



# 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

## HILL HOUSE TREE & WREATH SALE



Photo by Marianne Salza

Max Amadeo and Trevor McCormack head home with their Christmas tree in hand last Saturday, Dec. 1, during the Hill House's annual wreath and tree sale at the Firehouse. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

## 'Hill House Tour' returns Dec. 9

By Dan Murphy

"The Beacon Hill Holiday House" tour returns on Sunday, Dec. 9, from noon to 4 p.m.

For more than 20 years, the Nichols House Museum has organized and hosted the tour, which offers the public a rare opportunity to experience a select group of private residences.

"The 'House Tour' has been annual tradition, which is now in its 23rd year," said Linda Marshall, the museum's executive director. "From my point of view, it's a very unique and inspiring opportunity to see inside some of the homes on Beacon Hill."

This year, the Nichols House

Museum is partnering with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the William Hickling Prescott House and five private homeowners to showcase examples of historic preservation, as well as creative modern interpretation and adaptation in a broad range of architectural and interior design styles.

During the event, the Nichols House Museum also invites you to explore "Craftswomen: The Woodworking of Rose and Margaret Nichols in Arts & Crafts New England," a special pop-up exhibition honoring a new museum acquisition, with proceeds supporting ongoing preservation

(TOUR Pg. 13)



### The BUZZ:

*A monthly column on living well*

FROM THE BEACON HILL GARDEN CLUB



## Creating Holiday Arrangements

Whether you are arranging a winter window box, a feature for your mantle, a decoration for your entryway or a table centerpiece, it is important to go overboard. That's what people love about the holidays.

Have poinsettias if you must, and don't hold back on the usual pine or balsam boughs. But delve into such less common, long-lasting greens as boxwood, holly, yew, ivy, rosemary and eucalyptus. If you are a pet-free household, try the toxic but beautiful house plant, the Lenten or Christmas Rose (Hellebore). Enjoy one indoors and later plant it outside. Even in frigid Boston, it can bloom all winter, especially if it has a blanket of snow.

Gather some natural materials—pine cones, seed pods, fallen branches. Such items are often lying around in city parks before the staff has collected them. Collect dried hydrangeas, roses and poppy seed heads. Douse some materials with copper, gold or silver spray to bring glitter to your design.

Whether you gather or purchase, realize that evergreens are easy to work with, and they last a long time. Their stems are firm. So you won't always need a plastic product like a floral oasis to keep them in place.

Now arrange your creation. The rules apply to most containers, whether they are window boxes or table centerpieces.

Start with tallest stems of greenery, arranging them into the shape you want. Vary the foliage with at least three different leaf shapes, some large and some small. Let ivy or pine drape over the edges. If your arrangement is to be placed against a wall, arrange it to be viewed from one side only. A table centerpiece requires that you consider all sides. Start with the tallest stalks in the middle and turn the container as you fill in evenly with shorter greens. If you've sprayed some materials, put them in now. Finally, if your arrangement is to be used indoors, add fresh flowers to bring in color. As they wilt, you can replace them.

Step back and fill in the gaps.

You worry that your arrangement won't be perfect? So what. Look for inspiration in shop windows, doorways, websites, Pinterest and Instagram. Then plunge in. Aim for abundance, not perfection. Make it fun and fabulous.

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Holiday Decorating

Thank you to all our friends and neighbors who have supported our campaign to decorate the gas lamps on Beacon Hill. You make this a special place to live and work.

Thanks to Historic New England, City of Boston, Charles Street Liquors, Panificio, Charles Street Supply, and Anna's Taqueria for their sup-

port.

A very special thank you to Kristen Mansharamani of Torit Montessori, her teachers and students, for cutting the wire to attach the garlands to the 1,100 poles!

### BHCA Annual Appeal

It's that time of year again when we ask for your support of our Annual Appeal. For 96 years, the Beacon Hill Civic Association has worked to enhance the quality of life for our residents through community building, civic engagement and historic preservation. The Annual Appeal provides vital funding for our ongoing operations, enabling our advocacy work on behalf of the community. Your generosity allows us to continue our efforts to preserve and protect our unique and historic neighborhood.

Please watch your mail for the BHCA Annual Appeal envelope. You can also donate at [www.bhcivic.org](http://www.bhcivic.org). We thank you for your continued support of the work we do!

(BHCA Pg. 12)



Kristen Mansharamani, executive head of Torit Montessori, Patricia Tully, and Johanna Gittleman with some of her students at the BHCA.

# EDITORIAL

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON

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

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

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

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

Although all of us celebrate Christmas in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that (unfortunately) only comes once a year.

We urge all of our readers to make the most of this holiday season with our friends, family, and loved ones.

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS -- SAFELY

With the Christmas season in full swing, there will be the usual office, family, and neighborhood parties for all of us to partake and enjoy.

By no means do we wish to cast negative thoughts or to be party-Scrooges, but we would be remiss if we did not remind all of our readers to enjoy the holiday season safely.

This especially means that we should be careful not to drink and drive, not only for ourselves, but also for those whom we know and love.

If someone appears to be under the influence, it is incumbent upon each of us not to let that person get behind the wheel of a car -- take their keys and call an Uber!

If it is within our ability to prevent a tragedy, we must be sure to do so.

*The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.*

### THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### • 'BEACON HILL HOLIDAY STROLL' RETURNS DEC. 6

The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll presents the annual "Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll" on Thursday, Dec. 6, with many returning crowd-pleasers, including the Back Bay Ringers, the Brass Quartet, the Apollo Club, Kings Chapel carolers and everyone's favorite - the complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides by Bridal Carriage Co., Inc. Both sides on the five blocks of Charles Street between Cambridge and Beacon streets will be closed to vehicles from 6 to 9 p.m., clearing the way for holiday shoppers to visit neighborhood restaurants, shops and businesses while enjoying free snacks and refreshments. Santa Claus will in attendance for the 7 p.m. tree-lighting at Mt. Vernon and Charles streets, .

### • 2018 SoWa WINTER FESTIVAL EXTENDS FOR TWO WEEKENDS

'Tis the season for the fourth annual SoWa Winter Festival.

Now over two weekends, join SoWa for the biggest winter shopping village and holiday festival in Boston. You'll find the perfect handmade gifts, sip on winter cocktails, and discover the best of the SoWa Art + Design District. -Weekend 1

Fri., Dec. 7: 5-9 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 8: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 9: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
The SoWa Winter Festival is family friendly and free to attend.

### • ELLIS SOUTH END HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual Ellis South End Neighborhood Association Holiday Party will take place on Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Elephant Walk on 1415 Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Please bring an unwrapped toy for an Ellis Memorial child in need this holiday season. \$60 per person, \$70 for non-members. R.S.V.P. by Nov. 30.

### • CAROLING IN HAYES PARK

On Sunday, Dec. 9, at 3 p.m., join the Friends of Hayes Park

for a caroling party in the park. Bring your family and friends for an old-fashioned gathering of seasonal singing. We'll bring hot cider, cookies and songbooks. And please bring a donation of canned or non-perishable goods for the South End Neighborhood Service Center Food Pantry.

