

## Conservancy's Annual Meeting Spotlights Environmentalist, New President

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy, now in its 19th year, held its annual meeting on March 22 at Mass. College of Art. After recognition of volunteers and remarks by chair Ben Taylor and new President Karen Mauney-Brodek, the keynote address was delivered by environmentalist Dr. John Francis.

Known as the "Planetwalker," Francis became an environmentalist in the 1970s—before it was fashionable—after witnessing two oil tankers collide beneath the Golden Gate Bridge. A self-described hippie, he was horrified by the oozing sludge and dying birds, and decided to make a difference by refusing to ride in automobiles from then on. Everyone he knew told him that one person can't change the world, yet Francis walked back and forth across the United States playing his banjo for 22 years.

At one point, tired of arguing with people about whether one person can have a significant impact, he stopped speaking.

The silence lasted for 17 years, and Francis (who now talks quite a bit) says, "I realized the importance of listening. It's the part of communication we don't think about too much. I realized by not listening, I had stopped learning."

In the course of his 17 years of not talking and not riding in cars, Francis was able to communicate with people all over the country about the importance of the environment (strangers invited him in and children took him to school for show and tell). He also earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. He has written a book called *Walking the Earth*, is a visiting associate professor at the University of Wisconsin, an Education Fellow at the National Geographic Society, and now lectures all over the world. Francis said, "Environment is more than about pollution and endangered species. It's about human rights and civil rights—how we relate to each other and how we treat

each other manifests in the physical environment around us." Francis began and ended his address by playing his banjo.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*



PHOTO: KATE EISER

**Environmentalist and (and banjo player) Dr. John Francis spoke at the Emerald Necklace Conservancy annual meeting**

**MEET KAREN MAUNEY-BRODEK, THE CONSERVANCY'S NEW PRESIDENT. PAGE 3.**

## LMA PONDERS STREET CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO RISING CYCLING DEMAND

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Longwood Medical Area bikers convened last month at the Jimmy Fund Auditorium on Binney Street for an hour-long lunchtime presentation on potential cycling improvements in the area. The room was packed, and David Read, vice president at Dana Farber and local cycling advocate, facilitated.

Speakers included Rick Corsi, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's project manager for the Charlesgate East Greenway project, and Peter Furth, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Northeastern. Corsi announced that his project, a multi-use path connecting the Esplanade to Beacon Street and ultimately the Riverway, will hold a public meeting this spring and go out to bid in the summer. Furth, alongside planners Sarah Hamilton and Paul Nelson from MASCO (the Medical Academic



PHOTO: LONGWOOD CYCLISTS.ORG

**The volume of cyclists in the Medical Area has grown rapidly. LMA cyclists got a look at proposed bike-infrastructure improvements at a recent meeting.**

and Scientific Community Organization), discussed some improvements proposed for Longwood Avenue.

MASCO has contracted with Watertown-based transportation consultants VHB to design safer bike accommodations for the Longwood area. VHB's design shifts the lane lines on some blocks to create space for bike

lanes, and includes the more controversial idea of restricting the far right lane on Longwood Avenue's eastbound block between Brookline Avenue and Binney St. to bus and bike traffic only. The city is reviewing these concepts, which could be implemented as early as July. Another improvement targets Brookline

Avenue, where flexible vertical posts called "delineators" will be installed alongside a segment of the existing bike lanes, creating a physical barrier between riders and drivers. According to some advocates these are only incremental steps, as they only create bike lanes in one direction.

Peter Furth's presentation envisioned "informal flares" on Longwood Avenue that would eliminate underutilized left-turn lanes in order to create space for cyclists where the road widens, or "flares." His plan creates both east- and westbound lanes on Longwood to accommodate the huge increase in area bikers. A 2016 survey of peak-hour traffic at the Longwood/Brookline intersection found that 39% were bikers (according to data from the Boston Cyclists Union). This is a very high number according to MASCO's Sarah Hamilton, who cautioned that eliminating left-turn lanes could be dangerous, as this design allows drivers to enter the bike lane in order to pass cars stopped to turn left.

The Livable Streets Alliance, a local organization promoting equitable transportation solutions, envisions a larger public engagement campaign, initially partnering with David Read on the Longwood Cyclists website launch and an online survey. A follow-up is expected with area stakeholders this spring.

**CYCLISTS on page 5 >**

## Fenwickian Finds a Job—and a Cause—Solving Families' Housing Needs

BY EESHA PENDHARKAR

25-year-old Fenway resident Drew Nemer doesn't just have his own home to think about, he has about 200 more. His work at the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) has helped low-income residents find and maintain affordable homes.

Nemer works as a program representative in the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, one of many different programs offered by the MBHP. "The voucher is tied to a certain set of apartments that are controlled by companies [and] landlords, and we fill them with people who apply," Nemer explains, describing the work the MBHP does. When there's a problem between the tenants and owners, any conflict, or tenants want to relocate, it's Nemer's job to resolve it. "I'm like their case worker," he states. Some of the people whose residency Nemer helps maintain have been in the voucher program for 30 years.

MBHP is a nonprofit, governmental contracting agency that serves 5,100 households

through the voucher program in Massachusetts. Nemer has complete belief in the organization's ability to lift people out of poverty. According to him, the number of families seeking MBHP's help in the past decade or so has doubled, so the work is more important than ever. "The rent prices in Boston are astro-



PHOTO: METROPOLITAN BOSTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

**Drew Nemer works at the MBHP helping families find affordable homes in Boston neighborhoods.**

nomical," he says with indignation.

It's easy to forget housing when you think of basic needs, especially when the number of people living without it is factored in. Nemer's list of basic needs has housing highlighted.

"It all starts by having a home," he says. "You need someplace to live before you get a paying job. There's so many more chances of people getting rejected if they don't have a permanent address."

Nonprofit work has been a part of Nemer's life since his days at Brandeis University. He studied sociology and anthropology and was an advocate for social justice and women's rights throughout his time in school. He worked at another nonprofit, the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, before switching to helping people find and sustain homes.

He began working at MBHP by assisting with the intake coordinating of Section 8, a federal program offering subsidized housing. During his few months there, Nemer helped approximately 150 individuals who had spent as much as 10 years on the waiting list for a lease. At the beginning of this year, he switched to his current position with the voucher program.

Nemer takes his dedication to helping people very seriously. "They look to us, and it's a huge responsibility and a privilege," he says. His daily work involves dealing with a lot of questions from those looking for affordable housing, and his way of speaking about them displays a genuine concern for their residential problems. "I've been touched by the people I've encountered," he relates.

"I've met very nice, hardworking people, heard stories of people who've benefited greatly from this program."

With MBHP's impending move to Roxbury Crossing, Nemer says he's looking forward to helping people from the Fenway, which has been his home for two years. His daily tasks include income monitoring of families residing in subsidized homes and helping resolve any problems that may arise due to changes in incomes, living conditions or family issues.

"A lot of it is paperwork, lot of it is calculations, but it cannot be done without the human element."

He thinks of his work like healthcare. According to him, people worry about their home like they worry about healthcare, and he acts like a doctor who they go to when they're having health problems.

