 each.

Also, The Vilna presents 'A Meeting of the Minds: Jay Michaelson and Noah Feldman' on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Best-selling author Michaelson and Harvard Law professor Feldman launch Jay's newest book, 'The Secret that is not a Secret, 'with a timely conversation about finding meaning and strengthening identity. This head-to-head with two leading public intellectuals will get you thinking. Tickets are \$18 each.

On Friday, Feb. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m., The Vilna will offer 'Havurah on the Hill: Pickle Making and a Deli Dinner' - an experience for young professionals, with good food and great company on the fourth Shabbat of each month. The event includes a short and spirited service, a deli dinner, and all the fixings for DIY pickles. Tickets are \$18 each.

On Thursday, Feb. 29, from noon to 1 p.m., The Vilna will sponsor "Israel Beyond the Headlines: Medical Clowning as Trauma Therapy" - a free, virtual conversation with Rotem Goldenberg, a medical clown in the Dream Doctors Project in Israel.

Clowns of the Dream Doctors Project are dedicated to crisis intervention during times of emer-

gency. In this talk, Rotem will shed light on the unique experience of being a Medical Clown in Israel and describe the clowns' work with evacuees during the regional war in recent months.

Upcoming ongoing programming sponsored by The Vilna include 'Israel Through the Filmmaker's Lens,' with Dr. Shayna Weiss, on Wednesdays, Feb. 28 through March 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 18 Phillips St.

This course will explore questions about Israeli life and identity in a global context. Dr. Shayna Weiss will examine contemporary Israeli film and what these movies teach about Israel today, covering timely topics including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Mizrahi-Ashkenazi relations, ultra-Orthodoxy, Holocaust memory, and more.

The cost of admission is \$120 per person for all five sessions, including dinner, along with an approximately \$30 materials fee (for film viewing, paid directly to screening platforms [e.g. Netflix]).

The Vilna also presents 'Climate Change and Tikkun Olam: A Poetry Journey,' with Professor Deborah Leipziger on Wednesdays, Feb. 28 through March 13 and on April 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 18 Phillips St.

This course will look at climate change through a Jewish lens, like what does Jewish tradition teach us about how to cope and respond to this environmental and humanitarian challenge?; and how can poetry and creative endeavors help build resilience while cultivating hope, empathy, and action? Professor Leipziger is a sustainability expert who is also a poet and co-founder of the New England Jewish Poetry Festival.

The cost of admission is \$120 per person for all five sessions, including dinner.

Visit <https://vilnashul.org/events/upcoming> for more information for more information on The Vilna's upcoming programming.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WEST END MUSEUM

The West End Museum presents 'African American History in the West End: Resistance and Redlining' on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m. at The Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway St.

Join the West End Museum and the Aframerican Academy for a walking tour and lecture on African American history in the West End neighborhood. The program will move chronologically, beginning with a brief walking tour to discuss the 19th-century history of Joy Street (previously Belknap Street), where local Black Americans congregated to form the first populous West Boston (renamed from New Fields) community. Here, the community built the oldest standing Black church in the United States, founded a school, and developed a successful elite, including William Cooper Nell and Lewis Hayden. They, and many others, were instrumental in founding the Abolitionist movement. After the tour, Marlon Solomon, Founder and Senior Project Engineer of the Aframerican Academy, will delve into the poignant history of Boston's redlining and the consequential urban renewal projects.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/african-american-history-in-the-west-end-resistance-redlining-tickets> to purchase tickets and for more information.

Moreover, the museum will offer 'The West End: 400 Years of Urban Development' - a talk on the history of urban development in Boston's West End - on Thursday, Feb. 29, at 6 p.m., both in-person at the Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway St. (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building). Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-west-end-400-years-of-urban-development-in-person-tickets> to purchase

tickets for the in-person event, or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-west-end-400-years-of-urban-development-virtual-tickets> to purchase tickets for the virtual event.

BOSTON WARD 5 REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO MAKE PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT

The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee is scheduled to make its U.S. Presidential candidate endorsement during a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hilton Boston Park Plaza hotel at 50 Park Plaza.

CHILDREN'S WINTER FESTIVAL RETURNS FEB. 21

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will present the annual Children's Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit boston.gov/winterfest for more information about this family-friendly school vacation week event.

