



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

Happy Holidays form the Independent Newspaper Group



SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAYS



Carolers recently strolled around Beacon Hill singing holiday songs to residents and visitors. Above, the carolers stopped by a Chestnut St. home to sing one of their carols.

BHAC denies application for new front door at future home of Beacon Hill Books and Café

By Dan Murphy

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission voted three to one to deny an application to replace the existing front door at 71 Charles St. – the future home of Beacon Hill Books and Café – “with an exact replica in mahogany with glass panels on top” at its Dec. 16 monthly public hearing, which took place virtually.

Melissa Fetter, proprietor of the future business expected to open around May, said her intention to replace the door was for “public safety, not an aesthetic concern” because, as she maintains, there is only a small landing outside the door to stand on, while the side-lights don’t provide an adequate view of the area on the other side of the door and an existing transom further obscures the sightlines. As a result of these conditions, someone could be easily knocked down

on the other side of the door, she said, particularly a child.

“This is temporary solution, which we hope will satisfy commission,” said Fetter, who added that the door also serves as an emergency egress for the building.

Additionally, Fetter committed to preserving the existing door and storing it on the property so it could be “rehung when the building is no longer a bookstore.”

Nick Armata, BHAC staff, said the commission had received numerous letters from neighbors supporting the application.

Commissioners Martha McNamara, Annette Given, and Arian Allen voted to deny the application, while Commissioner Alice Richmond cast the sole dissenting vote because, she said, she felt that strongly that denying the request would unnecessarily put

(BHAC Pg. 9)

Academy Award winner Chris Cooper wraps up Beacon Hill Seminar film seminar

Special to the Times

Beacon Hill Seminar (BHS) members were in for a surprise when Academy Award winner Chris Cooper joined the last session of their “Portraits of Leadership in Classic Films” seminar. Course leaders, Stephen Devaux and Christine Eyre, led this highly interactive 6-week course that

examined the role of leaders as portrayed in five Oscar-winning films.

To help class participants better understand leadership concepts and themes, Devaux and Eyre employed standardized personality tools and reviewed theories on the motivations of exemplary people. Course participants applied these concepts to each film they watched

and then shared their observations during class discussion. Class member, A.T. Stair, in his evaluation of this course noted “This seminar gave me a new perspective on thinking about leadership and made viewing these outstanding films an even more enjoyable and thought-provoking experience.”

Academy Award winning actor, Chris Cooper and his wife, actress and author Marianne Leone, well-known for her role as Christopher Moltisanti’s mother in the Sopranos, joined the final class discussion. Participants viewed a clip of Cooper as Joe Kenehan in *Matewan*, a 1987 film about a deadly coal miners’ protest in 1920. Cooper shared that this was his major film debut at age 35, and it was one of his most memorable acting experiences. In interpreting the role, Cooper said he initially considered himself as “a worker, one of the crowd, and nothing special” before becoming a highly effective

(BHS Pg. 8)



Academy Award winning actor, Chris Cooper, with BHS members on the last day of the “Portraits of Leadership in Classic Films” seminar.

Chestnut Street residents featured in ongoing art exhibit

By Dan Murphy

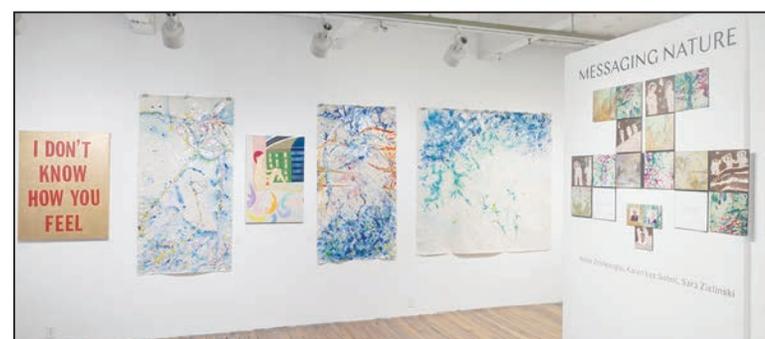
As one of the three artists featured in “Messaging Nature” - an exhibit on display through Dec. 29 at Fort Point Arts Community Gallery in the Seaport that looks at human nature both in terms of how people relate to each other, as well as how they relate to the natural environment - longtime Chestnut Street resident Karen Lee Sobol hopes the show will provide attendees with a renewed sense of optimism as they enter into 2022.

“It’s just a very beautiful and

energetic show, and kind of an uplift going into the new year,” said Sobol. “It’s very positive and life affirming.”

Besides Sobol, an artist, author, architect, and advocate, as well as a founding member of the Pleiades Network, a self-described “network of women working at the forefront of environmental and social justice,” the exhibit also features work created by her daughter, Sara Zielinski, a visual artist who grew up on Chestnut Street,

(EXHIBIT Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF KAREN LEE SOBOL

“Messaging Nature,” on display through Dec. 29 at Fort Point Arts Community Gallery in the Seaport.

EDITORIAL

HAVE A MERRY -- AND SAFE -- CHRISTMAS

The holiday season usually is the most wonderful time of the year.

But Christmas, 2021, is anything but wonderful, even for those of us who are among the most fortunate in our society.

Our collective stress and anxiety levels are at an all-time high thanks to the recent arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which has upended the holiday plans for many of us.

