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NOVEMBER 21, 2024

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S

The next issue of
 The Beacon Hill Times
 will be published
TUESDAY, NOV. 26
 in light of the Thanksgiving
 holiday on Thursday

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Enjoying last Wednesday's Garlands & Greens are, left-right, Nancie Chamberlain, Lindy Roethlisberger, Tom Kershaw, and Miceal Chamberlain. See more photos on Pages 5-8.

CELEBRATING THE 29TH GARLANDS & GREENS AT THE HAMPSHIRE HOUSE

Thank you to Mr. Tom Kershaw and the staff of the Hampshire House for making the 29th Garlands & Greens a night to remember. Mr. Kershaw kindly donates all income from the event to the BHCA to help fund the decoration of the neighborhood gas lamps. We are very grateful for his support in continuing this much-loved neighborhood tra-

dition and thank you to all who attended!

Upcoming Events

Holiday Decorating - December 4th (Charles Street) and December 7th & 8th (rest of the hill). Call the BHCA at 617-227-1922 or write to info@bhcivic.org to volunteer!

BHBA Holiday Stroll - Thurs-

day, December 5th

Holiday Concert - Wednesday, December 11th, Harvard Musical Association (tickets on sale at bhcivic.org!)

For further information on any of these events, please contact the BHCA office at 617-227-1922.

(BHCA Pg. 3)

Katherine Snider appointed CEO of Hill House

Special to the Times

Hill House, a community center offering enrichment programs, summer camp, events, and outreach to children and their families living in downtown Boston neighborhoods, has named Katherine Snider as Chief Executive Officer. She brings more than 25 years of experience in leading nonprofits through periods of growth, with deep experience in communications and fundraising, and a commitment to serving children and

families of all backgrounds.

Over the past 16 years, Snider has served in leadership roles at the Good+Foundation, as Deputy Director, Executive Director, and, since 2021, as CEO. Under her leadership, she has taken the organization to scale nationally and refined its model to address systemic barriers to mobility for families living on low incomes. During her tenure, she grew the organization's revenue by 617%, developed a partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute on a Toolkit

to help reform Child Support systems, and launched an innovative microgrants program to provide over \$1.1 million in cash transfers to parents struggling to pay for rent, groceries, and medical costs.

"We are thrilled to have Katherine's expertise and leadership at Hill House to guide the organization on its continued journey to serve our community," says Whitney Dayton Brunet, Co-President of the Board of Directors. "Kath-

(SNIDER Pg. 10)

Harry Potter-themed Halloween celebration on Primus Ave carries on in memory of event organizer

By Dan Murphy

While Primus Avenue was transformed into Diagon Alley from the Harry Potter series again this Halloween for the third consecutive year, Brian Sullivan was notably absent, but his memory still enveloped the event he helped create.

Sullivan, who died on July 2 at age 45, and his wife, Kiera Fredericksen, were among 12 residents from Primus Ave who three years

ago, first reimagined the cobblestone alleyway as the 'wizarding' alley and marketplace in London as described by British author J. K. Rowling, in her seven Harry Potter fantasy novels to date. Residents had previously noted the similarities between Primus Ave and the fictional Diagon Alley, but the two places didn't officially overlap until Oct. 31, 2022.

For that Halloween (and both

(SULLIVAN Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF KIERA FREDERICKSEN

Brian Sullivan and Kiera Fredericksen are seen on Diagon Alley on Oct. 31, 2022, during the first annual Halloween celebration on Primus Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

BRIANA CASH IN CONCERT ON NOV. 21 AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

Singer/songwriter Briana Cash perform her original songs and tell the stories behind them on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6 and 7 p.m. at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library at 151 Cambridge St.

Cash's eclectic style covers jazz, pop/adult contemporary and americana, and more, and her music has been licensed for TV and film. She has also been considered in eight Grammy Award categories.

For more information: email Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org or call 617-523-3957.

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM TO OFFER HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mount Vernon St., ushers in the holidays with Ring in the Season on Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join Griff Gall and members of the Back Bay Ringers to experience the magic of handbell ringing at this free, family-friendly event.

The museum will also be featured on the Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour, which takes place on

Dec. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are available now at nicholshousemuseum.org.

On Dec. 12 and 19 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., the museum will offer Candlelight Tours, with each room bedecked with trimming inspired by Nichols family traditions and turn-of-the-20th-century styles. Seasonal stories and a few special items will be on display, including historic clothing from the collection of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m., the annual Louisburg Square Christmas Eve Bellringing event will begin with a procession from the museum as a nod to Margaret (Nichols) Shurcliff's tradition of caroling throughout the Hill. All are welcome to gather at 55 Mt. Vernon at 7:30 p.m. to begin the procession to Louisburg Square, accompanied by the peeling of handbells, stopping to sing carols on the way. The bellringing program will then continue at 8 p.m. at 12 Louisburg Square.

Meanwhile, the museum will be decorated with seasonal trimmings from Thanksgiving through New Year's. In December, tours are offered Thursday through Saturday, at 10 and 11 a.m., and noon, and on Sunday at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m.

Visit www.nicholshousemuseum.org for further information.

WEM TO HOLD UPCOMING EVENTS

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7 (on Lomasney Way), will offer a screening of 'For the Love of Spock (2016)' - a documentary on the enduring appeal of West-End-born Leonard Nimoy and his portrayal of Spock in Star Trek - on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 4 p.m.

The screening will be prefaced with a short talk on the actor's connection to the West End neighborhood, as well as a few (virtual) words from Adam Nimoy, Leonard's son.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/for-the-love-of-spock-film-screening-tickets-1063838081339> for tickets and more information.

The museum will also offer 'Postcard Paint & Sip' on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m.