The free festival is open to all and offers music, giveaways, winter activities, treats, and crafts. Featured attractions include large inflatable installations such as the All-Star Challenge, and a Fun House Maze. Kids and their caregivers can also enjoy rides in the park on the Trackless Train, a ski lift photo booth, the alpine slide, snow throw, and much more.

The event is hosted in partnership with title sponsor Highland Street Foundation and our contributing sponsors H.P. Hood LLC, ReVision Energy, and Xfinity. ReVision Energy, a 100-percent employee-owned solar company, will provide stored solar power for the event. Enjoy delicious hot chocolate courtesy of Rosa Mexicano and fresh local milk at the New England Dairy's Mobile

Dairy Bar.

The Boston Common Parade Ground is located at the corner of Beacon and Charles streets. Call 617-635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

BPDA TO SPONSOR VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ON FEB. 27

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will sponsor a virtual public meeting to discuss an 11-story life science building proposed for 222 Friend St. in the West End on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Woburn-based KS Partners is proposing the replacement of the existing, three-story commercial building and 32-space surface parking lot with a new building comprising approximately 160,195 square feet (gross floor area) and measuring approximately 170 feet to the top of its highest occupied floor, with a mechanical penthouse occupying less than 30 percent of the roof area.

While no on-site parking will be provided due to the site's convenient access to a variety of public-transit options, the project does include plans for a fully enclosed loading area on its ground level. The project will also incorporate numerous public-realm enhancements, including the elimination of approximately 109 feet of curb-cuts on Portland and Friend streets; a reduction in paved area; the widening of adjacent sidewalks; the addition of urban landscape elements; and the creation of new ground-floor retail spaces on Portland Street and at the corner of Friend Street and Valenti Way.

Register for the Feb. 6 online meeting at <http://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2024/02/06/222-friend-street-impact-advisory-group-meeting>.

BOSTON WARD 5 DEMS COMMITTEE TO HOST CAUCUS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 2

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee will host the 2024 Boston Ward 5 Democratic Caucus to elect delegates and alternates for the 2024 Massachusetts Demo-

(ROUNDUP Pg. 11)

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Food as a love language



A person who slips out to buy a coffee and croissant and serves it to you in bed uses food as a love language. (Photo by Stephan Mahlke)

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Food is a love language for an Italian Nonna who repeats “Mangia! Mangia!” as she serves her family a multi-course meal she spent hours preparing. However, you don’t have to cook to express your love through food. The person who slips out to buy a coffee and croissant and serves it to you in bed also uses food as a love language.

Think of all the ways we connect food with love. If you read the Boston Globe feature “Getting Salty,” you notice how many people in the hospitality industry talk about their initial connections to food through someone they love. Many will also say that they enjoy making people happy through the food they offer.

Food as an expression of love is behind the tradition of serving breakfast in bed on Mother’s or Father’s Day. Inviting friends to join your holiday meal is loving. Dropping off a dish to someone going through a difficult time shows that you care about them. Adapting a menu for someone with allergies or dietary restrictions shows you want what is best for them. Even sneaking a delicious tidbit to a pet is done out of love.

Speaking of delicious tidbits, in some cultures, it’s a sign of respect

and love to offer the best of what is on the table to the family’s elders or special guests. There was a time in this country when the family would have hamburgers while the breadwinner ate a steak.

Simply eating together can be an act of love. Waiting for someone to arrive home to eat or planning family meals enhances relationships. In the hospitality industry, a “family meal” allows everyone on staff to enjoy food together. Different staff members often prepare this meal, which can be a way of sharing the food each cook loves.

Food and Romance

Think of all the ways we connect food with romance. Brides and grooms feed one another wedding cake. We give chocolate for Valentine’s Day, plan a romantic dinner for two, or tuck love notes into the lunches we prepare for family. Lady and the Tramp sharing a strand of spaghetti became a cultural image of romance for Disney fans.

Finally, think of the foods con-

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sidered aphrodisiacs by various cultures. The very word comes from Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. These range from the horny goat weed used in Chinese folk medicine to oysters, figs, and chocolate in Western culture.

Cooks Share Love in Many Ways

Sharing recipes is another way of showing love. However, a good cook may tell you the ingredients and instructions when you ask for a recipe. If your version doesn’t measure up, it might be because they add a dash of love in the small steps they take from shopping to serving that make a difference.

