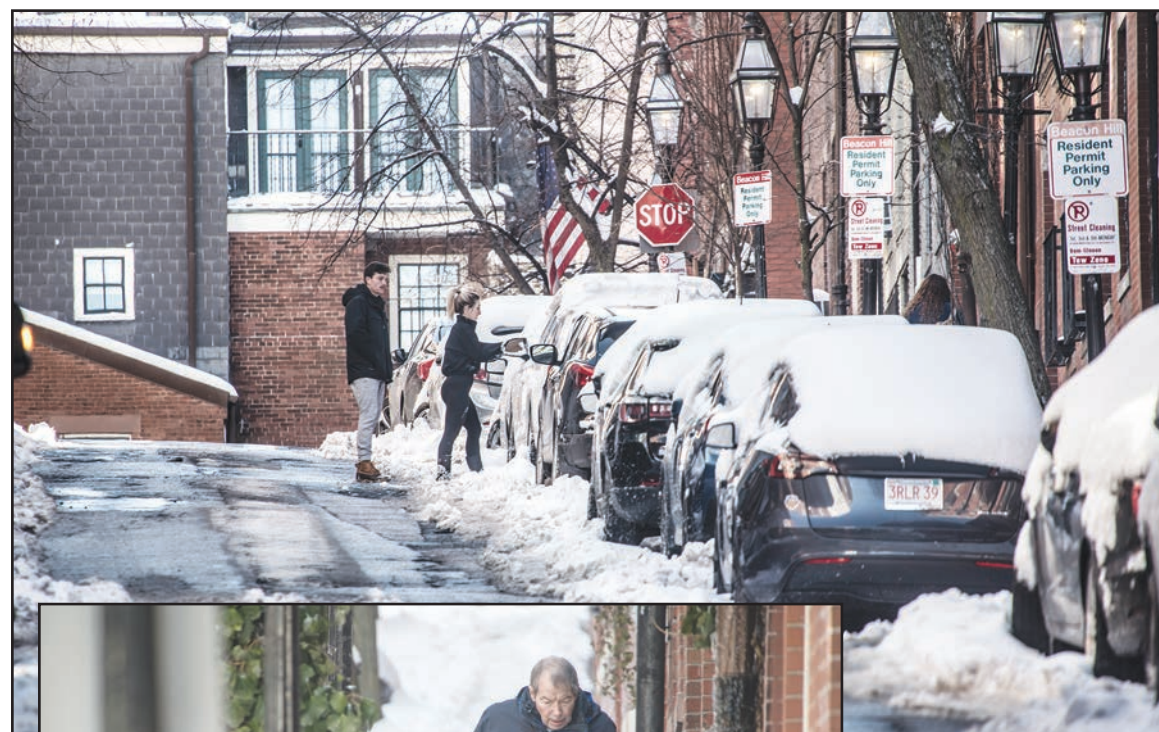


# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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## DIGGING OUT, AGAIN



*Another winter storm struck Boston on the February 25, after an unseasonable warm snap of upper 60 degree temps. Above, a Beacon Hill residents begin the process of digging out their car. Left, a resident is ready to do battle with the snow on Irving Street. See pages 8 and 9 for more photos.*

## Neighborhood civic leaders want more input on electrified gaslights proposed for Stuart Streets

By Dan Murphy

Since a proposal to replace several existing historic gaslights with electrified streetlights in conjunction with the 19-story mixed-use tower now under construction at 212 Stuart St. could potentially pave the way for the installation of similar LED light fixtures not only elsewhere on Bay Village, but also on Beacon Hill and on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay, civic leaders from these neighborhoods want the city to include them in the planning process.

Greystar, the developer of 212 Stuart St., had originally filed an application for the installation of seven LED streetlamps for consideration at the Bay Village Historic District Commission's January meeting, but ultimately Greystar withdrew its application amid



D. MURPHY

*One of Beacon Hill's iconic gaslights.*

concerns raised by the Bay Village Neighborhood Association.

Gary Kerr, managing director of Greystar, wrote: "We greatly respect the Bay Village Neighborhood Association's stewardship, and we share their desire to maintain the historic character of the

district. 212 Stuart St. represents an opportunity to carry that legacy forward while also establishing a more inviting entrance to Bay Village and aligning with local/state sustainability objectives without compromising its charm. Although no official action will be taken regarding the streetlamps until at least the conclusion of the pilot program, we will continue to keep the Neighborhood Association, and the broader Bay Village community, involved on progress and timelines. Greystar is appreciative of the community's passion, and we intend to work closely with them and the City of Boston as this process continues."

Of the seven proposed LED fixtures, the two at Acorn and Stuart streets would already be non-

(GASLIGHTS Pg. 4)

## Councilor Bok to hold Beacon Hill office hours

By Dan Murphy

City Councilor Kenize Bok will hold Winter Office Hours for her Beacon Hill and West End constituents on Thursday, March 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St., both in person and virtually.

"Meeting with constituents is the best part of my job, and it's such a joy to be able to safely host office hours in person again," said Councilor Bok. "We'll also have virtual hours to make sure they are convenient for everyone, including folks who don't yet feel comfortable meeting in person."

You can sign up for in-person Office Hours at [https://calendly.com/councilor-kenziebok/office-](https://calendly.com/councilor-kenziebok/office-hours?month=2022-03)



City Councilor Kenize Bok.

hours?month=2022-03, or virtual office hours at <https://calendly.com/councilor-kenziebok/virtual-office-hours?month=2022-03>.

Councilor Bok will also hold

(Bok Pg. 4)

## New company to offer private, front-door valet service

By Dan Murphy

Beacon Hill residents who don't have the benefit of dedicated parking will have another option beginning this month, thanks to a new service that will offer private, door-to-door valet service to the front door of any condo or townhouse in the neighborhood.

The Acorn Club launches March

15 with a special introductory rate of \$885, which includes a garage sparking space. Availability will be limited to start, however.

Members can simply text the service and their vehicle will be delivered to their front door around 10 or 15 minutes later, or the valet can instead meet members when they

(VALET Pg. 4)

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER



### 49th Annual Beacon Hill Gala – A Centennial Celebration!

Join us on Saturday, April 2nd, as we celebrate our 100th year of Neighbors Helping Neighbors! Our Centennial Gala will take place at the beautiful Four Seasons Boston.

For tickets, opportunities to sponsor or to advertise in our Gala program, please visit [bhcvic.org](http://bhcvic.org), or call us at 617-227-1922. We look forward to celebrating with you there!

There's no better time to become a Member of the BHCA!

