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HOLIDAYS IN JAMAICA PLAIN PGS. 4-6

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JP PROGRESSIVES HOLD HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Members of the JP Progressives Steering Committee: Reuben Kantor, John Riordan, Krista Magnuson, Mike Fishbein, Enid Eckstein, Massachusetts State Rep Liz Malia, Michael Fishbein, and Martha Karchere with Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (center) and Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune (right). See more photos on Pages 10 and 11.

JPA elects new members, honors departed colleagues

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its annual meeting, which preceded the regular monthly meeting, last Monday, at which the Nominating Commit-

tee presented its slate of candidates for the board for the coming year.

Stepping forward to serve on the board were newcomers Nancy Mazonson and Tony Dreyfus. Both spoke of their long-standing

commitment to the community and desire to contribute to the association. In addition, there were three returning board members, Jasmine Crafts, Tamara Pitts,

Continued on page 3

Area residents hear from new BPDA director

BY STEPHEN QUIGLEY

Six months into the top job at the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), Arthur Jemison recently accepted an invitation to hear the concerns of residents at a joint meeting of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council and

Continued on page 3

Los residentes escuchan al nuevo director de BPDA

BY STEPHEN QUIGLEY

Seis meses después de haber ocupado el puesto principal en Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), Arthur Jemison aceptó recientemente una invitación para escuchar las preocupaciones de los residentes en una reunión conjunta de

Continued on page 2

JPA expresses frustration with MBTA over Arborway plans

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting this past Monday, December 5.

Chairperson Kay Mathew and fellow board members Barry Schwartz, Franklyn Salimbenne, Peter Elmuts, Peter Steiger, Martin Thomson, Jasmine Crafts, Tamara Pitts, Michael Reiskind, Jaime Maguire, Kevin Moloney, Martin Thomson, Rosemary Jones, and David Moir were in attendance for the meeting, as were a number of community members.

In the business portion of the meeting, Martin Thomson presented the Treasurer's report, informing the board that there is an account balance of \$3660.95, and Jasmine Crafts presented the Secretary's report, which involved approving the minutes from the November meeting.

Boston Police Officer Carlos Martinez of District 13 was on hand to give the monthly Community Safety Report. Martinez thanked the board for its "huge donation" to District 13's Halloween Drive, which enabled the police to distribute 500 bags of candy to trick-or-treaters from the neighborhood, and to District 13's Thanksgiving Drive, in which the officers distributed more than 300 Thanksgiving meals to the needy. He added there are 300 children on the list for gifts from Santa for Christmas.

Martinez informed the board of the big news that the suspect in the sexual assault that took

place in a home mid-afternoon on the Arborway in October was arrested in Norfolk, Virginia, on November 29.

"He didn't break down a door to get onto the premises," said Martinez, "but he did force his way in through the interior door."

"Residents have to make sure that your outside entryway doors are locked, because that's how he made his way into the building," urged Martinez.

Martinez reported that there were no crimes in the local area in the past month, but there was a robbery of a Domino's Pizza delivery driver in a nearby neighborhood by two suspects, one of whom brandished a firearm, who took the victim's cash and a cell phone.

Martinez made note of a number of other arrests in the vicinity involving firearms: two juveniles, who were shooting two firearms nearby; a larceny from a motor vehicle in which the suspect, who was apprehended thanks to the assistance of witnesses, was in possession of two firearms; and separate incidents on Parker Ave. and Lamartine St. behind the Jackson Square MBTA station.

In response to a question from board member Thomson, who suggested that guns seem to be more prevalent today than in the past, Martinez said that in his years of experience, guns always have been a serious problem in the city ever since he was a student at the old Boston English High School.

Continued on page 2

Part one crime up 19% in Jamaica Plain

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Captain John Hughes, Sergeant Ryan Cunningham, and Officer Carlos Martinez, members of the Boston Police Department's District E-13, joined the monthly Egleston Square Neighborhood Association (ESNA) meeting Monday, Dec. 5, to give their police report that revealed part one crime has increased by 19% year to date in Jamaica Plain.

Martinez went into depth on each crime, reporting the increase or decrease from 2021 to 2022, and the numbers account

for the crimes reported from Jan. 1 to Dec. 4 of each respective year.

Homicides increased from one to two, which Martinez mentioned falls within the five-year average. In better news, there was a decrease in rapes and attempted rapes from 11 to nine.

Unfortunately, most other crimes increased year to date. Attempted robberies and robberies were up from 15 to 26. Some of the more significant increases include residential burglaries going from 35 to 54 and other larcenies up to 298 from 251 last year.

One resident asked explic-

itly about the increase in residential burglaries, wondering what was behind the increase. Hughes explained that much of the rise could be attributed to bike thefts from basements and back porches that often get coded as residential burglaries.

"When we write a report at the district level, we code it, but when it goes into headquarters, sometimes they change that code," said Hughes.

"To me, if someone steals a bike off your back porch, I don't really equate that as a burglary, but that's how they code it for the FBI. As far as like people actually physically kicking in doors and going in your house, I don't think our numbers are that out of control compared to last year," he added.

That said, Hughes still emphasized that residents need to lock up; he mentioned the need for those who live in multi-family dwellings to lock shared common entryways, which can be an easy point of access for intruders if unlocked.

While crime has increased in Jamaica Plain, which Martinez

described as unfortunate, he reiterated that officers are hard at work. For example, recently, officers have made five firearm arrests.

Along with continuing to keep the streets safe, District E-13 has also been a massive part of supporting the community during the holiday season.

With the help of donations, District E-13 gave out over 500 candy bags for Halloween, passed out over 300 dinners for families this Thanksgiving, and, as it stands now, will give over 300 kids a present for Christmas.

There is also a drop-off box accepting new and unwrapped toys at District E-13 for kids zero to 15 years old, and the deadline for donations is Thursday, Dec. 15.

"If you know any families, please refer them to us, and hopefully, we can help them out in Jamaica Plain," said Martinez.

The work of Jamaica Plain's officers clearly has not gone unnoticed by residents, especially in the ESNA. Toward the end of Monday's meeting, those in attendance showed their sup-

port for the community service officers of District E-13.

"They always attend our meetings; they know the neighborhood. They do things like the gift drive – they do a lot of things like that," said Carolyn Royce.

"They're very attentive and open and accessible; you can reach them by e-mail, you can call them ... I think they do a lot for the Egleston neighborhood, and I feel like we gain a lot of benefit from having a strong community service office," she said.

Alvin Shiggs mentioned how open the officers are when they join the meetings and how responsive they are to residents' questions.

"Sometimes folks have asked some very tough questions, and they do try to respond. We may not always like the answer we hear from them, but they do respond," said Shiggs.

Although crime has risen a bit, it is clear that those in attendance at Monday's meeting support the officer's work in what Hughes said is to help and "make the square a better place to live and work."

nuevo director

Continued from page 1

North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council y North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Jemison no es un extraño en Boston. Trabajó en Boston Redevelopment Authority a principios de la década de 1990 y más recientemente se desempeñó como subsecretario adjunto en Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jemison señaló que la misión original de BRA en las décadas de 1950 y 1960 era deshacerse de las viviendas deterioradas y deficientes, también conocida como renovación urbana, pero ese no es el caso hoy.

Le dijo a la audiencia que las dos áreas principales que deben abordarse ahora son aumentar la cantidad de unidades de vivienda asequible y hacer que la ciudad sea más resistente al calentamiento global, el último de los cuales es de particular preocupación para el North End.

Dado que el 70 por ciento de los ingresos de la ciudad provienen de los impuestos a la propiedad, dijo Jemison, "el crecimiento de la base impositiva debe ocurrir y el desarrollo es esencial".