Despite being urged by her family, many an Italian Nonna never actually sits down to eat herself. After all, she had spent hours shopping, cooking, tasting, and

refining the food you are eating before her family sat at the table.

As a recipient, how can you return the love the cook put into a meal? It can be by helping with the cleanup if your chef is comfortable with this. You can buy a favorite treat for the cook and serve it with

a beverage after the meal. Or, give the cook a day off from cooking by taking a turn to provide a meal, whether homemade or takeout.

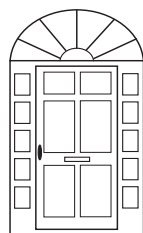
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CELEBRATION (from pg. 1)

start by saying, Upstairs Downstairs Home is a hidden gem among Boston's vintage store scene. From the moment I stepped foot into the store, I was captivated by its unique blend of new and old items. The staff at Upstairs Downstairs Home were incredibly knowledgeable and friendly, eager to share their wealth of expertise on vintage and antique pieces. They were happy to answer all my questions, making my shopping experience both enjoyable and educational. The store itself had a sophisticated and elegant ambiance, exuding a sense of timeless style. The carefully curated selection of vintage furniture, home decor, and accessories made it clear that this was no ordinary shop. Each item had a story to tell, transporting me back to a bygone era. Another standout feature of Upstairs Downstairs Home is their convenient shipping and delivery services, making it easier than ever to bring a piece of history into your own home. If you're a lover of vintage treasures or simply looking to add a touch of nostalgia to your space, Upstairs Downstairs Home is a must-see in Boston. Trust me, you won't want to miss out on this delightful blend of old-world charm and modern sophistication."

Owner Laura Cousineau said, "What a wonderful day to celebrate with so many friends and neighbors both old and new. I was truly touched with this wonderful show of support from those we value and love so much. The recognition from The Boston Insider was icing on this anniversary cake.

Their words of praise and recognition is what we and our staff endeavor to live up to every day like the very people and wonderful customers who joined us today. Cousineau also extended her gratitude to Jennifer Gallagher of Cobblestones on Charles Street for providing hors d'oeuvres for the occasion as the event caterer.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Upstairs Downstairs legend Joan O'Brien with Joanne Wuschke.



Kim Woolman and Terry Crowley.



Mohammad and Rossana Ali.



Alex Pentecost and Rachel Rieger.



Sammie Smith and Esther Duncan look forward to joining in the party.



Payel M. and Jeff W.



Beacon Hill vocalist John Everett Martin sings relaxing songs that reflect the welcoming atmosphere of Upstairs Downstairs, with a little romance mixed in too.



Owner of Upstairs Downstairs Laura Cousineau (center) with her husband Bob and son Quinn. See pages 7 and 8 for more photos.



The Upstairs Downstairs crew, pictured left to right, including Kaitlyn Laurido, Reggie Onorati, Laura Cousineau, Bob Cousineau, Joan O'Brien, Mark Duffield, and Reign Fernandez.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS CELEBRATES ITS 13TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Upstairs Downstairs staff member Reign Fernandes offers visitors macarons.



Owner of Upstairs Downstairs Laura Cousineau with Jennifer Gallagher, owner of Cobblestones who provided the Habari food for the anniversary party.



Eva Vredenburg and Beck Inglese make a toast to the success of Upstairs Downstairs.



Brian Callahan and Amy Allen.



Jen and Jeff Palumbo.



Mark and Daniela Benitez.



Morgan, Gillian, and Riley Chugg are sisters getting together to celebrate a Beacon Hill institution.



Peyton Zaletsky and Faith Wladyka get into the spirit of the party.



Elizabeth Rufo and Eric Brown.



Mark Duffield and Jennifer Gallagher, owner of Cobblestones.



Upstairs Downstairs was filled with friends of the boutique know for offering a wide array of unique items.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS CELEBRATES ITS 13TH ANNIVERSARY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



George and Sandra Gilpatrick with Susan Gilmore.



Grant and Victoria Haas.



Louis Nicoletti and Elena Olson.



Kelly Mahoney and Michelle Nolan.



Meredith and Chris Minos are seen with baby Genevieve.



Lindsey Dowd, Ada Anderson, and Hannah Romain.