Are you new to Beacon Hill? This is a great time to join the

(BHCA Pg. 2)



# EDITORIAL

## A TRAGIC AND DANGEROUS TIME

As we are writing this, the incredibly brave people and government leaders of Ukraine still are holding out against the despicable invaders from Russia.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin, the criminal Russian dictator, underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people and their armed forces. He also underestimated the united backlash from the rest of the world and the effects of the economic sanctions that are crippling Russia's economy.

On the other hand, he overestimated the power of his army, which clearly is not up to the task of overrunning a nation as large and as unified as Ukraine as quickly as he had expected.

However, we fear that as the Russians continue to pour military resources into Ukraine and undertake a military campaign that is targeting the civilian population with war-crime levels of bombardment, it is only a matter of time before the Russians take control of whatever will be left of Ukraine after Putin levels it, as he seems intent on doing.

Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine brought to mind a quote that often is applicable to dictatorial regimes such as Putin's: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority."

Although what is happening in Ukraine, though it is being broadcast into our living rooms and on our computer screens 24/7, may seem a world away, we should not be lulled into thinking that we are safe from Putin's maniacal machinations.

The reports that the 69 year-old Putin, who apparently was not content with being the richest man in the world, has become mentally-unhinged is a cause for concern because the lessons of history teach us that the evil deeds of dictators know no bounds.

Here is a quote from a book that came out this week about another would-be dictator:

"He stopped listening to his advisers, became manic and unreasonable, and was off the rails. He surrounded himself with sycophants, including many whack jobs from outside the government, who fed him a steady diet of comforting but unsupported conspiracy theories."

This is a quote from a passage in the new book by former Attorney General William Barr describing the final days of Donald Trump's presidency.

But it seems equally-applicable to Putin, who has raised the spectre of using nuclear weapons to bolster his failing military campaign and who has the ability to wage cyber warfare upon us to an extent that we have not yet experienced. In the 1950s, Americans conducted Civil Defense drills, which included telling children to duck-and-cover under their desks at school. But in an era of cyber warfare, there will be no place for any of us to hide.

We pray for the poor people of Ukraine, whose lives are being shattered literally hour-by-hour.

But we also must be aware that the after-shocks of what is happening in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for the entire world, including us.

## "CLIMATE CHANGE IS HARMING THE PLANET FASTER THAN WE CAN ADAPT, U.N. WARNS"

That was the headline in the New York Times this past Monday in its story on the report released by the United Nations regarding the ever-increasing damage that man-made pollution is causing to the environment.

The bottom line of the report is this: Unless we reverse direction immediately to limit the amount of greenhouse gases we are spewing into the atmosphere, the impact of climate change on our planet will be irreversible and will come so rapidly that we will have no ability to withstand the wildfires, floods, storms, and sea-level rise that are the inevitable consequences of climate change.

In short, life on our planet as we know it basically is doomed. And it is going to happen much sooner rather than later.

## GUEST OP-ED

## How much is freedom worth?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

In America we pursue the occupation of our choice. That doesn't mean we always like our jobs but we can choose to pursue another career or several different careers. We can choose our state, community and house. That doesn't mean we can easily afford to live where we choose but we are free to pursue life in another neighborhood if we want to work toward such a move.

We change our lives if we have the desire and the will power. People make choices every day regarding health, habits and lifestyles. Some choose to develop themselves further and strive to be better while others may choose to do nothing.

You choose your house, your car, your clothes, and your hairstyle (if you have any). You choose what you will do on your days off from work or during your retirement years. You choose if you retire or if you just keep on working until the end.

Often, we may feel as if we don't have choices and that we are stuck in a rut. Chances are we made choices that put us there. We have to make tough choices to climb out of the rut. We can easily become disabled physically, financially and domestically which will significantly limit our choices. Because of health, money, and maybe even age, our choices are often very limited.

Most of the time, even when we have limitations, we can find freedom of choice.

The bottom line is we live in America and we cherish our freedom. We should remember our history and the great sacrifices made by so many. We should never take for granted the unimaginable hardships endured by the early settlers and every generation that has fought wars and lost tens of thousands of men and women in wars to keep our sacred and blessed freedom.

In his 1961 State of the Union address, President John F. Kennedy reminded us that every generation of Americans has had to win its freedom. We will never stay free unless we are willing to fight and sacrifice to keep our freedom.

How much is freedom worth? The brave people of Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are showing the world what freedom is worth. Their lives. While many of the young and aged are exiting Ukraine, President Zelenskyy and thousands are risking their lives to keep Ukraine free from the aggression of Russia and the evil of Vladimir Putin. Putin is not our friend or a friend to the free world. His path to conquer Ukraine is an Adolph Hitler move. Destroying a city and attempting to conquer a nation while killing thousands in order to increase his domain is barbaric.

In the midst of all this, we are

surely reminded that we must once again become energy independent. Russia is a supplier of 40% of the natural gas used by Germany and most of Europe. They and America must stop buying energy and anything else from Russia. We have made them a rich nation while sacrificing our own independence.

Watching as Ukraine's government hands out AK-47s and other guns surely reminds us of the importance of being able to protect ourselves. Keep your guns, stock up on your ammunition, and never vote for anyone who wants to edit our Second Amendment.

We must pray for Zelenskyy and the Ukraine people but we must also help them with whatever aid necessary to push Russia out. Keep in mind that Russia is only 55 miles from Alaska's closest port. Putin just might decide that Russia should have Alaska back. We bought Alaska fair and square in 1867 for \$7.2 million and we won't be handing it back.

How much is freedom worth? Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine are demonstrating how much freedom is worth.

*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.*

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

BHCA as we begin our Centennial year celebrations, and a great time to join in our efforts of Community Building, Civic Engagement and Historic Preservation. You can become a member at [bhcivic.org](http://bhcivic.org).

If you are unsure of your membership status, please call the office and we will assist.

**Upcoming virtual BHCA Meetings**

No meetings next week

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**PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY**

**MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DiGREGORIO**  
([DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM](mailto:DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM))

**ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES**

**FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR**

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

EMAIL: [EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM](mailto:EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM)

WEB SITE: [www.beaconhilltimes.com](http://www.beaconhilltimes.com)

## APPRECIATION

## Remembering Elsie Herrmann

By Suzanne Besser

Elsie Herrmann was as comfortable on her knees planting tulips in community gardens or crafting clay critters with kids at Mass General as she was leading the board at Bethany Union's residences for women or slathering mayo on ham and cheese sandwiches at the Pine Street Inn.

A vibrant, indomitable lady with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her lips, Herrmann passed away February 12 at the age of 99. A gardener, artist, community leader, wife and mother of two, she left no stone unturned.

