



MARCH 14, 2024

# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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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

## RHODE ISLAND ROAD TRIP



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of Beacon Hill Village are shown during a recent outing to Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) to view *On the Surface Contemporary Ceramics: A Changing Reflection Silver, Metalwork, and Jewelry in the 19th-21st Centuries*.

## BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

### Love Your Block

Love Your Block returns on Saturday, April 6th, and we are looking forward to working together with neighbors to clean up our sidewalks and parks. Please let the office know if you are available to join in from 9am to 12pm. We'll be meeting in front of the CVC at 155 Charles Street.

A Reminder about Public

### Trash Bins

Please remember all public trash bins are for small trash or recycling small items (newspapers or other recyclables), and that it is illegal (\$1,000 fine) to dispose of household trash in any public trash bin. Let's all work together to keep our streets and sidewalks clean and free of trash and litter by using these trash bins appropriately.

### Did You Know?

The Beacon Hill Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to community building, civic engagement, and historic preservation on Beacon Hill. Your membership donations allow us to continue our efforts to preserve and protect our historic

(BHCA Pg. 8)

## Boston Athenaeum showcases 19th-century abolitionist in exhibit

Special to Times

The Boston Athenaeum has launched its newest exhibition, 'Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums.'

This innovative exhibition brings together rarely seen works and examines Black abolitionists' public identities, private lives, visual and material culture, and social activism through the perspective of a Black woman's photograph albums from the mid-1800s.

The narrative core of the exhibition centers on two photograph albums once owned by anti-slavery activist Harriet Bell Hayden. Together, the albums contain 87 cartes-de-visite. The 2½ x 3½-inch portrait photographs portray many of Boston's most prominent

Black abolitionist figures – including suffragist Virginia Hewlett Douglass, lawyer Robert Morris, educator Elizabeth N. "Lizzie" Smith, and Dr. John V. DeGrasse – and include rare examples by makers like the Black landscape painter Edward Mitchell Bannister.

These albums document the personal world of Harriet Hayden – social, political, and religious networks of Black Bostonians and their white allies engaged in the abolitionist movement in Civil War-era Boston. While her husband, Lewis Hayden, is better known for his public activism, these works encourage us to recognize the home-based activism and movement contributions of Harri-

(EXHIBIT Pg. 3)

## Callahan named new Regional Site Administrator at Historic New England

Special to Times

Barbara Callahan has been named Historic New England's new Regional Site Administrator for the Metro Boston area.

Callahan now serves as Historic New England's liaison to Metro Boston communities and oversees all public activities involving nine Historic New England historic sites. As the Regional Site Administrator, she will play a key role in the redevelopment of Otis House, with the goal of reimagining the site for enhanced visitor experience and use as well as serving as a gateway to the neighborhood and all that Historic New England has to offer.

"I am thrilled to continue cen-

(CALLAHAN Pg. 3)



COURTESY OF HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND  
Barbara Callahan, Historic New England's new Regional Site Administrator for the Metro Boston area.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

### WECA MEETING SET FOR MARCH 14 AT AMY LOWELL APARTMENTS

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its next meeting in person on Thursday, March 14, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at Amy Lowell Apartments at 65 Martha Road.

The guest for this meeting will be Mayor Michelle Wu.

Masks are encouraged for attendees.

### ANNUAL GARDENERS' GATHERING SET FOR MARCH 16 AT NU

The 48th annual Gardeners' Gathering takes place on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Shillman Hall and The Egan Center at Northeastern University.

The event, which is free to attend and open to all, brings Boston-area growers of all kinds together for a day full of informative workshops, engaging exhibitors, networking, and inspiration. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Mel King's Massachusetts Gardening and Farm Act, the Gathering will focus on celebrating our invaluable legacy gardeners, taking a look back on the incredible community growing work in Boston over the last half a century.

Be sure to pre-register for the

event at [thetrustees.org/program/gardeners-gathering/](http://thetrustees.org/program/gardeners-gathering/).

### SOUNDS ON THE HILL TO HOLD 'CELEBRATION OF FAITH' ON MARCH 28

Boston Society of the New Jerusalem – Sounds on the Hill, invites you to 'A Celebration of Faith.' The church at 140 Bowdoin St. invites you experience word and music during Holy Week and Easter.

On Thursday, March 28 (Maundy Thursday), at 5 p.m., the COH Brass Ensemble will present a musical offering featuring a five-member brass ensemble. On Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m., there will be a Service of Tenebrae, featuring "Seven Last Words of Christ" by Haydn.

On Sunday, March 31, at 11 a.m., the brass ensemble and BSNJ Choir will present 'Gloria' by Vivaldi. The fully professional, mixed-voice choir will be under the direction of Andrew Mattfeld.

Visit [churchonthehillboston.org/](http://churchonthehillboston.org/) or call 617-523-4575 for more information.

### UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE BOSTON ATHENAEUM

The Boston Athenaeum, located at 10½ Beacon St., will also sponsor a public exhibition open-

ing and reception for its 'Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums' on Tuesday, March 19, at 4:30 p.m.

Inspired by the life and work of the Beacon Hill-based abolitionist Harriet Bell Hayden, this exhibit "brings together rarely seen works and examines Black abolitionists' public identities, private lives, visual and material culture, and social activism through the perspective of a Black woman's photograph albums from the mid-1800s," according to an event description. Admission is free for this event to both members and the general public. Visit <https://events.bostonathenaeum.org/en-US/4W52KhR7/> public-exhibition to learn more about this offering.