Kick off the evening with a short lecture on museum's historic postcard collection, filled with snapshots of Boston's past. Afterward, let your creativity flow as you're given blank postcards and painting supplies to create your own. Throughout the night, images of the museum's postcards will be projected to inspire your work. Whether you're crafting a card to

send to friends and family or simply making a memento for yourself, this event offers the perfect mix of art, history, and fun. Drinks will be available for purchase; this event is for ages 21+ only.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/postcard-paint-sip-tickets-1063891420879> for tickets and more information.

Moreover, the museum will bring its Boston Trivia Night to Causeway Boston, 65 Causeway St., on Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Put your Boston history knowledge to the test at the museum's next trivia night. Sign up with your friends and form a team or join one on the spot. Whether you're a history enthusiast or just looking for a fun night with friends, this event is for everyone. And the winning team will win a prize from the museum.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-trivia-night-tickets-1037154114877> for tickets and more information.

BOSTON CHORAL ENSEMBLE TO BRING HOLIDAY CONCERT TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Boston Choral Ensemble will perform 'Northern Light' - a Nordic-inspired holiday musical program - on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. at the Old South Church at 645 Boylston St.

Along with selections like "Valgusele (For light)" by Part Uusberg, "Northern Light" by Ola Gjelio, and "Sweeter Still" by Eric Barnum, the program will also feature traditional holiday carols.

Advance purchase tickets are \$25 each; \$15 for students/seniors; and \$10 for children. Tickets at the door cost \$30 each; \$20 for students/seniors; and \$10 for children. Special ticket prices for families and groups are available.

More information and tickets available at bostonchoral.org.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S REPEAL DAY CELEBRATION RETURNS DEC. 6

The Gibson House Museum at

137 Beacon St. will host the Etiquetteer's 13th annual Repeal Day Celebration on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Eagerly awaited by cognoscenti who love historic preservation, Victoriana, cocktail culture, and Perfect Propriety, and proudly sponsored by Rhode Island Spirits, Etiquetteer Robert B. Dimmick's Repeal Day Celebration returns for a lucky 13th year to the Gibson House Museum in the Back Bay. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Dining Room. True Speakeasy Style is encouraged - everything from tuxedos and flapper dresses to down jackets and dungarees. Space is limited - and coveted!

Tickets are \$100 each, with all proceeds benefitting the preservation of the Gibson House Museum. Register at <https://www.thegibsonhouse.org/events>.

LINE DANCE CLASSES AT THE WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

The City of Boston's Age Strong Commission has once again partnered with Boston Rhythm Riders to bring line dance classes to the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library on Cambridge Street. Classes for adults 60 and over will be held every Saturday until Nov. 9 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Contact Wesley Fiorentino at wfiorentino@bpl.org to register, or call 617-523-3957 for more information.

FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY

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

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

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



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SULLIVAN (from pg. 1)

subsequent ones), Primus Avenue gave way to Gringotts Bank, The Owl Emporium, Leaky Cauldron, Olivander's Wand Shop, Borgin and Burkes, and Knockturn Alley, among other fictional locales from the Harry Potter universe. In the corner of the courtyard, candy was distributed to trick-or-treaters from four tables shrouded by tents – each representing one of the four houses from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

During the first two hours of the inaugural event in 2022, organizers distributed 960 glow wands to young trick-or-treaters, Sullivan told this reporter prior to the second event, and he estimated then that probably 5,000 guests in all visited Primus Ave. over the course of that Halloween.

Drew Cameron, a former Primus Ave resident who relocated to Seattle for work earlier this year, even flew back for the event last month to set up Gringotts Bank as part of Diagon Alley, just as he had for the previous two years.

Cameron noted that in addition to the current Primus Ave residents themselves, a “cohort of Primus Ave ‘alumni’” still feel connected to the community, largely because of Brian's internal knack for bringing people together.

“Brian had a special gift for sparking an idea and then pulling everyone in to help shape the vision and bring it to life,” Cameron wrote in an email. “For Halloween, I think that Brian recognized how unique the Primus Ave courtyard was and how well suited it was to a Halloween event. Then, I think he chose a theme that kids in the neighborhood would like, which could also get the most volunteers involved.”

The Diagon Alley theme works so well in the space “because there were so many ways people could participate: we could have a bank

which gives out chocolate coins, and a wand shop that gives out glowstick ‘wands,’ and the Olwery which has letters to post, and a fortune teller who can tell your future, plus tons of creative props,” said Cameron.

Moreover, Cameron added, “To Brian, the most important part of Diagon Alley was just bringing everyone together, building community, and celebrating. And he helped keep us motivated through charm, chitchat, and occasional bribes in the form of sourdough bread and smoked salmon.”

Martin Samuels, a Cambridge resident who lived with Brian for five years as grad school students, has been a guest each year at the event, as well as a participant in the planning process led by Fredrickson.

On Halloween, Samuels noted that children and adults seem equally excited to get inside Diagon Alley.

“It's an immersive experience... like a Disney attraction,” said Samuels, adding that Diagon Alley also reflected Brian's deep affection for children as he wanted to create what Samuels describes as a “space for all children to have a fun time.”

Diagon Alley was also another example of how people just gravitated towards Brian, according to Samuels.

“It was amazing how Brian brought everyone together, and he made people who were strangers up until then feel like lifelong friends,” said Samuels. “People were drawn towards him and wanted to collaborate with him, and that was true in every aspect of his life – he just drew people towards him.”

Primus Ave residents Rick and Brenda Foster described Brian, who had lived there since 2012, as a “combination of Ambassador and Welcoming Committee” for

neighbors and visitors alike, especially at events like Halloween on Diagon Alley.

“It did not matter to Brian if you lived there or not, all were welcome,” the Fosters wrote in an email. “Sometimes a big city can feel very impersonal, but I don't think Brian accepted that notion, and his absence has been felt deeply.”