A zealous gardener who didn't mind a bit getting her fingers dirty, Herrmann was active in the Beacon Hill Garden Club for years. She was an inspiration and mentor to others, said BHGC member Sharon Malt. "I don't think there is anyone who knew more about horticulture or how to wield a trowel than Elsie."

A true force of nature, Elsie was always the first to arrive and last to leave when it came to civic gardening, said Jeanne Burlingame. For years she nurtured gardens at the Peter Faneuil School, Old North Church, Codman Island, West End Library and the flower boxes outside the Charles Street



Elsie Herrmann.

post office. BHGC president Molly Sherden remembers first meeting her at the library. "She was a least thirty years older than I was and there she was, digging with a large, heavy shovel in cement-like ground, flinging dirt behind her," she said. "I offered to take over for her, but she insisted that she had it covered."

'Hands on' she was, always giving her energy and time to help others, according to Rev. Joy Fallon of King's Chapel where she devoted much of her time and talent. "My mom adored arranging the flowers at King's Chapel," said her daughter Jeannette Herrmann. "Gathering materials at the wholesale flower market on Albany Street made her heart sing."

A graduate of Boston's Ves-

per George art school, Herrmann was a dynamic artist, painting landscapes with watercolors and abstracts with acrylics. "She loved design and I think that's what led her to study with Mrs. Marjorie Drake Ross who taught decorative arts weekly classes in her Pinckney Street home," said her daughter.

She also took classes at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Boston Atheneum where in the late '70s she met Rita Pope with whom she traveled extensively. "Whether it was to the Cape or Europe, we always had a sketch book in hand," said Pope, who greatly admired Herrmann's sense of design.

Reaching far beyond her art and gardening, Herrmann was a hardworking community volunteer who frequently found herself in leadership positions. Early on she served as president of Bethany Union, a residence that provided housing in three adjoining Newbury Street homes for young women in school or at work. She organized monthly dinners for up to 500 guests of the Pine Street Inn. She acquired furniture to launch Rosie's Place, the country's first women's shelter. She reviewed campership applications for the Lend-A-Hand Society which provides financial assistance to

low-income families.

Dear to her heart was her involvement in the Fragment Society, a charitable organization founded in 1812 whose members make and buy clothing to be given to those in need. The society is one of the United States oldest continually operating sewing circles. She also served as its president.

Her daughter remembers her mother driving to Chelsea to fetch crates of eggs and oranges for Pine Street Inn or stopping at Macy's to purchase bundles of clothing for the Fragment Society to give to needy kids. And, as recently as last fall, Herrmann was still knitting blankets to include in layettes they give to keep babies warm.

Elsie Herrmann's achievements did not go unrecognized. She received several awards from the

BHGC and was awarded a medal of merit in 2010 from the Garden Club of America. In 2017 she and Jeannette received the 20th annual Beacon Award for their significant contributions to the community during the Beacon Hill Civic Association's 95th annual meeting.

Her many friends say Herrmann was always pleasant to work with. Making sandwiches for Pine Street Inn was almost as good for the volunteers as it was for the recipients, said Karen Cord Taylor. "Elsie made it a happy place. Her organization made the work fun, effortless and easy to do. We chatted with each other. It was as kind a gesture to the volunteers as it was to the people we served."

"When you know people like Elsie Herrmann, it adds something to your life," said Taylor.

## Mayor Wu recommends CPA funding for three Historic Preservation projects on the Hill

By Dan Murphy

The latest, more than \$27 million round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding recommended by Mayor Michelle Wu includes three Beacon Hill Historic Preservation projects, totaling \$697,400, as well as an \$18,810 Open Space & Recreation grant to plant 50 trees on the Charles River Esplanade over the next year.

Recommended Historic Preservation projects on the Hill include \$72,400 for exterior restoration of original features and shutter restoration of the Nichols House Museum; \$350,000 for exterior masonry restoration of Beacon House, which provides affordable housing for 117 elders and people with disabilities; and \$275,000 for the restoration of the failed front plaza at The Vilna Shul. In all, Mayor Wu and the city's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) are recommending the allocation of \$6,141,357 for 25 Historic Preser-

vation projects as part of this latest round of CPA funding.

The \$18,810 grant for a multi-year improvement project to plant approximately 50 trees on the Esplanade from 2022 to 2023 is one of 17 Open Space & Recreation projects, totaling \$6,404,338, while 10 Affordable Housing projects, totaling \$14,660,159, are also recommended for CPA funding.

"The Community Preservation Act helps us invest in our communities by empowering residents and local organizations to put funding to important priorities across our neighborhoods," Mayor Wu said in a press release. "I am grateful to the Community Preservation Committee and all of the applicants for their commitment to expanding affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and recreation to benefit Bostonians across our city."

Felicia Jacques, CPC chair, added, "With appreciation to

the CPA staff, the Boston CPC is pleased to recommend 52 projects across 19 neighborhoods to Mayor Wu for funding consideration by the City Council under the leadership of Michael Flaherty, Council Committee Chair. This recommendation fully commits over 50 percent of funds to housing with the remaining funds supporting 42 historic preservation and open space projects. These projects address a variety of uses and a bounty of worthy community projects spanning the city in virtually every neighborhood."

Following the CPC's public hearing and vote and Mayor Wu's recommendation on Feb. 28, the proposed projects have been filed with the City Council for its vote of approval.

"Projects supported with Community Preservation Act funding must create or preserve affordable housing, historic sites, or open space and recreation," according to the city.

### PROGRAM MANAGER (BILINGUAL)



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MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

BOSTON MEDICAL



# New company to offer private, front-door valet service

By Dan Murphy

Beacon Hill residents who don't have the benefit of dedicated parking will have another option beginning this month, thanks to a new service that will offer private, door-to-door valet service to the front door of any condo or townhouse in the neighborhood.

The Acorn Club launches March 15 with a special introductory rate of \$885, which includes a garage sparking space. Availability will be limited to start, however.

Members can simply text the service and their vehicle will be delivered to their front door around 10 or 15 minutes later, or the valet can instead meet members when they arrive home to drop off their car at the garage. (Acorn works with local neighborhood garages, so the resident doesn't need to arrange parking themselves.)

Additionally, members will access to their vehicles 24/7 should they choose to retrieve them independent of the service.

Acorn will also save members the trouble of traversing the neighborhood's steep slopes in inclement weather, particularly heavy loads such as baby strollers, sports equipment, or groceries, in hand, without seeing the cost of this convenience reflected in their condo fees.