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Alyssa Johnson, Devin Lucas, Eva Vredenburg, and Beck Inglese with silver fish with Mark Duffield (center) hold metallic cod fish.

Wu announces free tax-prep services available to residents

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the Boston Tax Help Coalition's (BTHC) twenty-second year of providing free tax preparation services. Area residents earning \$70,000 or less annually can file safely while maximizing their refunds and credits at over 30 neighborhood tax sites. Tax preparation is available remotely and in-person in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese. The schedule can be found at boston.gov/tax-help.

"Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax preparation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These free, multilingual tax assistance services are available at over thirty neighborhood locations and serve as a critical resource that supports thousands of Boston residents every year in maximizing their refunds safely. I encourage every qualified Boston resident to take advantage of this valuable program."

Led by the Center for Working Families, the Boston Tax Help Coalition is a partnership of non-profits, businesses, and community organizations that has been promoting the economic independence of working individuals and families since 2001. The BTHC's free tax preparation service gives Boston's low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents a financial boost by eliminating tax preparation fees and allowing them to keep more of their earned income. The Coalition's IRS-certified tax preparers also assess filers' eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit for low- and middle-income workers, and the Child Tax Credit. In 2023, BTHC prepared tax returns for nearly 11,000 taxpayers, generating \$17.2 million in tax refunds, including \$6.3 million in EITC, and saving families approximately \$2.7 million in predatory, for-profit, tax preparation fees.

"Our special thanks to the hundreds of Coalition volunteers who generously give their time

and talent from January through April, including an entire week-end of training prior to serving our residents," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. "These volunteers learn to prepare taxes, do intake, and/or provide credit building, while making a difference in our community. We value their contribution to this important work."

"As a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, ABCD is always pleased and excited to launch a new tax season with the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu and so many other community partners," said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. "Free tax preparation is vital to underserved communities who can benefit from this service, and is a program that returns millions back into the community. Most people will receive a refund, which is essential during these times when prices for basics like food and housing are soaring. It also provides an opportunity to save for emergencies or longer term goals."

A key priority of the BTHC is integrating free tax preparation with the needs of the disability community. The BTHC partners with DEAF, Inc. to provide the service to hearing-impaired taxpayers at its Allston headquarters. Additionally, the Coalition is in its second year of its Visually Impaired People (VIP) pilot, providing tax services and necessary accommodations to visually impaired area residents. The VIP program will be available on Wednesdays, February 7 through April 10, 2024 at the Center for Working Families in Nubian Square. More information can be found at boston.gov/vip-pilot. Site coordinators receive training to serve disabled taxpayers at all locations.

"I applaud the City's commitment to providing fully inclusive and accessible tax preparation services to residents who are legally blind," said Massachusetts Commissioner John Olivera. "I encourage eligible residents to take advantage of this program and make tax season

less stressful."

In addition to helping LMI taxpayers maximize their refunds, the Boston Tax Help Coalition connects residents to free financial services to improve their economic wellbeing. For example, at eight locations individuals can receive a Financial Check-Up (FCU), a light-touch credit advising session where a trained Financial Guide assists individual taxpayers in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of their credit report and FICO score, a personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. Boston Builds Credit, the City's credit building initiative, will follow up in six months with an updated credit report to measure improvement. In 2023, the BTHC provided credit advising and financial education to 1,300+ tax clients, up from 486 in 2022. More information on the Boston Tax Help Coalition's free tax services, including locations, can be found at boston.gov/tax-help.

Coalition builds momentum for Ranked Choice voting in Boston

The coalition group Ranked Choice Boston (RCB) announced the addition of a new partner to its campaign, as it continues to build momentum to promote rank choice voting in the City of Boston. RCB, along with the voting rights group MassVOTE, last night held a gathering with its new group partner Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), a Latinx-led organization that advocates for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all of East Boston.

RCB has witnessed an increase of support from allied groups around the City with currently over thirty coalition members since its launching on August 2023, marking a significant step toward its collective mission to create a more just and inclusive democracy.

"Our most active members and volunteers have expressed that with the implementation of Rank Choice Voting, we strongly feel we have the opportunity to have authentic representation in Boston" said Enilda Lovo, Lead Coordinator of NUBE. "We are extremely excited at the possibility of enacting in the near future this fairer system of voting in Boston"

Among those who participated at the event include Boston At-Large City Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, City Councilor Enrique Pepén, and

RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall, who is President and CEO, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, as well as Latinx leaders from the East Boston community.