Muchos de los asistentes expresaron una preocupación similar: que la actual Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) no se toma el tiempo de escuchar todos los puntos de vista de los residentes al limitar el número de oradores en sus reuniones.

Jemison explicó que muchos proyectos pasan automáticamente ante la ZBA, lo que implica un gran volumen de trabajo para la junta.

Un residente mencionó que el desarrollo comercial en North End parece estar enfocado más en restaurantes y menos en pequeñas empresas que brindan servicios, como zapateros.

Diane Valle de Charlestown señaló que el proceso de planificación maestra en comunidades como Charlestown no va bien, un comentario que sorprendió a Jemison.

Alguien notó que Maverick Square en East Boston tiene más densidad que North End, un hecho que sorprendió a algunos asistentes, quienes sugirieron que la densidad en North End es demasiado alta.

Un residente señaló que los desarrolladores están tratando de construir una torre de 700 pies en el Triángulo de Bulfinch, donde la zonificación solo permite un límite de altura de 100 pies.

Esto llevó a otro residente a preguntar: "¿Significa algo la zonificación?"

"El desarrollo no es más importante que los ciudadanos de Boston", dijo Jemison.

Otro residente mencionó el impacto en el vecindario con el crecimiento de las universidades locales y la vivienda de los estudiantes, lo que está expulsando a muchos residentes de largo plazo.

Jemison dijo que "le encantaría volver y contactar nuevamente con los residentes".

JPA frustration

Continued from page 1

The next items on the agenda were the committee reports. Peter Steiger presented a report from the IDEA (inclusion, diversity, and access) Committee and discussed the progress that the committee is making.

"I think we have a really engaged group serving on the committee," noted Steiger. "We have a lot of ideas about how to make the JPA a more modern and more relevant organization."

Moloney and Salimbene discussed the updates regarding the plans of the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for the redesign of the Arborway.

Moloney said that both the JPA and the Jamaica Hills Assoc. (JHA) are in favor of the so-called Alternative 1, whereas the DCR has made known its support for Alternative 4, which entails the elimination of the current traffic circles in favor of the signalization of those busy roadways.

Moloney said the JPA has been attempting to obtain doc-

uments from the DCR that it has relied upon for its support of Alternative 4, but thus far that effort has been unsuccessful. Moloney said that the board ultimately will have to make a request to the Secretary of State's Office to force the DCR to make available those records.

Salimbene noted that there will be a meeting next Wednesday, December 14, between the stakeholders in the process, which includes the JPA, and the DCR to discuss the project.

Community member Sarah Freeman noted that although the boards of the JPA and JHA favor Alternative 1, there are many residents who favor Alternative 4.

Reiskind presented an update of the doings of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, which did not have a quorum for its November 22 meeting, although its Executive Comm. met separately to approve some zoning matters that had been approved by its Zoning Committee.

Reiskind also noted that the Jamaica Plain Business and Professional Assoc. held its annual

meeting, at which a new board of directors was elected. He reported that the recent dog costume event was a huge success with 97 entrants parading down Centre St.

My'Kel McMillen, the Director Of Constituent Services and Organizing from District 6 City Councillor Kendra Lara's office, was on hand and noted that Councillor Lara will be hosting coffee hours with constituents throughout the month in various locations throughout her district.

Barabra Hakim, a resident of South Huntington Ave., informed the members that the city plans to add a bike lane to the newly-paved roadway that will be located on the inside of parked cars (i.e., between the parking lane and the sidewalk, as is common on some other city streets), which she suggested could prove dangerous for the operators of parked vehicles, who will be opening their doors into oncoming traffic.

Mathew said she will place the matter on the agenda for the association's next meeting on January 9.

JPA Board

Continued from page 1

and Peter Steiger, who were seeking re-election.

All five were elected unanimously.

The board then took a moment to honor two former colleagues who passed away this past year.

Franklyn Salimbene read a touching tribute to the late Karen Wesley, who had been a member of the board for many years and had played a large role in the community since the 1980s. Salimbene recounted Wesley's commitment to improving public transit, as well as other endeavors pertaining to the Jamaica Plain area, noting particularly how she could be seen picking-up litter while on her walks and growing her own vegetables.

"Empathy, determination, and optimism, these are the things we loved her for," Salimbene said of Wesley. "We honor this long-standing member of the JPA today."

"We're all going to miss Karen," noted chairperson Kay Mathew, who added that Salimbene's heartfelt words brought some members to tears.

The late Cynthia Quentin Davis also was recognized for her year of service on the board by Mathew.

"She was absolutely committed to saving the urban tree canopy and open spaces in Boston," said Mathew, who noted Davis's activism on behalf of her fellow tenants of the Forbes Building. "She loved Jamaica Plain. The JPA and many other community groups benefited from her activism and wisdom."

In addition, the board members expressed their appreciation to three members who are

stepping down and for whom this was their last meeting.

Rosemary Jones noted the contributions to the board and the community of Jamie McGuire, who has served on the JPA since 2015.

"Jamie is someone who sees what needs to be done in the community and then does it," said Jones. "He always can be counted upon to do the right thing."

Kelly Ransom also was cited for her contributions to the JPA. Mathew said of Ransom, who is moving to Dorchester, "Kelly was a child of Jamaica Plain who brought a cheerfulness and an optimism that always is needed."

David Moir, who moved to JP in 1994, but who is moving from the neighborhood, also was thanked for his contributions to the board by his fellow board members.

"You will be truly missed," said Peter Steiger, who noted Moir's professionalism on the Zoning Committee when Steiger first moved to JP and who came before the Zoning Committee seeking approval for a renovation to his new home.

Barry Schwartz, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, honored the contributions of board member Rosemary Jones. Schwartz noted that Jones stepped up to serve as chairperson of the JPA a few years ago when no one else was willing to take on the responsibility.

"Of all the chairs we've had, you were the most respectful of those who came before the board," added Salimbene. "You were a leader in your kindness and respect of others."

"This is a great group and you listen to each other with respect. I learned a lot by listening to the board," said Jones, who will remain on the board in 2023. "It has been a pleasure sharing with you."

New director

Continued from page 1

the North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Jemison is no stranger to Boston. He worked at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) in the early 1990s and most recently served as deputy assistant secretary at the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jemison pointed out that the original mission of the BRA in the 1950s and 60s was to get rid of blighted, substandard housing -- also known as urban renewal -- but that is not the case today.

He told the audience that the two principal areas that need to be addressed now are increasing the number of affordable housing units and making the city more resilient to global warming, the latter of which is of particular concern to the North End.

With 70 percent of the city's revenues coming from property taxes, Jemison said, "Growth of the tax base needs to happen and development is essential. The city must do planning and

development at the same time that are ahead of the trends that developers are looking at, and shape them into what works for the city."

After making his introductory remarks, Jemison opened up the floor to questions to the more than 50 residents in attendance, telling the audience that he was here to take notes and to hear the concerns of residents.

Many in attendance voiced a similar concern: that the current Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) does not take the time to hear all points-of-view from residents by limiting the number of community speakers at its meetings.

As one resident bluntly put it, "Our input is ignored."

Jemison explained that because of a high threshold for projects pursuant to the city's zoning ordinances, many projects automatically go before the ZBA, which entails a high volume of work for the ZBA.

One resident mentioned that commercial development in the North End seems to be focused on only more restaurants and less on small businesses that provide services, such as a shoe cobbler.

Diane Valle of Charlestown

noted that the master planning process in communities such as Charlestown is not going well, a comment that came as a surprise to Jemison.

During the meeting it was pointed out that Maverick Square in East Boston has more density than the North End, a fact that surprised some in attendance, who suggested that density in the No. End is too high.