Other advantages of using

Acorn are members will no longer have to worry about street-cleaning schedules or feeling uncomfortable waking to and from the garage at night.

Members also won't have to dig their cars out after snowstorms, nor will they ever need to circle the neighborhood looking for parking on the street.

Only around 10 percent of homes on Beacon Hill have dedicated parking, according to a recent study, which includes homes in the 02118 area code, which have a median price of \$2 million.

Acorn's services could not only solve the parking problem for residents, but also increase the appeal of their homes to prospective sellers who are looking for parking.

Similarly, Acorn could offer a unique solution that would allow developers and condo associations to offer would-be tenants dedicated parking.

Acorn is fully insured and professionally managed, and its driver all comply with CDC guidelines.

Meanwhile, Acorn will begin operating in the Back Bay imminently, and is then expected to expand to other city neighborhoods soon thereafter.

For more information, email [Membership@theacornclub.com](mailto:Membership@theacornclub.com), call 617-546-5444, or visit [www.theacornclub.com](http://www.theacornclub.com).

## BHV's Living Well Ending Well series welcomes Muriel R. Gillick, MD

Getting the Medical Care that's Right for You: Preparing Yourself and Family Caregivers to Make Informed Choices with Muriel R. Gillick, MD.

Aging well almost always means making tough choices about health care – how much, what kind, when's enough. With over 30 years' experience working with patients, their families and caretakers, Dr. Gillick has literally written the books on making informed health care decisions tailored to our specific wishes and needs. Join us for an in-depth discussion of the fundamentals of wise decision-making and the key roles played by family, caretakers and caregivers.

Dr. Gillick received her B.A. degree from Swarthmore College and her MD degree from Harvard Medical School. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and a geriatrics fellowship at Boston University Medical Center. Her area of inter-

est is ethical issues near the end of life, a field in which she has published widely, including 6 books for a general audience, the most recent of which is *The Caregiver's Encyclopedia: A Compassionate Guide to Caring for Older Adults*; Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). Her work has appeared in such medical journals as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *Health Affairs*. Dr. Gillick specializes in geriatrics and palliative care. She is a Professor in the Department of Population Medicine of Harvard Medical School.

This virtual program is part of Beacon Hill Village's Living Well Ending Well series offered in partnership with the Boston Public Library. In order to receive the Zoom link, registration is required online or by calling Beacon Hill Village at 617-723-9713. Links will go out a day or two before the event. Free and open to the public.

## GASLIGHTS (from pg. 1)

conforming, while the others on Charles Street Plaza and the north side of Shawmut Street are a topic of concern with the BVNA, said Thomas Perkins, president of the group's board of directors.

"The Bay Village Neighborhood Association is keeping an open mind with respect to LED fixtures, but there are three preconditions that are critical for success," Perkins wrote in an email. "First, the lamps themselves need to look the same as the existing gas lamps with which they will be in close proximity. Second, the light warmth and diffusion pattern needs to be essentially similar to that of a gas lamp - we don't want our little lanes and passageways lit up like the Turnpike"

But "third, and most critically," added Perkins, "this needs to be coordinated and agreed upon by the civic associations and Historic District Commissions for all neighborhoods that will be affected as all new installations or re-installations are switched to LEDs. Beacon Hill has ten times as many of the same gas fixtures as we do, and Back Bay probably has as many along Marlborough Street as we do in our entire neighborhood. They need to be in the conversation. The City won't save a dime unless the plan is coordinated across all the gas lamp neighborhoods, and Bay Village doesn't want to be stuck with an orphan unicorn design that isn't approved anywhere else."

Moreover, Perkins wrote, "We have repeatedly told the Department of Public Works that the Bay Village Neighborhood Association will not approve this installation unless our sister neighborhood associations (i.e. the Beacon Hill Civic Association and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay) that currently have the same lamp designs agree that it's acceptable as a replacement elsewhere. We have conveyed the same message to the Bay Village Historic District Commission. We object to a process in which the smallest neighborhood is singled out for a pilot and potentially stuck with an electric orphan if other neighborhoods don't sign on. This needs to be an inclusive process from the start. If the City can't commit to that, then they should simply reinstall the gas lamps as required in the approved building plans."

The city already has a mock-up for a field demonstration on Shawmut Street parallel to Stuart Street. Its Street Lighting Divi-

sion anticipates having the electrified lamp installed in the next few weeks so members of the BVNA and other interested parties can view the fixture.

The electrified light fixture on Shawmut Street will closely resemble the existing light, especially the design elements of the existing gas fixtures, including the pole, fixture, and electrified burner assembly.

Following a review period, the city will determine the next steps for installing the remaining lights on Shawmut Street along with the walking path, which runs from Shawmut Avenue to Stuart Street.

The city, meanwhile, is looking into a variety of approaches to maintain the historic nature of its neighborhoods, like Bay Village, while reducing carbon emissions from gaslights. If the installation on Shawmut Street proves successful, the city intends to use the lessons learned to determine other areas where installation is feasible and would be welcomed by residents. Community engagement and feedback would be paramount to this process, according to the city.

Sue Prindle, a long-serving Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay board member and chair of the group's Architecture Committee, said the electrified streetlights proposed for Stuart Street and what they could ultimately mean for Marlborough Street has already garnered a lot of interest among Back Bay residents.

All of the gaslights on Marlborough Street are reproductions, she said, but it also remains unknown whether the installation of new electrified fixtures would require "tearing up the streets to put in more electricity."

Prindle's foremost concerns with the proposed LED streetlights, she said, are the "quality of the reproductions," as well as the "quality of the light" they'll emit.

"We'll just have to look at it," she said. "I don't think they (the city) are in any big rush, so let's stop and do it right and talk to all the neighborhood associations to get them behind it before charging off."

Added Prindle, "From a global warming point of view, it's probably the right thing to do, but let's make sure we do it properly."

Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board, said the neighborhood's more than 1,100 gaslights are a "real mixture" of new and old fixtures.

"When they get damaged, they

replace them with old gaslights from other neighborhoods wherever they can find them to have the same consistent look," said Whitney, adding that some of these relocated fixtures aren't original gaslights, even though they date back to the early 1900s.

The last outreach the Civic Association had with the city regarding electrified gaslights was about two and half years ago, said Whitney, when there was some discussion about installing them on Temple Street.

At that time, the Civic Association reached out to Chris Osgood, then the city's chief of streets, after hearing about the Temple Street proposal from third parties. What followed was a tentative conversation about the city trying out a pilot by installing a single LED light in the Temple Street Park, but those talks with the city eventually fizzled out, said Whitney. Since then, the Civic Association has heard nothing more about from the city about LED gaslights in the neighborhood.