Each and every day, the virus is killing almost 1300 Americans, a statistic that has become mind-numbingly routine. That figure still is well below the 3000 deaths per day a year ago at this time, but still, it translates into 500,000 deaths per year.

Hospitals once again are at full capacity in many states, with coronavirus patients filling emergency rooms and crowding-out those who have other health issues.

This was not the scenario we had envisioned a few months ago, when it appeared that we had COVID-19 under control.

For those of us who are fully-vaccinated with three shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines (or one J&J plus one of the those other two), the effects of the Omicron variant are proving to be fairly mild, akin to having a bad cold.

But for anyone who is unvaccinated, infection with the Omicron variant is proving inescapable thanks to its high-degree of transmissibility. And as the statistics demonstrate, the chances of becoming seriously ill are dangerously-significant.

Although the pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to our mental health issues, especially for older Americans, the toned-down holiday season offers us an opportunity for reflection, a chance to reach an appreciation for the things that really matter in our lives: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

We wish all of our readers a merry -- and safe -- Christmas.



GUEST OP-ED

Gift ideas for Christmas

Dr. Glenn Mollette

This Christmas give somebody the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Be broad with your giving and generous. We all need a lot of both. For such a joyful holiday of cheer, giving and yuletide merriment there is much to be stressed about.

Typically, people have been stressed about all the holiday parties, gatherings and Christmas scheduling. This year there is more stress related to sickness, masks, vaccinations, Omicron, natural disasters, filled hospitals, massive numbers of funerals and inflation. The last couple of Christmases have not been life as usual for most of us.

You may have watched Chevy Chase in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. He becomes over the top stressed out when his Christmas lights won't work and he literally kicks, stomps and curses a blue streak across his yard. It's a funny scene. Mostly because in some way we've all been there a time or two.

Most of us enjoy giving if we

can. We enjoy giving to the people we love. Christmas trees, decorating, eating and gatherings are all a part of the season. However, we become frustrated when we lose sight of the big picture. The big picture includes looking around and beyond our Christmas pain. Millions of people would simply be thrilled to have the problems that some of us have. Many people are in the nursing home and will never go to the mall again. Some have a terminal disease and this may be their last Christmas. Depression will weigh heavy on many who have lost their homes, buried loved ones or experienced financial devastation from medical care or natural disasters. Most of these people would love to have a house to decorate or gifts to buy for a loved one.

Celebrate Christmas this year. Give away some special gifts. Give gifts that money can't buy or time cannot fade. Give love, give forgiveness and give some mercy. Extend these generously to yourself. If you can't give them to yourself it's impossible to give them to others.

The little baby that Christmas celebrates became a man and taught people that we should love God and love others as we love ourselves. Herein is part of the rub. Too often people stop loving themselves. Life becomes imperfect, we fail, get hurt or mad and we kick Santa or the reindeer across the yard. Unfortunately, we don't stop there. We go into Ebenezer Scrooge bah humbug mode. We don't get our groove back and miss out on some of Christmas' most wonderful characteristics- mercy and forgiveness.

The Christmas story is about a child who came to show us the way. He showed us how to love, forgive and be merciful. Some of the people in your life probably need it more than you know. Give generously and start with yourself.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week. In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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Beacon Hill, surrounding area's weekly COVID infections increase once again

By John Lynds

With the Omicron COVID variant now the most prevalent variant sweeping across the US—making up nearly 75 percent of all new cases—Beacon Hill and the surrounding areas's weekly COVID positive test rate rose once again ahead of the Christmas Holiday.

With COVID infections spreading like wildfire Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday a new initiative to require vaccination in certain indoor spaces in the city, including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments. The new "B Together" initiative will begin January 15 and will phase in second vaccine doses and youth vaccination requirements. Both patrons and

employees of indoor venues will be required to show proof of vaccination and the indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

"Vaccines are the most powerful tool we have to fight this pandemic. Vaccination saves lives, and closing vaccination gaps is the best way to support and protect our communities, businesses, and cultural institutions during this pandemic," said Mayor Wu at a City Hall press conference Monday. "The vast majority of COVID-related hospitalizations are of unvaccinated individuals, which is impacting our entire healthcare system and compromising the health of our communities. Today's steps to protect community members in certain indoor establishments and throughout

our city workforce will help ensure that everyone in Boston will be safe. City government must take down barriers and direct our resources for easy access to testing and vaccination to protect our city and all of our communities."

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 2,693 Beacon Hill, North End, Back Bay, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 6.2 percent were positive. This was a 29 percent increase from the 4.8 percent that tested positive between December 6 and December 13. The weekly positive test rate is up 100 percent in the area since December 6.

However, the citywide weekly positive test rate remained the

same last week. According to the BPHC 30,754 residents were tested and 6.7 percent were COVID positive--this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on December 13.

One hundred sixty seven additional residents have been infected with the virus between December 13 and December 20 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 4,846 cases overall since the pandemic began.

"COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in Boston. The B Together initiative is just one component of a multilayered, comprehensive strategy that the city has implemented to address COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Boston residents," said Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "We must also ensure that every Bostonian has easier access to vaccines and boosters, and we will be rolling out new sites across the city."

Starting January 15, 2022, patrons of covered businesses will be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering the premises. The order states that individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card,

any official immunization record or digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. The city also announced plans to create its own app, modeled on the successful Key to NYC app that has supported the vaccine requirement effort in New York City.