One resident noted that developers are trying to get a 700-foot tower built in the Bulfinch Triangle where the zoning only allows for a 100-foot height limit.

This prompted another resident to ask, "Does zoning mean anything?"

"Development is not more important than the citizens of Boston," said Jemison.

Another resident brought up the impact on the neighborhood with the growth of local colleges and the housing of students, which is squeezing out many long-time residents.

The meeting ended with Jemison promising that he would, "love to come back and touch base again with residents."

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SCENES FROM MAYOR WU'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JP

CITY OF BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



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Wu announces new holiday initiative 'Meet Me in the City'

Mayor Michelle Wu this month announced the launch of "Meet Me in the City," a new initiative designed to encourage local tourism through special events, performances, and holiday shopping in Boston's Downtown and neighborhoods. "Meet Me in the City" encourages residents and visitors

to come into the city and support local businesses in Downtown and across every neighborhood.

"Our small businesses and cultural institutions are the foundation of our communities and drive our local economy," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We all benefit from more tourism coming to Boston.

As we enter this holiday weekend and approach the new year, I encourage everyone to come experience the vibrancy of our neighborhoods and shop locally here in Boston."

Boston's dynamic small businesses and arts and cultural institutions are critical to the local economy, especially during this year's holiday shopping and entertainment season. With holiday spending forecasted by the Massachusetts Retailers Association to increase 10 percent statewide compared to 2021 and an 8 percent inflation rate, the "Meet Me in the City" initiative encourages residents and visitors in the greater Boston area to experience the city and invest in our communities.

Following a recent report by the City and Boston Consulting Group detailing some of the challenges facing Downtown Boston, Mayor Wu along with key City and business leaders have re-launched PLAN: Downtown. The plan, in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization report, sets a roadmap for the City to reimagine Downtown Boston as a

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SCENES FROM MAYOR WU'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JP

CITY OF BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu's Enchanted Trolley Tour came to Jamaica Plain on Saturday, Dec. 3, making stops at the JP Monument on Centre Street and in Hyde Square, spreading holiday cheer and giving residents the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Tips for flying with your pet for the holidays

BY KIM SALERNO, FOUNDER/CEO TRIPSWITHPETS

With the holiday season in full swing, you may be planning to travel a long distance to spend the holidays with family and friends. When it comes to taking your pet along, you may wonder if flying is the best option. Flying is definitely a quick and seemingly simple way to get you and your pet to where you're going. Instead of spending hours driving, you and your furry sidekick will spend a lot less actual travel time when you are on a plane. However, like all travel methods, flying does pose some potential obstacles and risks to take into consideration.

If you are not sure whether to fly with your pet, here are some important questions you should ask before you book your flight.

1. Is your pet in good health?

If your pet is ill or hurt, or he has other limiting factors that will make the flight an uncomfortable experience for him (and you), it is best to consider changing your travel plans – Perhaps taking a road trip or finding Rover and Fluffy a reliable pet sitter are better options. Driving to your destination may take more time, but if it is the best option for your pet, it will ultimately be the best and easiest option for you as well.

2. Is your pet considered brachycephalic?

Pets who are snub-nosed and have short muzzles are called brachycephalic, and they are more prone to breathing and respiratory problems. Some breeds with this characteristic include

Persian cats, pugs and bulldogs. When flying, they may have a more difficult time adjusting to the air and pressure changes in the cabin, and conditions below-cabin are even more risky for these pets. If you decide to fly with your brachycephalic pet, check with the airline before you purchase your tickets. Some airlines have actually banned these types of pets from their commer-

cial flights.

3. Is your pet's temperament acceptable for flying?

You know your pet best. If he is often shy, doesn't like crowds, acts aggressively, or can become agitated in new surroundings and situations, then flying may not be the best choice. Again, driving may take a lot more time,

Continued on Page 7

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SCENES FROM MAYOR WU'S ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JAMAICA PLAIN

CITY OF BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA



Meet Me in the City

Continued from page 4

truly inclusive neighborhood filled with new homes, diverse businesses, world-class public spaces, vibrant nightlife, and a thriving arts and culture scene.

“This initiative is an important step to encourage residents and visitors alike to shop local and increase consumer spending during the holiday season,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “More than 50 percent of Americans shop small on Small Business Saturday, and this campaign will help drive activity to Boston’s Downtown and neighborhood districts this weekend and into the new year to showcase thriving, vibrant, and inclusive spaces for all of our residents and visitors to spend the holidays once again, while supporting our local economy.”

“Meet Me In the City” leverages the City’s award winning All Inclusive Boston campaign to focus on raising awareness and elevate the visibility of the Mayor’s call to shop local this holiday season through a significant commitment to advertising with neighborhood newspapers and sites, along

with local television partnerships and collaborative activations. Encouraging patrons, visitors and residents to use ‘the power of the purse with passion and purpose’, the initiative also aims to address the shift to remote work, which has significantly reshaped the central business core. For years, Downtown Boston was one of the busiest neighborhoods in the city, with heavy, daily foot traffic driven by thousands of office workers. However, foot traffic numbers have remained down by 40 percent since the pandemic. The “Meet Me in the City” initiative is aligned with the Mayor’s vision to address this shift and ensure that

Downtown is a vibrant neighborhood where people from all backgrounds come together.

Beginning this month, holiday tree lightings kick off the season before and after Thanksgiving, along with beloved new and familiar holiday traditions like Boston Ballet’s Nutcracker, Boston Pops, Urban Nutcracker, ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas, Black Nativity, ice skating on the Frog Pond and the annual New Year’s Eve celebration, First Night. The City of Boston’s holiday tree lighting in Boston Common takes place December 1, followed by local neighborhood tree lightings throughout the city.

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USPS ready for holiday season, provides shipping tips

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Postal Service is keeping up the pace as the hustle and bustle of the holiday season gains momentum. To ensure customers get their holiday packages on time, our letter carriers will be delivering as early as 6:00 a.m. in many major metro locations across the country. So, if you hear the sounds of an early morning package delivery, please know it's our way of helping Santa get an early start.

This month, our carriers will be out delivering in the early mornings in many communities. To help

keep your letter carrier safe, we ask you to keep your porch light on, especially if you notice mail has not yet been delivered.

We have prepared all year to deliver certainty and continuity this holiday, and that means starting early in the morning.

Tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season:

- Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. They are available at Post Office locations or online at usps.com/freeboxes.

- Make it easy with the Click-N-Ship feature. You can create

shipping labels and pay for postage online at usps.com/ship.

- Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It's free, regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.

- Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces or are more than a half-inch thick and use stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a local Post Office.

- Sign up for Informed De-

livery. Keep an eye on your deliveries by registering at informeddelivery.usps.com to see what packages are enroute and to receive daily emails showing what mail will be delivered.

2022 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to domestic addresses and Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) addresses*:

- Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO

(all ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail

- Dec. 16 — APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code 093) USPS Priority Mail Express Military service

- Dec. 17 — USPS Retail Ground service

- Dec. 17 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)

- Dec. 17 — First-Class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)

- Dec. 19 — Priority Mail service

- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express* service

Office of Civic Organizing invites residents and businesses to participate in new Civic Power Pledge

The Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) today announced the launch of the Civic Power Pledge and upcoming efforts to increase community engagement. Civic Organizing is launching this initiative following the 2022 election season to continue civic momentum all year round. The Civic Power Pledge encourages residents and businesses to embrace their civic power and engage with their local government to build a sense of community, address shared concerns, and improve the quality of life for all Bostonians. After interested residents take the pledge, they will have the opportunity to identify issue areas they would like to learn more about to be connected with future opportunities for engagement including events, volunteer opportunities, and workshops. Civic Power Pledgers will be honored at a civic engagement celebration in spring 2023.