### • SANTA SPEEDO RUN

The annual Santa Speedo Run will take place on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 1-1:30 p.m. It will start and end at Lir Tavern and Whiskey's at the corner of Gloucester and Boylston Streets. The run is limited to the first 700 registrants, and raises money for the Play Ball! Foundation, which funds sports in Boston middle schools. Registration is \$30.

### • GIFTS + GLAM: Dec. 6 from 5-7 p.m.

Gifts + Glam is a holiday shopping event that will feature exclusive shopping discounts, styling tips, mini-makeovers, snacks, cocktails, and holiday fun! Visit the check-in table by Club Monaco to pick up an event program.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Merrill, Craig	Isaza, John J	160 Beacon St #3	\$1,350,000
Kassian, Alexander	Danley, Alaina C	195 Beacon St #1	\$880,000
Greenstein, Scott H	Bramante, James L	119 Marlborough St #8	\$587,500
14 Hereford 1 RT	Corcoran, John F	14 Hereford St #1	\$825,000
Grace L Lane Family LP	Dayyeh, Dalia A	363 Marlborough St #3	\$1,145,000
Mitchell, Thomas C	Mitchell, Peter M	145 Saint Botolph St #34	\$1,250,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Ionnidou, Efthimia	Flowerman, Paul	97 Mount Vernon St #23	\$825,000
Beacon Hill Housewrights	Rock River RT	54 Pinckney St	\$2,600,000
Fazel-Zarandi, Maryam	Callahan Rowland Invests	121 Portland St #305	\$770,000
<b>SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE</b>			
Wales, Rebecca	Capone, Craig D	113 Chandler St #3	\$612,000
Tucker, Richard	Patten, William S	19 Cortes St #5	\$730,000
Restuccia FT	Roux, Mark V	9-11 Harcourt St #503	\$1,600,000
Taneja, Raul	Restuccia FT	9-11 Harcourt St #504	\$1,590,000
18 Winchester St LLC	Chan, Shu Y	18 Winchester St	\$1,600,000
Pierce RT	Point Cando LLC	188 Brookline Ave #PH28A	\$4,600,000
483-66 Towers LLC	Ayers, Alexander	464 Commonwealth Ave #91	\$650,000
36 Milford Street LLC	Walshin, Lydia S	36 Milford St	\$2,400,000
Curry, Colleen	Liu, Frank D	756 Tremont St #4	\$805,000
Panagakos, Alexandra	Burke, Lauren	75 Waltham St #3	\$737,000
Watch, Janice L	Kaplan, William C	10 Worcester Sq #1	\$1,272,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Decourcy, Patrick	Cheretun, Yelena	42-44 Beach St #10C	\$635,000
Natkanski, Christopher T	Katsman, Roza	1 Franklin St #2607	\$1,950,000
Camarda FT	Cushing, Pamela	1 Franklin St #3405	\$1,515,000
Glazer, Paul A	Property Associates 3810	1 Franklin St #3810	\$3,400,000
Tufts Medical Center Inc	Tufts College	35 Kneeland St	\$30,000,000
Grant, James G	757 Washington Street	757 Washington St #2	\$489,999

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The light in the last clue is on 6 Bowdoin Square built in 1930 and designed by architects Densmore, LeClear & Robbins. The Art Deco Society calls this style "Massive Moderne" and writes it is, "... dominated by vertical piers in the 21-bay principal limestone facade. Note the first floor windows with metal architraves featuring stylized flower motifs, and the entrance flanked by stylized eagles with polished black granite surround."

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

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Eve Dougherty | 617.838.5884 | [eve@compass.com](mailto:eve@compass.com)

**Navigating you home.**

COMPASS

# Former John Jeffries House to be rebranded as 'The Whitney'

By Dan Murphy

The former John Jeffries House at 170 Charles St. will be rebranded as "The Whitney" when it reopens as a boutique hotel this

spring, according to Anna Rabin, account manager for the Boston public relations firm Solomon McCown & Company.

Boston-based developer Related Beal, which purchased the

building from Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI) for \$40 million in 2016, has undertaken an extensive rehabilitation of the property and constructed a 12,000-square foot addition on

the site of the surface parking lot adjacent to Savenor's Market at Charles and Cambridge streets. Besides 66 guest rooms, the new hotel will feature a courtyard, garden space, restaurant and bar. HHM Hospitality of Harrisburg, Pa., will manage its operations.

"Beacon Hill's historic charm and central location provide the perfect setting to deliver our concept of an urban, luxury, boutique hotel, that includes a lounge area and café for visitors, residents and neighbors to enjoy," Stephen Faber, executive vice president of Related Beal, previously said in a

press release.

The new hotel is named for Henry Melville Whitney, a local industrialist who died at age 83 in 1923 in Brookline.



Solomon McCown & Company

An artist's rendering of The Whitney's courtyard.

## KING'S CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL AGES



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Sundays 11AM

Morning Prayer at King's Chapel – *traditional service with full choir*

Wednesdays 5:30PM

Candlelit Communion Service at King's Chapel

December 12 5:30PM

Special Blue Christmas Service at King's Chapel



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An artist's rendering of The Whitney boutique hotel.

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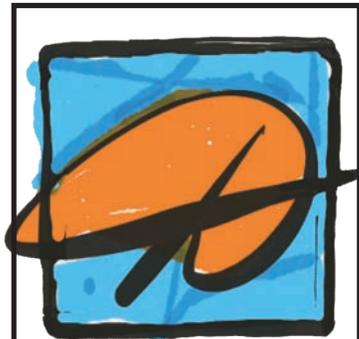
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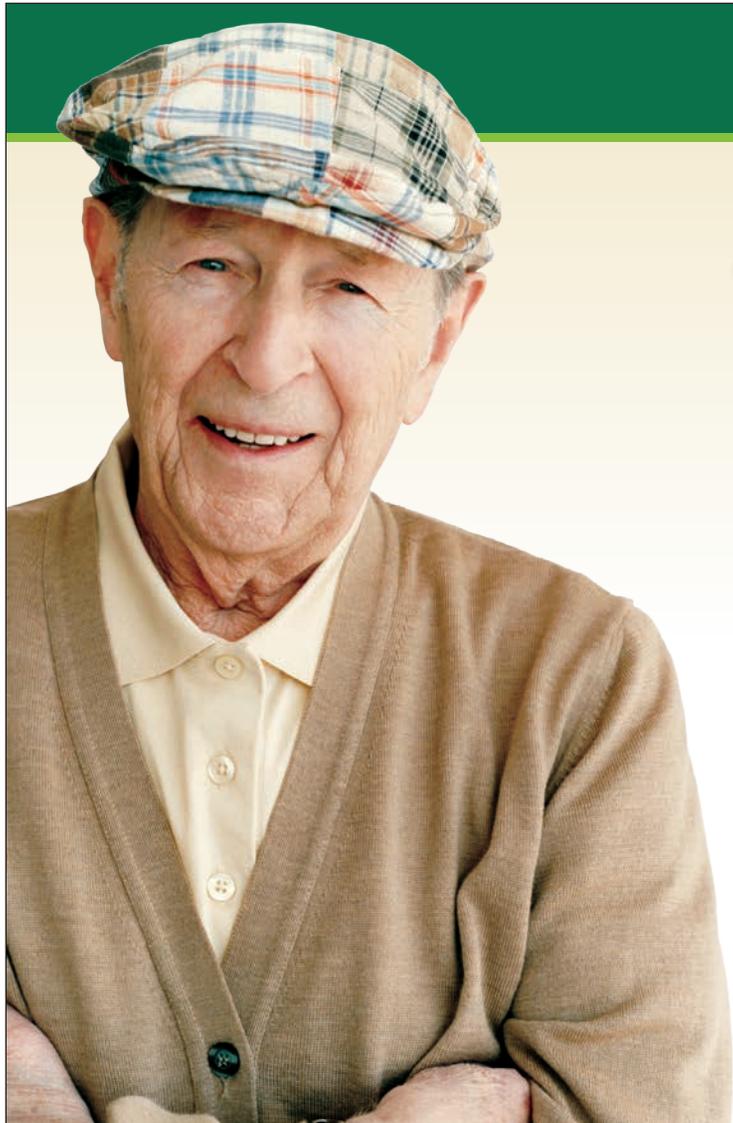
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Coldwell Banker has a program called CBCares, with agents giving a portion of each commission to make donations to local 501(c)3 non-profits that have something to do with housing or offer a residence component to their clients. This year, the company contributed to DOVE - DOmestic Violence Ended - and the check was accepted by board member Stephanie Parini Hegarty. Pictured with Stephanie Parini Hegarty are (left to right) agents Lisa Macalaster, Leslie Adam, William French and Administrators Helene Martel and Jalexis Smith.