Also, the Athenaeum is offering a children's program, 'Portraits In Color: Celebrating Blackness with Wee The People' on Saturday, March 30, at 1 p.m.

At this kid-powered celebration of the Harriet Hayden Albums Exhibition Framing Freedom, families will enjoy an interactive read-aloud of the award-winning picture book 'Take A Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee!', followed by an art-making activity, creating picture frames for the portraits. The program is recommended for children, ages 6 and older.

For more information on the Boston Athenaeum, visit [bostonathenaeum.org](http://bostonathenaeum.org).

### UPCOMING PROGRAMMING SPONSORED BY WEST END MUSEUM

On Wednesday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday, March 23, at 1 p.m., the West End Museum will offer 'West End Women: A Walk Through History.'

Intellectuals, abolitionists, suffragists, artists, authors, and athletes – the women of Boston's West End played an important role in shaping the history of their neighborhood, Boston, and the world. Join the West End Museum on a walking tour in honor of Women's History Month.

Tickets for the walking tours cost \$10 each. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-women-a-walk-through-history-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-women-a-walk-through-history-tickets) to purchase tickets for the March 20 event; and [www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-women-a-walk-through-history-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-end-women-a-walk-through-history-tickets) to purchase tickets for the March 23 event.

On Saturday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m., the museum presents 'Destruction and Rebirth: Barber

and Beethoven' at The Hub on Causeway Community Room at 52 Causeway St. (located along the alleyway next to Hub50House, across from the Tip O'Neill Building).

Join the museum for an artistically sublime experience as we project photographic images from the Edgell and Frani Collections (which chronicle life before, during, and after urban renewal) alongside a live performance of two of classical music's most emotive string quartets, both possessing tonal qualities that convey the ideas of transformation and explore the complex social dynamics that underpin both the destruction and rebirth of the West End neighborhood.

Tickets for this event cost \$15 each and can be purchased by visiting [www.eventbrite.com/e/destruction-and-rebirth-barber-and-beethoven-at-the-west-end-museum-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/destruction-and-rebirth-barber-and-beethoven-at-the-west-end-museum-tickets).

The museum's next Trivia Month is set to take place on Monday, April 22, at the Dubliner Irish Pub at 2 Center Plaza. Admission is \$10 per person. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/856151160167?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/856151160167?aff=oddtcreator) to purchase tickets and for more information.

### WEM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING AND SUMMERS SEASONS

The West End Museum is now seeking volunteers for the spring and summers seasons.

Volunteer opportunities include in-person openings on Wednesday-Sunday mornings and afternoons for greeter, event assistant, exhibit attendant, social media creator, and special projects assistant.

For more information, contact the WEM volunteer coordinator via email at [maisie@thewestend-museum.org](mailto:maisie@thewestend-museum.org).

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE VILNA SHUL

The Vilna Shul presents 'Mazaltob – Sephardi Women in Translation' on Thursday, March 28, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

This book-launch celebration and discussion featuring translators Frances Malino and Yaelle Azagury and moderated by Jonathan Decter. Mazaltob will offer a fascinating portrait of a young Moroccan Sephardi woman navigating the ever-shifting ground

between tradition and modernity, East and West, self and other, obligation and desire. Stylistically bold, culturally rich, by turns comic and wrenching, this polyphonic novel is both historically important and, in its new translation, a gift for our times. Tickets for this event cost \$18 each.

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Tuesday, April 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., The Vilna presents 'The Jewish Holiday Table: A Culinary Adventure' at 18 Phillips St.

Naama Shefi, founder of Jewish Food Society, introduces 'The Jewish Holiday Table,' a collection of 135 vibrant recipes, each with accompanying stories collected by the Jewish Food Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Jewish culinary heritage from across the globe. Shefi will be joined by Uri Scheft of Bakey Bakery for a challah-making demon-

(ROUNDUP Pg. 3)

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**EXHIBIT** (from pg. 1)

et Hayden.

This special exhibition is co-curated by Makeda Best, PhD, Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Oakland Museum of California, a specialist in nineteenth-century photography, race, and gender, and Virginia Reynolds Badgett, PhD, former Assistant Curator at the Boston Athenaeum and scholar of American art and material culture.

The exhibition premieres on March 20, 2024.

“The Harriet Hayden Albums exhibition draws much-needed attention to Harriet Hayden’s role

in Boston’s abolitionist movement, centering the Hayden home as a crucial site for the formation and execution of a societal crusade to which they devoted their lives,” says Makeda Best. “By integrating Harriet’s cartes-de-visite with objects from the nineteenth-century anti-slavery movement in Boston, the exhibition offers a new contextual lens through which one can view the significance of the Haydens’ extensive social network and their historic home on Beacon Hill – located blocks from the Boston Athenaeum – to understand better their influence in the social

justice movements of their day.”

In 1844, Harriet Bell Hayden, her husband Lewis Hayden, and their son, Joseph, escaped slavery in Lexington, Ky. By 1849, they settled on the north slope of Boston’s Beacon Hill neighborhood, where Lewis opened a clothing store on Cambridge Street. It became the second largest establishment in Boston to be owned by a Black man. Their home at 66 Phillips St. served as a special place of refuge during the height of activity on the Underground Railroad, helping hundreds of self-emancipated sojourners on

their journey to freedom in the wake of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

In the early 1860s, Harriet received two cartes-de-visite photograph albums as gifts from fellow Boston anti-slavery activists Robert Morris and Dr. Samuel Birmingham. Harriet Hayden’s carte-de-visite albums offer a unique window into a close-knit and well-organized Black activist community and present an opportunity to re-evaluate conventional understandings of the domestic sphere and Boston’s broader abolitionist presence.