Businesses included will also be required to post a notice at all entrances. The city will begin a weeks-long campaign to educate residents and businesses about the new policy, utilizing city outreach workers and inspectional services. Businesses found not in compliance will receive verbal and written warnings. Repeat offenders may be subject to fines.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4 percent last week and went from 92,170 cases to 95,790 confirmed cases in a week. There were 15 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,493.

EXHIBIT (from pg. 1)

and is now based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Annie Zeybekoglu, a mixed media painter, book artist, and jewelry designer for more than 30 years, is the third artist featured in the exhibit juried by Jessica Hong of Dartmouth University's Hood Museum.

"Messaging Nature" includes about four dozen works in all, including several of Sobol's mixed-media paintings. Collectively called "Nobody's Nomad," Sobol's featured work tells the story of the migration of not only humans, but also of animals, around the world due to the changing environment and sometimes, in the case of humans, for political reasons.

The exhibit's narrative addresses three concerns, according to FPAC Gallery and the artists themselves: what is important to communicate, and how [the artists] do it; how they see individual and collective roles in society; and how their art contributes to conversations about global issues like social alienation, community, and environmental health and stewardship.

Additionally, the exhibit exists at the "intersection of art and science," said Sobol, and further concerns "how art translates for

people to science."

Said Sobol, "People see art in visual, visceral ways, and that's how they remember it. Ideally, the experience can change their outlook and behavior. [This exhibit] is really about ways we communicate."

An opening reception for "Messaging Nature" - the Fort Point Arts Community Gallery's final show of the year - took place on Nov. 12, followed by a gallery tour with the artists on Dec. 8.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Sobol also served as one of the program's guest speakers for the UMass Boston Art + Science Café, discoursing on the topic of "Life is a Beautiful Place - What's Your Message?" on Dec. 17. (Other guest speakers were Zeybekoglu and Andres Ballesteros, a musician, composer, and executive director of the Eureka Ensemble.)

"Messaging Nature," meanwhile, has received the full and enthusiastic support of the Fort

Point Arts Community Gallery, as well as from the public, said Sobol, who added the experience has also been a learning experience for her personally as an artist.

"I've learned so much from how people engage in art," she said. "People are having a blast engaging and enjoying. There's just so much room for interpretation."

Public viewing hours "for Messaging Nature" at the Fort Point Arts Community Gallery, 300 Summer St. are noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 26. To schedule a private viewing of the exhibit before it closes on Dec. 29, email Karen Lee Sobol at karenleesobol@gmail.com.

Visit www.karenleesobol.com for more information on Karen Lee Sobol; visit www.sarazielinski.com for more information on Sara Zielinski; or visit www.anniezey.com for more information on Annie Zeybekoglu.

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Mayor Michelle Wu announces actions to increase affordable housing

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu this week announced a series of actions to increase affordable housing and stabilize communities, commissioning two feasibility studies to shape updates to Boston's policies. First, a study of the existing Inclusionary Development Program requirements and market conditions will consider how Boston can achieve or exceed 20 percent affordability in new construction, up from the current level of 13 percent. The Mayor is also considering taking executive action alongside the study to reduce the number of units that trigger affordability rules and deepen affordability levels. Secondly, a study of Linkage fees will assess the feasibility of increasing funding for affordable housing and workforce training from new development, including from lab space.

Mayor Wu also announced the start of an audit of all City-owned property to leverage the city's significant real estate holdings to create more affordable and supportive housing.

The Mayor confirmed that she will be submitting a revised home rule petition in January for a real estate transfer fee to generate new resources for affordable housing, while expanding property tax relief for senior homeowners who have been longtime owner-occupants of their homes.

Finally, Mayor Wu announced that she will be forming a Rent Stabilization Advisory Group to consider the tools available and necessary to protect tenants and stem displacement, with a goal of drafting legislation for the next state legislative session.

"With these actions, we're taking our first major steps towards addressing Boston's housing crisis," said Mayor Wu. "Our city must build more affordable

housing, leverage our wealth and resources to fight displacement, and protect tenants. Housing must be the foundation for our recovery, and this work begins immediately."

"The Office of Housing is ready to implement these new policies to create additional affordable housing and increase tenant protections, ensuring that all Bostonians have a safe, affordable home," said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. "The pandemic has shown everyone what we always knew – safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining good health, economic stability, and is the cornerstone of stable neighborhoods."

"This is the bold leadership that Boston needs. I am incredibly excited by these steps and am confident that they are only the beginning of Mayor Wu's push for housing equity," said Councilor Lydia Edwards.

Inclusionary Development Program

The newly named Mayor's Office of Housing is commissioning a feasibility study, to be completed within 150 days, to evaluate how to meet or exceed a 20 percent affordability requirement, up from the current level of 13 percent.

The Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) was initiated in 2000 to require private residential developers to contribute affordable housing resources as part of their market rate development. Through November 2021, developers have created a total of 3,627 units of income-restricted housing through on-site or off-site units. Contributions by developers to the IDP Fund have led to the creation or preservation of 2,319 additional income-restricted units, for a total of 5,946 units created because of the IDP. The IDP was last revised in December 2015.

"I applaud Mayor Wu for putting our communities first with

these steps to reform IDP and make housing more affordable in Boston," said Noemi Ramos, Executive Director of New England United 4 Justice. "We are in a housing crisis with rising rents and soaring costs. We need leadership to move quickly and place housing at the top of the agenda, and that's exactly what the Wu administration is doing today. I support these measures as a first step toward delivering housing justice, and I look forward to partnering to make the urgent changes we need."