Black Magenta Yellow Black



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# Local author delights residents with memories of dining out

By Lauren Bennett

For those interested in the history of eating out in Boston, local author James O'Connell's new book, 'Dining Out in Boston: A Culinary History,' is for you. O'Connell gave a presentation of the book at The Learning Project on Marlborough Street on Nov. 15.

The event was hosted by the Neighborhood Association of

the Back Bay's Special Events Committee, and a crowd of 55 people signed up to hear O'Connell speak on Thursday night. O'Connell, who teaches urban planning and development at Boston University, was a crowd-pleaser; interacting with the audience and asking them to share special anecdotes about some of the restaurants he highlighted.

He called his book a "guidebook to restaurants which mostly no longer exist," and focused this particular presentation a bit more on the Back Bay area since that's where most of the audience resides.

O'Connell went through several restaurants in his presentation, explaining how they went from serving one set meal a day to having printed menus. He said the oldest printed menu was at the Exchange Coffee House in 1824, and that seeing these menus "gives you a sense of how meals would be served."

At this point in time, meals cost 75 cents to \$1, and restaurants were a place where men would sit at longer tables—a much different atmosphere from traditional restaurants today.

He said that women were segregated from this type of city life. "Ladies did not go into the main dining room until after the Civil War," he said. In the late 19th century, women began to get involved in dining out. There were tea rooms in department stores where women would go, O'Connell said. By the 1920s, there were tea rooms, such as at Schrafft's, where women would go but businessmen frequented them as well.

He said that each era had standard dishes, and "certain dishes get into the repertoire, if you will."

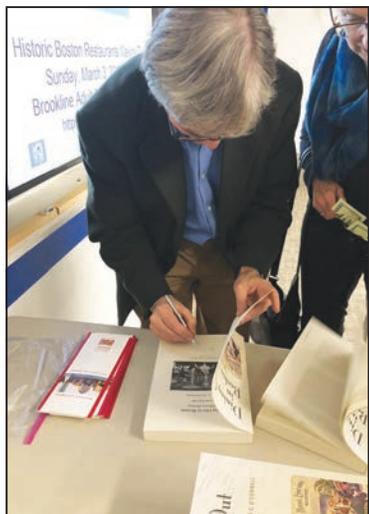
"That's kind of what I try to spell out [in the book]," he said. There are 35 illustrated menus throughout the book, so readers can see the evolution throughout the years.

O'Connell also highlighted the well-known Parker House, which he said was the first hotel in America to offer an a la carte meal, as well as the Union Oyster House, which is the oldest operating restaurant in America.

He continued through the years, highlighting certain restaurants or key shifts in dining culture, but the audience really reacted once he started mentioning things they



Local author James O'Connell talked about the Union Oyster House as part of a presentation about his new book, 'Dining Out in Boston: A Culinary History,' at The Learning Project on Marlborough Street on Nov. 15. The event was hosted by the NABB Special Events Committee.



James O'Connell signed copies of his book for waiting members of the community at the event last Thursday evening.

remember.

At the mere mention of Bailey's Ice Cream, the crowd responded with "oooohs" and "aaahs" as they fondly remembered the ice cream sundaes. Several audience members shouted out "hot

fudge" as their biggest memory of Bailey's. Another man said he remembers the sundaes being served in a metal dish with the sauce dripping down the sides.

(DINING OUT Pg. 7)

Black

**Beacon Hill WOMENS FORUM**

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- Tarot Card Readers
- Prize Raffle
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**BSA**

**ATTENTION SPAN**  
 Designing the Appleton Bridge

Bridges are one of the most visible and iconic expressions of transportation infrastructure. Recent and ongoing transportation investments around Metro Boston feature marvels of bridge engineering and design.

Our guest speaker Miguel Rosales has been involved in the design of many iconic bridges, including recently completed pedestrian bridges. Reflecting on his recent work, Mr. Rosales will highlight the soon to be completed Appleton Pedestrian Bridge on the Charles River Esplanade.

Please join the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) Infrastructure Committee at the **BSA SPACE (290 Congress Street) on Tuesday, December 18 @ 6PM** for a presentation and discussion with Mr. Rosales. The event is free and open to the public.

Guest Speaker:  
**Miguel Rosales, AIA**  
 President  
 Rosales +  
 Bridges As Structural Art

Hosts:  
**JOSH FIALA, AIA, AICP**  
 Principal Planner, MAPC  
 Co-chair BSA Infrastructure Committee

**BRIAN GREGORY, Assoc. AIA**  
 Lead Designer, Gamble Associates  
 Co-chair BSA Infrastructure Committee

Photo: www.archboston.org

**INFRASTRUCTURE ARCHITECTURE**

## ARCHER RESIDENCES AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING



The Archer Residences (<https://thearcherresidences.com/>), Beacon Hill's newest, full-service, luxury residential building near the State House, is under construction and available for viewing. Join The Archer in the holiday giving spirit at the Sales Center (20 Ashburton Place) on Sunday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 3 p.m., when Advisors Living will be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. R.S.V.P. by calling 857-305-3148 by Friday, Dec. 7.

Rendered above is one of the 67 homes at the boutique property, where natural light is plentiful year-round as windows are as high as 14 feet.