“The legacy of Harriet Hayden deserves to be better known. The albums provide insight into an underrecognized history, revealing the interconnectedness of individuals’ identities in a crucial moment in American history,” said John Buchtel, the Boston Athenaeum’s Curator of Rare Books and Head of Special Collections. “The Boston Athenaeum’s Harriet Hayden Albums exhibition tells a fuller story of our national and regional abolitionist history, and how Boston’s past and present are linked.”

Additional features of the exhibition connect Harriet Hayden’s carte-de-visite albums to a societal and historic narrative arc that transports the viewer from the Beacon Hill neighborhood into both the public sphere and the Hayden

home. Artifacts include photographs, prints, illustrated rare books, broadsides and ephemera, American paintings, decorative arts, and personal objects associated with key individuals and the exhibition’s themes of race, gender, representation, and community.

The exhibition reflects several years of ongoing work to conserve, digitize, and research the Harriet Hayden albums and bring them to a broader understanding of the importance of social networks and anti-slavery activism.

“I am deeply proud of the The Harriet Hayden Albums exhibition,” said Leah Rosovsky, Stanford Calderwood Director at the Boston Athenaeum. “It builds on several past exhibitions that have explored how Boston’s Black community is connected to politics and culture. Harriet Hayden’s story, and the stories of all those in <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/athenaeum+eventthis> exhibition, are important additions to a full understanding of Boston’s rich history.”

‘Framing Freedom: The Harriet Hayden Albums’ is generously supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art, Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Mass Humanities, and Mass Cultural Council.

**ROUND UP** (from pg. 2)

stration. The conversation will be moderated by Devra Furst, co-author of the cookbook and food columnist for the Boston Globe. Tickets cost \$25 each.

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

**WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY’S ‘WRITING YOUR MEMOIR’ SERIES KICKS OFF APRIL 29**

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., will offer its ‘Writing Your Memoir’ over three consecutive Monday evenings beginning on April 29.

Everyone has a story to tell. Step into the captivating field of memoir writing with this three-part workshop and acquire the skills and confidence to share your story with the world. Under the guidance of an expert writer, you will learn the art of crafting compelling and authentic personal narratives!

Session 1, which takes place on Monday, April 29, from 2 to 4 p.m., introduces memoir writing and developing a writing voice; Session 2 on Monday, May 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. focuses on sharing your written memoir and receiving positive feedback; and Session 3, which takes place Monday, May 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., concentrates on concluding your memoir and reaching your desired audience.

To register, contact Wesley Fiorentino at [wfiorentino@bpl.org](mailto:wfiorentino@bpl.org) or by calling the West End Branch Library at 617-523-3957.

**BEACON HILL BOOKS TO WELCOME TWO AUTHORS ON APRIL 18**

Jeanne Blasberg, whose third

novel ‘Daughter of a Promise’ is due out soon, will be joining Julie Carrick Dalton, author of the upcoming novel, ‘The Last Beekeeper’ and a new resident to the neighborhood, on Thursday, April 18, at 5 p.m. at Beacon Hill Books at 71 Charles St.

**WLP’S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND NETWORKING LUNCHEON SET FOR MAY 10**

Women’s Lunch Place Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon and M. Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, will have a fireside chat at WLP’s annual fundraiser and networking luncheon, eat LUNCH give on Friday, May 10, in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:15 p.m.

Hanlon Wigon and Pelton will address the pressing issues of the housing crisis in Boston, including the shortage of affordable units and the critical need for safe, gender-specific housing for women in the community. The event will be held in the Oriental Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

This luncheon will include a delicious meal, an opportunity to network with Boston’s best and brightest leaders, and an inside look at the context behind Women’s Lunch Place’s life-changing work from two experts in their fields. There will also be a raffle with local prizes.

All proceeds from the fundraising luncheon will be donated to Women’s Lunch Place.

Tickets cost \$200 each and are available online at [womenslunchplace.org/elg](http://womenslunchplace.org/elg), along with sponsorships, program advertisements, and opportunities to support the raffle.

**CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP SET TO RETURN APRIL 19-20**

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

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

**FREE LESSONS IN AMERICAN MAHJONG OFFERED AT WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY**

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

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

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

**CHERLINE GENE NAMED A MEMBER OF NAAC**

Cultural industry worker Cherline Gene of Beacon Hill was recently named a member of the 2024 learning cohort of the Network of Arts Administrators of Color in Boston (known as NAAC/Boston). Gene is Founder of The Sip Down LLC.

**CALLAHAN** (from pg. 1)

tering contemporary audiences and underrepresented histories through this new role. That I also have the opportunity to participate in the plans for the redevelopment of the Otis House is my absolute pleasure,” said Callahan in a press release.

Callahan directs programming, interpretation, and community engagement for Otis House in Boston, the Lyman Estate in Waltham, and Browne House in Watertown, and supports two site managers

who are responsible for five other historic house museums in the Metro Boston region.

Prior to joining Historic New England, Callahan worked at a number of area nonprofit organizations including Beacon Hill Village, Gibson House, Fitchburg Art Museum, and Nichols House. Callahan holds a M.A. in Museums Education from Tufts University, and a B.A. in Sociology, Anthropology from University of North Florida.

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# EDITORIAL

## THE VERDICT IS IN: WE ARE EATING OURSELVES TO DEATH

Most Americans by now are aware that we are among the most overweight people on earth: 40 percent of us are obese and another 32 percent are overweight, which means that a total of 72 percent of Americans -- that's almost 3 of every 4 among us -- have an unhealthy body weight.