Matthew Gula and his wife, Georgette Baxter, are former Primus Ave residents who recently relocated to Scituate. They helped stage the event for its first two years, and while they weren't on hand for Halloween itself this year, they both participated in the planning process.

“Beacon Hill is such a special place on Halloween,” said Gula. “People in the neighborhood really embrace the holiday and people come from all around [to celebrate it here].”

Gula also noted: “Beacon Hill already has that village-within-a-city feeling, and the neighborhood has such camaraderie.”

And for Brian, Halloween on Primus Ave was a prime opportunity to foster this sense of community.

“He wanted people to know their neighbors...and to relish in a sense of community,” said Gula. “[Halloween] really pulled the community of Primus Ave together and, as a consequence, really pulled the neighborhood together. It was well loved by the community, and I know Brian loved that.”

Keeping this tradition going now seems like a most fitting way to honor Brian.

“Brian was at the core of it all,” added Gula, “and we thought continuing the tradition of the Harry-Potter-Diagon Alley-Halloween event was a key way to celebrate his legacy as a person we all loved.”

City to hold virtual public meeting on North Station Gateway Project

By Times staff

The city's Planning Department will hold a virtual public meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, to discuss the North Station Gateway Project, which would replace three existing buildings with a 40-story mixed-use building, including residential, hotel, and retail components.

Proposed for 251 Causeway St. by Newton-based The RMR Group, the project would span 560,000 square feet of Gross Floor Area (GFA) and stand approximately 447 feet tall. It would comprise approximately 300 hotel rooms, approximately 420 residential units, approximately 30,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, and amenity space, as well as a rooftop mechanical penthouse and approximately 150

parking spaces across two levels of below-grade parking.

The proposed project would replace three largely vacant, existing buildings - two office buildings, Keany Square Building at 251 Causeway St, and the Thomas Butler Metals and Paper Stock Company Building at 100 North Washington St., respectively, as well as a small apartment building, the John McGraw Building at 126 North Washington St.

None of the buildings are designated as landmarks per the state, the National Register of Historic Places, or the Boston Landmarks Commission, and all three have been significantly altered since their original construction, according to the project team.

Register for this Zoom meeting at bit.ly/3AcVcTj

West End Museum to sponsor Honoree Night and Silent Auction

Special to Times

The West End Museum, located at 150 Staniford St., Suite 7 (along Lomasney Way), will sponsor its annual Honoree Night and Silent Auction on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m.

This event offers a unique chance for West End residents and history enthusiasts alike to gather to enjoy an evening together, honor several members of the community who have made a significant impact this year, and contribute to preserving Boston's rich history at WEM.

The program begins with the Silent Auction from 5 to 7 p.m. Get ready to bid on an exciting variety of auction items, generously donated by local businesses, artists, and supporters. From exclusive West End memorabilia to exciting experiences, there's something for everyone! All proceeds directly support the muse-

um's mission to preserve the history, community, and culture of the West End neighborhood. Auction winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m.

The Honoree Celebration and Speeches begin at 6:30 p.m. Every year, the museum honors a few people who have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the neighborhood and the City of Boston. This year's West End Honoree Night includes four individuals who have made a significant impact on the West End community: Duane Lucia, Louise Thomas, and Yenna Chan and Benjamin Ascher.

Guests can enjoy a selection of drinks and light refreshments generously donated by Cini's Pizza as they mingle, explore the museum's exhibits, and participate in the evening's festivities.

This event is free and open to the public.

NEWS BRIEFS

BAY VILLAGE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Due to the Bay Village Neighborhood Fall Clean-Up that is set for Saturday, November 23, parking will be restricted to support the neighborhood's Fall cleanup effort. The clean-up program is scheduled for from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parking restrictions will be in place on the following streets:

- Arlington Street, Both sides, from Stuart Street to Marginal Road
- Broadway, Both sides, from Melrose Street to Piedmont Street

- Charles Street South, West side (odd side), from Tremont Street/Jefferson Street to Stuart Street

- Church Street, Both sides, from Stuart Street to Tremont Street

- Cortes Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Berkeley Street

- Fayette Street, Both sides, from Charles Street South to Marginal Road

- Isabella Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Columbus Avenue

- Marginal Road, Both sides, from Tremont Street to Arlington

Street

- Melrose Street, Both sides, from Charles Street South to Arlington Street

- Piedmont Street, Both sides, from Arlington Street to Broadway

- Shawmut Street, Both sides, from Church Street to Broadway

- Tremont Street, West side (odd side), from Marginal Road to Jefferson Street/Charles Street South

- Winchester Street, Both sides, from Broadway to Arlington Street

BHCA (from pg. 1)

BHCA Annual Clothing Drive to Benefit the Old West Church

With the weather turning cold, the Old West Church is in most need of:

Men's winter coats (parkas) – with hoods if possible.

Pants, all sizes.

Belts.

Seasonally appropriate shoes.

Emergency toiletries.

Please bring CLEAN items and new toiletries to the BHCA any weekday between 9am and 5pm. The clothing drive will run from November 8th through December 6th. Thank you for your generosity in this season of giving.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

EDITORIAL

IS THE HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVABLE?

It is estimated that the U.S. presently is short of anywhere from four million to seven million housing units, including both rentals and single-family homes.

This is an astounding number that is growing larger every year. Housing production is lagging the demand that is being created by the family formation of the Gen Y (also known as Millennials) and Gen Z generations who are aging into adulthood.

The severe imbalance created by the increase in demand and the lack of supply -- which has been the trend in the U.S. for the past 15 years dating back to the financial crisis -- in turn has led to home and rental costs that far exceed a level of affordability for the majority of Americans.