## DINING OUT (from pg. 6)

"When it came to ice cream and ice cream sundaes, people around here around here were not puritanical," O'Connell said. "And it's really funny that a cold, northern city is maybe the ice cream capital of America."

In the 1970s, O'Connell said there was a "gourmet revolution," with the rise of ethnic eating and casual eclectic dining, and the rise of the celebrity chef in the 1980s.

Today, O'Connell said the trends include more fine casual dining, tapas/small plates, and farm-to-table restaurants. People dine out much more frequently than they used to when it was considered a special treat.

"Writing this book was really a lot of fun for a long time; reading all these menus, trying to figure out what the food was like," O'Connell said. O'Connell had signed copies for purchase at the event, but the book is also available for purchase online and at bookstores.

O'Connell will be leading a Boston Restaurant History Tour on March 3 of next year through Brookline Adult & Community Education; the cost is \$22. Visit [www.brookline-adulted.org](http://www.brookline-adulted.org) for more information.

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## Beacon Hill Women's Forum to celebrate the holidays on Dec. 18

By Laura Chassaigne

The Beacon Hill Women's Forum (BHWF) will fête the holiday season with a cocktail party starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Hampshire House. While typically the monthly forums are for women only, partners are also invited to attend this month to celebrate the season, for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

A group of BHWF members will don festive attire and put together a 'loosely choreographer' dance that will be performed at the party. No dance experience

is required, but good humor and enthusiasm is a must! The performance will feature Jesse Mattison on the piano, Glenn Cuningham on the saxophone, and vocals from BHWF founder Lisa Macalaster.

The evening will also include a rousing Christmas Carol sing along, tarot card readings, a prize raffle, appetizers and drinks, including one complimentary holiday cocktail. The event is free for BHWF members, and \$60 for non-members. For tickets and further information about this season's speakers and events, and to join BHWF, visit [www.beaconhill-womensforum.org](http://www.beaconhill-womensforum.org).

VISIT [WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM](http://WWW.BEACONHILLTIMES.COM)

## Antonio's Holiday Party Platters

	Half Tray (4-6 people)	Full Tray (8-10 people)
House Salad	\$25.00	\$45.00
Caesar Salad	\$35.00	\$65.00
Antipasto	\$35.00	\$70.00
Eggplant Parmigiana	\$40.00	\$80.00
Ziti Saldate	\$30.00	\$60.00
Baked Ziti	\$35.00	\$70.00
Fusilli & Broccoli	\$35.00	\$70.00
Fusilli, Eggplant, Garlic & Oil	\$35.00	\$70.00
Chicken & Ziti Saldate	\$45.00	\$90.00
Chicken, Pasta & Broccoli	\$45.00	\$90.00
Chicken Marsala	\$45.00	\$90.00
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana	\$45.00	\$80.00
Sausage Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$50.00	\$95.00
Chicken Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$45.00	\$90.00
Shrimp Margarita	\$50.00	\$100.00
Swordfish, Pasta & Broccoli	\$50.00	\$100.00
Shrimp Cacciatore w/Ziti	\$50.00	\$100.00
Veal, Pasta & Broccoli	\$50.00	\$100.00
Veal Marsala	\$50.00	\$100.00
Veal Parmigiana	\$50.00	\$90.00
Chicken w/Sausage, Vinegar, Peppers and Potatoes	\$50.00	\$100.00

Meatballs \$2.00 each

Open Monday, December 24  
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
for lunch and party tray pickup.

Closed Christmas Day

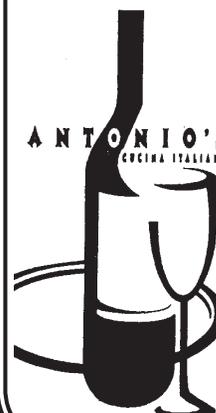
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PLEASE RECYCLE

### HILL HOUSE TREE & WREATH SALE

Photos by Marianne Salza

Four-year-old Lola Cochran pranced down Mount Vernon Square in her new, silver moon boots in search of a “fat” tree with her mommy, daddy, and little sister during Hill House’s Tree & Wreath Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1. Inside the Firehouse, neighbors picked poinsettia plants, garland and red bows, while a Boy Scout sold hot apple cider, and Girl Scouts hosted a bake sale to benefit the Wonder

Fund, which provides clothes and temporary homes for children in need.

“It’s nice and big and tall,” described Lola about her perfect tree, where she hopes to discover a Barbie Dream Camper on Christmas morning. “We’re going to bring it home and decorate it with colored lights. I’m going to put on the star.”



Dave, Meredith, Brielle, and Emme Adamsczyk.



Jessie Hole and Gina Newfield with a tree to adorn a cocktail table.

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Girl Scouts Anna Schulz, Taylor Hauff, Ariana Williams, and Zoe Georgantas selling baked goods to benefit the Wonder Fund.



Shep and Henry Hearle with MIT volunteers from Sigma Nu, Miguel Vega, Ricky Avina, and Charles Coffey, delivered trees to residents.



Craig, Brooke, Lola, and Coco Cochran.



Laura Flannery Masters picking out a tree with her nine-month-old son, Henry Masters.

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# City Council holds hearing on corporate tax-break transparency

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing on Nov. 29, regarding corporate tax break transparency in the City of Boston.

With recent conversations around the location of Amazon second headquarters, tax break transparency is on the minds of the Council and the public. Councilor Michael Flaherty said that there have been issues in the past with the previous administration regarding tax break transparency.

"We've seen too many instances of an agreement that was made and then 10, 12, 15 years later there's a changed condition or someone forgot to collect or another deal was negotiated in lieu of that deal," said Flaherty. "That's never good for our city when that happens and it quite frankly is something that I think that we have a shared responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen."

Flaherty said that moving forward, he would like to see information regarding tax breaks be "iron clad" and "black and white." He would also like to see it be clearly accessible to the public so as to make sure agreements are being honored appropriately. He added that if there does need to be a renegotiation, that process should be transparent as well.

Commissioner of the Assessing Department Gayle Willet said that Boston was recently named the number one city in the world for job opportunities and growth. "This combination of universities,

culture, medical advances, and tech talent makes Boston a place that businesses want to invest," Willet said.

Willet added that 70 percent of the city's revenue comes from property tax collections, and "growth to the property tax base is essential in covering the increases in municipal costs and funding of new initiatives," she said.

"Tax incentives are considered on an exceptional basis when they are required to advance Boston's economic development priorities where the market does not support full taxes," Willet continued. "This may include stimulating economic development at a strategic location, assisting a project with unique economic or construction challenges, or attracting a key industry or company that will yield significant gains and employment."

Willet said that the agreements are listed on the assessing department's website, and over 80 percent of the 121A agreements are subsidized housing projects, including recent agreements with Old Colony in South Boston and Orient Heights in East Boston.

She said that when the use of a tax incentive is feasible, it is structured in such a way that the city only provides the level of assistance required to make a development project attainable.

John Barros, Chief of Economic Development, said that "as an economic development strategy," they make sure to not erode the tax base. "And so growing the tax base and growing jobs and

increasing economic activity is in fact at the heart of our incentive strategy," he said.