"We're happy to have the conversation with the city about potential LED lights... but I'd love to see the city focus on areas other than gas lights," said Whitney.

The gaslights, he said, account for only a "small percentage" of natural gas emissions, while burning gas converted into the electricity would likely power the new LED lights. "It's actually more inefficient to turn gas into electricity," he added.

Instead of worrying about gaslight emissions, Whitney said the city should be exploring "bigger picture" solutions to ending its reliance on natural gas, such as looking at the possibility of installing solar panels at City Hall.

Whitney also lamented what he perceives as a lack of information from the city so far concerning the proposed Stuart Street lighting fixtures – an oversight that's particularly galling considering how much the gaslights have come to define the character of Beacon Hill.

When the mockup is in place on Stuart Street, the Beacon Hill Civic Association will dispatch representatives to see it for themselves, and since there is a lot of support on Beacon Hill for the gaslights, as well as for exploring new options, the Civic Association is also offering to host a Town Hall meeting to further examine the issue, said Whitney.





## ANTONIO'S CUCINA ITALIANA PARTNER OF THE MONTH

The ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) would like to recognize Steven Colarusso of Antonio's Cucina Italiana as partner of the month. The restaurant truly outdid itself by providing three trays of pasta-baked ziti, chicken and broccoli, and zucchini and summer squash- on February 16. The meal fed 50 senior West Enders of the Amy Lowell Apartments. The NE/WE NSC is closed to in-person gatherings due to COVID-19, and the center lacks the budget at present for a cook, so contactless delivered meals provide love, nourishment, and suste-

nance. Here is what seniors said about the meals:

"The best baked ziti I have ever had! My portion was huge!"

"There were so many colors with the different types of squash and zucchini-it was bursting with flavor!"

"Chicken, broccoli, and ziti is my favorite meal. Thank you, Antonio's!"

Antonio's Cucina Italiana is located in the West End on 288 Cambridge Street and their phone number is 617-367-3310, if you would like to try their food and see for yourself what the residents were raving about!

## Beacon Hill Women's Forum March 8 guest speaker will be Dr. Lael Yonker, MD

By Ariana Hanley

Given all of the ups and downs the world has endured since the onset of COVID-19, especially young children, we are thrilled to invite Lael Yonker, MD – Director of the MGH Cystic Fibrosis Center and Co-Director of the MGH Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutic Development Center to speak at our March Forum. Our March Forum will be held on March 8, at the Hampshire House. Dr. Yonker will share her work with the Pediatric COVID-19 Biorepository at the Massachusetts General Hospital and help shape our understanding of how SARS-CoV-2 affects newborns, infants, children and young adults.

Be sure to mark your calendars and register online at [www.beaconhillwomensforum.org](http://www.beaconhillwomensforum.org). Our cocktail hour will commence at 6pm, followed by our speaker at 7pm. We look forward to seeing our wonderful neighbors in person



Dr. Lael Yonker, MD.

March 8!

The Beacon Hill Women's Forum is a nonprofit organization established to help bring women in and around Beacon Hill together to form a close community of

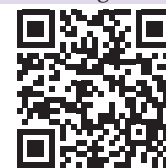
support and inspiration. We welcome a speaker, always a woman with a unique, formidable story to tell, to our monthly Forums which meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 6pm to 8pm at The Hampshire House (6pm cocktail/social hour, followed by the program starting at 7pm sharp). Visit The Beacon Hill Women's Forum website to learn more about our membership options. [www.beaconhillwomensforum.org](http://www.beaconhillwomensforum.org).

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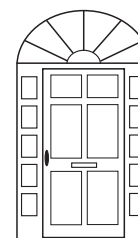
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BEACON HILL IS DIGGING OUT, AGAIN

Another winter storm struck Boston on the 25th after an unseasonable warm snap of upper 60 degree temps. Another winter storm and Beacon Hill did what all other communities around do, dig themselves out and move on with their lives.



Nick from the North End is cutting through Charles Street to get to sledding on Boston Common.



Charles Street Supply Company is stocked with all necessary items to dig oneself out of the snow.



Kalli Miles and Sam Catcott take advantage of an empty Myrtle Park.



A young couple strikes a ballroom pose by a recently made snowman in Boston Common.

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## BEACON HILL IS DIGGING OUT, AGAIN



*Pedestrians venture out on Revere Street.*



*Lorena Plasencia cleans off her car on Garden Street.*

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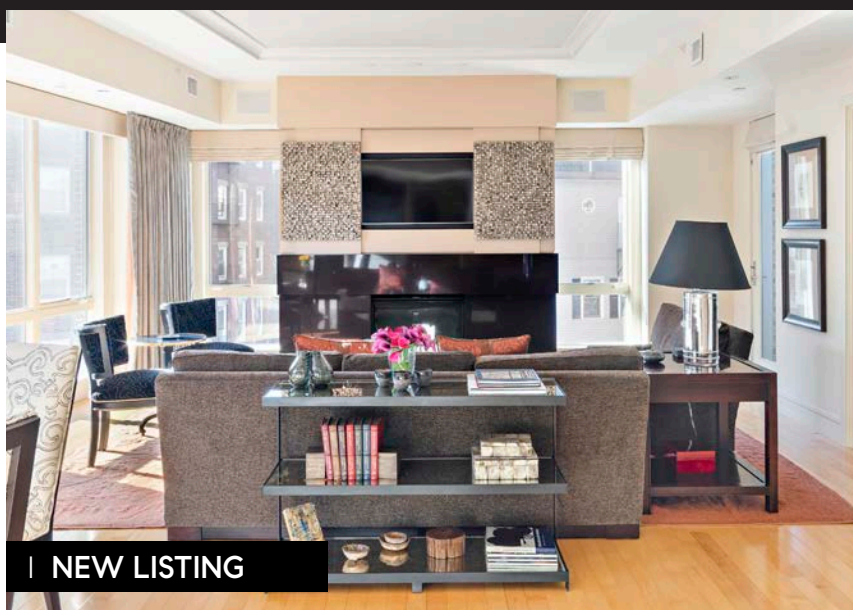


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Price Upon Request / 2 Bed / 2.5 Bath / 1,345 SF

Parlor level historic brownstone condominium with high ceilings, oversized front windows, and a gracious floor plan. This spacious, light filled home contains both original details and modern amenities. Enjoy an evening cocktail or morning coffee on the shared roof deck.



# Wu announces creation of the Office of Early Childhood

By John Lynds

At a press conference last Wednesday Mayor Michelle Wu said, for anyone who has had to try to find an early childhood education seat in Boston navigating the many complicated systems, registrations and applications can be a daunting task.