Linkage

Mayor Wu also announced this week the commission of a new study required to make significant changes to Boston's commercial Linkage policy. Through the Linkage policy, large commercial real estate developers building new commercial space are required to make payments to the Neighborhood Housing Trust and the Neighborhood Jobs Trust to fund affordable housing and workforce training. This study is expected to be completed within 150 days.

As with the IDP feasibility study, recent legislation requires the completion of a new Linkage study in order for the City to make changes to the policy. Possible changes that will be considered include: increasing the per-square foot fee to invest in housing and job training, lowering the square footage threshold that triggers Linkage payments, applying the fee to each square foot of new developments that are subject to Linkage, speeding up the payment schedule by requiring full linkage payment for each building at the time that the building receives a building permit, and assuring that the City is maximizing fees received from all commercial uses, especially from Boston's current lab space boom. These changes would generate more funds for affordable housing

and workforce training.

"We're delighted that Mayor Wu is moving forward on linkage, and that she's committing to a 150-day timeline," said Symone Crawford, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance. "Linkage was designed to mitigate the increased housing pressure and displacement of low- and moderate-income residents caused by large scale commercial development. The current linkage fee doesn't do that. We look forward to working with Mayor Wu to fix this."

"Linkage is the primary source for job training funding through the City, so we are thrilled that Mayor Wu is taking action on a nexus study," says Amy Nishman, Senior VP of Strategy at JVS Boston and president of the Job Training Alliance. "As Boston continues to recover, the development pipeline is strong, and the only way to ensure that Boston residents are eligible for the jobs being created is to fully fund effective job training programs."

Audit of City-Owned Property for Housing

Meeting a goal that Mayor Wu established on the campaign trail, City agencies have begun an audit of City-owned property and parcels to identify opportunities to develop supportive housing and affordable housing. The audit will be completed within the first 100 days of the Wu Administration.

Transfer Fee

Mayor Wu further announced that she will be pursuing a revised Home Rule Petition to establish a transfer fee to support the creation of affordable housing. The petition would authorize the City of Boston to impose a fee on real estate sales above a certain threshold value. The funding generated would be dedicated to the Neighborhood Housing Trust for affordable housing development

and preservation. The Home Rule Petition would also include property tax relief for senior homeowners who are longtime owner-occupants of their homes. A previous version, passed by the City Council in 2019, failed to pass the MA legislature. The Mayor will be submitting the new version of the transfer fee legislation to the Boston City Council in the new year.

Rent Stabilization

Mayor Wu is also taking the first steps towards implementing rent stabilization in Boston by forming a Rent Stabilization Advisory Group. The members of this new advisory group will study local housing conditions, rent stabilization programs being administered in other cities and be tasked with making recommendations on the available and necessary means to protect tenants from displacement, with a goal to shape language for the next legislative session on Beacon Hill.

Mayor's Office of Housing

Finally, Mayor Wu and Housing Chief Sheila Dillon announced that they are renaming the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) as the Mayor's Office of Housing. This name change more accurately reflects the role that the former DND plays in the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and helping Bostonians obtain, maintain, and retain safe, affordable housing. The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) will develop and implement the City of Boston's housing creation and homelessness prevention plans and collaborate with local and national partners to find new solutions and build more housing affordable to all, particularly those with lower incomes. For more information, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development>.

Ring in 2022 at The Liberty Hotel with a fantastical night of "Reverie"

The Liberty Hotel's "Reverie: A New Year's Eve Fantasy" will offer revelers an over-the-top fantasy-themed party, Fantasy New Year's Eve Dinner at CLINK., and special room package

The Liberty Hotel invites guests to ring in the new year at its epic, annual NYE celebration.

Ring in 2022 at The Liberty Hotel with tickets to Boston's most happening NYE party Reverie: A New Year's Eve Fantasy, a Fantasy New Year's Eve Dinner at CLINK., a NYE Reverie room package, or all three! NYE programming includes:

- Reverie: A New Year's Eve

Fantasy

The Liberty Hotel is bringing back one of the most epic parties in Boston to ring in the new year with Liberty Hotel Presents: Reverie: A New Year's Eve Fantasy.

From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., the fantastical fete will take place on all levels of The Liberty Hotel's main rotunda and feature three of Boston's top DJs, two dance floors, entertainment and aerial performances by The Boston Circus Guild, and a light dinner buffet from 8 to 10 p.m. served by CLINK.'s Chef Daniel Kenney. Guests are encouraged to wear their NYE best or their most fan-

tastical, over-the-top looks.

Ticket prices start at \$95 and can be purchased [HERE](#). VIP table service packages are also available in the lobby or catwalk rotunda for six to ten guests starting at \$1500 per table. All guests must be 21+ and have proof of COVID-19 vaccine or negative test result within 72 hours for entry.

- Fantasy New Year's Eve Dinner at CLINK.

The Liberty Hotel's signature restaurant CLINK. will also be serving up a special Fantasy New Year's Eve Dinner prepared by Chef Daniel Kenney. Offering two different seating times, the first

seating at 6:30 p.m. will include three courses for \$105 and the option to purchase a discounted ticket to The Liberty's New Year's Eve Fantasy Party. The second seating at 8:30 p.m. will include four courses, a glass of champagne, and a ticket to The Liberty's New Year's Eve Fantasy Party.

Reservation prices do not include additional beverages, tax, or gratuity. Reservations can be made at [HERE](#).