He says what he learns from his work at MBHP is balancing everyone who comes to him in need to trying and address all of their problems. As for future plans, he wants to build on the sort of work he does now. "I hope to improve welfare in low-income people and to make Boston a much better place to live for everyone."

*Eesha Pendharkar is a graduate student at the Boston University School of Journalism. For more information on the MBHP's work, visit [www.mbhp.org](http://www.mbhp.org).*

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...



The campaign to save the Citgo sign in Kenmore Square took many a twist last month, but the billboard now appears safe. Supporters took out two full-page ads in the *Globe* and used social media to push a Boston Preservation Alliance online petition past 16,000 signatures. Then, on March 15 came news that developer Related-Beal, had reached an agreement with Citgo on a new lease agreement. In 2016 R-B bought the whole north side of the square from B.U. for \$134 million, then moved to raise the sign's rent from \$250,000 to \$2.5 million annually. Not surprisingly, Citgo balked. Details remain hard to come by, but Mayor Marty Walsh is reported to have pressured the two parties to reach a deal.

➤ **Boston Public Schools announced that Rachel Skerritt will become Boston Latin's new headmaster.** Skerritt, a 1995 graduate of the school, taught English there for seven years before moving on to other BPS positions, including headmaster of Another Course to College, a pilot school. In 2010 she joined the District of Columbia system, where she served as a principal and administrator. BPS Superintendent Tommy Chang called Skerritt's qualifications and ties to the school "tailor-made to lead Boston Latin School into its next chapter of excellence and equity for all."

➤ Panopticon Gallery announced it will close its doors by May 1. The photo gallery has operated at various locations in Kenmore Square since 1971. The current exhibit, "Roger Farrington: Celebrity in Boston," will close April 10.

➤ **Crossroads Irish Pub, which reopened just three years ago, has closed for good according to its owners.**

➤ Meanwhile, the pub's next-door neighbor, Quality Mart at Beacon Street and Mass.Ave., got stung by the Mass. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission over St. Patrick's Day weekend for selling beer to 122 underage buyers. The *Herald* reports that agents scooped up 112 fake IDs.

➤ **The Boston Theater Critics Association will honor actress Cherry Jones at the annual Elliot Norton Awards on May 15. The BU Theater (home of the Huntington Theatre) will host, and the show is open to the public (get \$10 off your ticket by buying before May 1 at [www.bostontheatrescene.com](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com) and using the code NORTIES 10).**

➤ A Boston Transportation Department study of bike ridership, conducted over three days last September, found six of the city's ten busiest bike intersections in our reading area. The Mass. Ave. Beacon Street intersection topped the list, with more than 3,000 cyclists during the count. The list also included the BU Bridge north of Comm. Ave. [#2]; Comm. Ave. west of Silber Way [a block outside of Kenmore Square, #3]; Longwood Ave. east of Pilgrim Road [by the MASCO garage, #5]; Columbus Ave. west of Mass. Ave. [#7], and Mass. Ave. south of Columbus [#10].

## Fenway, Back Bay Runners Join City Year's Marathon Team

City Year Boston is sponsoring five runners in this year's Boston Marathon, each raising money for City Year service projects and programs for students and teachers in Boston public schools. City Year aims to bridge the gap between students' needs and schools' ability to provide for them.



In 2014, Fenway resident Jesse Carmen served as a City Year Boston AmeriCorps member at the English High School in Jamaica Plain. In her role with AmeriCorps, she provided support to students in attendance, positive behavior, and coursework to keep them on track for high school graduation. She's now pursuing a graduate degree in social work at Boston College and works as a community advocate intern at Quincy's Domestic Violence Ended (DOVE) program. She says her involvement with City Year led her to a passion for education equity, which is why she's running for City Year.

John Tauscher (pictured left) lives in the Back Bay and works at Advent International, which sponsors the Condon K-7 School in South Boston. He's also a member of the executive committee at Access Better Learning & Education (ABLE). He is running his first marathon with City Year Boston, and plans to write the name of everyone who donates on the shirt he runs in.



You can find more information on the 2017 City Year Boston Marathon Team, including how to donate, at [www.cityyear.org/boston/events/boston-marathon](http://www.cityyear.org/boston/events/boston-marathon)

**WE CATER!**

visit [elpelon.com/catering](http://elpelon.com/catering)

**EL PELÓN TAQUERIA**  
Authentic Mexican

**El Pelón Taqueria**

[www.elpelon.com](http://www.elpelon.com)  
open 7 days 11am 11pm

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest icons.

© Mister Reusch

**bpda** | **Public Meeting**

## WENTWORTH IMP AMENDMENT

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**550 HUNTINGTON AVENUE, WENTWORTH CAMPUS**  
Beatty Hall, Flanagan Campus Center  
Boston, MA 02115

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**  
Wentworth Institute of Technology

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
Wentworth Institute of Technology is proposing the First Amendment to its 2010 - 2020 Institutional Master Plan, to relocate and increase the size of one of the five identified institutional projects which was the Center for Engineering and Technology and which will become the proposed Multipurpose Academic Building, located at 555 Parker Street, Boston Massachusetts.

The Project involves the construction of a new academic building with a height of approximately 64.5 feet and a size of approximately 69,000 gross square feet ("gsf"). The MpA Building will contain laboratories, student learning and group meeting space, offices, and support/storage space on floors two through four, and a first-floor maker space, manufacturing, and gathering space.

**MAIL TO:** **KATELYN SULLIVAN**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201

**PHONE:** 617.918.4425

**EMAIL:** [Katelyn.Sullivan@Boston.gov](mailto:Katelyn.Sullivan@Boston.gov)

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:**  
5/4/2017

[BostonPlans.org](http://BostonPlans.org) | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

**Major Real Estate Shifts for West Fens, Roxbury**

- Developer Cabot, Cabot & Forbes paid \$145 million for the Fenway assets of former Boston Cab owner Edward Tutunjian, including the Boston Cab garage, 300-plus taxi medallions, and 2.1 acres of land on Kilmarnock and Queensberry streets. CC&F president Jay Doherty says the company plans to put housing on the property.
- The real estate website BLDUP reported (and other media confirmed) that Star Market bought the now-closed Gulf station at the corner of Park Drive and Boylston Street. The website cited registry records showing a price of \$16.295 million. The parcel connects the main store lot with a satellite lot at the top of Peterborough Street, giving Star an L-shaped, 2.3-acre site at that corner. Star says it will expand parking, but West Fens residents know that the main and satellite lots are rarely filled. Might Star have other plans, like selling to a developer—or maybe developing the site itself?
- Just a few blocks south, across from Boston Police headquarters, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) has given approval to a 1,000,000-plus square-foot project called Tremont Crossing. The mixed-use development would have around 720 apartments; retail (possibly including big box stores like Costco), office space; and a new home for the National Center of Afro-American Artists. In an odd twist, the *Globe* reported that former boy-band star Michael Bivins (New Edition; Bell Biv Devoe) showed up at the BPDA board meeting to testify in favor of the project, but protests about a different project and a long meeting agenda apparently dampened his enthusiasm, and he left.