“This is time for city leadership to step up and help provide a one stop shop,” said Mayor Wu. “We know that the pandemic has deepened every challenge that the city is facing, and our childcare gaps in access and the stresses on our early educators have certainly deepened as well. In Boston, and in Massachusetts, we have the second highest cost of childcare anywhere around the country and we continue to see the impacts of that ripple throughout our communities, throughout our economy and throughout our city.”

To combat this Wu announced the creation of the Office of Early Childhood to advance the administration’s commitment to universal, affordable, high-quality early education and care for all children under five. The new office will expand access to early education and childcare programs, invest in



Mayor Michelle Wu announces the creation of the Office of Early Childhood at a press conference Wednesday.

Boston’s early education and care workforce, and serve as a central point-of-entry for residents looking for information on early education and childcare programming and wraparound services for young

children and their families.

The Office will address needs highlighted in Boston’s 2021 Childcare Census Survey report, which the Mayor also released Wednesday.

“We conducted this census just to understand the needs and realities of our Early Education and Care ecosystem from families and educators,” said Wu. “We are here to report back that unsurprisingly, the vast majority of families who participated in the Census reported that they are looking for formalized care, but having trouble finding it. Many of our families are relying on some informal arrangement, often with a family member, often not covering enough hours that are needed (for parents to work).”

Wu said 81 percent undergoing this kind of informal arrangement are women and this is impacting their own careers and their own professional development.

“The costs are high,” said Wu. “The need is great, but the opportunity is tremendous right now as well. So it is time to truly tackle root causes and understand just how much our child care infra-

structure is the foundation for families to thrive all across our city and beyond.”

The Office will advance the Mayor’s work to prioritize the City’s youngest residents and their families by: Accelerating the creation of a universal pre-K system that stretches across Boston Public Schools (BPS), community-based organizations, and family-based childcare programs, and expanding high-quality, affordable options for infants and toddlers; Creating a one-stop shop for enrollment and access to early education and childcare programs by building an accessible, multilingual platform so that options are clear, streamlined, and accessible to all families; Investing in the early education and childcare workforce by building sustainable career pathways that recognize early educators as professionals who are essential to young children’s wellbeing; Coordinating outreach and information for City and community programming that impacts the lives of young children and their families.

Wu said the city will be hiring a leader of the new Office of Early Childhood to advance this work in partnership with the Boston Public Schools, the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, other City departments, and community organizations that serve Boston’s children and families.

“We are excited to deepen the City’s investment in high-quality, accessible childcare solutions for early childhood professionals, families, and their little ones,” said Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement Alexandra Valdez. “The Office of Early Childhood will continue the work of looking at closing child care gaps with community voices at the center. This will not only create opportunities to further support a child’s care needs and early development, but also empower a profession that is largely represented by women, specifically women of color, and our immigrant com-

munity.”

Wu added that Boston Public Schools has led the way in building out a mixed-delivery system for universal pre-K (UPK) that integrates both BPS classrooms and community-based organizations. In its third year, the UPK program currently serves 664 pre-K students through 21 community-based organizations across 32 program sites; 2,556 non-special education K1 seats for 4-year-olds, and 880 special education seats for 3- and 4-year-olds in K0/K1.

In 2021, UPK expanded to include a pilot program to serve 3-year-olds in addition to 4-year-olds in 2021-22. For the upcoming school year in 2022-23, Boston UPK plans to expand to serve up to 930 children at community provider settings, including 600 4-year-olds and 330 3-year-olds. The City of Boston and Boston Public Schools recently released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to identify additional community-based organizations seeking to join the UPK program. The IFB deadline is April 4, and more details can be found on the BPS Universal Pre-K website.

By investing in and growing the early educator workforce, supporting early education and childcare businesses, and streamlining information and access for families, the Office of Early Childhood will support UPK’s continued expansion by increasing the number of seats available to infants and toddlers.

“I am grateful to Mayor Wu and her team and all who have worked so hard to advance this work on behalf of our children and their families,” said Chair of the Boston School Committee Jeri Robison. “As someone who has dedicated my entire career to ensuring enhanced access to all-inclusive early education and care, I am heartened today to see this important next step in our City’s progress. We are sending a message to our families today that Boston is united in our work to help our youngest learners get off to the right start through new support to them and their families.”

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deb@reverejournal.com.



## Real Estate Transfers

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<b>BACK BAY</b>			
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Blanchard, Nicole M	Frutos, David	180 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$1,150,000
Gloria Magida IRT	Jose A Gutrecht RET	261 Commonwealth Ave #4	\$875,000
Oliverio, John	Hendericks, Therese	199 Marlborough St #302	\$232,001

### BEACON HILL

Kwong, Rou Fun	Kuperwasser, Bernard	2 Hawthorne Pl #7D	\$875,000
Chu, Jason A	Hearn, Kathleen	112 Pinckney St #5	\$580,000
M&Karen A Collins FT	2&4 Strong Place RT	2 Strong Pl	\$3,300,000

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Gross, Kelly F	Churchill, Bruce H	90 Chandler St #3	\$1,480,000
Johnson, Patrick	Nielsen, Tait A	10 Holyoke St #1	\$2,605,000
Aracelli C Fullem RET	Granahan, Raquel T	40 Traveler St #406	\$955,000
Roy, Kyle	Cox, Kevin M	209 W Springfield St #4	\$1,450,000
Tynan, Michael S	Bedard, Anny	27 Wareham St #202	\$815,000
Edge RE Investments LLC	Sunleader Investments LL	5 Worcester Sq	\$3,550,000
Souza, Marco	Denis, Gerald V	28 Worcester Sq #4	\$655,000

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## Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



*The lion head door knocker in the last clue is on 44 West Cedar Street. Did you know there is a symbolism to door knockers? Atlas Obscura pointed out that a specific lion head door knocker on Durham Cathedral in England, "... wasn't intended for any old visitor who wanted to knock on the cathedral door, but rather those seeking asylum in the church."*

*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





# Boston's indoor mask mandate to be lifted on March 5

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) held a virtual meeting on March 1, where it discussed COVID-19 updates and trends, as well as made a unanimous decision to lift the city's indoor mask mandate beginning on Saturday, March 5.

BPHC Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu talked about a number of the health and safety measures that have been implemented in Boston over the past two years, including testing, vaccines, and the mask mandate, as well as the moratorium on eviction and declaring substance use and homelessness a public health crisis. The city also implemented the B-Together order, which required people to show proof of vaccination upon entry to certain indoor spaces. That order was lifted on February 18.