“Our goal with the Civic Power Pledge is to build community and keep the momentum of activism going all year long,” said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. “Change starts with everyday actions in our neighborhoods, so I encourage all our residents and business owners interested in making a difference or learning more about City government to take the pledge.”

“The Office of Civic Organizing is dedicated to empowering residents to be active members of their communities as well as fostering engagement between City Hall and residents,” said Director

of Civic Organizing Henry Santana. “Our hope is that the Civic Power Pledge inspires residents from all walks of life to take small and large civic engagement actions while uplifting the ongoing civic work of residents and community organizations. We look forward to meeting with local businesses, organizations, and residents during weekly community walkthroughs to support civic engagement in every neighborhood of Boston.”

The Civic Power Pledge consists of a checklist of action items for residents and businesses to commit to. They are as follows:

Civic Power Pledge For Individuals

- Identify your local, state, and federal representatives.

- Download the 311 app to report non-emergency issues in your neighborhood.

- Visit Boston City Hall for an event.

- Get connected with your Neighborhood Services liaison.

- Support a small business in your neighborhood.

- Plan or attend a neighborhood cleanup.

- Visit one of Boston's public parks and snap a selfie.

- Visit one of Boston's urban wilds.

- Get connected with your local civic group or neighborhood association.

- Say hello to a new neighbor.

- Plan or attend a community event.

- Participate in the newly launched Find Your Food Pantry campaign.

- Create your own civic engagement action item.

Civic Power Pledge For Business Owners

- Host or sponsor a community event.

- Get connected with your Neighborhood Services liaison.

- Connect with your City Councilor.

- Host a neighborhood cleanup near your business.

- Partner with a community organization in your neighborhood.

- Host a community night at your business.

- Have a space to promote community events inside your business.

- Create your own civic engagement action item.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to sign the pledge online and view the checklist of civic engagement action items which is available in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Cape Verdean Creole. Additional translations are available upon request.

Residents who sign up for the Civic Power Pledge using this form can receive prizes like t-shirts, stickers, and pins which will be available at the City Hall To Go Truck stops as well as at future events. The Civic Organizing team will be out visiting neighborhoods each week on Fridays to connect with residents, organizations, and business owners and share opportunities for

Flying with Pets

Continued from page 5

but it will be a better option for you and your pet in the long run if the flight will be too overwhelming for him.

4. Is your pet meeting the USDA regulations?

The USDA guidelines state that your pet must be at least 8-weeks old and fully weaned for at least 5 days for you to be able to take him on a flight.

5. Will your pet fly in the cabin?

Each airline has its own regulations on pets and flying. In general, pets who are under 20 pounds, and whose crate can fit safely and securely underneath the seat, can fly in the cabin with their parents. If your pet meets the airline's guidelines for traveling in the cabin, this is probably the best option for him. You should consider whether your pet often cries or barks when he is in a restricted space, as he may bother other passengers.

For more tips on flying with Pets, visit TripsWithPets.com.



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BOSTON MEDICAL

Continued on page 8

Rebaza named new Deputy Director of Boston Home Center

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Housing announced that Karen Rebaza of East Boston has been appointed Deputy Director for the Boston Home Center. Ms. Rebaza is an experienced and respected community banking leader in Greater Boston. Most recently, she served as a Vice President, Residential Community Development Officer at Rockland Trust, where she specialized in working with first-time home buyers. Prior to working at Rockland Trust, she served as the Assistant Director of the Boston Home Center, helping to launch the discounted One+Boston mortgage product.

“We are pleased to welcome Karen Rebaza back to the Office of Housing to lead the Boston Home Center’s efforts in its work to increase homeownership among Boston residents and to assist those that are already homeowners,” said Sheila Dillon, Director, Mayor’s Office of Housing. “Homeownership provides a path to generational wealth and housing stability and is key to equitable growth in Boston.

Karen has been a champion of this important work throughout her career, and I look forward to working with her to create new opportunities.”

Ms. Rebaza’s new role at the Boston Home Center merges her passion for community building with her background in the residential mortgage field. As Vice President for Residential and Community Development for Rockland Trust, she was responsible for growing Rockland Trust’s first-time home buyer efforts by providing educational workshops, working with community housing organizations, and exploring opportunities to expand its residential mortgage product and program offerings.

In her previous experience with the Office of Housing, she served as the Assistant Director for Homebuyer Services, during which time she helped launch the One+Boston mortgage product, managed the Neighborhood Homes Initiative, which uses City-owned land to create affordable homeownership opportunities for Boston residents, and directed the Home Center’s foreclosure assistance and financial assistance programs. Prior to this role, Ms. Rebaza worked at Rock-

land Trust as a Vice President and Citizens Bank as a Senior Loan officer. Throughout her extensive career in the residential mortgage field, she specialized in CRA community lending, focusing on the first time home buyer programs in an effort to increase home ownership among Black, Indigenous and People of Color in Massachusetts. Because of her passion and dedication to the community and efforts to narrow the home ownership gap, she has received multiple awards throughout her career recognizing her work in the mortgage field as well as her dedication to the community.

She has also served as a member of the Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) Selection Committee, and the Advisory Board at the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

In her new position, Ms. Rebaza will oversee the Welcome Home, Boston initiative and the management and operations of the Boston Home Center.

The Welcome Home, Boston initiative will utilize \$60 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the development of income-restricted homeownership opportunities on 150 parcels of

City-owned land to be made available for eligible Boston residents. The funding will also enhance financial assistance programs to help residents in buying homes by providing grants that will deliver lower mortgage interest rates and up to \$50,000 in direct assistance, including down payment and closing cost assistance, to income-eligible first-time homebuyers. Funding will also be used to launch a homeownership program for qualified Boston Housing Authority residents

“I am very excited to return to city government to be of service to the people of Boston,” said Deputy Director for the Boston Home Center, Karen Rebaza. “I look forward to working with the Wu Administration, Chief Dillon, and the staff of the Mayor’s Office of Housing to increase the opportunities for homeownership and help homeowners in the City of Boston. I look forward to helping Mayor Wu achieve her historic housing goals for our city.”

The Office of Housing’s Boston Home Center is charged with creating programs to help Boston homebuyers buy a home in Boston, and assisting existing homeowners with home maintenance issues. These programs include first-time homebuyer education; down payment and closing cost as-



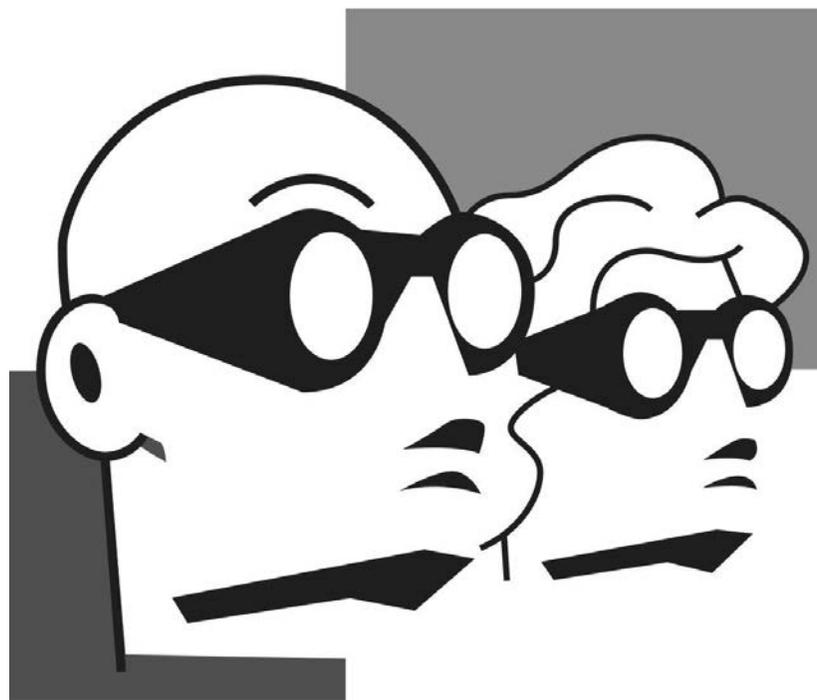
Karen Rebaza.

sistance to first-time homebuyers; lead paint abatement for housing units in Boston; and home repair programs for qualified residents and older Bostonians. The Boston Home Center also oversees City programs that assist homeowners with avoiding foreclosure and works to enhance the City’s relationships with banks, mortgage companies, and nonprofits to promote City programs and coordinate homeownership opportunities.