We recently went on one of those real estate websites to look at our former family home in Chelsea which our parents purchased in 1965 for about \$20,000. The house, which is located in the Prattville section of the city, is a modest four-bedroom, 1700 sq. ft. home that last sold in 2011 for \$305,000. Today, that home has an estimated value of \$850,000.

To put those numbers in perspective, inflation from 1965-2024 increased 10-fold (\$1.00 in 1965 is worth \$10.00 today), but that home's value has increased by an astounding 42-fold. And from 2011 to today, inflation has increased by 40% -- but the value of that home has gone up by almost 300%.

Our parents' mortgage in 1965 came at a four percent interest rate and required a downpayment of \$4000. Their monthly mortgage payment (without taxes) was about \$100 per month. Today, a young couple would need a downpayment of \$170,000 in order to buy that home and their monthly mortgage payment would be about \$4000.

Our housing crisis today often is portrayed as an affordability crisis for those in the lower-income brackets. But as the numbers above demonstrate, purchasing a home today is affordable only for upper-income couples who also have families who are able to assist them with the large down payment that is necessary to obtain a conventional mortgage.

Young people also face the same lack of affordability for rental housing. Almost nobody graduating from college today, even if they have a well-paying job, can afford an apartment on their own in Greater Boston or any major city. Doubling and tripling-up is the norm for young people unless they have financial support from their families.

The last time that the U.S. faced a crisis of this magnitude came in the years immediately after WWII. Housing production during the war years had stopped and the millions of returning GIs who were forming families were in need of housing. The principal solution at that time was the construction of multi-unit housing developments -- known colloquially as "the projects" -- in almost every community in the country.

Private developers (assisted by low-rate mortgages backed by the Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration) also filled the need with large-scale, cookie-cutter developments in the suburbs, the most notable example being the "Levittowns."

However, today the high costs of land acquisition, materials, and infrastructure improvements (including the need to comply with modern environmental regulations) make it all but impossible for home-builders to construct "affordable" housing, whether single-family homes or multi-unit rentals.

Affordable housing advocates often cite restrictive zoning ordinances in many suburbs as a bar to the construction of affordable housing, but even if someone could take a magic wand and eliminate zoning restrictions, new home construction would barely budge. Massachusetts has had a law (c. 40B) for many years which allows developers to bypass local zoning regulations if a community's housing stock is deemed less than 10% "affordable." But that law has barely made a dent in the supply of housing. Similarly, the MBTA Communities law that has garnered so much attention in the past year figures to have a minimal impact on the housing crisis.

If it's any consolation, the housing shortage is not unique to the U.S. It's a worldwide phenomenon, from Europe to Australia, with much of the developed world facing a dire housing shortage.

Shelter is a basic human need. For millions of Americans, especially young people, the reality today is that both the public and private sectors are failing to address the ever-growing problem of our housing crisis -- and the inevitable result inevitably will have profound consequences for the future of the country.

Dr. Eileen Reilly guest speaker at BHWF

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Beacon Hill Woman's Forum (BHWF) hosted Psychiatrist, Dr. Eileen Reilly as guest speaker. Dr. Reilly has been passionate about caring for Boston's homeless population since she was 21-years-old and her parish was seeking homeless shelter volunteers. The shy college student was assigned to help those in need at the Pine Street Inn, where she observed 300 homeless men, many of whom intoxicated or mentally ill, with one person sleeping in a fireplace.

"That opened my eyes to people's experience being homeless," said Dr. Reilly, who noticed the difficulty of recruiting nurses to manage the night clinic. "I was a volunteer; and then became a full-time worker there. In 1982, they opened a women's unit. Up until then, there was no place except Rosie's Place for women to go. Because it was crowded, they had a two-week limit. People would have to leave for a month, and then come back. But Pine Street was open to everybody. That was exciting."

Now Dr. Reilly works for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, concentrating on homeless individuals suffering from mental illnesses. She is also a psychiatrist for the daytime Street Team outreach group of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP), which has been providing healthcare for people living on the street since 1985.

"Health Care for the Homeless helps approximately 11,000 patients a year at over 30 locations. Every major shelter in Boston has Health Care for the Homeless physicians and nurse practitioners working at them," explained Dr. Reilly. "For a long time, psychiatrists would wait in their office for homeless people to come. Homeless people never came. It was clear that we need to go to the people."

Much of Dr. Reilly's work is engaging with the homeless who often lack company, have no forms of identification, require medical care, and need assistance applying for housing. During her November 12 presentation for the Beacon Hill Women's Forum (BHWF) at the Hampshire House, Dr. Reilly shared the challenges of convincing homeless individuals to accept medical help.

"One of the reasons we are on the street is to get to know people and build relationships so they can trust us and come in for psy-



Beacon Hill Women's Forum co-presidents, Richelle Gewertz and Tricia Stone, with psychiatrist Dr. Eileen Reilly



Doctor Eileen Reilly, Street Team Psychiatrist, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, discussing the homeless crisis in Boston during the November 12 Beacon Hill Women's Forum at the Hampshire House

chiatric, substance-use, or medical care," said Dr. Reilly.

Doctor Reilly remembered a particular woman living in South Station. She believed that she was married to Michael Jackson. Holding onto the delusion that she was pregnant with his triplets, the woman was waiting on a bench for Jackson to pick her up and whisk her away to Los Angeles,

where they could live in a mansion as a family.