That's bad enough, but scientists say that if current trends continue, by 2030 that number will increase to 80%, so in a few more years, about 4 out of 5 Americans will range from overweight to obese.

Although the new weight loss drugs -- which originally were formulated to combat diabetes (Ozempic/Wegovy by Novo Nordisk and Mounjaro/Zepbound by Eli Lilly) and then were shown to have the "side effect" of bringing about substantial weight-loss in those who take the drugs -- hold the promise of solving our national excess weight problem, a host of hurdles stands in the way of helping every American who might benefit from them.

The high cost of those drugs (which presently are not covered by health insurance companies for weight loss), the potential for side-effects (they clearly are not for everyone), and the fact that they have to be taken for life, may leave many Americans who struggle with their weight on their own without the benefit of these medications.

But there may be another solution. A recent study has concluded that the true culprit for our obesity epidemic may lie in the kind of food we eat -- the so-called ultra-processed foods.

It is estimated that 70% of the food supply in the U.S. consists of ultra-processed foods. Two-thirds of the calories children consume in the US are ultra-processed, while about 60% of adult diets come from ultra-processed foods.

What constitutes an ultra-processed food is not always easy to figure out. There's a wide range of food items between fresh fruits and vegetables (which are not processed at all) and, say, Twinkies, which perhaps are emblematic of the ultimate ultra-processed "food." On the other hand, a shorthand way to think about ultra-processed foods is whether they are found in nature: Twinkies don't grow on trees.

According to the authors of a recent meta-analysis (they examined 45 studies involving almost 10 million human subjects), eating high intakes of ultra-processed foods substantially raises the risk of developing dozens of diseases and health conditions that are related to excess weight, with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer being chief among them.

That's because what goes into an ultra-processed food product is not real "food" at all. If you look at the ingredients on the label of a typical packaged-food product, they consist of chemically-manipulated ingredients such as modified starches, sugars, oils, fats, and protein isolates, with little if any whole food added,

But it is not just our physical health that is at risk from diets high in ultra-processed foods. Many of these fake foods, which are loaded with sugar, sodium, and are low in fiber and high in fat, also are thought to have negative effects upon our mental health, including anxiety, sleep disorders, and depression.

Moreover, given the addictive nature of these foods (the sugar rush to the brain and the lack of fiber that leaves you never feeling full), they create a feedback loop (no pun intended), so that the more we eat of these products, the more we want to eat.

Convenience is the driving force behind the ever-increasing use of ultra-processed foods by Americans. Frozen pizzas and dinners are a quick-and-easy meal solution for harried parents. Fast-food restaurants, with their triple-bacon cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, fries, and super-size soft drinks, are everywhere.

By contrast, it should be noted that local restaurants typically do NOT serve the ultra-processed foods of the fast-food chains and that frozen meals prepared in-house in local grocery stores do not rely heavily on ultra-processed products.

For example, the list of ingredients for french fries at one famous national restaurant chain is this: Potatoes, Vegetable Oil (canola Oil, Corn Oil, Soybean Oil, Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Natural Beef Flavor [wheat And Milk Derivatives]\*), Dextrose, Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate (maintain Color), Salt. \*natural Beef Flavor Contains Hydrolyzed Wheat And Hydrolyzed Milk As Starting Ingredients.

(Yuk! After reading that list of ingredients, who would want to put that in their body?)

On the other hand, if you order a baked potato with your dinner at a local restaurant, you get the whole potato and nothing but the potato.

We realize that eating fewer ultra-processed foods is easier said than done. On the other hand, some of the solutions to avoiding ultra-processed foods are quite straightforward: Buy real food and cook it at home; read and compare product labels and try to choose less processed alternatives (for example, swap flavored-yogurt for plain yogurt with added fruit); add fresh, frozen, or canned fruits, vegetables, beans, and legumes to your diet; avoid sugar-sweetened beverages that have no nutritional value and instead drink water; and, when eating out, go to local restaurants instead of fast-food chains.

If we can significantly reduce ultra-processed foods from our diets, we can go a long way to solving the national epidemic of obesity that literally is killing us.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### COMMIT TO THE CUSTODY

*An open letter to Assistant District Attorney Emery Donatelle*

I am writing to you as a 34-year resident of Boston and Beacon Hill.

Over the last 34 years, I certainly have seen my share of crime in and around our neighborhood. However, the recent one-man crime wave of James Schaff stands out. It stands out both because of the brazen nature of the actions, and the repetition of these burglaries on Charles Street just a few months after his 2023 arrest for similar burglaries. In both circumstances, the Boston Police Department

was quick to apprehend Mr. Schaff. But significant damage to many businesses (several woman-owned) was done.

Mr. Schaff also stands out because he is a serial unregistered second-degree sex offender, based on a 1987 "aggravated rape" conviction. As you know, Beacon Hill is not just the business on Charles Street, but it is a residential neighborhood with children and families, schools and day care centers. For our neighborhood and our city to have a chronically unregistered sex offender flouting the law is completely unacceptable.

It is clear that Mr. Schaff is unwilling and/or unable to

comply with the mandates of Massachusetts law regarding sex offender registration and the sanctity of private property. Accordingly, I ask that your office request that the court have Mr. Schaff remain in the Suffolk County jail until the time of his trial. Assuming Mr. Schaff is convicted of (or pleads guilty to) the multiple offenses with which he is charged, I ask for that your office request that he be committed to the custody of the Commonwealth for an extended period, commensurate with his crimes and his history as a habitual offender over the last 20-plus years.