Boston is growing—"we're growing, and we're growing in a smart way," Barros said. He said that Boston maintains four key principles in planning for its growth: driving inclusive economic growth, increasing the quality of life for residents in all neighborhoods, promoting a healthy environment and resilient city, and investing in infrastructure, open space, and arts and culture.

"Obviously the use of tax incentives and these types of packages to attract economic growth, corporate investment to cities across the country has been under immense debate given the Amazon deal," he said. He said that each deal in Boston is approached uniquely, and Mayor Walsh said that Boston would not be getting into a bidding war with other cities for Amazon's second headquarters.

"And in fact, when we released our bid to Amazon's HQ RFP, you would find that Boston said very clearly that we were not offering any incentives to Amazon to come, but we invited a conversation because in Boston we believe every deal needs to be looked at closely and we need to stay true to our principles around what it brings to the residents of Boston," Barros said.

He said that the growth of property taxes is "essential for covering escalating municipal costs and funding new initiatives," and that their approach to incentive packages has been

successful. Agreements have been updated and modified as needed, and many companies have come top Boston because of different investments or incentives the city has offered," Barros said.

Councilor Matt O'Malley asked if the city is using fewer tax incentives now than it has in previous years.

"I believe so, yes," said Renee, LeFevre, General Counsel for the BPDA. "I've been here a long time and they're far fewer now than they were in years before."

Greg LeRoy, Executive Director of Good Jobs First, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research group, made some suggestions to the Council via Skype. He said that online reporting of each deal, along with the name of the company, source of incentive, value and duration of the incentive, the project site address, and "whatever the company is supposed to do in return for the incentive" should be made public.

"At least once a year, [there should be] disclosure of the outcome of each of those awards for the duration of the deal—snapshot every year of the progress of the deal interns of actual jobs created, actual wages paid, or actual dollars invested so that everybody can see the deal played out over time," he said. He added that this data should be user friendly and downloadable.

Good Jobs First gave Boston a "goose egg" rating in 2017 because its tax increment financing program is not disclosed online. "Your state actually has not been a great state in terms of disclosure," LeRoy said. "It now has a very modest form of disclosure for a few programs but compared to many other states, Massachusetts was a late state to start disclosing and still doesn't do an especially robust job of it."

He said that if the city wants more civic engagement in eco-

nomics development, then the data must be available to the public so they can see where the deals are in their neighborhoods. Good Jobs First also gave Boston a zero on the Tiffs transparency rating because follow-up reports tracking whether or not payments have been made are not posted online.

Martyn Roetter provided public testimony, saying that "transparency itself is not an end. It's a means to an end and the end presumably is to be able to negotiate deals with corporations that benefit both the corporations or perceived by the corporation to be beneficial to it and also benefit Boston and perhaps beyond Boston, even Massachusetts." Roetter is the Chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, but was speaking from the perspective of a resident and private citizen at this hearing.

"I don't believe like some people that every negotiation inevitably leads to a winner and a loser," Roetter said. "I think the best negotiations lead to situations in which all parties get something, maybe not all that they want."

He added that in his experience, while tax incentives or breaks can have an impact on a company's choice of location, "in the majority of cases, they're not decisive." He said that other factors, such as the "quality and relevance of the available labor force" and infrastructure help drive corporate decisions.

Councilor Michelle Wu sponsored this hearing, and said that transparency and having these kinds of conversations is vital to having an open conversation as an entire city. "At the baseline, we do need transparency to be able to evaluate forward looking and looking back about whether the commitments were upheld and were worth it for the taxpayers and the residents of the city."

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#### Aggravated Assault and Battery

11/26/18 – A victim reported as she was walking through the Public Garden in the area of Beacon and Arlington streets at about 4:03 p.m., she was shoved and her phone was grabbed out of her hand.

The victim stated she confront-

ed a group of four kids for smoking marijuana in the park, at which one male suspect pushed her and threw the victim's phone over the fence onto Beacon Street.

The suspects fled on foot, and officers recovered the phone intact and with no damage in the street.

# CALENDAR

THE DEADLINE FOR LISTING EVENTS IS THE TUESDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. CALL 617-523-9490 OR FAX 617-523-8668 OR EMAIL EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

## THURSDAY, DEC. 6

EVENT, annual holiday party, West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., 6:30 p.m., Call 617-523-3957 for more information

EVENT, Beacon Hill Business Association's Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll, 6-9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 9

EVENT, Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour, noon-4 p.m., tickets: \$125 each, link for tickets on the event page at

HYPERLINK "<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-hill-holiday-house-tour-tickets-51308282454>" \t "\_blank" <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-hill-holiday-house-tour-tickets-51308282454>

## TUESDAY, DEC. 11

RECITAL, Pioneer Singers of Lynnfield performing holiday favorites, King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., 12:15 p.m., suggested donation; \$5, call 617-227-2155

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12

FILM, "Almost Famous" (2000, 123 minutes, Rated R), West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., 3 p.m., call 617-523-3957 for more information

## TUESDAY, DEC. 18

RECITAL, Jodi Perry (soprano), Jennifer Webb (alto), Andy Troska (tenor), Dan Perry (bass) and Heinrich

Christensen (organ) performing Handel's "The Half-Hour Messiah," King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., 12:15 p.m., suggested donation; \$5, call 617-227-2155

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19

FILM, "School of Rock" (2003, 109 minutes, Rated PG-13), West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., 3 p.m., call 617-523-3957 for more information

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

FILM, "The Commitments" (1991, 117 minutes, Rated R), West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., 3 p.m., call 617-523-3957 for more information

## CITY PAWS

### Gifts for animal lovers

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This week we'll share ideas to find the perfect gift for someone who has animals or just loves animals. As you think of the people you want to please with your gift, decide if they would enjoy a physical item, an experience, or a donation to a charity that means a lot to them.

#### Collectors

Some people are avid collectors of items that relate to their animal. If you know what they already have and perhaps a type of item they love, you have your answer.

For example, we have a friend with a Westie who adores any of the Westie items from artist Marc Tetro's collection. She proudly shows us her latest additions, so we have a good idea of the items she has. If you are buying for this type of friend, Tetro's funny and endearing cartoon-style dog illustrations include 23 dog breeds and a few cats that might appeal to your recipient.

Other people might adore a gift that is personalized with an image of their animal. If you can get your hands on a good photo, you can create anything from a t-shirt to a lovely memory box with the specific image on it.

One of our favorite family photos is of Penny holding our dog Maggie Mae. It was a snapshot: a happy moment captured by a friend who saw that she had taken a great picture, had it printed, framed it, and gave it to us. It sits on a bookshelf near Penny's reading chair to this day. Take a look at your photos or spend

some time taking new photos and see if you can create a great gift.

#### Experiences

There are other people who try to limit the number of objects in their life. For those folks, think about giving an experience with their animal or a gift certificate for a service that will make their life easier.