For weeks, Dr. Reilly's team would inquire if there was anything that could be done for her; but the woman held firmly to the umbrella concealing her until she was offered lunch: two hamburgers, two French fries, and two

(BHWF Pg. 8)

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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PHONE: 617-523-9490 - FAX: 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM
WEB SITE: WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

BHCA HOLDS 29TH ANNUAL GARLANDS & GREENS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) held its 29th Annual Garlands & Greens holiday fundraiser, hosted by Tom Kershaw at the Hampshire House on November 13. The celebration raised funds to decorate the 1,100 gas lamps lining the neighborhood. Members enjoyed hor'doeuvres, holiday martinis, and live music performed by local jazz musicians: Jesse and Natalie Mattison, John Short, and Chris DiBona.



Janine Jay, Bryan Ferrigno, and Alessandra and Danny Ragusa Stevens. See Pages 6-8 for more photos.



Amy Haskel, Susan Gilmore, and Jane Roy.



Lynne Lippmann and Maryella Donleavy.



Milan Baudelaire and Jerry Maben.

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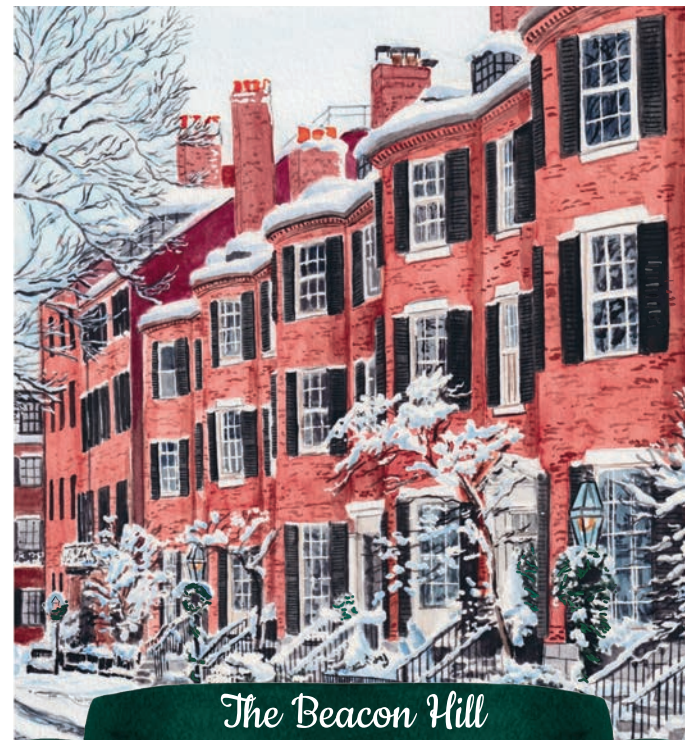
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BHCA HOLDS 29TH ANNUAL GARLANDS & GREENS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Jen Howland, Katy Keches, Mark Kiefer, Ben Hartwell, and Nick Keches.



Jennifer and Jim Hill, owners of Blackstone's, and Carole Gunst.



Carole Gunst trying on Jeremy Bell's festive hat and sweater.

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BHCA HOLDS 29TH ANNUAL GARLANDS & GREENS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Jeremy Bell dancing with Tracy Windham and Melissa Weimer.



Richelle Gewertz, Jennifer Stevens, Peter Reichert, Amy Ess, and Erin Moore.



Rebecca Patchen and Steve Giordano at the raffle table.



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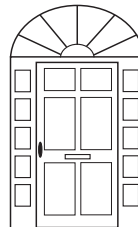
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BHCA HOLDS 29TH ANNUAL GARLANDS & GREENS

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

BHWF (from pg. 4)



Laura and Bob Cousineau, owners of Upstairs/Downstairs, with Sandra and George Gilpatrick.



Martha McAllister, Nancy Kingman, and Ken Kupke.



Susan Gilmore enjoying cocktails with friends.



Vocalist Natalie Mattison, and John Short, on bass.

Coca-Colas. She finally received the psychological and housing care she needed, and became a charming conversationalist.

Doctor Reilly and her team tried outreaching to a man suffering from schizophrenia for ten years. He was experiencing paranoia, and spent a lot of time speaking to the voices in his head. Draped in tattered clothes, the man was depressed and would never talk with the Street Team; but he would accept a Dunkin Donuts gift card. Eventually, he was hospitalized and joined a group home. Now, with help from Dr. Reilly, the man has reconnected with his family and has relationships with his sisters.

“The issue with mental illness is people don’t understand they have mental illness. It’s not that they’re in denial or stubborn,” acknowledged Dr. Reilly. “A lot of folks with mental illness – and a lot of people you see on the street screaming at voices – just don’t understand that going to a psychiatrist might be helpful for them.”

Doctor Reilly also became a founding member of the Women’s Lunch Place when she was 26-years-old and noticed that there was no facility for women to seek refuge during the day. She remembered the heartache of seeing women dawdling on the sidewalk. Many were mentally ill, and would be talking to the voices in their heads as they waited for Pine Street Inn to open.

“It’s a hospitable place where people feel comfortable – especially people with mental illness,” assured Dr. Reilly about the day shelter for women, which has been providing meals, hygienic essentials, advocacy services, free medical care, and opportunities for personal growth since 1982.

Doctor Reilly encouraged BHWF members to call the Pine Street Inn and leave a voicemail for the outreach team if they are concerned about the wellbeing of a homeless man or woman; especially in the cold weather. Include a description of where the person is located.

“The reason I stay hopeful is because I’ve seen so many people who have been outside for years, and finally get treated and accept housing,” said Dr. Reilly. “They don’t ever say ‘I want to go back to the street.’ They’re content to have a bed to sleep in.”

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Holidays @ Hill House

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Photos with Santa

Friday, December 7th: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tree & Wreath Sale
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Pre-purchase a tree for delivery, book a time for photos with Santa, reserve a time for a family portrait

Please Recycle

Nichols House Museum's annual Hill Holiday House Tour returns Dec. 8

Special to Times

Explore the beautiful neighborhood of Beacon Hill on the Nichols House Museum's annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour.