Very truly yours,

Colin J. Zick

## Louijeune is 2024 People's Champion of Democracy

Common Cause Massachusetts board and staff announce the selection of Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune as this year's People's Champion of Democracy.

The People's Champion of Democracy award is given to a standout leader working to strengthen and defend democracy throughout their professional, political and personal lives. Common Cause Massachusetts regularly celebrates the influential leadership of exceptional individuals who champion the values of protecting the power of everyday people against special interests and defending democracy at the national, statewide, and/or local level. This year, Common Cause Massachusetts is proud to announce that Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune is named their 2024 People's Champion of Democracy.

"It's an honor to accept the People's Champion of Democracy award from Common Cause Massachusetts which has been a reliable partner in the work at all levels," says Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. "I've had the ability to contribute meaningfully as an attorney, as an advocate, and now as City Council President to ensure that our democracy is working for everyone. At a time



**Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.**

when democratic institutions are under attack, I am more committed to the work than ever."

"The Common Cause Massachusetts state advisory board unanimously selected Council President Louijeune as our People's Champion of Democracy for many deserving reasons including, but not limited to, her leadership as an attorney defending voting rights and defending against gerrymandering before the United States Supreme Court, advocating for a more inclusive local

democracy, and leading Boston through a tumultuous redistricting process last year," says Patrick Roath, Chair of Common Cause Massachusetts State Advisory Board.

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune will be awarded the People's Champion of Democracy Award on Monday March 18th @ 6pm at Common Cause Massachusetts' fundraiser, "Long Live Democracy" which will be held at the Long Live Roxbury brewery located at 152 Hampden St in Boston. The event is open to the public and tickets to the event can be purchased here.

Past recipients of Common Cause Massachusetts awards include the Boston Globe Spotlight Team, Governor Michael Dukakis, Senator Ed Markey, Attorney General Maura Healey, and most recently Margaret Sullivan of Columbia University.

## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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# The Irish Experience in Boston

Story & Photo by Marianne Salza

Historian, Chris Daley, presented "The Irish Experience in Boston" at the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library on March 7. Daley's interest in the topic began when he started examining his genealogy. The recently retired teacher was shocked by what he had learned about Irish struggles and achievements.

"Boston is the perfect place to talk about the Irish because they came in droves," began Daley. "The Irish came to these shores as servants, prisoners, and as half-dead refugees. They endured ethnic and religious persecution and bigotry. They endured wretched poverty, and back-breaking menial labor; but in the end, they overcame, they surmounted, and they prevailed."

Daley explained that many Irish arrived in American as indentured servants. Ideally, English landlords would provide funds for passage to America. In exchange, the Irish would sign themselves over to bondage for five to seven years, during which time, they would learn a trade, and move on their ways; however, that was rarely the case.

In the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children were taken from their Catholic parents and sold as indentured servants to the West Indies, Virginia, and New England, where they were assigned to Puritan masters..

"They arrived to Boston not willingly; probably in chains," described Daley. "A lot of times, as soon as they were placed, they ran away. Often, the Irish and Africans would help each other and run away in tandem, and hide. The Irish could blend into the population as long as he didn't start speaking Gaelic. A lot of times, too, they'd be stopped, brought back, and mistreated."

As punishment, the Irish would be restrained in stocks or pillor-



Historian, Chris Daley, presenting, "The Irish Experience in Boston," on March 7 at the Charlestown Branch Library.

ies to be publically humiliated. Townspeople would taunt the captured, throwing offal from their farms and garbage at offenders.

"If you continued to disobey, you'd be whipped and dragged through the town so everybody could take a whack at you," Daley depicted. "Much of this punishment happened in Boston at the old Town House. It was a place for commerce and meetings. Eventually it burned down and was replaced [by the old State House]."

When rumors stirred that a Jesuit priest was holding mass in the woods and in basements, the Anti-Catholic Law of 1647 was issued by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to prohibit the practice of Catholicism. The penalty for repeat offenders was death.

The Irish began to emerge and celebrated their first service in 1788, in a building that was abandoned by the Huguenots near the corner of School and Washington Streets, Boston. It was the first Catholic mass in all of New England.

(EXPERIENCE Pg. 11)

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# HILL HOUSE HOLDS ANNUAL WINE DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Hill House held their annual Wine Dinner fundraising event at 1928 on Mt Vernon Street in Beacon Hill. The event was an evening of food and drink to celebrate and support the community center.



Sarah James and Lauren Goff.



Hill House Executive Director Lauren Hoops-Schmieg, Development and Community Outreach Director Katy Keches, and Events Coordinator Molly Ross.



Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone with Bart Simon and Bill Moran. See pages 7 and 8 for more photos.



Marta Daneshvar, Diane Golabek, Lilli Homer, and Chelsea O'Brien.



Maria Casella, Heidi Dooley, Jackie Bullis, Rebecca Shingleton, and Lynne Plavner.



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We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases & photos to [deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)

# HILL HOUSE HOLDS ANNUAL WINE DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT



Team Strong Place: Brett and Sarah Mitchell with Chris Devor and Will White celebrate "the best street ever."



Jenny Lashway and Ingrid Boyd.



Amy Szczurowski with Paul and Alaska Elia.



Marta Daneshvar and Maren Cattonar.



Heather Boyd and Kim Holt.



Walter and Sarah Donovan.



Ted Goff (center) with Kate and Aaron Sawchuk.

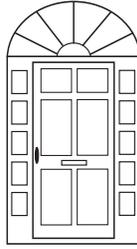


Jenny Lashway and Christine Simon.