- Reverie Room Packages

The Liberty will also be offering special "Reverie" room packages including overnight accommodations for two guests and admis-

sion for two to the 'Reverie' New Year's Eve Party. Reservations can be made at www.libertyhotel.com.

For more information, please visit www.libertyhotel.com or contact (617) 224-4000.

About the Liberty Hotel:

Rich with history and full of ornate architecture, Beacon Hill's The Liberty, a Luxury Collection Hotel, is centrally located and steps away from shopping, dining, Boston Common, and much, much more. A unique blend of history, high-style luxury and homegrown warmth, The Liberty Hotel is the

Greg Galer to step down as Executive Director of the Boston Preservation Alliance

After nine years as Executive Director of the Boston Preservation Alliance, and numerous accomplishments in that time, Dr. Greg Galer will be taking the helm of the Association for Preservation Technology International, with the aim of growing APT as he has the Alliance. The Alliance Board of Directors has appointed Alison Frazee, an eight-year Alliance veteran, Acting Executive Director.

Galer has spent a considerable amount of time as one of Boston's most vocal and caring advocates. Mayor Michelle Wu shares her thanks to Galer: "I'm grateful to have worked alongside Greg and know his passion for preserving Boston's history to build community throughout our neighborhoods. Thank you for your dedication to community, your active leadership



COURTESY OF BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Dr. Greg Galer, the exiting Executive Director of the Boston Preservation Alliance.

in partnering with the City, and the countless ways you've helped shape Boston during your tenure.

Congratulations to Alison Frazee as she prepares to lead this important organization."

Since Galer's arrival, the Alliance has reached its strongest financial and advocacy position in its 43-year history. Assets are now over four times greater, and hundreds of businesses, organizations, and individuals are active members of the Alliance. In the last five years alone, the Alliance has played a role in over \$4.2 billion worth of construction, from large projects on the Boston skyline to changes in the City's neighborhoods. The Alliance is an influential and highly sought voice of guidance in the evolution of Boston and has catalyzed discussions at City Hall to modernize preservation regulations.

Galer helped form the cam-

aign that brought the Community Preservation Act to Boston, which has provided over \$92 million to support 198 historic preservation, affordable housing, and open space projects across the city. He was the originator of the nascent Legacy Fund for Boston, which has \$6 million committed to Boston's historic preservation causes.

Galer plays a central national role as the preservation community focuses on preservation's ability to address today's challenges such as affordability, sustainability, equity, and workforce development as a board member of the National Preservation Partners Network. He has also served as a Trustee of the Boston Groundwater Trust since 2012.

Galer's last day at the Boston

Preservation Alliance will be Jan. 21.

When asked about his time at the Alliance, Galer said, "I'm proud of my work at the Boston Preservation Alliance. We've touched every neighborhood, influenced hundreds of buildings, and expanded the number of people who see the benefits of preservation. We've built momentum at City Hall to strengthen the tools to protect the vital and unique resources throughout the city. There is now agreement of the critical need for a comprehensive, equitable inventory of city historic resources. The broader community, including many of our development friends, is recognizing that historic preservation is climate action, equity building, and a successful source of affordability."

DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER

D. MURPHY PHOTO

Nancy Schön's iconic "Make Way for Ducklings" statue in the Public Garden was donning winter attire for Tuesday's record-cold temperatures of the winter so far.



LIBERTY (from pg. 4)

ideal place for a "Quintessentially Boston" experience.

Located at the foot of Beacon Hill, The Liberty Hotel is an imaginative transformation of the storied Charles Street Jail, a national historic landmark and architectural gem built in 1851. Now, from our 298 imaginatively re-invented rooms and suites, guests take in sweeping views of the city skyline and Charles River, linger over five distinct restaurants and bars and conduct some of the city's most fun business in our approx. 6,000 square feet of meetings and event space.

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Young Friends hold Third Annual Winter Party at 8 Park St.

Special to the Times

The Young Friends Third Annual Winter Party on Friday, Dec. 10, was an extraordinarily festive night at 8 Park St. Just over 100 people came out to support the parks and celebrate the holidays, seeing old Friends and meeting new ones for the first time in two years.

Friends Board chair, Leslie Adam, welcomed everyone: "Thank you all for your wonderful commitment to caring for these special parks that have been so important to us all, especially during the pandemic. Thank you to the Young Friends for organizing this great party.

"You are starting to see the impact of our 50th anniversary capital campaign in the parks – I hope you all had the chance to experience our temporary art installation on the common – 'What Do We Have In Common?' And I hope you noticed the latest statue lighting on the mall - the Patrick Collins Memorial was lit this fall! Work has begun on the statue of Domingo Sarmiento as



COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Friends Board chair, Leslie Adam, welcomes the crowd at The Young Friends Third Annual Winter Party on Friday, Dec. 10, at 8 Park St.

well, all thanks to community support. You all know how important these three parks are to the health of our growing city. They are enjoyed by over 7 million people each year, and are truly the heart of Boston. We all love these parks and I know if we continue to work together, we will make the parks more beautiful and accessible for everyone, today and for future



Just over 100 people came out to support the parks and celebrate the holidays.

generations. Thank you for caring and investing in the future of the three parks. Stay tuned, we are

going to have a fabulous year!" There were fabulous raffle prizes from generous organizations

and local businesses. Fun was had by all! All the attendees were certified vaccinated.