You could give a gift membership to an organization like the Trustees of Reservations who have properties where the recipient can walk, hike, and enjoy nature with a dog. You could pick up the tab for the pet fee at one of their favorite vacation spots. Or, if the person has been talking about trying out agility trials with their dog, you could make that happen.

It is also possible to offer a personal gift certificate for you to pet sit or walk their dog the next time they have an emergency.

#### Donations

A donation to a charity can honor a person or animal. During the gas explosions and fires that caused our neighbors in Lawrence and Andover to evacuate their homes, the resources of the MSPCA made it possible for families to find safe shelter for their pets. The public responded to this emergency by refilling those resources with donations.

Today websites of shelters, non-profit veterinary hospitals, and rescue groups often tell you exactly what they need. The MSPCA and Animal Rescue League have wish lists posted. You can either buy the item and drop it off at the organization or you can link from their site directly to an online retailer and



A fresh, new first-aid kit, specifically designed for pets or a combo version set up to deal with both man and beast, is a thoughtful and useful gift for the animal lover in your life.

have the wishlist item delivered to them.

One-time cash donations or monthly support subscriptions can be made in the name of the person or animal you choose. In most cases the organization will notify the person honored with a card verifying a donation.

We hope you will be inspired to find the perfect gift for your favorite animal lover in time for all the the upcoming gifting occasions.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws. Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your request.



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Sally Brewster      Betsey Barrett  
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## BHCA (from pg. 1)

### Giving Back to our Community

This holiday season, the BHCA is collecting items for two local organizations important to the Beacon Hill community.

For Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, we are collecting new and gently-used coats, boots and backpacks. Of special need this season are children's coats, boots and backpacks. We are also collecting new gloves, hats, socks, underwear and balaclavas (hooded facemasks). Donation checks made payable to "Boston Healthcare for the Homeless" are also welcome. Boston Healthcare for the Homeless was founded over 30 years ago and provides outreach and health and dental services to the city's homeless population. Its founder, Dr. Jim O'Connell, will be speaking about Health Care in the Streets: Lessons from Three Decades of Caring for Beacon Hill's Rough Sleepers on

Thursday evening, Jan. 17, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the BHCA.

For the West End Library Food Pantry, we are collecting nonperishable food items (popular items include cereal, tea and peanut butter) with a special request for holiday meal food items. Grocery store gift cards are also greatly appreciated. A collaboration with Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), the West End Library Food Pantry serves Beacon Hill and West End low income residents and elderly.



Torit students measuring to perfection!

We'll be collecting items from Jan. 2, through Jan. 31. Items can be dropped off during the weekdays at the BHCA, 74 Joy Street. Items for the food pantry can also be dropped off year round at the West End Library at 151 Cambridge Street. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

### Education Town Hall, December 10th

Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George is hosting a series of Town Halls across the City of Boston, where she will be speaking on the work being done specifically around Education. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to hear feedback, concerns and questions directly from the community. The meeting

for Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, Downtown, Fenway, and the North End will take place on Dec. 10, at 6-7 p.m. at the BHCA at 74 Joy Street.

As the Chair of the Council's Committee on Education, a mother of four boys, and a former high school teacher, Essaibi-George wants to create a safe space for community sharing, building, and engagement. Although the focus is on Education, there will be a portion at the end of the event to bring up any issues related to the community. The public is encouraged to submit testimony (emailed to [jessica.rodriguez@boston.gov](mailto:jessica.rodriguez@boston.gov)).

These Town Halls are open to the public, but please RSVP (<http://bit.ly/AEGTownHalls2018>) or call the BHCA at 617-227-1922 so that we can accommodate as many people as possible.

### Join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join. Your input in quality of life issues on the Hill is important to us, and we rely on you our neighbors to bring



Success!



your comments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at [patricia.tully@bhccivic.org](mailto:patricia.tully@bhccivic.org) with any questions, comments or concerns, or to become a member.

### Upcoming BHCA Meetings

No upcoming meetings this week.

Other upcoming BHCA Events

Education Town Hall with Boston City Councilor At-Large, Anissa Essaibi-George -Monday, Dec. 10, 6-7 p.m., 74 Joy Street

Health Care in the Streets: Lessons from Three Decades of Caring for Boston's Rough Sleepers with Dr. Jim O'Connell - Thursday, Jan. 17, 7-8:30 p.m., 74 Joy Street

47th Annual Beacon Hill Gala - Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Omni Parker House

Visit the Beacon Hill Civic Association website [www.bhccivic.org](http://www.bhccivic.org) or call the office (617-227-1922) for more information on any of these events.

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### Nichols House Museum's BEACON HILL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR December 9, 2018

An insider's visit to a select group of elegant private homes in historic Beacon Hill.



[www.nicholshousemuseum.org](http://www.nicholshousemuseum.org)  
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### THOMAS A. KERSHAW 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Thomas A. Kershaw, long-time resident of Beacon Hill and owner of the Hampshire House Corporation (which includes Beacon Hill locations Cheers Beacon Hill, the Hampshire House, and 75 on Chestnut – as well as Cheers Faneuil Hall Marketplace and 75 on Liberty Wharf) celebrated his 80th birthday at the Hampshire House, on Beacon Street on Saturday.



Thomas A. Kershaw celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Hampshire House.



Photos by Dave Donato / ModernArtistry

Thomas Kershaw and Lindy Roethlisberger

#### TOUR (from pg. 1)

programming initiatives at the museum.

A reception also takes place from 3 to 5 p.m. at the William Hickling Prescott House at 55 Beacon St.

“It is an important fundraiser, and we’re very appreciative for the ongoing support that the event has received over the years,” Marshall said.

Tickets range from \$125 from \$500 each and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-hill-holiday-house-tour-tickets-51308282454>. (NOTE: Eventbrite ticket print-outs will not be accepted at the houses - you must have a Holiday House Tour Booklet to enter. These booklets must be picked up at the Nichols House Museum on the day of the tour.)



A cake made in the likeness of Thomas A. Kershaw brought smiles to the party goers.



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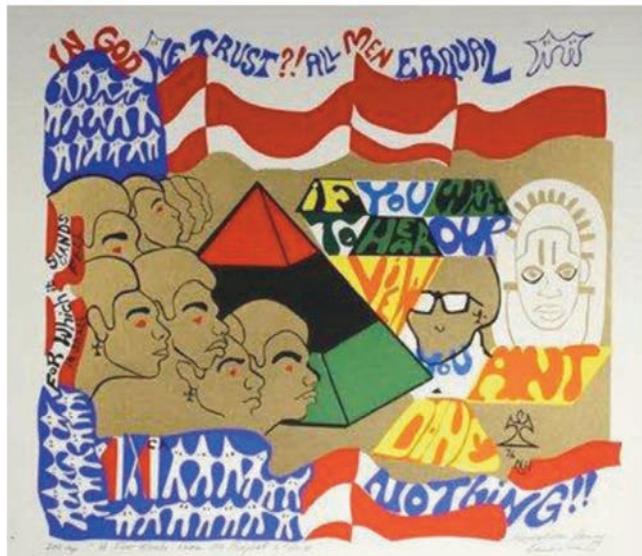


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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## 'Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll' returns Dec. 6

The Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll presents the annual "Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll" on Thursday, Dec. 6, with many returning crowd-pleasers, including the Back Bay Ringers, the Brass Quartet, the Apollo Club, Kings Chapel carolers and everyone's favorite - the complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides by Bridal Carriage Co., Inc.