The tour takes place on Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 4 p.m., with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. It showcases outstanding examples of historic preservation, as well as creative modern interpretations and adaptations and is the primary annual fundraising event for the museum.

The tour will be a day full of beauty, music, and cheer, offering a rare opportunity to experience a

select group of private residences at their festive best. In addition, the Nichols House Museum will be open for self-guided tours for guests to experience historically inspired holiday traditions of the Nichols family at the turn of the 20th Century.

This year the William Hickling Prescott House, headquarters of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will also be open as part of the Tour.

In honor of Arthur Nichols and his youngest daughter, Margaret Homer Shurcliff, who shared a passion for bell ringing

and introduced handbell ringing to the U.S., there will be handbell performances by Boston's community handbell ensemble, the Back Bay Ringers.

Included in the tour ticket is a reception at the King's Chapel Parish House. There will be light refreshments and festive jazz from 3 to 5 p.m. The Alex Minasian Jazz Duo will present an afternoon of jazz honoring the legends of jazz music, including Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk, as well as music from the Great American Songbook, including a few holiday favorites.

Pianist Alex Minasian has performed in many of the country's most famous jazz rooms. He was the last pianist for legendary vocalists Little Jimmy Scott and Mark Murphy. Minasian will be joined by John Sullivan on bass.

Join the Nichols House Museum for its kick-off event, the Eggnog Pre-Party, on Thursday, Dec. 5. Enjoy a frothy cup of traditional Beacon Hill eggnog from the recipe of Rose Standish Nichols and her live-in cook and housekeeper, Mary King.

The Nichols House Museum extends its gratitude to this year's business sponsors of the Holiday House Tour: Cort Petrocelli Coopersmith, Eastern Bank, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty, and Rusticator. Wisteria and Rose have donated outdoor decorations at the Nichols House Museum.

For tickets to the Eggnog Pre-Party and the Holiday House Tour, visit <https://www.nichols-housemuseum.org/events/holiday-house-tour-2024/>.



The Nichols House Museum is seen festively decorated for the holidays.



The King's Chapel Parish House is seen during last year's tour reception.

Boston's official tree arrives November 26

The annual gift of an evergreen Christmas tree from Nova Scotia is scheduled to arrive by police escort at Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26.

This marks the 53rd year of the annual tree donation, celebrating 107 years of friendship between Boston and Nova Scotia. The tradition honors the people of Boston for their emergency assistance following the devastating 1917 munitions explosion in Halifax Harbor. The first "Tree for Boston" was donated in 1971 by Joseph Slauenwhite from Lunenburg County.

Boston's official 2024 tree is a 30-year-old, 45-foot-tall white

spruce donated by Hugh and Liz Ryan of Mattie Settlement, Nova Scotia.

Boston's Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Santa Claus, the Boston Park Rangers, and local school children will greet the tree at its final destination near the Boston Visitors Center at 139 Tremont Street. The tree will be lit at approximately 7:55 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, as the City of Boston's official tree lighting is celebrated on Boston Common from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on WCVB Channel 5 starting at 7 p.m.

The annual tree lighting on Boston Common is co-sponsored by

the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and title sponsor, The Province of Nova Scotia. The event is supported by presenting sponsor Amazon, signature sponsors Meet Boston and JetBlue, community sponsors Bank of America and Constellation Energy, partner Hilton Boston Park Plaza Hotel, and media sponsors WCVB Channel 5 and the Boston Globe.

Visit [Boston.gov/holidaylights](https://www.boston.gov/holidaylights) for more information and follow our social channels to stay up to date with all the holiday lighting events: @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

Pianist Alex Minasian, who will perform during the tour reception at the King's Chapel Parish House.

VISIT WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

Hill Holiday Stroll returns Thursday, Dec. 5

By Times staff

One of the neighborhood's most beloved annual events, the Beacon Hill Business Association's long-running Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll returns Thursday, Dec. 5.

Starting at 5 p.m., Charles Street between Cambridge and Beacon streets will be closed off to traffic, allowing for holiday shoppers to stroll through its shops, restaurants, and offices while enjoying refreshments and music performances.

The festivities will begin even earlier for youngsters from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Hill House at 12 Mt. Vernon St., where Santa will be on hand to be photographed with local children.

At about 6:15 or 6:30 p.m., the Brass Quartet, local business owners, and neighborhood leaders will walk from the block

of Mount Vernon and Charles streets towards the tree lighting, which takes place at 7 p.m. at the corner of Charles and Cambridge streets.

Besides the Brass Quartet, additional live music will be provided by the Back Bay Ringers (<http://www.backbayringers.org/>), Jeremy Bell, and other local talent performing along the stretch of Charles Street where the event takes place.

Participating small businesses, shops, and restaurants located up and down the five block of Charles Street will also welcome guests during this festive event

Event sponsors include Beacon Hill Books and Cafe, Upstairs Downstairs Home, and the Aland Realty Group.

Contact historicbeaconhill@gmail.com or local businesses for more information.

SNIDER (from pg. 1)

erine's years of experience leading non-profit organizations through growth will be a valuable asset," added Lisle Albro, Co-President of the Board of Directors.

Snider has also served as an Associate Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, where she worked on the launch of several new initiatives, including the Opportunity NYC Conditional Cash Transfer program, a \$70 Million Climate Change Resilience initiative, and the Jane Jacobs Medal to honor leaders who have exemplified Jacobs' urbanist vision. Previously, she served as the first Vice President of External Affairs for the Tenement Museum, where she led communications and fundraising efforts and helped grow attendance by 100%.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Hill House community, with its exceptional Board and team. As the mother of two sons, I have a great respect for the strong athletic and enrichment programs that the organization offers," said Ms. Snider. "It's exciting to be a part of shaping the next chapter of growth for the organization as it approaches its sixth decade of service to the residents of downtown Boston."