Nicholas Keches, Charlie Szeniausk, Kyle Casella, and Geoff Homer.

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# HILL HOUSE HOLDS ANNUAL WINE DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Charlie and Amanda Szeniaewski, Eileen Devor, Maria Casella, and Lilli Homer.



Hill House Executive Director Lauren Hoops-Schmieg and Community Development Chair Lauren Goff thanked everyone for attending.



Hill House held their annual Wine Dinner fundraising event at 1928 on Mt Vernon Street in Beacon Hill.

## BHCA (from pg. 1)

neighborhood. As a member, your voice adds strength to our numbers and credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill residents and businesses. Join, renew, or donate today to support the work we do for you at [bhcciv.org](http://bhcciv.org).

Events Committee – Wednesday, March 27th, 6pm, 74 Joy Street

Zoning & Licensing – Wednesday, April 3, 6:00pm via Zoom (TBC)

Other upcoming BHCA Events  
BHCA Young Friends Social – Wednesday, March 27th, The Dubliner

First Friday Coffee Hour – Fri-

day, April 5th, 8:30-9:30am

Love Your Block – Saturday, April 6th, 9am

Founders Reception – Thursday, May 2nd, 6pm (location TBD)

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

Upcoming BHCA Meetings  
Architecture Committee – Monday, March 18th, 5:30 pm via Zoom

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The Love Your Block team from 2023!

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## BEACON HILL ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

The Beacon Hill Architectural Commission will hold a public hearing on March 21, at 5 p.m. via ZOOM.

Subject of the hearing will be applications for Certificates of Design Approval on the agenda below, reviews of architectural violations, and such businesses as may come before the commission, in accordance with Chapter 616 of the Acts of 1955 of the Massachusetts General Law as amended. Applications are available for review during business hours at the office of the Environment Department. Applicants or their representatives are required to attend, unless indicated otherwise below. Sign language interpreters are available upon request.

Attention: This hearing will only be held virtually and NOT in person. You can participate in this hearing by going to: ZOOM or calling 1 (929) 205-6099 and entering meeting id # 988 9755 4134. You can also submit written comments or questions to BeaconHillAC@boston.gov.

### I. Design Review Hearing

APP # 24.0578 BH 35 Beacon Street

Applicant: James Reichheld

Proposed Work: Replace three historic windows in unit number four.

APP # 24.0740 BH 37 Charles Street

Applicant: Colin Daly; The Hummus Shop

Proposed Work: Replace rear doors.

APP # 24.0775 BH 70-72 Mount Vernon Street

Applicant: Judith Selwyn; Pres-

ervation Tech.

Proposed Work: Replace existing non-historic entry steps with granite steps. Provide minor brownstone repair adjoining steps. APP # 24.0779 BH 151 Charles Street

Applicant: Kristina Descoteaux; Descoteaux

Proposed Work: Rebuild the first floor retail entrance with reduced window widths.

II. Administrative Review/ Approval: In order to expedite the review process, the commission has delegated the approval of certain work items, such as those involving ordinary maintenance and repair, restoration or replacement, or which otherwise have a minimal impact on a building's appearance, to commission staff pending ratification at its monthly public hearing. Having been identified as meeting these eligibility criteria and all applicable guidelines, the following applications will be approved at this hearing:

Applicants whose projects are listed under this heading NEED NOT APPEAR at the hearing. Following the hearing, you will be issued a Determination Sheet to present at the Inspectional Services Department (1010 Massachusetts Avenue) as proof of project approval when applying for permits. ISD personnel will send an electronic copy of your building-permit application to the commission staff for review. (To avoid potential confusion, the text of your building-permit application should be consistent with the project description given below.) Commission staff will according-

ly authorize the execution of the work, attaching any applicable provisos, reflecting the relevant guidelines and precedents.

Please Note That Following Issuance Of The Determination Sheet No Further Correspondence Will Be Issued For The Applications Listed Below. The electronic building-permit application as annotated by commission staff will constitute your Certificate of Appropriateness; this will be valid for two years from the date of the approval letter. The applicant is required to notify the commission of any project changes; failure to do so may affect the status of the approval.

If you have any questions not addressed by the above information, please contact staff at 617.635.1935 or BeaconHillAC@boston.gov Thank you.

APP # 24.0780 BH 25 Brimmer Street: At rear façade: cut 3/4" into the joints of the bricks and repoint in kind. Refinish lintels and sills as needed in kind.

APP # 24.0611 BH 91 Beacon Street: At floors one and two, front facade and side facade, replace eight, 2 over 2, wood, curved sash (non-historic) windows with 2 over 2, wood, curved sash, with a dark spacer bar between the glass.

APP # 24.0772 BH 92 Beacon Street: Scrape, priming and repainting of exterior windows, fence and window grates on all three sides of building to match existing. Cleaning and repairing the masonry keystone over the front door.

APP # 24.0695 BH 34 Charles Street: Change the shade of blue to

a dark navy color on the awning and signage previously approved.

APP # 24.0774 BH 75 Charles Street: Replace three windows at the 75 Charles Street Cupola. Two total 4 over 4 windows and one total six over six in the center. Existing windows are non-historic. Replacements will be two total 4 over 4 and one total 6 over 6. The new windows will be true divided lite, double hung, using clear glass and be painted semi-gloss black at the exterior to match the existing. Existing storm windows to be removed. All exterior millwork (facing boards) and sills to remain. New windows will use a 3/4" interior muntin profile & width. Exterior muntin will be 3/16" & oil based glazed at all exterior glass openings.