"We are proud to join fellow democracy advocates and justice seekers in this growing coalition to advance ranked choice voting. Our collective efforts will seek to mobilize Bostonians of every neighborhood to have a strong presence in their communities and at the ballot box," said RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall.

RCB's mission is to empower individuals and foster civic participation, ensuring that every voice is not only heard but also honored. To that end, RCB has called on the support of key voices in the voting rights and community empowerment space to help lead this effort with campaign Coalition Co-Chairs Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE; Tanisha Sullivan, Voting Rights advocate and President of the Boston NAACP; and Rahsaan Hall, President, CEO of Urban League of Eastern MA.

"Boston is excited for ranked choice voting. 62% of Boston voters supported Ranked Choice in 2020, and our coalition of supporters keeps growing. RCV is easy, equitable, and will give voice to all voters," said RCB Director Ed Shoemaker.

In addition to NUBE and Mass-

VOTE, the coalition includes the New England United 4 Justice; Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; Union Capital Boston; Right to the City Boston; Represent Women; Represent Us; Dunk the Vote; NAACP Boston; Boston Teachers Union; MPDC (Madison Park Development Corporation); Fairvote Action; South End-Roxbury community partnership; The RoxVote Coalition; Progressive WRox/Roz; JP Progressives; Veterans for All Voters; Brazilian Worker Center Inc.; Ward 15 Democratic Committee; Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee; BLOC (Black Local Organizing Committee); Mass Dems Ward 11 Boston; Common Cause Massachusetts; MAHA (Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance); Our Revolution Massachusetts; ML (MassLandlords, Inc.); Not On My Watch Mentoring Inc.; Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute; Boston Ward 19; IRIE Jamaican Style Restaurant; YDMA (Young Democrats of Massachusetts).

RCB's goal is to enact a Home Rule Petition for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston's Municipal Elections, and will seek the backing of the Boston City Councilors to vote to submit the petition to the state legislature. This will need to pass the City Council with a minimum of 7 votes and have the support of the Mayor. Once that passes, it needs to be approved by

the state legislature and then will likely require a referendum vote by Boston voters. This system of voting upgrades both preliminary and general elections to use ranked choice voting, for council district seats, council at large seats, and mayor, and will affect Boston's elections for Mayor and City Council, both the preliminary and the general election.

What's more, instead of being restricted to picking just one candidate, Ranked Choice Voting gives you the power to rank candidates in the order that you like them. With Ranked Choice Voting, your top choice is never harmed by ranking additional "backup" choices. And if your favorite candidate lacks the support to win, your ballot automatically counts for your next choice.

Boston has made incredible progress over this decade with diverse candidates competing for and winning office. In the 2021 mayoral preliminary election, an astounding 95% of Boston voters cast their vote for a woman of color. Ranked Choice Voting will protect and extend these gains. By allowing voters to express their wishes more fully with ranked ballots, Ranked Choice Voting is able to ensure that candidates with the greatest overall support of the broadest majority of voters win each election. In US cities in the past two decades, studies have shown that Ranked Choice Voting breaks down barriers to people of color and women, allowing them to run for office and win like never before.

BEACON HILL BEAT

From Boston Police Area A-1

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

Vandalism

02/09/24 - Officers responded to a report of vandalism at a coffee shop on Charles Street. The employee told the officer that between the hours of their closure and opening the next day, a window had been shattered. It did not appear that the window was breached, nor was there any sign that anyone had entered the coffee shop. Area detectives were scheduled to further investigate the matter.

Old North Church and historic site opens its doors during February School vacation

Known for “one if by land, and two if by sea,” and the midnight ride of Paul Revere, the legacy of Boston’s oldest surviving church as a symbol of American independence and active citizenship is discussed in history and civics classrooms nationwide. During February School Vacation, Old North Church and historic site will open its doors to visitors who will get an in-depth look into our nation’s founding while also discovering the origins of Old North Church and its role in shaping America’s past and present.

Located in the heart of Boston’s North End neighborhood, visitors can follow the famous Freedom Trail to the national landmark, which was designated a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience in 2023. With a new exhibit, group and self-guided tours, and

retail experience featuring American-made products from BIPOC- and women-owned businesses, the Old North campus offers something for everyone.