Snider received a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs & Govern-

ment from The University of Virginia. She will assume her responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer of Hill House on December 1, 2024.

Hill House engaged Kittleman & Associates to conduct a search for its Chief Executive Officer. Kittleman & Associates is a national executive search firm that specializes in the recruitment of CEOs for tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, public charities, and philanthropic organizations. Kittleman recruits leaders for the entire nonprofit sector, including human services and social justice organizations, foundations, and museums. For more information, visit <https://www.kittlemansearch.com>.

Hill House, now a resource for more than 2,000 families each year, provides programs, services, and activities to meet the diverse social, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of individuals and families residing in Boston's downtown neighborhoods. Through quality programs, collaborative partnerships, and volunteer support, Hill House seeks to build and foster a strong sense of urban community and improve the quality of life for residents of all ages. For more information, visit <https://www.hillhouseboston.org>.

Greater Boston Food Bank's 19th annual Chain of Giving

Special to the Times

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, held its 19th annual Chain of Giving event, an annual tradition uniting elected officials, local advocates, business leaders and community members to raise awareness and mitigate holiday food insecurity. The event, sponsored by Biogen and National Grid, draws attention to the persistence of food insecurity in the state and GBFB's Hunger Free Holidays campaign.

As GBFB strives to offer nutritious and culturally sensitive food to families in need this holiday season, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and GBFB President and CEO Catherine D'Amato shared remarks highlighting the critical need to address food insecurity in the Bay State. Over 150 participants then formed a human chain to pass nearly 1,200 turkeys from a delivery truck through GBFB's warehouse that would later be donated to families in need. This represents only a portion of the 46,000 turkeys and other holiday and daily food items the nonprofit expects to distribute to pantries across Eastern Massachusetts throughout the holidays.

"The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends, but many families in Massachusetts are struggling to provide for their basic needs. Our neighbors in financial distress are often having to make tough decisions between buying food or paying for housing, healthcare, or transportation," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "That's why our admin-



PHOTO COURTESY MELOPHOTO

Shown (left to right) are Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, GBFB President & CEO Catherine D'Amato, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg.

istration takes a community-wide approach to hunger and we work hand in hand with community partners like GBFB every day. In Massachusetts, we work hard, we work smart, and we work together to be there for our neighbors in need. And we will double down our work on the root causes of food insecurity, to end hunger once and for all."

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Commissioner Jeffrey McCue of MA Department of Transitional Assistance, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, as well as several other state and local officials joined the tradition, alongside the beloved mascots for the Red Sox and Patriots.

"The Greater Boston Food Bank provides vital support for our residents who are facing food insecurity, and I am so grateful for their continued dedication to

creating a healthy and nourished community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Chain of Giving is a wonderful and inspiring tradition that provides essential relief to our residents who lack resources during the holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in order to end food scarcity in the city."

Following the Chain of Giving, GBFB celebrated the opening of its new refrigeration unit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of the organization's efforts to rightsize its warehouse to support the state's historic need for food assistance. The new unit stores 400 pallets of perishable food; including highly sought-after and nutritious items such as produce, eggs, and dairy, allowing GBFB to distribute up to an estimated eight

(FOOD BANK Pg. 12)

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Knuepfer, Julia	Chin Art Y Est	320 Commonwealth Ave #32	\$599,000
Kathleen Benner Duble	329 Commonwealth LLC	329 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$4,200,000
Oneil, Blaire J	Zeh, Summer B	416 Commonwealth Ave #704	\$690,000
Elliott, Simon R	279 Marlborough Street	279 Marlborough St	\$16,500,000
Golden, Russell	Celentano Ft	349 Marlborough St #2	\$1,330,000
BEACON HILL			
Elizabeth E Powers Lt	Greene, Kristin	48 Beacon St #6F	\$1,150,000
Mroczkowski, Krzysztof	Denslow, Maria J	33 Hancock St #4	\$985,000
Muldoon, Asta	Coletti, James	88 Mount Vernon St #10	\$760,000
92 Mt Vernon Street Rt	Burnes Jr, Richard M	92 Mount Vernon St	\$10,000,000
Cabantog, Lorenzo R	Gosselin, Michael L	130 Pembroke St #4	\$1,870,000
Liu, Chia-Chen	Chinoy, Sameer	8 Whittier Pl #9J	\$630,000
Englander, Elizabeth K	Wetmore, Rosanne	8 Yarmouth St #3	\$920,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Dion, Beth R	Midwood Capital Prop LLC	5 Appleton St #1A	\$965,000
Golden Nest LLC	Larson, Lauren A	9 Appleton St #102	\$1,150,000
776 Boylston PH2E NT	776 Boylston ST U:PH2E	776 Boylston St #PH2E	\$25,000,000
122 Boston LLC	122 Cambridge Street LLC	122-128 Cambridge St	\$3,800,000
Shea, Erin	Munoz-Cadilla, Isabel R	122 Chandler St #A	\$723,000
Boulanger, Jason	Adam R Wolf T	22 Church St #9	\$783,500
Flores Jr, Raymond E	Grant, Donald J	566 Columbus Ave #310	\$1,675,000
Kiessling, Dyann	Ata-Nahal LLC	19 Cortes St #4	\$783,000
German, Jonathan	Bermas, Bonnie L	25 Cranston St #2	\$1,050,000
Salvatore W Sprofera RET	Allene Diaz RET	2 Dartmouth Pl	\$2,901,000
South End Harrison LLC	Crowley, Christopher	35 Fay St #103	\$1,400,000
Horner, Daniel	Fiascone, Stephen	35 Hanson St #2	\$2,730,000
Lindsey, Kristina	Kuranda, Joseph K	34 Melrose St #1	\$1,340,000
Mower, Cameron	129 N Wa Street LLC	129 N Washington St #3	\$1,499,000
Leoutsales, Peter	Jim Lieb T	425 Newbury St #F20	\$157,500
Perrone Rt Of 2013	Ozer, Ross J	125 Park Dr #16	\$470,000
129 Portland Street LLC	Olympia Group Lp	129-131 Portland St	\$6,650,000
373 Shawmut Avenue LLC	Kistler, Daniel	373 Shawmut Ave	\$1,650,000
Zarak Realty LLC	Yamin, Jose	439 Shawmut Ave #2	\$675,000
Stuart 2024 T	Farmhouse Rb LLC	430 Stuart St #24D	\$1,900,000
Van Putten, Carolyn	Goldthwaite 3rd, William	621 Tremont St #5	\$925,000
139 West Canton St LLC	Breslau, Barbara E	139 W Canton St	\$2,500,000
Karia, Luv D	Donovan, Glen R	94 Waltham St #5	\$1,120,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
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808 Lincoln LLC	Louise P Dambra RET	357 Commercial St #808	\$745,000
Mcperson, John	Protestant Epis Diocese	47 Commercial Wharf #6	\$1,700,000
Capozzi, Marla	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #3904	\$2,375,000
Hung, Yie-Hsin	Mcaf Winthrop LLC	240 Devonshire St #4205	\$1,950,000
Palmer, Patricia	Hu, Xiaoting	65 E India Row #35D	\$670,000
Porta, D M	Ross, Susannah	99 Fulton St #4-6	\$750,000
Lewis, Julian	John G Hussey 2014 Ft	120 Fulton St #2A	\$1,030,000
C Wah Ng & Lai W Leung	Donald J Cosentino T	210-216 Lincoln St #601	\$1,028,000
Fletcher, Lucy	Sprague Ft	580 Washington St #908	\$1,775,000
Drzymalski, Dan	Muller, David	580 Washington St #PH2	\$3,055,000