In this position, Karen will oversee a staff of 29 employees and manage an annual divisional budget of \$16.9 million.

Karen Rebaza lives in East Boston with her family and is deeply involved in advocating for the Boston community. She currently serves on the board of advisors for the East Boston YMCA, the advisory board for MAHA’s STASH Program, and board of advisors of Latina Center Maria.

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Civic Organizing

Continued from page 7

civic engagement. Additionally, all residents who sign on to the pledge will be invited to participate in a civic engagement ceremony this spring.

Civic Organizing is encouraging people to share Civic Power Pledge actions they have taken on social media with the hashtag #BOSCivicPledge and by tagging @BostonCivicOrg on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Along with the Civic Power Pledge, Civic Organizing will be uplifting the civic engagement work many residents are already committed to on social media. To nominate a resident, local business, or community organization for a “Civic Power Spotlight”, please fill out this form.

While the pledge focuses on general civic engagement, residents signing up using our form will have the opportunity to

identify specific issue areas of interest like the environment, housing, public health, public safety, and more. Civic Organizing will work with community partners and organizations to connect residents to additional resources and opportunities for engagement.

Residents, businesses, and organizations looking to learn more about the pledge are invited to attend a virtual informational session on Wednesday, December 14 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. To RSVP, visit <https://tinyurl.com/OCO-signup-jpg>. More information on the Civic Power Pledge can be found at boston.gov/civic-organizing. Please direct all questions to the Office of Civic Organizing at civicorganizing@boston.gov.

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.

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JP PROGRESSIVES HOLD HOLIDAY PARTY

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The JP Progressives held their annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Brendan Behan Pub on Centre Street in JP. Members mingled with each other and local officials, as well as reveled in the holiday spirit.



Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune.



Massachusetts State Rep Liz Malia.



Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz listens as Ronald Coleman speaks to her about concerns.



Mary Battenfeld and Corey Scott.



The back patio at the Brendan Behan was where JP Progressives held their Holiday Party.

ENGLISH HIGH TAKES TURKEY DAY VICTORY



Lena Shaviro and Prerna Jagadeesh.



The English High football team and coaches celebrate their win on Thanksgiving Day at Harvard Stadium. In the 135th meeting with their rival, Boston Latin, English won the game 52-44 and ends the season at 3-7. Boston Latin ends at 4-6.

COURTESY PHOTO

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JP PROGRESSIVES HOLD HOLIDAY PARTY



Massachusetts State Rep Liz Malia speaks with Karen Payne and Chris Poe..



Krista Magnuson speaks to the room with Annie Rousseau and outgoing State Rep Liz Malia standing beside her.



Reuben Kantor (2nd from left) speaks to the room with Krista Magnuson, Annie Rousseau, and State Rep Liz Malia, standing beside him.

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COCOANUT GROVE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE HOSTS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

PHOTOS COURTESY THE MAYORS OFFICE

On Monday, November 28, the Cocoanut Grove Memorial

Committee hosted an 80th Anniversary Remembrance Vigil at the site of the former nightclub,

Piedmont Street and Cocoanut Grove Lane in the Bay Village neighborhood. A program of guest speakers will attend and several family members of both victims and survivors plan to attend. A reception will follow at the Revere Hotel's Liberty Hall and a presentation of "Six Locked Doors," a documentary will be shown.



Boston Fire Chaplain Fr. John Unni offers remarks on the tragedy.



Mayor Michelle Wu addresses those in attendance.

"We are so please to have Mayor Michelle Wu supporting this memorial to preserve and honor the victims, the survivors, the first responders, military personnel, brave citizens, medical professionals and families of the Cocoanut Grove Fire. "

~ Mike Hanlon, Cocoanut Grove Memorial Committee Member

The Cocoanut Grove nightclub opened in October 1927, and quickly became the top club in Boston, but with Prohibition followed by the Depression, the club lost its gleam. But with the end of Prohibition, the Cocoanut Grove rebounded and again was the leading place in Boston to go to for entertainment and fun.

On Saturday afternoon, November 28, 1942, Boston College, the undefeated and number one college football team in the country, played Holy Cross College at Fenway Park. The BC Eagles got swamped and lost, 55-12. Lots of BC fans canceled their reservations at the Cocoanut Grove, but it didn't stop people from heading to the Grove for a night of celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, wedding, and for departing soldiers to fight the War in Europe and the Pacific and this would be the last night to share a drink and a dance.

In the downstairs Melody



A photograph of one of the victims of the fire, Joyce Spector Melkelburg, that was brought by her children, Richard Rosenthal and Lesley Kaufman.

Lounge, a sedate piano bar, a couple was getting romantic when the fellow removed a small light bulb that hung from a fake palm tree causing some darkness. A teenage busboy tried to screw the bulb back in and struck a match to see the outlet. He blow the match out, but did a spark fly into the fake palm tree fons and start the fire? To this day, fire experts are not sure of the origins of the fire that took the

lives of 490 patrons that night of November 28, 1942.

Following the ceremony, a showing of the documentary film "Six Locked Doors" by former Bay Village resident Zach Graves-Miller was shown.

According to Michael Hanlon of the Cocoanut Grove Memorial Committee, there are plans to build a memorial of three archways that would have led to the doors of the Nightclub.



Fire Commissioner Paul Burke and Rabbi Yosef Zaklos of the Chabad of Downtown Boston.



Mayor Wu addresses those in attendance.

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Baker-Polito Administration directs nearly \$169 million from U.S. Department of the Treasury to promote small business growth and entrepreneurship

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to administer \$168,591,178 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to promote small business growth and entrepreneurship in Massachusetts. This funding, awarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), will support new or expanded programs offered by quasi-public agencies MassDevelopment, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC), and MassVentures that provide access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs. These programs are designed to target small businesses, especially those owned and controlled by economically and socially disadvantaged individuals.

“Since taking office, we have been committed to supporting small businesses in communities across Massachusetts,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This federal funding will allow us to increase access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them create jobs and expand their footprint here in the Commonwealth.”

“Small businesses are the heart of our main streets and local economies,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We are incredibly pleased to be able to expand the suite of resources available

from our quasi-public partners that enable small businesses to finance real estate, equipment purchases, and other projects, and are grateful for this support from the federal government.”

“This major federal investment will directly benefit our economy by empowering small businesses and entrepreneurs in Massachusetts – especially our smallest and underserved businesses – with the capital they need to grow,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “MassDevelopment, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, and MassVentures already play a critical role advancing equitable business growth in the Commonwealth, and this funding will allow these agencies to expand their loan offerings to reach more companies.”

Funding will be distributed among the following programs:

MassDevelopment

- Enhanced Economic Development Loans

This expanded program for real estate, equipment, and leasehold improvement loans makes direct loans for no more than 50% of the total debt package with extremely flexible terms.