The historic site, which is typically closed to the public during the winter season, will be open Feb. 17 through Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (12:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday). General admission tickets, which are offered at \$5 per person, include a self-guided tour of the church’s sanctuary, a new exhibit, and the chance to ask questions to knowledgeable Educators. A special \$10 bundle includes general admission, a self-guided tour of the historic crypt where 1,100 bodies are buried, and an immersive audio guide. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit: www.oldnorth.com.



The Old North Church.

Wu announces largest-ever award to support nonprofit organizations

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the City of Boston has received more than \$47 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support nonprofit organizations providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This award represents the City’s largest ever Continuum of Care award. The funds will be distributed among 18 nonprofit organizations that provide critical services and support to Boston’s unhoused residents and advance Mayor Wu’s goals to end homelessness in the City.

The funding is made available through the HUD’s annual Continuum of Care awards, a grant program coordinated by the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH). Over the last nine years, MOH has grown the funding the City receives from this grant by more than 111 percent, from \$22.6 million in 2015 to \$47.7 million this year, as a result of their competitive application and demonstrated ability to deliver results in collaboration with partner agencies.

“Boston residents and families in every neighborhood deserve the opportunity to reside in secure, stable, and affordable housing,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “In our ongoing commitment to make Boston a city where everyone has a home, the Continuum of Care grants from HUD play a vital role in assisting organizations dedicated to providing essential services and support for our unhoused

residents. I extend my gratitude to HUD Secretary Fudge and the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation for securing the City of Boston’s largest Continuum of Care award to date and for their unwavering support as we collaboratively strive to eradicate homelessness in our city.”

The City will allocate this federal HUD funding to organizations that offer a range of services and supports including housing search, the creation of housing for people experiencing long-term homelessness, rapid re-housing funds, and stabilization services to allow newly housed families and long-term-homeless individuals to receive the support they need to succeed. In total, this \$47 million award will continue to provide crucial support for nearly 1,900 homeless and formerly homeless households, offering tailored services to help them obtain and maintain permanent housing.

“Boston has a successful network of experienced non-profit organizations committed to serving our homeless,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “This funding award allows us to continue the important work of moving our homeless residents from shelters and the street into housing that they can afford with the services they need to be successful. Given the high cost of housing in Boston and the region, this funding award, the largest in our Continuum’s history, is more important than ever.”

Four new programs sponsored by three providers received funding through this year’s award.

Hildebrand Family Self-Help, Inc. will receive funding to create a permanent supportive housing program with wrap-around services for Boston families experiencing long-term homelessness. Justice 4 Housing will create a new program to swiftly serve survivors of domestic violence with safe housing and case management. Victory Programs will fund two new projects that will serve survivors of gender-based violence and LGBTQ+ youth, ages 18 - 24.

“This funding will provide more than \$47 million to homeless service providers throughout Boston who provide crucial resources in the fight to prevent and end homelessness,” said HUD New England Regional Administrator Juana Matias. “We will continue to work together with our Continuum of Care partners to find solutions that ensure every Bostonian has a safe place to call home.”

“I am thrilled Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center is a new awardee in the Boston Continuum of Care,” said Shiela Y. Moore, CEO, Hildebrand Family Self-Help, Inc. “The Supportive Housing Team of the Mayor’s Office of Housing have been great partners, and we look forward to deepening our work together in reducing family homelessness. Given that Hildebrand is on the frontlines of providing emergency shelter, this funding allows us to add 12 permanent supportive housing units for children and families currently unhoused.”

“We are incredibly grateful for this new Continuum of Care

funding, which will allow Victory Programs to expand our commitment to addressing critical needs to include survivors of gender-based violence and LGBTQ+ youth,” said Sarah Porter, Executive Director of Victory Programs. “We appreciate the strong efforts

of Boston’s supportive housing team; a phenomenal partner. Together, we are opening doors to healing and empowerment for 48 extremely vulnerable households, and I am profoundly thankful for the collaborative spirit that drives us forward.”