**Mosques Set Open Houses for April 2**

*This weekend, mosques across Massachusetts will welcome their neighbors inside for the first Massachusetts Open Mosque Day. We encourage you to visit our neighbors at The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC, at right) at 100 Malcolm X Boulevard, across Tremont Street from the Roxbury Crossing stop on the Orange Line. The ISBCC will open its doors from 4-6pm. For more information, and to see a statewide list of open mosques, visit the Council on American Islamic Relations: Massachusetts website at [www.cairma.org](http://www.cairma.org)*



**MAUNEY-BRODEK BRINGS PASSION, EXPERIENCE TO ROLE AS CONSERVANCY PRESIDENT**

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

**T**he *Fenway News* caught up with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's new president Karen Mauney-Brodek. In the position since August 1, she arrived from San Francisco where she was deputy director of park planning, project manager, and in charge of the Community Opportunity Fund Program for the San Francisco Parks Department. Mauney-Brodek graduated from Columbia University, and her first job was with the New York City Parks Department, and when she left for graduate school at UC-Berkeley, she was director of the design/build program. At Berkeley, she received a master's degree in city planning and architecture.



Karen Mauney-Brodek

with my parents, holding "Honk for No Roads" signs. People were camping out in tents along the proposed freeway route [my parents wouldn't let me do that]. The controversy went on for quite a while, but eventually the park was saved from the freeway.

**FN:** What's the difference between parks in San Francisco and in Boston?

**KM-B:** In San Francisco, the trees, plants, and the look of the parks are different from Boston. Here we have more of a native forest. But what the two cities have in common are community groups who really care about the parks and elected officials who care about the parks. Bostonians care about their parks and neighbors and communities. I feel I'm amongst friends.

**FN:** What do you like best about the Emerald Necklace?

**KM-B:** I love that it's a necklace—a linear park. It travels throughout the city and runs along the Muddy River. I love the stone bridges and changing vantage points. Olmsted thought of the parks as a

system. He saw sewer, drainage, and nature all as integrated parts. This landscape is resonant for me. Olmsted was a tremendous landscape architect but also a city planner.

**FN:** What are your goals and plans for your presidency of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

**KM-B:** I want to make more Boston and Brookline residents aware of the Emerald Necklace. People don't realize it's designed to be together and reconnected. Maybe we need more signage. Also, better access and connection for pedestrians and bicycles.

**FN:** What projects are you and the ENC currently involved in?

**KM-B:** Along with the Olmsted Tree Society, we're going park by park pruning, removing, and replacing trees to keep the canopy healthy. The trees are dormant in the winter, so it's a good time to do the pruning. Also, we're very involved in the Muddy River restoration project. Phase 1 is done and will have an official opening on April 21. The design for Phase 2 is 65% done. The dredging and cutting of phragmites is supposed to start in 2018. We will continue to push for the successful completion of Phase 2.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. The ENC has its headquarters 125 The Fenway. For more information, visit [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org)*

**Resolve to stress less  
and enjoy more this year?**

Start smarter with a personalized financial review.

Contact your Fenway Banking Center below:  
Samir Haddouche 617-236-8502



The Webster symbol is a registered trademark in the U.S. Webster Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender ©2017 Webster Financial Corporation. All rights reserved.

SATURDAY  
MARCH 18

SATURDAY  
APRIL 15

SATURDAY  
MAY 13

**FINANCIAL LITERACY  
WORKSHOPS**



Attend a FREE financial literacy course taught by Nicholas Josey, a Northeastern University alum and Executive Director of the Vincita Institute. During the three-part series, he will share 20+ years of financial planning and advising experience that will provide participants with the knowledge for creating a solid foundation for their personal finances. Topics include:

- CASH MANAGEMENT**
- ESTATE PLANNING**
- INSURANCE • INVESTING**
- RETIREMENT**

TIME: 10am - 12:30pm (all dates)

VENUE: Northeastern Crossing, 1175 Tremont Street, Roxbury

REGISTRATION: <http://bit.ly/2mcvp2t>

INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS: [northeastern.edu/crossing](http://northeastern.edu/crossing)



FENWAY CDC'S 44TH

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

THURSDAY, APRIL

**13**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Fenway Health  
(9th floor)

1340 Boylston Street  
West Fens

Join city officials and your neighbors at our 44th annual meeting. Enjoy a light supper, thank departing board members and elect new ones, celebrate outstanding individuals—and hear a **major announcement from FCDC**. To vote in this year's elections, be sure to sign up or renew your membership by March 13.



To RSVP; to join or renew your membership; to request interpretation (Spanish/Mandarin/Russian); to arrange childcare or transportation; or to get more info, please contact Margarita at [CMargarita@FenwayCDC.org](mailto:CMargarita@FenwayCDC.org) or 617-267-4637 x10.

# FENS VIEWS

## Whatever D.C. Does, Threats Lie Ahead for Mass. Health Care

Even if the Trump agenda never gets through Congress, we will need to make significant changes in our health care model in Massachusetts. Our health care model is showing signs of stress even without the funding loss that the Trump proposals would cause.

The good news is that we have a very low uninsured rate—Massachusetts citizens have access to health care. And I'll fight to protect that access.

Yet many who have coverage from their employer (whether public- or private-sector) are facing rising co-pays and deductibles, and many of those who buy their own insurance are facing premium increases that they cannot afford.

One of the most troubling indicators of stress is this: Over the past five years, the population with commercial insurance has actually dropped by 450,000 people, down from 65% to 58% of Massachusetts residents. In

some instances, employers have dropped coverage. In others, people with low incomes have voluntarily shifted from employer coverage to MassHealth because of the high co-pays and deductibles on their employer-provided plan.

In the same five-year period, while the uninsured rate has remained low and our economy has prospered, enrollment in the MassHealth has grown by 523,000 to almost 2 million people, nearly 30% of the state's population.

MassHealth is the state's combination of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. It is the single biggest state program. Alone, it accounts for almost 40% of the state's budget (although currently, the federal government reimburses more than half of that cost).

The cost per covered patient has grown only very modestly—rising under 2% per year over the past 10 years. And, at the same time, MassHealth has made progress on providing more and better care for people with substance-use disorders.

Yet, with enrollment growth of 70% over the past 10 years, MassHealth's total spending has roughly doubled. The governor has proposed \$41.0 billion in total state spending in fiscal 2018, an increase of \$1.3 billion or 3.2% over estimated total state spending of \$39.7 billion in FY2017. Of that total increase of \$1.3 billion, Masshealth accounts for \$1.2 billion, making meaningful increases for other important priorities like local and education aid essentially impossible without new revenues.

The governor has proposed a new "contribution" of \$2,000 per employee for employers who do not provide health care coverage for their employees. This proposal speaks directly to the problem of rising MassHealth enrollment—it might lead more insurers to preserve or reinstate coverage. At the same time, it would raise an estimated \$300 million in FY2018—creating just a little headroom for other priorities.

The "contribution" would be required from all employers with over 10 employees and has drawn substantial opposition from the business community—it is certainly a substantial charge that will loom largest for businesses that are least profitable and/or pay the lowest wages.