Ojikutu also spoke about "key city metrics," saying that they are "all trending downward." The city's positive test rate in early Jan-

uary was over 32 percent, she said, but is now at 2.5 percent.

"Vaccines continue to be the most important tool we have to prevent severe illness related to COVID-19," she said, adding that about 72 percent of Bostonians are fully vaccinated, and 85 percent have received at least one dose.

Ojikutu said that about 39 percent of children ages 5-11 are fully vaccinated, which is "significantly higher than the national rate." She said that there is "still more work to do," especially to address "racial and ethnic disparities."

About 50 percent of fully vaccinated individuals have received a booster shot, she said, adding that those who have not yet received one should do so.

BPHC Chair Manny Lopes asked about "best practices we've learned" about approaching vaccines for the 5-11 population.

Ojikutu said that the city has been "working with our community-based partners," as well as having "one-on-one discussions"

with caregivers and parents and "correcting misinformation that's out there."

Ojikutu said that while "all of our key metrics are moving in the right direction," there are other factors that have to be examined as well, including disparities in the infection and vaccination rates, as well as ensuring that those who have preexisting medical conditions or who are immunocompromised have protection.

"As our understanding of this disease evolves, our response must evolve to always follow the best available data and science," Ojikutu said. Though there has been "continued improvement in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Boston," she said that "community transmission is still happening in Boston."

After announcing that she is "prepared" to lift indoor mask mandate as of March 5, Ojikutu said that masking continues to be recommended for those at high risk for severe illness or if someone

will be around those who are.

"I also want to be clear about what ending the City of Boston's mask mandate would change or not change," Ojikutu said. While masks would not be required in places such as retail stores, gyms, restaurants, fitness centers, bars, performance venues, and the like, they are still required on all forms of public transportation per federal mandate. Masks are also still required in healthcare settings.

Ojikutu also stressed that individual businesses are still free to require masks should they choose to do so.

The lifting of this order does not apply to Boston Public Schools, however.

According to a press release from the city, "The Boston Public Schools will continue to require masking while BPHC and BPS leaders monitor metrics including school positivity and vaccination rates following last week's school vacation. The Board of Health will hear additional updates on

COVID-19 and school masking at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 9."

The BPHC also announced that the city's eviction moratorium will end on March 31.

Additionally, the city said in the release that the mask mandate "may be reinstated if data show an increased risk of community transmission. Be sure to consider your specific situation and risk factors, such as those in your life who may be vulnerable, before going out without a mask."

Mayor Michelle Wu said in a statement: "I'm grateful that our city is ready to take this step in our recovery thanks to the hard work and commitment of residents keeping our communities safe over many, many months. As we continue to make progress even while living with COVID, Boston will continue leading on public health to keep our communities safe, healthy, and prepared."

## Arroyo and Hayden say they are both in the race for Suffolk County District Attorney

By John Lynds

So far the race for Suffolk County District Attorney will be between one candidate who supports many of former DA Rachael Rollin's reforms and another who is more moderate and was appointed as interim DA by Republican Governor Charlie Baker.

Last week, Boston City Councilor of Hyde Park announced his bid for the DA's seat, which was followed a few days later by acting DA Kevin Hayden.

At a press conference in Hyde Park last week Arroyo pledged to continue the reforms started by Rollins.

Arroyo, the son of former City Councilor Felix Arroyo, served a public defender before being elected to the City Council in 2019, said he will, "Build a justice system that protects the safety and dignity of all people...One that will maintain the successful reforms that have proven to improve the safety of communities across Suffolk County."

It was his work as a public defender that Arroyo said gave him perspective of the inequities of the justice system. As a public defender Arroyo has said he saw firsthand how the lack of opportunity, inequity, and the marginalization of individuals ravaged lives.

"Former District Attorney Rachael Rollins led the way by bringing much-needed reforms to the office," said Arroyo at the press conference. "We cannot afford to



Richard Arroyo.

go backward or stagnate. We must continue these reforms that have been proven to work and continue to move Suffolk County forward."

Before leaving the DA's Office to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Rollin focused on progressive criminal justice reform in Suffolk County and developed a controversial policy of not prosecuting certain nonviolent low-level crimes.

Arroyo attended Boston Public Schools, holds a B.A. in History from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Hayden, a Roslindale resident who was appointed by Gov. Baker to complete Rollins' term, announced his candidacy a few days after Arroyo's press conference.

At his announcement in front of the Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester Hayden pledged a commitment to public safety, criminal legal sys-



Kevin Hayden.

tem reform, and accountability to the communities of Boston, Revere, Chelsea and Winthrop.

Hayden, who was appointed to the office in January, outlined numerous areas of focus moving forward, including gun crimes, community collaboration and engagement, diversion and intervention programs, human trafficking and domestic violence.

"I pledge today to reform how the district attorney approaches its full mission of serving the community and ensuring public safety," said Hayden. "Our attention on reform is vital, but the results that produce real transformation are what really matters. We've seen over the last few years a national demand for criminal legal system reform. As a black man, I welcome this focus because it is long overdue. I know full well that it's long overdue because I've been practicing these concepts and approaches to reform throughout my entire

career."

Hayden added his experience as a prosecutor, an attorney in private practice, and head of the state Sex Offender Registry Board has given him the perspective necessary to ensure public safety while seeking alternatives to prosecution in appropriate cases.

"I was never a traditional prosecutor," he said. "As head of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, I embraced intensive community engagement and expanded crime intervention and prevention to new limits. I dedicated myself to support services and ministry to returning citizens from incarceration more than any ADA before me. As a juvenile prosecutor I led efforts focused on innovative diversion and prevention methods. In short, I will approach the task of reform with a proven track record of dedication to it. I have labored long and hard in that vineyard. I'm

confident that we can change our approach to criminal justice. But public safety and full equity in our system are not mutually exclusive. We must be ever mindful of public safety as we endeavor for a better and more equitable system. All our communities demand our dedication to both."

Before his appointment Hayden headed the state Sex Offender Registry Board. Prior to that, he spent five years in private practice, specializing in criminal defense. He began his career in the Suffolk DA's office, serving in the anti-gang and juvenile units and on the homicide response team. He headed the office's Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a community-focused public safety program.

Hayden graduated from Dartmouth College and Boston University Law School and serves as a deacon at Jubilee Christian Church in Mattapan.