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

Docket No.
SU24PO205EA
Estate of:
Florence L.
Clarke

Also known as:
Florence Clarke
Date of Death:
12/05/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate
of Will with Appointment of
Personal Representative has
been filed by Richard J. O’Neil
of Everett, MA requesting

that the Court enter a formal
Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested
in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:
Richard J. O’Neil of Everett,
MA be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said
estate to serve Without Surety
on the bond in unsupervised
administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from
the Petitioner or at the Court.
You have a right to object
to this proceeding. To do so,
you or your attorney must
file a written appearance and
objection at this Court before:
10:00 a.m. on the return day
of 03/12/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date,
but a deadline by which you
must file a written appear-
ance and objection if you
object to this proceeding. If
you fail to file a timely writ-
ten appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of

objections within thirty days
(30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without
further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-
TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-
SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC in
an unsupervised ad ministra-
tion is not required to file an
inventory or annual accounts
with the Court. Persons inter-
ested in the estate are enti-
tled to notice regarding the
administration directly from
the Personal Representative
and may petition the Court
in any matter relating to the
estate, including the distribu-
tion of assets and expenses of
administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 30, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

2/15/24
BH

WVISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

ROUNDUP (from pg. 4)

cratic Convention on Saturday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., in Copley Square. Participants may sign in beginning at 9 a.m.

This event is open to the public. However, only those persons who reside in Ward 5 and have previously registered to vote as Democrats, or are 16 years of age by Thursday Feb. 15, and have pre-registered to vote as Democrats, will be eligible to vote and be elected as delegates, or alternates, during the Caucus.

Ward 5 includes Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, the Fenway, and parts of Chinatown and the South End. For more information, and to check your voter registration status (and whether

you live in Ward 5), go to www.bostonward5dems.org.

CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP SET TO RETURN APRIL 19-20

Join the Esplanade Association for the 25th annual Charles River Cleanup - one of the largest Earth Day cleanups in the nation - on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20.

Registration is now open for individual and corporate/large groups; sign up for one or both days online at <https://esplanade.org/cleanup/>.

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).

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The shield in the last clue is on 20 Beacon Street. Today's answer is a photo from the 1880s. Keith N. Morgan, writing for the Society of Architectural Historians, noted, "Boston University erected the Claflin Building on the site of an old house used by the College of Liberal Arts."

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY Nedeay, Emma	Mccarrick, Nancy	3 Gloucester St #6	\$499,000
BEACON HILL Borisenko, Alena	Jdmd Owner LLC	45 Temple St #501	\$4,375,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE Riley, Gregory 110 Stuart St Ph4 Nt	Louise Laliberte Ft Kevin Bright T	44 Montgomery St 110 Stuart St #PH4	\$2,047,000 \$4,000,000
C W Jr & J M Donahue Lt	Slutsky, Adam	83 Warren Ave	\$3,965,000
Dershem, Brad	Shutran, Max	35 Fay St #208	\$805,000
Alberti, Julia	Roberts, Christopher D	534 Massachusetts Ave #3	\$1,050,000
Ashouri Ft	Wang Ft	50 Saint Stephen St #1	\$1,287,490

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THIS WEEK'S CLUE



OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

SCULPTOR (from pg. 1)

have a continuum from one generation to another. It's them being able to walk in their ancestors' footprints so that's what it's all about."

In researching the project, Schön spoke with cobblers to find out how their business had changed over the past 150 years. What she learned, she said, is that "footprints are basically the same and have been for shoemakers" throughout the entire time, with the exception of the growing prevalence of women in high heels over the years.

The sculpture's pathway will be flanked on both sides by black, metal railings, topped with brass lanterns, while two white life-preservers emblazoned with 'USS North End' in black lettering would be affixed to both railings.

The 'Noble Journey' project was initiated by Schön, together with Fr. Michael Della Penna of St. Leonard Church, and Dr. Michael Annuziata of the Friends of the North End, an unincorporated group of around 300 current and one-time neighborhood residents. Following Dr. Annuziata's unexpected death on Feb. 28 of last year, a project team was initiated by Schön; Fr. Della Penna; and Dr. Anthony Cortese, project coordinator for the nonprofit North End Historical Society, to shepherd the process forward.

"When Mike Annuziata told me about this project, I knew had to find a way to represent a universal idea of people seeking a new and better life for their families and future generations," said Schön in a statement on the project. "We represent the confluence of our cultural beliefs and our religious ethics through the footsteps of our ancestors leading directly

to the church they built. We hope it gives continuity for generations to come as it symbolizes the path Italian immigrants walked as they crossed the Atlantic to the U.S."