Rising health care costs are the root cause of the stress in the system as a whole. Massachusetts has among the highest systemic per patient costs in the world. In 2012, we put in place a host of measures to control systemic costs, but those have not been sufficient to alleviate the pressure that many individuals and public and private organizations are experiencing.

The governor has proposed new direct controls on costs, but these have also attracted opposition.

We need to preserve access to health care. At this stage, I'm not offering a personal recommendation, but naming the problem and looking for ideas and resources.

Will Brownsberger represents the Second Suffolk and Middlesex district in the Massachusetts State Senate. The Fenway News occasionally invites elected officials to write essays for FensViews on issues of concern to our neighborhoods.

To contact Sen. Brownsberger visit [willbrownsberger.com](http://willbrownsberger.com), email [william.brownsberger@masenate.gov](mailto:william.brownsberger@masenate.gov), or call 617-722-1280.

## GUEST OPINION

Sen. Will Brownsberger



## IN MEMORIAM

### Cynthia Brophy Ward

Friends and neighbors in the Symphony neighborhood are still shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of our Gainsborough Street neighbor Cindy Brophy on March 7. Many of us (the "Usual Suspects") worked with her on neighborhood issues, and she served loyally on city task forces and other projects. More recently, after retiring early, Cindy and her husband Martin Ward became new gardeners in the Symphony Road Gardens.

Following the shock of Cindy's death, Martin wrote the following obituary:

Cynthia A. Brophy Ward passed away suddenly on March 7, 2017. Born in Weymouth, Cindy lived in Framingham for a number of years and in Boston for the last 36. She loved her work with the nonprofit South Middlesex Opportunity Council and Crime & Justice Foundation, a nonprofit in Boston. Later she ran the mediation program for the Boston Municipal Courts.

She loved living and working in Boston and was active in her community. Cindy was a voracious reader and loved her time at the beach, enjoying sun, a good book, and surfcasting (although she would wait, sipping a glass of wine, for her husband to hook one, indicating the fish were running, before casting). She loved good conversation and dining out with friends. She met and married the love of her life, Martin J. Ward, who survives her. Her mother, who predeceased her in 2010, was not only her loving mother but her friend as well; the two enjoyed an unbroken tradition of meeting for dinner every Thursday night for 40 years. Her loving father passed away in the early 1970s. Cindy is survived by her brother Michael, married to Elaine Brophy of North Conway, N.H.; her beloved nephew and nieces Sean Brophy, Adelle Brophy, Courtney, Alexandra, and Ashley Ward; her in-laws, Robert P. Ward and his wife Carol; Edwina Ward Fleming and her husband Tom; and many, many good friends.

### WELL-EARNED AWARD FOR ALISON PULTINAS

Congratulations to our fellow Fenway News board member Alison Pultinas, who received a "Golden Shoe" award at the March 29 annual meeting of the pedestrian-advocacy group WalkBoston. Alison, as our readers know, is an effective citizen advocate for many important issues on Mission Hill and citywide. We're proud of you, Alison!

—THE FENWAY NEWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## NEW AT N.U.

Construction is complete on Northeastern University's 220,000-square-foot Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex. Located at 777-797 Columbus Ave, the environmentally-friendly structure was designed to conserve energy while promoting interdisciplinary cooperation between scientists and engineers inside. Northeastern has scheduled a ribbon cutting for April 3. More info at [www.northeastern.edu/isec](http://www.northeastern.edu/isec)



## THE Fenway News

Serving the Fenway, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle, upper Back Bay, lower Roxbury, Prudential, Mission Hill, and Longwood since 1974

**FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Kelsey Bruun • Steve Chase • Helen Cox  
Ruth Khowais • Alison Pultinas  
Barbara Brooks Simons • Steve Wolf

**EDITOR:** Ryan Polhemus & Duke Harten

**WEB SAVANT:** Kelsey Bruun

**DESIGNER:** Steve Wolf

**WRITERS:** Alison Barnet, Stephen Brophy, Will Brownsberger, Kelsey Bruun, Helen Cox, ohn Engstrom, Stan Everett, Lisa Fay, Marie Fukuda, Elizabeth Gillis, Katherine Greenough, Steve Harnish, Rosie Kamal, Sajed Kamal, Mandy Kapica, Steven Kapica, Ruth Khowais, Shirley Kressel, Kristen Lauerman, Joanne McKenna, Mike Mennonno, Letta Neely, Eesha Pendharker, Michael Prentky, Alison Pultinas, Barbara Brooks Simons, Matti Kniva Spencer, Anne M. Tobin, Chris Viveiros, Steve Wolf

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Steve Chase, Lois Johnston, Patrick O'Connor, Valarie Seabrook, Matti Kniva Spencer, Steve Wolf

**CALENDAR:** Stephen Brophy, Ruth Khowais, Alison Pultinas, Barbara Brooks Simons, Steve Wolf

**PROOFREADERS:** Steve Chase, Ruth Khowais, Barbara Brooks Simons

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Janet Malone

**DISTRIBUTION:** Della Gelzer, Aqilla Manna, Lauren Dewey Platt, Reggie Wynn

The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you would like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, lay out, distribute, or sell advertising on commission, please contact us at

**The Fenway News,**  
PO Box 230277, Astor Station  
Boston, MA 02123  
[fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com)  
[www.fenwaynews.org](http://www.fenwaynews.org)

Subscriptions \$30/year  
(\$20 for limited income)

©2016 FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION, INC.

### "Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable."

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today's Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

#### > FREQUENCY <

The Fenway News reaches the stands every 4-5 weeks, usually on the first or last Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on **Friday, APRIL 28.**

#### > DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads is **Friday, APRIL 21.**

#### > ADVERTISING <

Contact our business manager at [advertisefn@gmail.com](mailto:advertisefn@gmail.com)

## WHEN YOU'RE LOCKED OUT, CALL US.

**Mass Ave Lock**  
125 St. Botolph St.  
**617-247-9779**

FAMILY-OWNED AND -OPERATED.  
40 YEARS AND COUNTING.

Lockouts ★ Master Key Systems  
High-Security Key Systems  
Mailbox Keys ★ Keys Made by Code  
Door Closers ★ Deadbolts

## A Word From Our Outgoing Editor

I wrote my first *Fenway News* article seven years ago, some small piece of arts coverage about a free lunchtime tour at the MFA called "Three Masterpieces in Thirty Minutes." Then-editor Stephen Brophy liked it, so he assigned me another story. And then another. Gradually—almost without meaning to—I became a regular contributor to the paper.

Soon I was invited to sit on the board of directors. Did I know what that meant at the time? Probably not. Yes, I'd begun to learn a little about the Fenway community from my reporting, but until joining the board I hadn't enjoyed seats so close to the stage.

It was there I started to learn about the expansive web of personalities and institutions responsible for this neighborhood. (I'd name a few, if not for fear of forgetting so many others.) I began to understand the paper's historical and social significance. I realized *The Fenway News* wasn't a bunch of writers reporting the news; it was a group of citizens engaged in a dialogue about their community.