Attendees enjoying the festive night.



Dressing for the holidays, those who attended celebrated the hard work put onto the area parks.

I hope you enjoy a safe and healthy holiday season!



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Jay Livingstone
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Christmas
 at King's Chapel

32BJ SEIU congratulates Edwards on historic victory in Senate Race

The following Statement is attributable to Roxana Rivera, Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU:

On behalf of the airport workers, cleaners, and security officers of 32BJ SEIU throughout Massachusetts, I am overjoyed that Lydia Edwards has been elected as State Senator in the primary election.

This historic win is long overdue; when she is officially sworn in after the general election in January, Senator Edwards will be the first Black woman to represent this heavily BIPOC district where over 2,000 of 32BJ workers live and thousands more work.

Lydia Edwards is a fierce advocate for social justice, and has been

one of workers' strongest allies throughout her time on the Boston City Council. She has stood shoulder to shoulder with airport workers in their fight for better working conditions, a union, and raises for these essential workers ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with her help, these airport workers have won signifi-

cant change. She has already made positive change as a City Councilor through her housing and transportation advocacy work, and we know she will continue to get the job done for Boston and the entire state.

As we face another pandemic winter, inflation, and inequity, we need to keep electing change-makers like Senator Edwards into office. The members of 32BJ SEIU will enter 2022 with a more hopeful view due to Edward's victory!

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

SHARMA INITIATED INTO OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

Ashley Sharma, a native of Beacon Hill, was recently initiated into the Johns Hopkins University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed more than 1,100 new initiates from 41 universities during November 2021.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional

students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society, was founded in Lexington, Virginia, on December 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK

Idea-the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society's national headquarters are located in Lexington, Virginia.

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SHOPPING SMALL ON BEACON HILL



COURTESY OF LYNNE WOLVERTON

A visitor to Charles Street recently showed her support for the neighborhood's small businesses by shopping at Linens on the Hill.

BHS (from pg. 1)

union leader. His personal comments provided an additional significant dimension to the group's understanding of leadership.

Members were also delighted to hear about Cooper's upcoming film "Boston Strangler" which is being filmed in Boston. Cooper plays the role of the editor of the Record American newspaper, which existed in the early 1960s at the time of the murders. The film, written and directed by Matt Ruskin, also features Keira

Knightly as one of the two female journalists who uncovered the fact that multiple killers were involved. According to Cooper, the film also sheds light on the struggles professional women faced at that time.

As the course finale, Cooper led a mock Academy Award ceremony after class participants voted on which actor, in the five films viewed, was the 'Best Leader' in an acting role. Think of the challenge of comparing Alec Guinness in The Bridge on the River Kwai

with Jack Nicholson in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Cooper revealed that the class voted for Gregory Peck in his role in Twelve O' Clock High.

BHS will be hosting its Spring Semester Kick-off virtually on Wednesday, January 5, from 2 to 3 PM. Attendees will be able to learn about the 20 courses offered this winter and spring including 10 in-person and 10 online courses. For more information visit beaconhillseminars.org.

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Happy Holidays!



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BHAC (from pg. 1)

people at risk.

Commissioner McNamara, on the other hand, said the existing door appeared to original, describing it as a “great example of a historic element of this building, and one of the most character-defining features,” and added, “once the door is gone, we have no ability to retrieve it and put it back in place.”

As an alternative, Commissioner McNamara suggested that the main entrance to the business could be a smaller door set lower on the right-hand side when facing the building, which previously served as the main entrance to the erstwhile Hungry I restaurant at the location. Richard Pignataro, an architect for the project, countered this wouldn't be a practical solution because he estimates that door is only about 5 feet, 2 inches tall.

Fetter said they had also installed an elevator in the building that has a large footprint, and which would greatly limit them from being able to reconfigure the entryway and vestibule for the existing door.

Moreover, Fetter expressed frustration with the commission's determination and said she is “offended by the lack of accommodation when [she's] trying to do something for the community.” She also said she had spent the past two and a half years and a significant sum of money bringing the building up a standard not met by many by many, if any, other buildings on Charles Street.

Added Fetter, “We're a couple of months away from being done so it's on you guys when people get knocked down.”

The commission also voted to approve as submitted an application to install new air exchangers on the rooftop of 14 Beacon St., which are intended to help the Boston Athenaeum to better preserve the priceless collection of books and other artifacts when the museum when it expands from its current home at 10½ Beacon St. into the first, fifth, and sixth floors next door at 14 Beacon St. The commission's unanimous approval came with provisos that at least three of the units visible from Beacon Street would be painted a patina-green color, and that the matter would then be referred to subcommittee comprising Commissioners McNamara, Given, and Richmond. If the subcommittee then finds the condition unacceptable, the applicant will need to return to the commission with a plan to screen the units.

In another matter, the commission also unanimously

approved an application for 77 Chestnut St., carried over from last month's hearing, to install a new brass door handle and house numbers in the entry way, along with a pendant light and intercom/keypad system with a camera for security purposes. This came with provisos that the door numbers be smaller than the proposed 7¼ inches, which would be remanded to staff for approval, while a subcommittee comprising Commissioners McNamara, Given, and Richmond would need to approve a smaller intercom/keypad system.