APP # 24.0752 BH 21 Pinckney Street: Chimney repoint.

APP # 24.0754 BH 63 Pinckney Street: Replace all the exterior rotted wood at the rear elevation top floor dormer; fabricate new exterior facing boards & new wood sills in kind with 5/4 solid block, replace all the rotted wood on wood storms: 4 boards: 2 ends, 2 middle. 1 lower (below sill) & new wood sill, painted in kind to existing; Ben Moore, Linen White semi-gloss. All flashing, slate, windows & roofing will remain.

APP # 24.0764 BH 83 Pinckney Street: Rebuild front masonry facade in kind using existing and new brick. Windows on garden level, one and two will be restored, other windows will be replaced with 6 over 6 all wood true divided light windows.

APP # 24.0755 BH 87 Pinckney

Street: At front elevation, replace eight sash sets at the front elevation (six bowed and two flat). Third floor: three total.

Second floor: three total. First floor: two total. The new sash sets would be keeping the existing brick moldings and jambs. The new sash will be true divided lite, double hung, using clear glass and be painted semi-gloss black at the exterior to match the existing color. Six new bowed sash will be templated at residence to existing masonry to accurately achieve the existing bow. The sash (wood) will be bowed and glass will be flat due to the existing slight degree of bow. All sash will be oil based glazed at the exterior.

APP # 24.0763 BH 95 Tremont Street (Granary Burial Ground):

Repair of Northeast Free-Standing Brick Wall in Granary Burying Ground. This project addresses decaying masonry on the northeast free-standing brick wall in Granary Burying Ground. The work consists of repointing of the wall and coping stones, rebuilding of small, above-ground areas of the wall, installation of a granite drainage bed directly behind the wall outside the side, and repainting of the metal railings. Existing headstones will be reset in kind.

APP # 24.0726 BH 38 West Cedar Street: Repaint all windows in kind, repair glazing and wood trim to match historic profile.

III. Ratification Of February 15, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes

IV. Staff Updates

V. Projected Adjournment: 7:30 Pm

## Harvard Travellers Club to host record-breaking transatlantic oarsman Bryan Fuller on April 9

The Harvard Travellers Club will feature Bryan Fuller, holder of the American record for the fastest transatlantic crossing by oar, achieved in 2012. Fuller is owner and founder of Power Rowing Studio in Brookline, a company he started after giving in to his passion for rowing and making it his full-time job. Interestingly, Fuller came to rowing relatively late, after a career in the military as a counter-intelligence agent. Suffering from PTSD as he exited the service, Fuller managed to gain admission to the MBA program at Boston University's Questrom School of Business and began a new career in auditing and accounting. But then he found rowing. After experiencing a rowing machine in 2011 he became obsessed with the sport,

joining Community Rowing and raising \$10,000 for veterans with his first record-breaking transatlantic crossing in 2012.

Fuller is planning another transatlantic expedition for June 2024, when he and three others will try to raise \$50,000 for veterans and attempt to cover the 3,500 miles in 50 days or less. In Bryan's presentation at the Harvard Club, he will describe the challenges faced by his first crossing and discuss "lessons learned" that will help make this second, more northerly (and thus more dangerous) crossing safe and successful.

This April 9 presentation will mark the 913th consecutive meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club since its founding in 1902. The Club traces its roots to Harvard's

eminent geographer, Professor William Morris Davis who, in association with Copley Amory, Archibald Cary Coolidge, Roland B. Dixon, and Hames J. Kidder, invited Harvard colleagues to meet in an effort to promote and discuss "intelligent travel and exploration". The Club continues to accept new applicants.

While the Golden Age of geographical exploration during which the Club was founded has long since passed, the spirit behind the founding of the Club remains intact. Today, members continue to commit themselves to intelligent travel and continue to be curious about other landscapes, cultures and scientific discoveries. Definitely unchanged is members' enjoyment in learning of one another's

travels.

In 1913 the club began to meet at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue – a tradition which continues to this day. The Club currently meets eight times a year for cocktails, dinner, and a lecture. Among the speakers this season have been Behzad Larry, who spoke to the Club about snow leopard conservation in Ladakh, India; Polly Letofsky, who circled the world on foot; and Dylan Wickrama who rode his motorcycle around the world including a stint atop a raft for part of the way. We also heard from two of our members about excavations in Ethiopia and dog-sledding on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

"Our members join together to share stories of distant places, rug-

ged climbs, boating expeditions, foreign cultures and traditions", says Council member and North Shore resident Peter Creighton. "Member presence and participation propels this club forward and I love learning about other members' adventures".

To that end the Club welcomes potential new members and interested parties to attend the dinner in April to meet the membership committee. Membership in the Harvard Travellers Club is open to persons who have a background or interest in world travel.

Visit <http://www.harvardtravellersclub.org> for more information, and contact [jenniferlenoxcraig@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferlenoxcraig@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending the dinner and Bryan Fuller's lecture.

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

CITY PAWS

The Name Game

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Would you like an excellent conversation starter for the people you meet on dog walks? Asking the dog's name seems to come naturally. For a great conversation, ask how they came to choose that name. We often find a fascinating tale behind a dog's name.

One of the rescued Westies we placed in a local home came with the name Rad. His new family (we soon learned they were truly fun and funny people) renamed him Swiffer. Why not? His sometimes long and shaggy coat did a great job of dusting their hardwood floors.

A friend's Ragdoll cat was called Max, but his full name was Maximilien De Whisker, a take on Maximilien de Winter, hero of Daphne du Maurier's book "Rebecca." One Back Bay couple adopted a mixed breed dog and named him Del. They explain it's

short for Delano because he now had a "New Deal."