In the project's nascent stages, Fr. Della Penna said Dr. Annuziata contacted him and broached the idea of creating something that would be "a positive affirmation of faith of the people who came over from Italy, especially in the early part of the [20th] century" and as a memorial to them.

"He approached me with his idea for [creating] a memorial for Italian immigrants so that we could celebrate and honor their journey, their coming over, especially given that St. Leonard was the first church built by Italian immigrants in New England," added Fr. Della Penna.

Before Dr. Annuziata ultimately reached out to Schön to try to enlist her for the project, Fr. Della Penna and Dr. Annuziata met several times and exchanged ideas on the shape that it might take.

"I thought the project was ripe, considering at the time, we were having difficulties in Christopher Columbus Park," said Fr. Della Penna in reference to the aftermath of an incident in June of 2020 when the statue of Columbus, installed inside the waterfront park in 1979, was beheaded in an apparent act of vandalism. "I was hoping to find a place [for the proposed project] that would be secure to perpetuate the legacy of the Italian heritage that we celebrate and felt that this could galvanize the neighborhood and be a means to bring people together."

Of the project, Fr. Della Penna said, "For me, this is not only a cultural and historical work of art that tells the story of the mil-

lions of people who immigrated to the United States, but it is also a beautiful means of affirming their faith, which was the most valuable asset that they declared at the border. It was their faith that they carried to the country, and which carried them.

"In this way, it is a testament to the power of faith inherent in all religions, which empowers us to navigate difficulties by strengthening our relationship with God. This is truly a Noble Journey. Ultimately, it is more than a historic monument, but one which I hope inspires all people to develop and deepen their relationship with God, so that their future will be fruitful and grounded in the truth," added Fr. Della Penna.

When Fr. Della Penna and Dr. Cortese first visited Schön's West Newton home studio in the spring of 2023, Fr. Della Penna said she showed them a scale-model maquette she had created for the project, which illustrated "her innovative way in which the people and tourists who were visiting could walk in the actual footsteps of our ancestors and the immigrants who came over."

Fr. Della Penna added, "I could see that this was something that was a common thread in her other work, mainly this invitational, engaging means of making a work of art dynamic and educational but most importantly, experiential."

Dr. Cortese, a former North Ender with long-standing family connections to St. Leonard Church, was initially recruited for the project by Dr. Annuziata and Victor Passacantilli, the other leader of the Friends of the North End. When a nonprofit sponsor needed to be identified for the project for fundraising purposes, Dr. Cortese



COURTESY OF NANCY SCHÖN

A side view of Nancy Schön's maquette for her 'Noble Journey' sculpture proposed for the grounds of St. Leonard Church in the North End.

reached out to Tom Damigella, president of North End Historical Society, about his group about taking the project under its auspices.

Damigella readily agreed, and NEHS is now the 501(c)(3) coordinator, a partner, and the fundraising leader for 'The Noble Journey,' which in turn takes its name from a year-long project that Damigella's daughter, Jackie, completed years ago in high school about the immigration and life of her Gaetan and Sicilian grandparents.

For his part, Damigella reached out to Elio LoRusso of Somerville Ornamental Iron Work. LoRusso, who was baptized at St. Leonard Church (and whose parents were married there as well), in turn offered his services for the project pro bono.

"It's a wonderful, feel-good story about how people feel about this community and how it means so much to them, like it does to

Tom and me," said Dr. Cortese of the project, which will be a gift to St. Leonard Church from the NEHS, the Friends of the North End fraternal social organization, current and former North End residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations, among other donors.

Now targeted for installation next summer, the 'Noble Journey' sculpture now has a projected cost of \$120,000; and since the fundraising campaign kicked off in the middle of last summer, it has to date raised over \$50,000 from around 145 organizations and individuals, with commitments for an additional \$10,000 in donations, towards that goal.

Visit <https://www.northendboston.org/noble-journey-sculpture> to support 'Noble Journey Sculpture: Italy to America,' and to learn more about the project.



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with a day membership.

**BOSTON
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BostonAthenaeum.org/visit

Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

For more information and answers to any of your cancer questions, contact us any time, day or night.

www.cancer.org
1.800.ACS.2345