When Stephen stepped down, I was nervous to take over as editor. What if I was too young? What if I hadn't lived here long enough?

Much to my relief, the Fenway community—in spite of (or perhaps because of) its mantle-deep roots—was willing to welcome a relative newcomer. I've served as the editor of this paper for four years now, and I'm very proud to have done so. My time working for you has been an education and an honor.

Now, as my time draws to a close, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to my colleagues, readers, and those untiring members of the community whose efforts far outpace my own. You make this community what it is, and I hope to call the Fenway my home for a long time to come.

UNTIL NEXT TIME,  
DUKE HARTEN



**Just Passing Through...**  
Spring arrived last month, bringing thousands of migrating birds to the Fens, like this garrulous flock on Agassiz Road.

## Fenway Health Cites Risks of ACA Replacement

BY KELSEY BRUUN

Last month, Fenway Health released a policy brief entitled *What the American Health Care Act Means for LGBT People and People Living with HIV*. However, LGBT people and people living with HIV will not be subjected to the healthcare bill, as leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives pulled it on March 20.

In addition to explaining the negative impacts of the now-defunct bill, the brief also addressed the positive results LGBT people and people living with HIV have seen from the Affordable Care Act (ACA), often called "Obamacare."

As the ACA will remain intact for the foreseeable future, LGBT individuals and people living with HIV will be able to continue to make strides in health equity. There is still work to do, as the policy brief states: "LGBT people and [people living with HIV] experience widespread discrimination in health care, which can act as a barrier to seeking routine and emergency medical care."

However, this discrimination was even more prevalent prior to the ACA, when people living with HIV were "often denied coverage for having a preexisting condition, or they were met with high premiums and prohibitive spending caps," according to the policy brief.

The brief mentioned that these bans affected a segment of the LGBT population as well, as gay and bisexual men represent two-thirds of new HIV infections, and transgender people are disproportionately burdened by

high rates of HIV.

When the ACA was enacted and people could no longer be denied coverage for preexisting conditions, people living with HIV benefitted tremendously. According to the policy brief, the percentage of people living with HIV who lack health insurance has decreased from 22 percent to 15 percent.

While this increased coverage was due partially to people with preexisting conditions being granted insurance, it is also because of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion.

The policy brief explains that "in states that expanded Medicaid, low-income people [at] up to at least 138% of the Federal Poverty Level can qualify for coverage based on income alone. This has been extremely helpful for low-income LGBT people and [people living with HIV] who previously could not qualify for Medicaid, because they did not have dependent children or a disability, or because they were not poor enough... The Center for American Progress found that in states expanding Medicaid, 386,000 uninsured low-income LGBT people qualified for Medicaid."

With the Affordable Care Act remaining in place, Fenway Health says it will continue the fight for health equity. As the brief states, "The [Affordable Care Act] has implemented numerous, critical steps to reduce the health disparities experienced by these populations, and its impact on health outcomes and health care costs remains a work in progress."

*Kelsey Bruun lives in Roxbury*

### > CYCLISTS from page 1

Andrew McFarland, community engagement manager for Livable Streets, said in an email, "We don't want this Summit to just be a one-off. We're working to build a sustained momentum from the public to encourage MASCO and the City to make substantial safety improvements in the LMA. We're already getting a lot of feedback from LMA employees, but we want to make sure this effort involves residents living in Fenway, Mission Hill, and beyond." Livable Streets is launching a Street Ambassador program to recruit volunteers for their Longwood campaign.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill. For more information about the training sessions and to view the proposals, visit [www.longwoodcyclists.org](http://www.longwoodcyclists.org) email [info@longwoodcyclists.org](mailto:info@longwoodcyclists.org).*

## AUDUBON CIRCLE'S MEI-MEI GOES ALL-IN ON LOCAL FOOD, APRIL 23

The Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts hosts an AllLocal dinner at Mei Mei Restaurant (506 Park Drive), 5:30-8:30pm. Chef Irene Li—twice a semifinalist for the "Rising Star Chef" award from the James Beard Foundation—will serve up eight family-style dishes from 100% local ingredients. Offerings will include lamb dumplings, cabbage salad, Thai curry, and more. Mei Mei is normally vegetarian/vegan-friendly, but Li says that the nature of the dinner limits those options. Tickets are \$55 for dinner and \$65 for dinner and two drinks. To purchase tickets, visit: [www.sbnmass.org/events/event-calendar](http://www.sbnmass.org/events/event-calendar)

## Happy Birthday, Richard Barry!



Friends gathered at Thornton's Grill on March 27 to celebrate the 88th birthday of longtime Fenway resident Richard Barry. Pictured from left: Marie Fukuda, Barry, Rick Kimball, and Tim Horn.

# DASHBOARD

### → STREET CLEANING

The City cleans Fenway streets between 12 and 4pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (odd-numbered side) and the second and fourth Wednesdays (even-numbered side). More info at 617-635-4900 or [www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping](http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping). The state cleans streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**  
The Riverway, 12:00-3:00pm
- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
The Fenway (includes inside lane), Charlesgate Extension and Forsyth Way, 8:00am-12:00pm

- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) and Charlesgate Extension, 12:00-3:00pm
- **THIRD TUESDAY**  
> Park Drive (includes inside lane), upper Boylston Street, 8:00am-12:00pm  
> Park Drive, from Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral to Kilmarnock Street and from the Riverside Line overpass to Beacon Street, 12:00-3:00pm

Visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm) for a complete schedule and maps. **Street cleaning ends for the season on December 1.**

### → TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY:** Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- **FENWAY:** Trash and recycling on on Tuesday and Friday
- **MISSION HILL:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

## Looking for a New Career?

MEET EMPLOYERS AND RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS AT THE FENWAY CDC'S FREE CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR, MAY 9!

Come dressed to impress and bring copies of your resume. Find out about career opportunities in healthcare—both nonclinical and clinical—and a range of other fields. Full-time, part-time, permanent, and temporary positions are available. We'll conduct interviews, provide free resume reviews, and share interview tips. Sign up at [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org).

Questions? Contact Kris Anderson at [kanderson@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:kanderson@fenwaycdc.org) or 617-267-4637 extension 29.

ORGANIZED BY  
FENWAY COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
SPONSORED BY  
MISSION HILL/FENWAY  
NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

FENWAY CDC CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017 • 11AM-2PM  
TEMPLE ISRAEL (CONFERENCE HALL)  
477 LONGWOOD AVENUE, BOSTON

## Fenway Health offers Obstetrics.

We provide exceptional care during your pregnancy while supporting you in a comfortable, safe environment.

Have questions or want to become a Fenway obstetrics patient? Call **617.927.6000**

[fenwayhealth.org/obstetrics](http://fenwayhealth.org/obstetrics)



# The Arts

## T.C.'s Lounge Gives Way to Quirky Offerings of Love.Art.Sushi

BY JESSE TOLBERT

In the hole left in the building (and in our hearts) where T.C.'s Lounge once was, a new restaurant has quietly opened. Love.Art.Sushi has been serving build-your-own sushi bowls, salads, and makis to Fenway students and residents since finishing construction earlier this year.