We knew a dog named Kepler, after the German mathematician, astronomer, and astrologer Johannes Kepler. That's a very Bostonian approach to naming a dog. Of course, naming a dog after someone or something related to sports is also very Boston.

Tips for Name Selection

The Seeing Eye is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to breed, train, and place guide dogs for the blind, and they name about 500 puppies a year. Since these dogs must respond to that name for the rest of their lives, they must choose well. They offer the following tips for the rest of us.

First, count the syllables in the name. They try to stick to names with one or two syllables because shorter names are faster when communicating with the dog. Avoid names that sound like a



Poppy's full name is "Duchess Poppy Whitehead." "Duchess Poppy" comes from an E.F. Benson book character and our love for the pop of Champagne corks!

command and might confuse the animal. Here are their examples, "'Mo' can sound like 'No' and 'Kit' sounds like 'Sit.'" Finally, avoid names with embarrassing

or negative connotations. You may find yourself shouting the name in public one day.

We'd add that you should skip names that sound like those of other pets or family. And remind you that, in the dog show world, each animal has a full registered name and a shorter call name. Moreover, most dogs answer to nickname variations of their official one.

Popular Names

Each year, groups like the American Kennel Club, dog walking services, and pet insurance companies publish lists of the most popular dog names—The Wildest website reported on these listings last November.

They wrote that the top ten male dog names for 2024 were Charlie, Max, Cooper, Milo, Buddy, Teddy, Rocky, Bear, Leo, and Duke. The female dog list included Luna, Bella, Daisy, Lucy, Lily, Lola, Zoe, Sadie, Stella, and Bailey.

People Names

Would you be insulted if someone named their dog after you? Penny is always happy to meet a dog who shares her name.

We've heard of family feuds from using a name someone felt was their exclusive property. That doesn't seem to happen with dogs. No one cares if there are three dogs named Fenway in the neighborhood. Dog people just add the breed when talking about them.

One final tip: take your time christening a new pet. Kitty or puppy work fine until you get to know one another. The perfect name may come to you, or you may notice that certain sounds or words get a response from your new family member. The dog or cat may give you a clue to their favorite name.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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the building, but her wallet was missing from her bag. A surveillance video was viewed, which confirmed that an individual entered, went through the victim's bag, and stole her wallet before fleeing Area A-1 detectives were scheduled to further investigate the matter.

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# Opening of 140 Clarendon brings more affordable housing to Back Bay

By Dan Murphy

A new chapter for affordable housing in the Back Bay began last Thursday, March 7, with the grand opening of 140 Clarendon – a redevelopment project at the historic Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) building at the intersection of Clarendon and Stuart streets.

The project - a partnership between Beacon Communities and the Mount Vernon Company – will create 210 affordable apartments, which include 111 supportive housing apartments designated for people exiting homelessness provided by The Pine Street Inn.

“Making sure residents have a safe, stable place to live is critical in our efforts to ensure Boston is a safe, strong, and resilient city for everyone,” said Mayor Michelle Wu during the official ribbon-cutting event. “The 140 Clarendon community shows how public, private, and nonprofit partners can work together to strengthen our neighborhoods to be a home for everyone.”

Sheila Dillon, the city’s Chief of Housing, added: “The developers, working closely with the Back Bay

community have come together to imagine and create a very special development, one that will serve Boston residents for decades to come,” said Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon. “The Mayor’s Office of Housing was honored to invest in this affordable housing project, which will provide over 200 households with an affordable home, including 111 for individuals who were formerly homeless. In addition to the affordable homes, the development team was able to retain the existing theater, businesses and a local school. A model development for us all.”

The building’s two existing commercial tenants - the Lyric Stage Theatre and the Snowden School, respectively - will remain on site due to the efforts of the project team.

Kenzie Bok, Boston Housing Authority Administrator, as well as the former District 8 city councilor, said, “140 Clarendon Street is living proof that Boston can be a city for all of our residents, regardless of income, when we come together to make it so. We are so proud to support this thriving affordable housing community



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu was on hand Thursday, March 7, for the grand opening of 140 Clarendon.

in the heart of Back Bay and look forward to supporting more such projects in all our neighborhoods.”

Lyndia Downie, president and executive director of Pine Street Inn. “Pine Street Inn is thrilled to be part of the 140 Clarendon community. The support services provided by Pine Street are key to ensuring that vulnerable individuals have the resources they need to successfully settle into their new apartments and the larger community. 140 Clarendon embodies the mission of Pine Street to end homelessness by making the safety and stability of permanent housing a reality for 111 tenants.”

The Mayor’s Office of Housing supported the project with \$3,689,955 of Community Development Block Grant-Cares Act funds and \$2,600,000 of Coronavirus Relief funds for a total of \$6,289,955. The Boston Housing Authority is providing Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) to all the apartments in the new development; the vouchers represent a \$6.3 million annual subsidy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and will ensure that residents can remain in the apartments regardless of their income.

In addition to support from the city, the project received state and federal low income tax credits from the state’s Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), and Federal Historic Tax Credits. Financing for the project includes funding from the Mayor’s Office of Housing, the Massachusetts EOHLC, Mass-Housing, Capital Magnet Fund,



D. MURPHY PHOTO

140 Clarendon.

Bank of America, and state and federal tax credits.

Beacon Communities purchased the 140 Clarendon building,

which was constructed between 1927 and 1929 and served as the YWCA’s headquarters for nearly 100 years, in 2021.

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