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

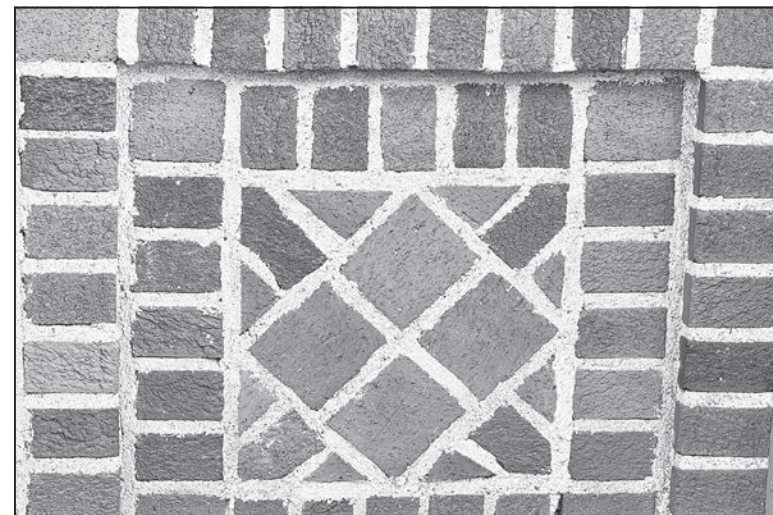
THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The detail in the last clue is on the mural "Where We Belong" at 79 Essex Street in Chinatown. This artwork is a collaborative project between the artist, Ponnapa Prakkamakul, and young people from the Asian Community Development Corporation's AVOYCE.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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FOOD BANK (from pg. 10)

million additional meals each year. Food insecurity has solidified as a post-pandemic, everyday lived experience for 1 in 3 Massachusetts residents – nearly 2 million individuals – according to GBFB’s annual study on food access and equity. The event and accompanying fundraiser come at a time

of sustained hunger brought on by an unsustainable cost of living and intersecting affordability crises in housing, groceries, healthcare and childcare. The study also revealed disparities in food access among households of color, LGBTQ+ households, and those with children.

“With soaring costs of housing, food, and daycare, these financial burdens often force families to make tough choices, like sacrificing meals to meet other essential needs,” said Catherine D’Amato, GBFB President and CEO. “While these stresses may peak during the holidays, families need food year-round, not just at Thanksgiving. Massachusetts can achieve hun-

ger-free status, but it requires collective action. Let’s work together to advocate for policies that ensure food security for all.” Wellesley Girl Scout Troop Wins Nally Award Each year, GBFB honors outstanding young people who have championed hunger-relief in their communities with the Nally Award. Established in 2006, the

award is named after Danny and Betsy Nally, who at ages 8 and 6, started their very first turkey drive for GBFB. This year’s Nally Award was presented to Wellesley’s Girl Scout Troop 64049, who graciously donated their cookie sales profits to GBFB after learning about the impact of childhood hunger.

The troop of 15 fifth graders, who have typically donated cookie sale funds toward wildlife-related causes, was shocked to learn that other children in their community – their age and younger – face hunger. After doing their own research, they agreed to donate to GBFB to help end hunger here.

To learn more about The Greater Boston Food Bank or to join its annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign, visit GBFB.org/holidays,

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and one of the largest food banks in the country. For nearly half a century, GBFB has fueled Eastern Massachusetts’ hunger-relief system, putting nearly 90 million healthy meals on tables across the region each year. Over 600 community-based pantries and other local partners in 190 cities and towns depend on GBFB to provide access to healthy food for 600,000 people every month. GBFB is committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual’s circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. Together, we have the power to end hunger here. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.



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