Branching out from their first restaurant at the University of Connecticut, founders Ron Liu and Jessica Chiep have decided to keep the campus momentum running with their 1 Haviland Street location. But they're not limiting themselves to the student set. "Our goal is to introduce a new take on a familiar food and reach people of all spectrums," says Liu. "From students during the semester to folks from out of town catching a Red Sox game, the goal is to have everyone go, 'Oh wow, I've

never seen this before, but it's awesome and I'm glad I can get it here in [the] Fenway."

Neither Liu nor Chiep had much experience before opening at UConn. "Before we jumped into the restaurant industry, Jess was a cytogeneticist working at Brigham Women's Hospital and I worked in corporate sales covering the South Boston area. We've always enjoyed cooking for ourselves and we saw an opportunity pop up at our alma mater, so we took a dramatic risk and left our careers to pursue bringing a different culinary experience to that campus."

Beyond the relatively simple display of sushi bowl options, Love.Art.Sushi's selection is somewhat complex. Check out their bulletin board and "How to Bowl" step-by-step guide, located at the front of the store, or ask their

fun, friendly staff for assistance. They might respond by asking if you'd like your meal torched—just one of many innovative options on offer. From sushi burritos to fried gyoza, and with a long list of exotic, a la carte mix-ins, there's plenty here to suit any appetite.

The team knows they have big shoes to fill at this particular site. Started in the '70s, mostly as a retreat from downtown's throbbing night life, T.C.'s Lounge quickly became a community staple. Then, in March 2012, a malfunctioning beer compressor started a fire, that caused \$250,000 in damage. The space was shuttered, and the owners were not granted a license to reopen.

But if you didn't know about the fire, and if you weren't a T.C.'s, regular, you would never know that a tragedy had occurred on the premises. There was a hole in the wall where Big and Little Tony Consalvi left decades of hard work and well-worn memory behind, but the new space is sleek, modern, and comfortable, with clean lines and bottomless house drinks.

With new hours that began March 20, the Love.Art.Sushi crew have managed to keep their crowd pleased from 11am to 11pm every day of the week. Perfectly placed almost directly across the street from Berklee College of Music, the restaurant is accessible



PHOTOS: DUKE HARTEN



Learn the important steps of How To Bowl at Love.Art.Sushi.



Love.Art.Sushi serves build-your-own sushi bowls from the old T.C.'s Lounge location at 1 Haviland St.

## Gardner Sound Installation Brings New Dimension to Familiar Space

By Barbara Brooks Simons

The courtyard at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is always a special spot to escape to—set apart from whatever the weather outside is doing, offering spring when Boston is anything but springlike. Now, an ongoing exhibit at the museum has added a new dimension to the experience: sound. Stand in the lush inner courtyard and just listen. What was that? A frog? In Boston, in early spring? How unlikely. But it's just part of the Gardner's new museum-wide exhibit: *Listen Hear: The Art of Sound*, highlighting the wonders and magic of listening.

The magician for this part of the exhibit (because it does seem a bit like magic)—is Lee Mingwei, a native of Taiwan. And it's definitely not a Boston frog you're hearing, but a Taiwanese one. To be more precise, you're not hearing an actual frog, but the artist himself, mimicking the sounds around him as he once did as a child. *Small Conversation*, a site-specific installation in the



Artist Lee Mingwei listens to his aural exhibit in the courtyard of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

courtyard, includes the night calls of rainforest frogs, cicadas, and crickets. Mingwei himself created all the sounds. He suggests that machines randomly shuffling the 17 different tracks may make you think the creatures are answering each other. He describes it as "small creatures making sounds of nature, calling 'Here I

am. Where are you?'" If you visit, the artist would love it if you tried not to speak for 20 minutes, to create enough silence to really experience the sound projects.

The courtyard soundscape is only part of the museum-wide exhibit. *Listen Hear: The Art of Sound* opened in March and runs through early September. While art museums usually focus almost entirely on the sense of sight, this group exhibit features seven sound works within both buildings of the Gardner itself. Their intriguing titles—*Your Shadow on a Cloud*; *Sound for Insomniacs*—invite you to explore. Two related public art pieces are *Fens*, a downloadable app for a listening walk nearby, and *Harmonic Conduit*, a live stream from around Ruggles T station.

Barbara Brooks Simons lives in the East Fens. *Listen Hear: The Art of Sound* is on display at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum from March 8 through September 15, 2017. For more information, visit [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org) or call 617-566-1401.



Please join your neighbors and friends from Allston, Brighton and the Fenway for a community event with

**Mayor Martin J. Walsh**

Thursday, April 27, 2017 • 6:00 p.m.

STOCKYARD RESTAURANT

135 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts

RSVP online at

<http://bit.ly/April27community>

or call

617-765-2277 extension 103

Seniors & Kids free | Tickets \$20

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARTIN J. WALSH

# The Arts

## REVIVAL OF 1621 PLAY ABOUT WITCH TRIAL YIELDS LURID DIALOG, UNEVEN RESULTS

BY JOHN ENGSTROM

Usually you have to drag me kicking and screaming to a student play. But *The Witch of Edmonton* at BU caught my attention. Why? (1) It is a Jacobean play written and performed in 1621 about a woman accused of witchcraft, based on an actual legal case, and (2) I am now embroiled in reading, page by page, the copious court records of the 1692 Salem witch trials: 950 documents in one enormous volume. These archival remnants of a bizarre outbreak are both sobering because of what they tell us about human nature—that gaslighting and gullibility can extinguish lives—and ghoulishly absorbing because they offer a lurid preview of Gothic fiction and horror movies.

An intersection of my interests in offbeat

familiarity with the witch trials of history, including those at Salem. Although described in the play as a “village,” Edmonton was a town in Middlesex County that would later become part of London.

In 1621, belief in witches and witchcraft was universal throughout Europe, with many thousands of accusations, confessions induced by torture, and judicial murders by rope or fire. The king of England at the time was James I, a keen persecutor of witches who published a scholarly book called *Demonology*, executive-ordered a new witchcraft bill that was more strict and condemnatory than its Elizabethan predecessor, and oversaw a series of witch trials in his native Scotland. Shakespeare in *Macbeth* took cognizance of James’ pet hobby

the charge against her, and hanged at Tyburn in London on April 19, 1621. That fact is left out of the play, though the dramatists supply generous helpings of nasty neighbors and wild, fatal accusations.

In her lurid confession, obtained by gaslighting and intimidation on the part of the judges, Sawyer disclosed that she had a “familiar” or “devil” in the shape of a talking dog that was alternately black or white, and suckled from a “teat” that was found by a three-woman jury to be located about Sawyer’s “Fundiment.” Talk about ass-kissing. The source text of the drama was a 1621 chapbook on the case by the minister-hack writer Henry Goodcole, called *The Wonderful Discovery of Elizabeth Sawyer a Witch Late of Edmonton*. Chapbooks and other readings on sensational subjects were the tabloid literature of the day. The supernatural character of the sassy, mischief-making canine is a highlight of the play. Like *King Lear*, *The Witch of Edmonton* has two intertwined plots: the witchcraft plot and a complicated bigamy plot that also ends unhappily. The intermediary between the two plots is that dastardly, irreverent dog.