- Enhanced Loan Guarantees

This expanded program partners with banks to provide guarantees of up to 50% of the loan amount, on loans for real estate, equipment, and leasehold im-

provements.

Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC)

- Commercial Lending Program

This existing program makes direct (companion) loans for no more than 50% of the total financing to small business borrowers using its own balance sheet funds.

- Community Loan Fund Guarantee

This new program will guarantee up to 50% of the principal loan amount originated by its community partners (banks and nonprofit community lenders) up to an average of \$250,000.

MassVentures

- Deep Tech Diversity Venture Fund

This fund provides pre-seed, seed, seed-extension, and early-stage venture capital equity investments to deep tech startups (e.g. advanced manufacturing and materials, robotics, AI, synthetic biology, quantum, and clean tech). MassVentures has already led or co-led three investments leveraging almost 7X in private capital with the SSBCI

funds.

The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) was established by Congress as part of the Jobs Act of 2010 and was reauthorized in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, which authorized \$10 billion to be allocated nationwide. The Commonwealth was awarded \$168,591,178 that will be disbursed in three tranches.

“We will be intentional in the use of this significant commitment from the Federal Government to help historically disadvantaged small business owners grow their business and build generational wealth,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. “These small businesses and entrepreneurs – many of whom are from diverse backgrounds – energize our local economies with creativity, innovation, and quality jobs.”

“The deployment of these loan funds and guarantees by MGCC to those businesses that are most in need, will continue empowering small businesses that may not have access to capital across the Commonwealth,” said Massachusetts Growth Capital

Corporation President and CEO Larry Andrews.

“This support advances Massachusetts’ leadership at deep tech scientific and engineering discovery, while positioning the state as an innovation hot spot for diverse founders as well as founders from traditionally underserved regions of the state,” said MassVentures CEO and President Charlie Hipwood. “We are grateful for this support.”

“The Coalition for an Equitable Economy (CEE) is proud to have worked with Secretary Kennealy to advocate for this support to help Massachusetts entrepreneurs and small businesses thrive, particularly in underserved communities,” said Coalition for an Equitable Economy Executive Director Tracye Whitfield. “CEE partners have heard from many small business owners who need extra financial assistance getting off the ground. This is why the SSBCI funds are so important and needed.”

To learn more about these and other available resources, visit massdevelopment.com, empoweringsmallbusiness.org, and mass-ventures.com.

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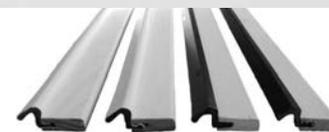
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Boston Lyric Opera to present a new production of Bluebeard's Castle from director Anne Bogart

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Casting and production announcements for Boston Lyric Opera's spring 2023 performances are being released today, including performers in BLO's premiere production of Bluebeard's

Castle/Four Songs in March 2023 and the New England premiere of Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels' new opera, Omar in May 2023. Public tickets for both performances are on sale December 1.

BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE/ FOUR SONGS

Bass-baritone Ryan McKinny stars as the fictional, fairytale character Bluebeard in Béla Bartók's one-act psychological thriller Bluebeard's Castle that will be paired with the dramatic

song cycle Four Songs (Vier Lieder) by composer Alma Mahler (wife of Gustav). The highly anticipated production is directed by Anne Bogart, whose 2019 version of The Handmaid's Tale for BLO received universal acclaim and was one of BLO's best-sell-

ing shows. Naomi Louisa O'Connell sings the role of Judith, the bride who realizes she's gotten herself into a much different post-nuptial situation than she

Continued on page 15

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COVID-19 Wastewater testing monthly report

STAFF REPORT

As of December 6, COVID-19 levels present in the wastewater

are high. This usually means that many people around you may have COVID-19.

What could you do to protect yourself?

- Wear a high quality mask indoors.

- If you have COVID symptoms, get tested for COVID-19.
- If you tested positive for COVID-19, Free COVID-19 medication is available.

¿Qué puedes hacer para protegerte?

- Use una máscara de alta calidad en interiores.
- Si tiene síntomas de COVID-19, hágase la prueba para COVID-19.
- Si dio positivo por COVID-19, hay medicamentos gratuitos para el COVID-19.

Al 6 de diciembre, los niveles de COVID-19 presentes en las aguas residuales son altos. Esto generalmente significa que muchas personas a su alrededor pueden tener COVID-19.

BLO

Continued from page 14

envisioned. O'Connell also performs Mahler's "Four Songs." BLO Music Director David Angus conducts. Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs will play March 22-26, 2023 in an immersive, multi-genre experience that includes a salon-like atmosphere, dance and more installed at The Terminal @ Flynn Cruiseport in South Boston.

A full list of the Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs artistic and production team is available at <https://blo.org/bluebeard/>.

OMAR

Tenor Jamez McCorkle stars in Omar, the title role he premiered at the Spoleto Festival last spring and brought to LA Opera this fall. Omar is the story of Omar Ibn Said, a prominent scholar of the Islamic faith and many other subjects, who was born to a wealthy West African family. Enslaved in South Carolina at 37 years old, Ibn Said escaped his first place of enslavement and headed to North Carolina where he lived as a slave until his death in 1864. His is the only known autobiographical essay written in Arabic by a Muslim man enslaved in America.

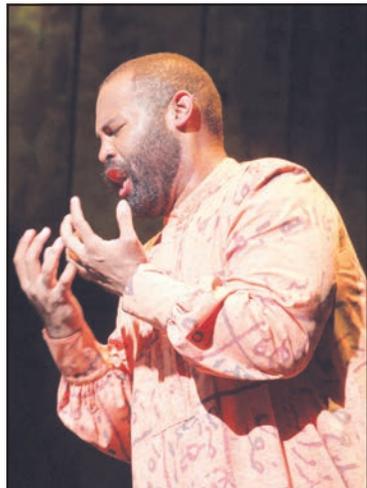


PHOTO BY LEIGH WEBBER

Tenor Jamez McCorkle stars as the title character, Omar, in the upcoming performances of "Omar."

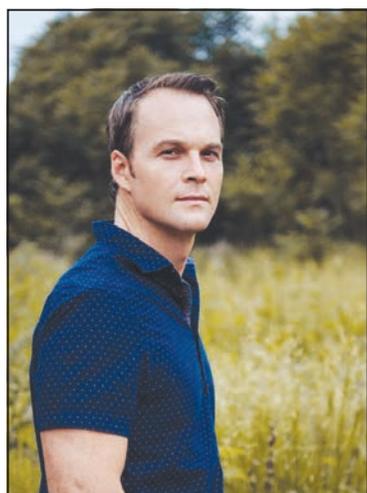


PHOTO BY JIYANG CHEN

Bass-baritone Ryan McKinny will star as Béla Bartók in the upcoming "Bluebeard's Castle."

Grammy winner Rhiannon Giddens wrote the libretto and composed the music in partnership with film and orchestral composer Michael Abels for a production conceived by Kanza Schaal. Classical Voice San Francisco called the production "a profoundly moving spectacle," and lauded McCorkle's performance as "a career-defining role." Michael Ellis Ingram conducts the BLO Orchestra and Chorus.

Additional casting announced for Omar includes Cierra Byrd in the role of Fatima, Omar's Mother and Daniel Okulitch playing the dual roles of enslavers James Owen / Johnson. BLO Emerging Artists (current and alumni) in principal roles include: Neal Ferreira as Auctioneer / Taylor; Emma Sorenson as Eliza, Little Daughter; Nicholas LaGesse as Abdul, Omar's Brother / Abe; and Fred C. VanNess Jr. as Amadou-Renty. Catherine Daniel plays Katie Ellen/The Caller. Omar plays May 4-7, 2023 at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theater.