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

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## OBITUARIES

### Lise Lange Striar

She had a passion for plants and flowers

Lise Lange Striar was born on Dec. 3, 1935, in Trondheim, Norway, daughter of Jean Emil Lange and Anna Therese Larsen. She grew up in Oslo and Arendal, attending Oslo Katedralskole and the University of Oslo, where she was awarded the Norwegian equivalent of master's degrees in English, French, and History.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 62 years, Myles; daughters Siri, Johanna, and Maria; son-in-law Francisco Hernandez and grandson Emilio Hernandez; sister Marit, brother Johan Emil, and numerous adoring nieces and nephews, all in Norway. She is pre-deceased by her sister Eva and her grandson Mathias.

Lise was a proud Norwegian, and despite living here for 60 years, never became a U.S. citizen, although she followed its politics avidly. Because of her diligence, her children not only learned to speak Norwegian fluently, but both visited and lived there and forged deep connections with her large family there, for whom she was a grounding, calm, and uniting presence.

An avid reader of newspapers, periodicals, and books of all ilk, reading in several languages, Lise was a member of two large reading groups. She was committed to the civic good, especially the greening of the city, and was a member and supporter of multiple organizations, including Friends of the Public Garden, the Beacon Hill Garden Club, and Rogerson Communities.



Lise had great taste and style in home and dress, often in a signature Scandinavian flavor. She had a passion for plants and flowers, and developed a beautiful garden in Truro, Cape Cod, in which she installed her father's orange dahlias from Norway, as well as, after much work, bountiful gooseberry bushes, which brought a taste of her childhood to her American neighbors.

Although slightly introverted, Lise was a fierce hostess, for many years throwing a massive holiday party, which friends would arrange their schedules not to miss, and featuring the potent mulled wine gløgg, as well as six types of home-pickled herring, seven types of Christmas cookies, and homemade breads, pates, and terrines. Parties, celebrating the many holidays of her and Myles's cultural mix, or any other event that seemed to warrant it often included ridiculous activities (including

her grandmother's famous potato game), singing, costumes and hat-making, and much eating and drinking.

She was a loving grandmother, delighting in the growth of her grandsons, with whom she shared vacations and milestone events throughout their childhoods. Lise gathered with elementary school and university friends into her 80s. She taught her children to make and keep friends for life, and to make a warm and inviting home, and to welcome people into it—hygge before it was a catchphrase.

She was at times formal, but not shy to share her opinions, careful but generous, thorough and fair. She had a dry and sometimes impish sense of humor and an appreciation for the silly. She believed there was a right way to do things and held you to account. But, as her husband will tell you, Lise never held a grudge.

Lise and Myles met at the University of Oslo in 1956, and became a couple not long after that, hitchhiking to Israel and working on a kibbutz, marrying in Paris, and living in the South of France until settling in Beacon Hill, where they lived for 60 years. They were the loves of each other's lives.

In lieu of flowers—although she loved them—donations can be made in her name to the Beacon Hill Garden Club or Rogerson Communities.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

### GOLDBERG ANNOUNCES INTERIM LOTTERY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced that Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Lottery, is departing from the agency for a new role outside of state government.

"I want to thank Michael for his countless contributions to the Massachusetts State Lottery over the last seven years, and am grateful for his prior service at the State Treasurer's Office," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "I wish him well in all his future endeavors."

The Treasurer has appointed Mark William Bracken as interim Executive Director. Bracken is tasked with leading the strategic business operations of the Lottery and its five regional offices as the Treasurer begins the search for a permanent Executive Director.

Bracken has worked for the Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office since 2011. He is currently an Assistant Treasurer and Director of the state's Unclaimed Property Division. He attended St. Anselm College and Suffolk University Law School where he received his JD. Bracken has also served as the President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

The Massachusetts State Lottery was created in 1972 to generate local aid revenues for the Com-

monwealth's cities and towns. Since its inception, the Lottery has returned more than \$29 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth. For more information about the state Lottery, please visit [www.masslottery.com](http://www.masslottery.com).

### MVES HOLDS FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES:

Mystic Valley Elder Services will present a FREE Virtual chronic disease self-management workshop series My Life; My Health, beginning Wednesday, March 16 to April 20, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn how to connect virtually thru a Zoom platform and take the class from the comfort of your home. You don't want chronic disease, pain or discomfort to limit the activities and life you enjoy.

The series is for anyone living with an ongoing medical condition, such as arthritis, asthma, chronic back pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, cancer, COPD, diabetes, fibromyalgia, heart disease, high blood pressure, Parkinson's disease, or stroke. Topics will include managing and controlling pain, beginning (or improving) an exercise program, handling stress and learning to relax, increasing energy, and eating for your health and wellbeing.

Class size is limited, so reserve your spot today. To register or if you have any questions about the program, contact Donna Covelleville at [dcovelle@mves.org](mailto:dcovelle@mves.org) or call 781-388-4867.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

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To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by William J. Lundregan, III, Esq. of Salem, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: William J. Lundregan, III of Salem, MA and Elizabeth Goddu of Salem, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance

and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/24/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding

the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 17, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Casey & Lundregan, P.C. (978) 741-3888 office (978) 745-3607 fax Salem Office (Main): 71 Washington Street 2nd Floor Salem, MA 01970 Boston Office: 77 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116

3/3/22  
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## EAGLE ON THE ESPLANADE



Rob Ferree submitted this photo of a Bald Eagle that he and his wife spotted perched in a tree on Feb. 27 while they were out for a walk along the Esplanade.

## LOCAL SKATERS TO COMPETE AT SYNCHRONIZED SKATING NATIONALS



Back Bay resident Hailey MacDougall and Beacon Hill resident Molly Papazian, both fifth grade students at Kingsley Montessori School, will compete on Team Excel Juvenile, a synchronized skating team representing The Skating Club of Boston, at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships March 3-6, 2022 in Colorado Springs, CO. Team Excel's Juvenile Team was one of six Juvenile teams to qualify for nationals at the Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships in January. The team will be one of only thirteen Juvenile teams from across the country to compete at this elite level.

Synchronized skating is a demanding discipline of figure skating in which teams of eight to 20 skaters perform a program together, blending elements of singles skating, pairs skating and ice dance. Programs are characterized by teamwork, speed, intricate formations and challenging step sequences. Athletes in this sport work and train diligently year-round. Team Excel Juvenile practices eleven months a year, for a minimum of seven hours a week, on and off the ice. In addition, each skater trains with private coaches on individual skating skills, such as footwork, edge quality, freestyle jumps and spins, and ice dance.

The Team Excel organization consists of 10 teams with 140 skaters ranging in ages from five years old to adults. In addition to its Juvenile Team, Team Excel's Collegiate and Adult teams have also qualified to compete at the U.S. Championships.

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