The BU production of *The Witch of Edmonton* started by reassuring us that we needn’t take these events too seriously, with an irreverent sound track that included such “magically themed” popular songs as “Invisible Touch” and “Witchy Woman.” These young amateurs know which side their bread is buttered on! The only scenery, by Julia Mix Barrington, who also co-directed and served in other capacities, was a nice-looking pair of dropcloths painted with skeletal tree branches.

The performance was as uneven as you could expect from an endeavor that didn’t aspire to professionalism. Some of the acting bore the classic earmarks of bad amateur mummery: (1) a lack of verbal nuance and rhythmic propulsion, (2) uncontrolled mugging and gesticulating, (3) dropping character when not speaking, (4) delivering finely wrought Jacobean dialogue as if it were slangy, standard American. But both the Witch (Meg Boeni) and the Dog (Alix Jansma) were creditable: they had their characters, lines and moves down cold.

It’s intriguing to surmise on how this script would have been received by its original audiences, who possibly included the credulous James himself. Its view of witchcraft is skeptical and irreverent. The playwrights make it clear that Mother Sawyer



Talya Randall (left) and Roderick Eugene Jefferson (right)

is NOT a witch: she is a vulnerable, confused, elderly woman who is scapegoated and gaslighted by neighbors and local authorities into believing that she has made a pact with Satan. Off-color jokes about the situation abound: When Sawyer complains that she feels too stressed-out and over-extended to suckle the Dog from her “witch’s teat,” the Dog quips, “Bow wow—I’ll have it now!”

Bow wow—and bravo.

John Engstrom lives in the West Fens.

### Calling All Poets: Haiku Contest

White sheet of paper—  
What to do now? Write haiku!  
What you feel. Or see.

Done so soon? Write more!  
Send all to Kaji Aso  
by April 15.

Prizes too. What fun!  
(Write senryu, too, if you want)  
More details below.

Kaji Aso Studio's 2017 haiku contest is underway! Prizes are \$300 first; \$150 second; \$75 third; senryu \$75. Send entries (typed or printed neatly) with \$2 each to Kaji Aso Studio, 40 Saint Stephen St, Boston 02115. Include your email address and/or an SASE. Curious about earlier winners? Go to [www.kajiasostudio.com](http://www.kajiasostudio.com).



Meg Boeni as the accused witch (left) and Alix Jansma as her satanic familiar, a talking dog (right), had their characters down cold in *The Witch of Edmonton* at Boston University Student Theater on March 16.

theater and weird history doesn’t always present itself. So I was drawn to *The Witch of Edmonton* at the BU Student Theater on Commonwealth Avenue in one of the school’s newer facilities, despite knowing that it was being put on not by BU’s theater training program but by a group called Willing Suspension Productions, comprising undergraduates in tandem with the BU English Department (my alma mater) and the BU Center for the Humanities. Tickets were \$8, so the economic stakes were not high.

The particulars of the 1621 English trial and execution on which playwright-collaborators William Rowley, Thomas Dekker and John Ford (and possibly John Fletcher or Thomas Middleton) based their script—first described as a “tragicomedy”—are recognizable to anyone who has some

with especially blood-curdling “witch” scenes.

In Western Europe and North America, victims of witchcraft accusation were most commonly elderly women who existed in the margins of society and often ran afoul of superstitious, suspicious neighbors. The real-life woman at the center of *The Witch of Edmonton*—Elizabeth or “Mother” Sawyer—was poor and indigent, sharp of tongue and irreverent toward authority. Sawyer confessed, under duress, that the devil first came to her when she was cursing and blaspheming. To her neighbors, she was also implicated in the mysterious deaths of babies and the inexplicable madness of a local woman. To students of Salem, the homeless, pipe-smoking termagant Sarah Good comes to mind. Good ended up like Sawyer did—at the end of a rope. Elizabeth Sawyer was convicted of

## ‘Ducklings’ Drawings Are the Draw at MFA’s Robert McCloskey Show

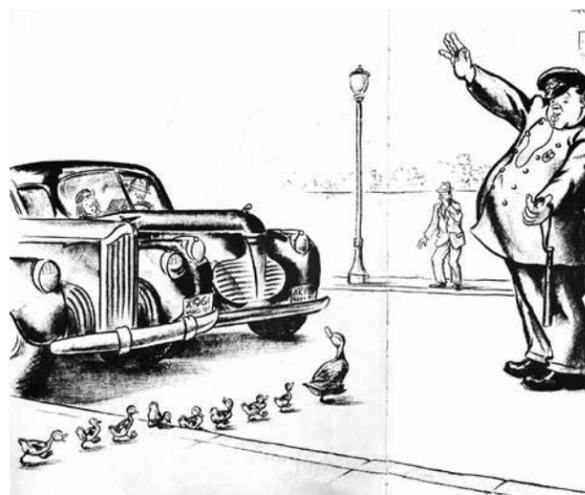
BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Growing up in Boston, my favorite book as a child was *Make Way for Ducklings*. Officer Michael valiantly escorted Mrs. Mallard and her family of ducklings across a busy Boston intersection and saw them safely to the other side. In the spring, like other locals, our family would visit the Public Garden to ride the swan boats, which was the scene of Officer Michael’s heroic deed. Now through June at the Museum of Fine Arts, you can relive the ducklings’ saga as well as other award-winning stories by author Robert McCloskey.

McCloskey studied at Vesper George Art School in Boston in the 1930s. While here, he spent time in the Public Garden feeding the ducks. He then moved to New York to study art at the National Academy of Design. McCloskey had wanted to illustrate a children’s book, and the story of the ducklings—apparently true—caught his

attention. When he proposed the idea to a New York editor, her advice was that he learn to draw ducks accurately. To get his duckling illustrations correct, McCloskey consulted an ornithologist and spent two years studying mallard species at the American Museum of Natural History. At one point he even had 16 ducklings living in his small Greenwich Village apartment so that he could study their movements and personalities.

McCloskey won the Caldecott Medal in 1942 for *Make Way for Ducklings*, and again in 1958 for *Time of Wonder*. He wrote and illustrated eight books over his career, and illustrated several others. Before his first book, he assisted artist Francis Scott Bradford



Officer Michael helps the Mallard family cross the street in Robert McCloskey’s classic *Make Way for Ducklings*.

painting murals in the Sloan building on the MIT campus depicting Beacon Hill socialites. McCloskey’s watercolor illustrations featured

in this exhibit are from several of his books and include charming portrayals of New England fishermen, families on vacation, blueberry picking in Maine from *Blueberries for Sal*, and a vivid leaping whale from *Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man*, his last book, also set in Maine. The exhibit includes a bronze model by sculptor Nancy Schon who created the duckling sculptures now installed in the Public Garden. Schon also made a bronze model of Officer Michael, shown in the exhibit, which was never installed.