Additional casting for Omar and a list of the original production creative team is available at <http://www.blo.org/omar>.

Omar is co-commissioned by Spoleto Festival USA, Carolina Performing Arts, L.A. Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera. It is inspired by Dr. Ala Alryyes's translation of Omar Ibn Said's autobiography in his book A Muslim American Slave: The Life of Omar Ibn Said.

Individual tickets for BLO's Spring 2023 performances of Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs and Omar are on sale December 1. Two-show subscriptions, also available now, offer a 10% discount over individual tickets.

Subscriptions and individual tickets can be purchased online at blo.org, by phone at 617.542.6772 or by email at boxoffice@blo.org.



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The Art of the Brick exhibit on display in the Back Bay

STORY & PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Nathan Sawaya shapes rigid, plastic LEGO blocks into intricate and dynamic figures in his exhibition, The Art of the Brick, on display in the Back Bay through Sunday, April 23. The contemporary artist is returning to Boston following sold-out shows in Faneuil Hall in 2014. Twice as large, this installation features over 90 of his newest sculptures assembled from nearly one million LEGOs that are individually glued together.

“I think the role of an artist is to inspire. I hope that by sharing this work with the community,

they are inspired. I have found over time that art is not optional,” a message Sawaya emphasizes throughout the exhibition. “If you have a little art in your life, you’re going to be smarter.”

Visitors can explore three floors of original artwork and re-imagined masterpieces. The collection includes a description and the number of LEGOs used in each design.

On the first floor, one can view a version of Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” (3,493 pieces), and a three-dimensional, full-scale, mosaic-like replica of Gustav Klimt’s oil and gold leaf painting, “The Kiss” (18,893 pieces), of a couple embracing on a bed



Nathan Sawaya sitting in his interactive sculpture, “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces).

of grass and flowers.

Stand beside “Dinosaur Skeleton,” (80,020 pieces), a 20-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex, which took Sawaya an entire summer to construct; or peer into “Pop-Up Book” (19,822 pieces), in which a castle appears from the middle of an open story book.

The third floor is an interactive area. In “Pink Dreams” (102,938 pieces), sit on a pastel, wingback armchair that is surrounded by whimsical accoutrements like a heart-shaped pillow and giant soft serve ice cream

cone. Families can design cars to race on a track in the creative LEGO brick play stations.

Sawaya grew up in a small, Oregon town. He has loved playing with LEGOs since he was 5-years-old; even bringing the nostalgic toys to college and storing them beneath his bed as a source of comfort.

Later in life, Sawaya discovered LEGOs as an art medium. He still enjoys receiving sets as gifts, as he finds building according to instructions to be relaxing. The 1x2 jumper -- with one stud

in the middle of a plate -- is Sawaya’s favorite LEGO brick to use because it provides him options for details.

“I don’t feel the passage of time when I’m building. I go into a trance; and I am building away. I’ll do 10-12 hours with no problem. Office work for 10 hours was mind-numbing and draining,” groaned the former New York City corporate lawyer. “This is a different type of work that I really enjoy. I found my passion.”



“Red Dress,” 62,750 pieces, part of Sawaya’s collaboration with photographer, Dean West.

Sawaya’s skills in contract negotiations have helped him as a businessman. His LEGO sculptures have been on display in over 100 cities in 24 countries.

Continued on page 17

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CITY of BOSTON

Art of Brick

Continued from page 16

“The role depression played resulted in certain works,” revealed Sawaya, whose sculptures reflect the construction of identity. “There are themes of emerging, transition, and metamorphosis that come out of the time I was a lawyer.”

When Sawaya initially began approaching galleries to feature his LEGO creations, he received opposition; once he began using



“Little Dancer of Fourteen” (7,100 pieces), “The Scream” (3,991 pieces), and “The Thinker” (4,332 pieces).

movement in human form, the art world began to open. He was



Contemporary artist, Nathan Sawaya, standing beside his 20-foot-long “Dinosaur Skeleton,” made of 80,020 bricks



Sawaya’s original designs on the first floor: “Pop-Up Book,” “Baseball Player,” “Ball and Jacks,” “Pointing,” and “Crayons.”

replica of the Central Perk coffee shop in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Friends sitcom.

“I was trying to showcase how you could put emotion into the art,” explained Sawaya. “It had to be life-size for it to work.”

In The Art of the Brick, Sawaya collaborated with photographer, Dean West, to produce brick-infused images. He imitated the flow of fabric in “Red Dress” (62,750 pieces), an asymmetrical cocktail dress with a sweetheart neckline that is worn by a model in one of West’s photographs.

“In this gallery, called ‘In Pieces,’ we see the integration of the work into photography. That was pure joy because I got to take LEGO in a new direction. It wasn’t just putting art on a

pedestal,” said Sawaya. “That was an amazing time for me.”

View the Art of the Brick in the newly-renovated museum space located at 343 Newbury Street (previously Forever 21) Sunday-Thursday 10am-6pm, and Friday-Saturday 10am-8pm. Tickets cost \$24 for children and \$28 for adults. Visit www.ArtOfTheBrickExhibit.com for more information.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SUFFOLK, SS. DOCKET NUMBER: SU21P1572

To all persons interested in the matter of: Anne C. Burns of Boston, MA., in said County of Suffolk a person under conservatorship.

A petition has been presented to said Court, for license to sell a private sale certain real estate of Anne C. Burns, of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, for maintenance and praying that the petitioner, Jonathan M. Sprin, may be licensed to sell convey the same of said real estate. EXHIBIT “A” Property Address: 69 Hampstead Road, Jamaica Plain, MA The land with the buildings thereon situated in that part of Boston, formerly West Roxbury, Suffolk County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being shown as Lot No. 31 on a

Plan of Arboretum Land Company, made by French and Bryant, dated April 27, 1899, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Book 2623, Page 386 and bounded and described as follows: SOUTHERLY by Hampstead Road, fifty-one (51) feet; EASTERLY by Lot No. 30 as shown on said plan, one hundred-thirty-four and 36/100 (134.36) feet; NORTHERLY by land of owners unknown, forty-eight (48) feet; WESTERLY by Lot No. 32 as shown on said plan, one hundred twenty-seven and 13/100 (127.13) feet. Containing 6514 square feet of land being the same premises conveyed to Anne C. Burns by deed dated July 27, 1972 recorded with Suffolk Deeds Book 8552, Page 724. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the 27th day of December,

2022, the return day of this citation. Witness, HON. Brian J. Dunn, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 15th day of November, 2022. Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 12/9/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE Docket No. SU20P1309EA

Estate of: Gary Gelormini Date of Death: 09/25/2017 To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by Anthony Gelormini of Saugus MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Gino Ricciardelli of Saugus, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. You have the 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 12/22/2022. 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 (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 23, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 12/09/22 JP

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EDITORIAL

Freedom isn't free: Pearl Harbor was 81 years ago

It was 81 years ago this week that the nation of Japan launched its attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack as, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Japan. Germany and Italy, allies of the Japanese who collectively were known as the Axis, then declared war on the U.S., setting the stage for what would become the largest conflagration in world history.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans would die in battlefronts stretching from the European continent to the jungle islands of the Pacific over the next three and one-half years before the German and Japanese war machines finally were subdued.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed most of the rest of the world in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. Americans had no appetite for re-engaging in another conflict just 23 years removed from the memories of World War I that still were fresh in our nation's psyche.

But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand. Although America had re-instituted the draft some months prior to Pearl Harbor and had ramped up our military production capabilities, the suddenness of the Japanese attack still came as a shock to every American.