Both sides on the five blocks of Charles Street between Cambridge and Beacon streets will be closed to vehicles from 6 to 9 p.m., clearing the way for holiday shoppers to visit neighborhood restaurants, shops and businesses while enjoying free snacks and refreshments. Santa Claus will in attendance for the 7 p.m. tree-lighting at Mt. Vernon and Charles streets, at which time the winners of the annual Charles Street Storefront Decorating Competition will be announced and presented with certificates.

Santa will also be on hand to pose with children for complimentary photos, again courtesy of Susan Symonds, owner of Infinity Portrait Design, before the tree-lighting from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Firehouse (Hill House), 127 Mt. Vernon St. Symonds uses instant Polaroid film for the sessions, allowing children to walk away with a keepsake from the event.

## West End Branch Library annual holiday party

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents its annual holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

The event will feature live music by vocalist Will McMillan, accompanied by Joe Reid on keyboards, performing classic songs by Judy Garland, as well as winter classics such as "Jingle Bells," "Sleigh Ride," "Winter Wonderland," "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer," "The Christmas Song" and "Silent Night." Refreshments will be served.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll returns Dec. 6

The Beacon Hill Business Association presents the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The annual holiday celebration includes Pictures with Santa

at Hill House from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and the tree-lighting at Charles and Mt. Vernon streets at 7 p.m.; performances by the Back Bay Ringers, a brass quartet and the King's Chapel carolers; and complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides.

## 'A Christmas Carol' comes to North Shore Music Theatre

Bill Hanney's North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT) will once again present the area's most beloved production of "A Christmas Carol" sponsored by MarketStreet Lynnfield. This award-winning, original musical adaptation was created solely for North Shore Music Theatre and cannot be seen anywhere else. Two cast members, David Coffee (Ebenezer Scrooge) and Cheryl McMahon (Mrs. Dilber), will be both be celebrating their 25th appearance in the holiday show. "A Christmas Carol" will play 14 performances from Friday, Dec. 7, through Sunday, Dec. 23.

Throughout the run, NSMT will be collecting toys in the lobby for Tiny Tim's Toy Drive. NSMT will be accepting unopened, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2 to 12. All toys will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Tickets are priced from \$64 to \$79 - all tickets for children 18 and under are \$35. Performances are Dec. 7-23 (Evening shows Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinees Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, and 22 at 2 p.m.) Tickets can be purchased by calling the North Shore Music Theatre box office at 978-232-7200, via the website at [www.nsmt.org](http://www.nsmt.org) or in person at 62 Dunham Road (Route 128, exit 19), Beverly, MA.

Also, OUT at the North Shore, an evening for the Gay and Lesbian Community with a post-show reception (sponsored in part by Ryan & Wood Inc. Distilleries) on Dec. 14 after the 7:30 p.m. performance.

## Hill Holiday House Tour returns Dec. 9

The Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour returns on Sunday, Dec. 9, from noon to 4 p.m.

For more than 20 years, the Nichols House Museum has organized and hosted the tour, which offers the public a rare opportunity to experience a

select group of remarkable private residences.

This year, the Nichols House Museum is partnering with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the William Hickling Prescott House and six private homeowners to showcase outstanding examples of historic preservation, as well as creative modern interpretation and adaptation in a broad range of architectural and interior design styles.

During the event, the Nichols House Museum also invites you to explore "Craftswomen: The Woodworkings of Rose and Margaret Nichols in Arts & Crafts New England," a special pop-up exhibition honoring a new museum acquisition. By purchasing a ticket, you will be contributing financial support for the Nichols House Museum's ongoing preservation and programming needs.

A reception also takes place at the William Hickling Prescott House from 3 to 5 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$125 each; link for tickets on the event page at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-hill-holiday-house-tour-tickets-51308282454>.

## King's Chapel's Tuesday Recitals

King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., presents its Tuesday Recitals. Admission is by suggested donation of \$5 per person; the donations are given to the performing musicians. Programs begin at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 35 minutes; for more information, call 617-227-2155.

Programming includes Pioneer Singers of Lynnfield performing holiday favorites on Dec. 11; and Joei Perry (soprano), Jennifer Webb (alto), Andy Troska (tenor), Dan Perry (bass) and Heinrich Christensen (organ) performing Handel's "The Half-Hour Messiah" on Dec. 18.

## 'Rock the Holidays Film Series' at West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents "Rock the Holidays Film Series," including screenings of "Almost Famous" (2000, 123 minutes, Rated R) on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m.; "School of Rock" (2003, 109 minutes, Rated PG-13) on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m.; and "The

Commitments" (1991, 117 minutes, Rated R) on Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 3 p.m.; Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## Nichols House Museum seeking volunteer tour guides

The Nichols House Museum welcomes volunteers to join the museum as tour guides.

Guides provide vital support to the museum by leading high-quality tours to diverse audiences and communities. Hours are flexible, and orientation and training throughout the month of March are required. Guides receive complimentary admission to the museum and all museum programming events. There are also regular opportunities for complimentary, behind-the-scenes visits to other local museums and cultural organizations. Applicants should be interested in history, architecture, and decorative arts, and enjoy interacting with visitors of all ages. Tour guides typically commit to half or full-day shifts.

To apply, complete the application form available on the museum's homepage, [www.nicholshousemuseum.org](http://www.nicholshousemuseum.org).

## Hidden Gallery Holiday Art Show

The Hidden Gallery at 25 Myrtle St. will hold its Holiday Art Show on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 8 and 9, and Dec. 15 and 16, from noon to 5 p.m.

Also, gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

Call 617-419-0527 for more information.

## BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in the third through seventh grades.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in an outstanding program.

The group meets at 140 Bowdoin St. on Saturday mornings. Tuition is free for any child with a Greater Boston-area address. All levels of singing

ability are welcome. To register, contact Carlton Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit [www.churchonthehillboston.org](http://www.churchonthehillboston.org) (click on "music.")

BSNJ/The Church On The Hill sponsors this initiative, but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

## MGH seeking volunteers

Massachusetts General Hospital Volunteer Department is seeking volunteers for its very busy office. Candidates must have excellent interpersonal skills in dealing with a broad international community of volunteers, as well as the ability to handle multiple tasks. Various shifts are available.

Contact Kim Northrup at 617-724-1826 for more information.

## 'Coloring for Adults' at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents "Color Your World: Coloring for Adults" on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. At this time, the library will supply coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons, or bring your own supplies if you prefer. Feel free to drop in between these hours.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## Spanish/English Language Exchange

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents the Spanish/English Language Exchange/Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m.

At this time, English speakers can practice Spanish and Spanish speakers can practice English in this fun, informal conversation class.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in Grades 3 to 7.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in a well organized program.