The commission also approved an application for 8 Spruce St., with proposed work that includes removing an existing red mailbox and replacing the existing intercom with a “grill-like modernist unit,” as well as replacing scones with a more traditional light fixture at the front door, according to the applicant, Frank McGuire. Also among the extensive modifications proposed for the building – a small, three-story, white stucco building McGuire, an architect by profession, described as his “Beacon Hill Bauhaus baby” – also include replacing all the windows visible from a public space, which, he said, are in “terrible condition,” as well as removing exterior egress to what was previously a third-floor studio apartment.

The proposed changes, according to McGuire, are part of a plan to convert the building back to a single-family residence for his daughter from its previous use for the past 50 years of two apartments, including the upstairs studio apartment, when it was previously owned by a New York family trust.

The commission unanimously approved the application as submitted, with the proviso that two grates beneath the first-floor windows be retained.

On an application for 28 Pinckney St. to alter a garage door opening previously approved by the commission, the commission

this time voted to unanimously approve a second option to replace a “wooden header” presented by the applicant, who agreed with staff to move the garage door and glass transom forward enough to be flush with the garage opening. The commission chose this alternative over the applicant's preferred option, which entailed filling in a gap above the garage door with a granite lintel as that approach would've introduced an additional material to the structure.

By a vote of 3-1, the commission also unanimously approved an application for 38 Pinckney St. to replace a rubber-roofed deck, and to replace an existing picket-fence roofdeck rail with a wrought-iron metal rail. (The application also originally included the replacement of a lattice screen, but that was removed as Commissioner McNamara said it wasn't visible from a public way.) This came with the proviso that the new railing be moved back 6 inches from the edge of the wall, although the applicant said they would consider keeping the existing railing, if that would mean keeping it in its current location.

The commission also approved an application for 44 Phillips St. to replace an existing headhouse with one two feet taller, as well as to replace the existing roofdeck. This came with the proviso that the height of the headhouse be reduced if possible; the applicant replied its height could be reduced by about 6 inches.

Additionally, an application for 11 Irving St. to relocate the intercom system to ratify the unapproved existing buzzer was unanimously approved as submitted, with the proviso that the new console be affixed through the mortar joints.

The intention here, according to the applicant, to help facilitate the delivery of packages to the residence, and this also comes on the heels of last month's determination by the commission to ratify the



The future home of Beacon Hill Books and Café at 71 Charles St.

unapproved installation of a security gate at the garden level of the same address. (That applicant said at last month's hearing, the gate had been installed there to block access to a recessed well, which had frequently been the site of open drug use, sex acts, and public defecation.)

An application for a new sign at 131 Charles St. and a violation for 29 Pinckney St. to ratify an unapproved window replacement both appeared on the agenda but

ultimately weren't heard due to a failure to appear by the respective applicants.

Moreover, an application for a new viewing platform at 83 Mount Vernon St. was determined to be exempt from the commission's review, while applications to remove and rebuild a deck at 73 Mount Vernon St., and to install a new light fixture at 160 Mount Vernon St., respectively, were both removed from the agenda by staff.

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Morris, Richard I	A Jelin Isenberg 2003	180 Beacon St #6G	\$3,200,000
BFS1101 LLC	Fazio, Michael G	220 Boylston St #1101	\$2,500,000
Jones, Lauren E	Kingsbery, Mary	50 Commonwealth Ave #801	\$1,450,000
Wilmington RT	275 Newbury JV LLC	275 Newbury St	\$16,145,000
Fien, Francis J	Mcgirr, Pamela A	38-40 Saint Botolph St #21	\$609,000
J M Rogoff T 2016	Garmey, Ronald	400 Stuart St #18E	\$2,250,000
Rosenzweig, Michael	Stuart Clarendon NT	400 Stuart St #22B	\$2,301,250
Bkuda LLC	Richard C Kimball RET	95 Beacon St #2	\$515,000
Touret, Natalie	Liu, Jiahau	342 Commonwealth Ave #8	\$675,000
T A Kennedy 2020 T	Lot Oz RT	394 Marlborough St #3	\$531,000
Pajak, Slawomir	Tamarjon LLC	425 Newbury St #PS161	\$80,000
BEACON HILL			
Novak, Lawrence M	Smith, Sean R	21 Beacon St #8J	\$640,000
Pizza, George A	21-4 Hancock Street RT	21 Hancock St #4	\$900,000
Walton Holdings LLC	Hawthorne RT	9 Hawthorne Pl #110S	\$1,600,000
Ruscic, Katarina J	Sinclair, Frank	8 Whittier Pl #8H	\$1,125,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Kljat, Angelina	Pino, Joseph L	8 Garrison St #510	\$520,000
Mercer, James A	Boucher, Peter B	26 Montgomery St #5	\$720,000
Strickland, Gary	Simone, Michael	188 W Canton St #1	\$1,350,000
Ratia, Tomas	241 West Canton St LLC	241 W Canton St #3	\$870,000
Lam, Jamie	Cannata, Andrew J	12 Yarmouth St #D	\$870,000
LDJ Development LLC	V&L Tosi RET	27 Bay State Rd	\$6,200,000
M C Peachey RET 2017	Dubowsky, Steven	412 Beacon St #1	\$1,570,000
Benavente, Jaime	Shaw, Barbara	456 Beacon St #4	\$660,000
Brackley, Marguerite M	Weiss, Jane C	492 Beacon St #33	\$925,000
Brennan FT	Lobo, Claudette P	12 Bond St #2	\$694,500
Connell, Nathan T	Muthiah, Senthil	10 Bradford St #1	\$1,370,000
Gardner, Andreia D	Sobin, Lindsay	34 Claremont Park #1	\$900,000
Missant, Jon	Guery, Alain V	529 Columbus Ave #25	\$1,200,000
Salavanti, Seroos	Koch, Dustin	21 Father Francis Gilday St	\$780,000
Ginty, David D	Roth, Deborah	40 Hereford St #1	\$1,955,000
Quillen, Jeffrey L	T J Folliard 4th T	100 Lovejoy Wharf #7G	\$1,599,000
Wang, Xiuping	Dawn Enterprises LLC	125 Park Dr #36	\$569,000
Katz, Alan W	Kiyota, Kate	32 Traveler St #411	\$649,900
Stavis, Joshua	Rowes Capital LLC	37 Upton St #5	\$1,180,000
Velikin, Albina	Kathleen T Reed T	120 W Concord St #2	\$645,000
Rottner, Joshua	Brunts, Eve M	150 W Newton St	\$4,100,000
Takacs, Denes	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #601	\$749,900
K Crowley Kavanagh Left T	Filmore Farm Limited LLC	1313 Washington St #227	\$822,500
Caesar, Mark	Siegel, Jolie M	1721 Washington St #302	\$840,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Leibly, Frank J	Lois J Lingeman T	28-32 Atlantic Ave #333	\$710,000
Mitty, Roger	ICSA US Real Estate Inc	2 Avery St #25D	\$2,000,000
Leaverton Waite FT	Zhao-Chen, Bin	99 Fulton St #6-1	\$685,000
Egan, James T	Romano FT	86 North St #203	\$760,000
CN Rowes Wharf LLC	Mary M Jacobs RET	20 Rowes Wharf #TH7	\$3,050,000
Mei, Xiangyi	Div Sumner Street LLC	99 Summer St #603	\$469,900

Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The glass bridge in the last clue connects the towers of the JFK Federal building on 15 Sudbury Street to the lower four-story section. The complex was designed by Walter Gropius and The Architects Collaborative and was constructed between 1963 and 1966.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



My Zone Blue

By Marianne Salza

Scientists and animal lovers, Pedro Mejia and Monica Diez, affirm that healthy eating leads to longevity and contentment for our pets. According to the husband and wife, an unbalanced diet and low-quality ingredients can result in chronic diseases, energy deficiencies, and shorter life spans.

“For a dog or cat, eating kibble every day is like if you were eating Oreos every day. Sometimes it’s the same food in a different package; and people think it’s better,” explained Pedro, who specializes in public health. “Even if it was good quality meat, they have to liquefy it and make it paste. It only sticks if you add a lot of starch. Then they burn everything and nutrients are destroyed.”

Pedro and Monica founded My Zone Blue after three years of experimenting with recipes to meet the nutritional requirements of cats and dogs. Unlike mainstream pet food formulas that are processed and sprayed with fats for flavor, My Zone Blue freeze-dried treats safely preserve nutrients.

“She loved animals so much that she switched careers from a scientific one at MIT, where she worked for nine years, to volun-

teering at shelters, and caring for animals,” said Pedro, who enjoys traveling the world with his wife as she participates in marathons, such as the Boston Marathon, which she has run in twice.

Monica spent years tending for local, senior animals and ones with special needs. When she began a pet care and dog walking company in Beacon Hill, where she and Pedro reside, she noticed that most of the animals’ recurring health issues were caused by poor nutrition.

She became particularly fond of a blue-eyed, affectionate senior cat, Mocha, while volunteering at MSPCA. Mocha suffered from incontinence and kidney diseases, and was abandoned. Monica, determined to extend Mocha’s life, welcomed her into their home and began cooking her meals from scratch. After switching to raw food, Mocha became more active, was free of her urinary problems, and lived with Monica and Pedro for nine years.

“My research was about the links between nutrition and inflammation. There are huge effects different diets have on inflammation and metabolism,” revealed Pedro. “Sometimes small changes in food can make a big difference in the



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

My Zone Blue dog and cat treats and toppers are rich in nutrients.

long term.”

The carbohydrates, fats, and proteins in My Zone Blue products resemble pets’ ancestral eating habits. Wolves and wild cats spent days without feeding. Only water is removed from My Zone Blue’s freeze-dried treats and supplemental toppers to maintain the flavors, smells, vitamins, and minerals of the food.

“If you put animals in a calorie-restricted diet, they live longer and healthier. You don’t need to fast to get those benefits; you just need to change those ratios of nutrients in your food,” Pedro suggested. “We have calculated what you need to have the optimal ratios of carbs, proteins, and fats.”

My Zone Blue was inspired



PHOTO BY DOGSIMEET.COM

Pedro Mejia and Monica Diez, founders of My Zone Blue.

by the regions around the world -- such as California, Japan, and Italy -- where people live longer, more active and social lives.

“The idea is that you could have a blue zone for your dog or cat with good nutrition, exercise, and love,” expressed Pedro.

Pedro and Monica have a recipe for complete dog and cat food products, and hope to reveal it soon. My Zone Blue is sold at over a dozen stores in the Boston

area, including The Fish & Bone, in the Back Bay, Paws on Charles, in Beacon Hill, and Rinaldi Dog Boutique, in the North End. My Zone Blue can be purchased online at www.MyZoneBlue.com, and can be shipped anywhere in the United States. Read Pedro and Monica’s blog, where they discuss pet nutrition and explain the importance of fruit and vegetables, like blueberries and broccoli.



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