Americans realized that thanks to the capabilities of modern armaments such as Japanese aircraft carriers and German U-boats, even the continental United States was not insulated from attack by a foreign enemy. Citizens on the West Coast braced for a Japanese invasion in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and curfews were instituted on the Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks to the countless number of documentaries and movies over the past 20 years that have told the stories of the brave Americans who fought in WWII, we are fortunate to have a living history of the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free -- and that we always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500.

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Anonymous letters will not be published.

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OP-ED

Christmas rest and peace

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Christmas is a good time to catch up on your pumpkin pie eating. Pecan pie seems readily available so this too is a good option. Try to drink one glass of eggnog during the season of joy. Eggnog does have some calories and fat grams but one glass won't hurt you too bad. I don't recommend drinking a gallon.

If you had turkey and ham for Thanksgiving, you may have it again for Christmas. There is nothing wrong with repeating the Thanksgiving meal especially if it was good. If it was bad then you might consider something else. The only time of the year that I eat much turkey or country ham is during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Be careful eating too much of that smoked Turkey and ham because they can be a bit salty. You don't want to swell up like a balloon on Christmas.

Christmas should be a relaxing time. If you believe Santa Claus is coming then let him take care of the work. Surely, he will show up. Just ask him to bring dinner when he comes. Make sure he comes in the front door. I don't know about bringing broccoli casserole down the chimney.

If you are putting up lights, now is the time to do so. You want to have time to enjoy the lights and the more you string together

and cover your house the more electricity you are using. This in turn creates a big electric bill but you are keeping the paychecks going for the utility people.

The main thing is don't go crazy this Christmas. You don't have to buy everything. The stores love for you to max out your credit cards but you won't love it in February and March when you are paying it back. Use commonsense when it comes to the entire season. Eat a piece of pie but don't eat the pie. Eat a slice of turkey but don't eat the turkey. Decorate if you wish but you don't have to spend a week putting up lights. They all have to come back down you know. Spend only what you can afford. If you can't afford much then don't press yourself to do what you cannot do.

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus but we often make it a day of bedlam. The birth of Jesus was in Bethlehem. His parents were poor. They had gone to an out of the way town to pay their taxes. There was no place for them to sleep. They slept in a barn and Jesus was born while they were there. Mary laid him in a cow's trough. They were poor, tired and

life was not very easy for Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Keep in mind that Jesus came to save us from our sins. He came to give us peace. The Bible calls him the Prince of Peace. Most people need some peace and one way to have more peace is to focus on the baby of Christmas. Christ is comfort and peace.

You don't always find your peace at church. The church isn't Jesus. If your church is stressing you out, harping about money every Sunday, and pulling you in ten different directions then you might consider taking a step back and reevaluating.

The season of joy is here. Don't depend on others to create joy for you. Get alone with God every day and focus on him. You'll discover a peace and a rest that only He can provide.

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.

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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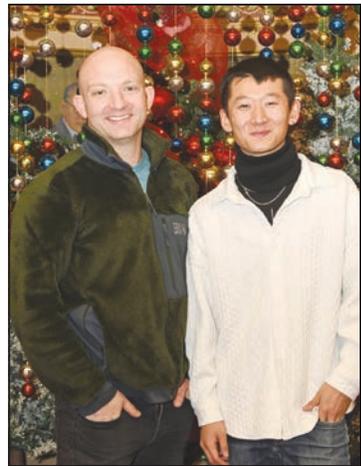


'Twas the Night Before showing at the Wang through Sunday

STORY BY MARIANNE SALZA

Cirque du Soleil is presenting "Twas the Night Before" at the Wang Theatre through December 11. This cheerful and thrilling production is a playful twist on the iconic Christmas poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," by Clement Clarke Moore.

"It's cold outside, but we are bringing the warmth," beamed acrobat and hoop diver, Evan Tomlinson Weintraub, of San Francisco, California. "It is a moment for families to come together."



Evan Tomlinson Weintraub and Jinge Wang, acrobats and hoop diver performers in Cirque du Soleil's "'Twas the Night Before."

This holiday season, join Cirque du Soleil for its first Christmas show about the spirit of Christmas, and the wonders of sharing and friendship. On Christmas Eve, a father reads the classic story to his teenage daughter, Isabelle. Disenchanted by the craze of Christmas, Isabelle is uninterested in the family tradition.

Magic emerges as a spark of light; and the jaded Isabelle is separated from her father by a storm. She is whisked on a fantastical journey through a winter wonderland, where the young girl meets reimagined characters from the poem.

Unlike in the original version of the tale, the children in "Twas the Night Before" are not snuggled in their beds, patiently awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Dressed in candy cane-striped onesie pajamas, they are wide awake and eager to see Santa in this high-energy, comical, acrobatic table routine.

"My character is so happy waiting for Santa Claus," laughed acrobat and hoop diver, Jinge Wang, of China, who plays a boy that instigates the frenzied chaos.

Similar to his character, Wang remembers being too ex-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Children, unable to fall asleep, anticipate Santa's arrival in an acrobatic table routine in "'Twas the Night Before."

cited to sleep on Christmas Eve. Although he spent last Christmas performing with Cirque du Soleil in Mexico, Wang associates Christmas with chilliness, snow – and, no matter the temperature -- eating ice cream.

"It's a big celebration with family," described Wang about what Christmas means to him. "Everybody enjoys the Christmas atmosphere."

Wang and Weintraub's favorite trick is performed in the scene, when the little ones hear Santa on the roof.

"In three high, people stand

on top of each other's shoulders, looking for Santa Claus. I'm the one on top. Then I fall and roll. I can't see the audience, but I can hear their screaming and clapping" explained Wang, who has studied acrobatics for 22 years, and also practiced wushu, Chinese martial arts.

Weintraub, as Prancer, and Wang, as Comet, also perform in the hoop diving act that introduces Santa's playful reindeer as a collaborative team.

"I think what's nice about this show is that it's built for families," said Weintraub, who

celebrates Christmas on a warm beach with his family. "We tap into the memories of when we were kids, and translate that energy to them to make the show special."

Weintraub and Wang especially love the enthusiasm and awe of young viewers.

"The more feedback from the audience, the more it helps us to go further," smiled 30-year-old, Weintraub, who has been a circus acrobat for 18 years; and before that, was a gymnast. "We are giving so much energy, that when we receive it back, it's like a cycle. It gets better and better."

Friends, Weintraub and Wang, worked together in "Twas the Night Before," in 2019 when the production first debuted. To prepare this year, the acrobats rehearsed the choreography for seven weeks: six days a week for five hours.

"This show has become a hit and classic for Cirque du Soleil," said Weintraub, who appreciates the supportive teamwork of the circus. "We're not seeing outrageous changes to it. We're coming back into a roll that's familiar, which is nice. It's a significant amount of time to put in and be learning something. It's muscle memory now."

Weintraub and Wang's golden-antlered reindeer conclude the production as Isabelle is reunited with her father; and they read the poem together.

"They start to explore what Christmas means, where the spark of Christmas comes from, and what it means to share the warmth and light with each other," Weintraub revealed.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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24/7 Emergency Vet Care | Weekend Appointments | Free On-site Parking

We're not kitten you!



Quality vet care is right in your neighborhood.

Angell Animal Medical Center's compassionate team provides state-of-the-art care for your best friend. From wellness checkups to allergies, from cancer treatment to neurosurgery, our specialists work together to provide services tailored to your pet's individual needs.

- 24/7 Emergency & Critical Care
- Anesthesiology
- Avian & Exotic Medicine
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- General Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Surgery



animal medical center

angell.org | 350 South Huntington Ave | Boston, MA | 617-522-7282