The rehearsals take place at 140 Bowdoin St. on Tuesday afternoons. Tuition is free for any child with a Boston address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To sign up, please contact Mr. Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit [www.churchonthehillboston.org](http://www.churchonthehillboston.org) (click on "music").

The Church on the Hill sponsors this initiative but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

### 'Preschool Story Hour' at West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., offers the "Preschool Story Hour" on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children, ages 3 to 5, and their caregivers join the children's librarian for weekly stories, songs, rhymes and movement. This is a high-energy story time, and families, daycare and school groups are all welcome to drop in.

### ESL conversation group resumes meeting at West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., welcomes the English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation group every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Come and practice your English language skills with other newcomers and a facilitator.

### 'Toddler Time' at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., presents "Toddler Time" on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

At this time, children ages 18 months to 3 years and their caregivers join the children's librarian for developmentally appropriate stories, rhymes, movement, and songs. Drop-in for families, and groups, should contact the library ahead of time at 617-523-3957.

### Get homework help at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., offers homework help every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Get help from a Boston Public Schools teacher. No appointment necessary; simply drop in with your homework. Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

### West End Playgroup meets Tuesday mornings

The West End Community Center, located at 1 Congress St., welcomes the West End Playgroup on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through the fall and winter.

This is a free drop-in time to let kids play and adults chat with one another. Small toy donations are welcome.

### Compassionate Friends group reaches out to bereaved parents, families

The Boston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) meets at Trinity Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

TCF is a national self-help, mutual-assistance organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents and their families. Call 617-539-6424 or e-mail [tcfofboston@gmail.com](mailto:tcfofboston@gmail.com) for more information.

### West End Food Pantry seeking donations

The West End Food Pantry needs help to continue serving its more than 120 clients per month. They welcome donations to replenish the supply of food that they give out to hungry residents in the neighborhood.

The pantry is located in the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library and is staffed by volunteers from ABCD's North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center. Non-perishable (canned and boxed) items are being sought, including rice, pasta, canned tuna, canned chicken, chili, beans, vegetables,

cereal, soups, cup of noodles, etc.

Donations can be left at the library, 151 Cambridge St., on Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Volunteers needed for hot meal program

The North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), located at 1 Michelangelo St., serves a hot, fresh, home-cooked lunch to seniors in the neighborhood Mondays and Fridays, and is looking for two volunteers to help with shopping, food preparation, cooking, serving and clean-up. The non-profit providing services and programs to low-income residents of the North End, West End and Beacon Hill is looking for volunteers who can assist with the whole meal from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a Monday and/or Friday, but can make arrangements to fit your schedule.

Contact Maria Stella Gulla, director, at 617-523-8125, ext. 201, via e-mail at [maristella.gulla@bostonabcd.org](mailto:maristella.gulla@bostonabcd.org) for more information.

### Introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., offers an introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads by appointment only. Get the most out of your eReader or Laptop. Receive tips and guidance during these one-on-one sessions. Call Branch Librarian, Helen Bender at 617-523-3957 or e-mail [hbender@bpl.org](mailto:hbender@bpl.org) to set up an appointment.

### Yoga for seniors at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., presents yoga for seniors every Tuesday from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. Classes are led by Tatiana Nekrasova, a certified yoga instructor.

### Volunteer at Spaulding Rehab

Stay active, meet new people and

be connected with your community by volunteering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Staff members will match your skills and interests to a volunteer opportunity. The hospital is currently recruiting volunteers, ages 18 and up, for two- to three-hour-a-week shifts for a minimum of six to 12 months commitment. Visit [www.spauldingnetwork.org](http://www.spauldingnetwork.org) for more information.

### After-work tai chi group at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., welcomes after-work tai chi group every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. Come and try this low impact energy exercise with yang-style tai chi instructor Arthur Soo-Hoo.

### Volunteers needed for American Cancer Society cosmetic sessions

The American Cancer Society is currently seeking volunteers for the "Look Good...Feel Better" sessions held at Tufts Medical Center, 800 Washington St. "Look Good . . . Feel Better" is a free program that teaches cancer patients hands-on cosmetic techniques to help them cope with appearance-related side effects from chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. Cosmetologists certified and trained by the American Cancer Society conduct the sessions, which are non-medical and do not promote any product line. Volunteers are needed to assist the cosmetologist conducting the session and are responsible for set-up, cleanup, and any other needs of the program. Programs are held from noon to 2 p.m., one Monday every other month. For more information or to volunteer, contact Nanyamka Hales at 781-314-2611 or via e-mail at [Nanyamka.Hales@cancer.org](mailto:Nanyamka.Hales@cancer.org), or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

### Be a friend to elderly in need

FriendshipWorks seeks caring people to offer help and support to isolated elders in the Boston area. Volunteers are needed to

provide companionship and assist elders with tasks such as reading, organizing, or going for a walk - lend an hour each week and gain a friend and a new perspective. Volunteers also needed to escort elders to and from medical appointments. No car is needed and hours are flexible. For more information or to apply online, visit [www.fw4elders.org](http://www.fw4elders.org) or call 617-482-1510.

### Local residents needed to drive cancer patients to and from treatment

The American Cancer Society is in great need of Road to Recovery volunteers to drive local cancer patients to and from their chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments. An integral part of treating cancer successfully is making sure cancer patients receive their treatments, but many find making transportation arrangements is a challenge. The American Cancer Society provided more than 19,000 rides to cancer patients in New England last year, but needs new volunteer drivers to keep up with the demand for transportation.

Make a difference in the fight against cancer by becoming a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery. Drivers use their own vehicle to drive patients to and from their treatments. The schedule for volunteers is flexible, and treatment appointments take place weekdays, primarily during business hours. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer driver for Road to Recovery, contact your American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

### Join the Downtown Boston Rotary Club

The Downtown Boston Rotary Club, the first new Rotary Club in Boston in 100 years, holds meetings at the UMass Club in the Financial District on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.dbrotary.org](http://www.dbrotary.org) or call 617-535-1950.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE BEACON HILL TIMES Call 781-485-0588

# TURNING BEACON HILL INTO A CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

For the 19th year, The Beacon Hill Civic Association has been making sure that the gas lamps on Beacon Hill are decorated with garlands and bows for the holiday season. With the help of many volunteers, 1,200 gas lamps took on a festive air over the weekend.

The committee sends special thanks to Historic

New England, City of Boston, Charles Street Liquors, Panificio, Charles Street Supply, and Anna's Taqueria for their support.

A very special thank you to Kristen Mansharamani of Torit Montessori, her teachers and students for cutting the wire to attach the garlands to the 1,100 poles!



Volunteers get the garlands ready for the gas lamps on Saturday morning.



Renee Knilans gives a hand to Martha Stuart on the ladder as they decorate a Street lamp on Beacon Street.



Adam Whitney hanging garlands.



Getting the bows ready were from left Lyn Ryan, Jean Lawrence, Tina Truedson, Patricia Tully, executive director of the Beacon Hill Civic Association and Genean Stec.

Cyan  
Magenta  
Yellow  
Black



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