Over 70 years later, *Make Way for Ducklings* is still a bestseller and has been declared the official children’s book of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Follow the duck footprints to find the exhibit. Waddling is optional.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. *Make Way for Ducklings: The Art of Robert McCloskey* is on display at the Museum of Fine Arts until June 18. For more information visit [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

# April

## CALENDAR



THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.

### arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

#### Through Sun, 4/9

- **HUNTINGTON THEATRE COMPANY** presents Suzan-Lori Parks's Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama, *Top Dog/Underdog*, with Tony Award-winning Billy Porter in the director's chair. Tue-Thu 7:30pm; Fri-Sat 8pm; Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm. Tickets \$20-99. More information and tickets at [www.huntingtontheatre.org](http://www.huntingtontheatre.org).
- **BOSTON DESIGN WEEK** has grown to 80 events, including tours, demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, panels, and behind-the-scenes tours. Tour Northeastern's student-run Scout design studio; travel to 1920s Paris for a surrealist-themed Le Bal Dada at the French Cultural Center (and plan to shell out \$175); design your own virtual reality experience; or take in a sustainability fair. Event times vary, and many are free. Visit [www.bostondesignweek.com/](http://www.bostondesignweek.com/) for details.

#### Mon 4/3

- **FIRST MONDAY AT JORDAN HALL** offers a wide-ranging spring program focusing on "life" themes: birth and death. It opens with an unearthly Hindemith song cycle, *Des Todes Tod*, featuring soprano Erica Petrocelli. The mood then swerves to jazz, celebrating the 100th birthday years of Thelonious Monk and Dizzy Gillespie, then moves again to a Tchaikovsky string trio in memory of pianist Nikolai Rubenstein. 7:30 pm, NEC's Jordan Hall. FREE

#### Mon, 4/3

- In December 1968, **ELVIS PRESLEY** gave his first concert performance in seven years on an NBC special. The Elvis who performed that night—not the drug-addled, binge-eating Las Vegas Elvis of just a few years later—gave what some critics call one of the best performances of his career, and it marked a comeback, spinning off a hit album and singles. An unplanned jam session with his musicians, caught on tape, established the template for "unplugged" TV concerts more than two decades before MTV.

### COMMUNITY meetings

**MON, APR 3, 10, 24** Free "credit boot camp" to improve your credit score. At Fenway CDC, 6:30-8:30pm. Sign up at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/credit-boot-camp>

**FRI, APR 7** City Councilor Josh Zakim holds office hours, 8-9:30am, at Trident Cafe, 338 Newbury St. Contact [josh.zakim@boston.gov](mailto:josh.zakim@boston.gov) if you have a concern but can't come; visit [www.joshzakim.com](http://www.joshzakim.com) for full office hours schedule.

**MON, APR 10** City Life/Vida Urbana invites you to gather on the 5th floor of City Hall at 10am to advocate for the Jim Brooks Community Stabilization Act, an ordinance to protect tenants against unfair housing displacement. For more information, visit [www.clvu.org/](http://www.clvu.org/).

**TUE, APR 11** Fenway liaison for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services holds office hours 3:30-5:30pm at the YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave.

**WED, APR 5 & 19** Fenway Fair Foods distributes high-quality, low-cost produce for \$2 bag with no income restrictions. At Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 165 Park Drive, 3-5pm. Contact Kris Anderson at [kanderson@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:kanderson@fenwaycdc.org) for more information.

**THU, APR 13** Rep. Michael Capuano's liaison holds office hours, 12-1pm, at Fenway Health, 1340 Boylston. Call 617-621-6208 if you have a concern but can't come.

Berklee screens the '68 *Comeback Special* at its Media Center, 150 Mass Ave. 7pm.

More info at [www.berklee.edu/events](http://www.berklee.edu/events). FREE.

#### Tue, 4/4

A big story—the creation of the world—demands a big ensemble. Like say, the **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA AND SYMPHONIC CHORUS** in Symphony Hall performing Haydn's 1799 oratorio *The Creation*, which draws on Genesis and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Conducted by Emily Freeman Brown. Tickets \$25 (general public), \$10 students. More info at 617-266-1200 or [www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/87882/](http://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/87882/).

#### Thu 4/6

This Shakespeare anniversary year continues at the BPL: **"DESPERATELY SEEKING SHAKESPEARE"** features writer and BBC/PBS presenter Marjorie Garber discussing some of the new discoveries being made about the playwright's still not-quite-explained accomplishments (part of the Lowell Lecture series). 6-7 pm, Rabb Hall, Central Library, Copley Square. FREE

#### Fri, 4/7

Boston-based **SYMPHONY NOVA** presents one of four yearly concerts at Old South Church, across from the BPL in Copley Square. The

## SENIOR AGENDA

All events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center. Find the entry by walking the alley between 100 and 108 Jersey St. and looking left. For more information, call 617-536-7154.

- **THU, APR 6: Dementia/Alzheimer's presentation by the City of Boston's Alzheimer's Initiative. 1 pm**
- **TUE, APR 18: Review your medications with Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. 1 pm**
- **THU, APR 20: Social Security Administration presentation. 12 pm.**

**TUE APR 18** Fenway CDC Urban Village Committee. Help monitor development and advocate for the neighborhood you want. 6pm at the CDC office, 70 Burbank St. To verify date or for info, contact Richard Giordano at 617-267-4637 x16 or [rgiordano@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:rgiordano@fenwaycdc.org).

**WED, APR 19** West Fens Police/Community meeting, 6pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston.

**TUE APR 25** East Fens Police/Community meeting, 6pm, Morville House, 100 Norway St.

**THU, APR 27** Rep. Michael Capuano's liaison holds office hours, 10-11 am, at JP Licks, Brigham Circle. Call 617-621-6208 if you have a concern but can't come.

**FRI, APR 28** City Councilor Josh Zakim holds office hours, 8-9:30am, at Mike's Donuts, 1524 Tremont St. Contact [josh.zakim@boston.gov](mailto:josh.zakim@boston.gov) if you have a concern but can't come; visit [www.joshzakim.com](http://www.joshzakim.com) for full office hours schedule.

#### MON, APR 24

- Job hunting? Come to the Fenway CDC's free, drop-in resume review, 2-4pm at the CDC office, 70 Burbank Street. More info from [Igrobbe@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:Igrobbe@fenwaycdc.org).
- The **LMA Forum** for community review of development projects meets when necessary at 6:30pm, location to be determined. Contact Taylor at [tcarpenter@masco.harvard.edu](mailto:tcarpenter@masco.harvard.edu) for details and to be added to the notification list.

### Step Into Matisse's Studio at the MFA, April 9



Take a glimpse into the studio of revolutionary 20th-century painter. Henri Matisse is known for his colorful contributions to the world of painting, and for the first time you can see the prized and private collection of objects he kept and studied in his studio. At the Museum of Fine Arts from April 9 to July 9, step inside the mind of a master with the objects Matisse drew inspiration from displayed alongside sketches, sculptures, and paintings. The exhibit is broken into five sections—*The Object Is an Actor*, *The Nude*, *The Face*, *Studio as Theatre*, and *Essential Forms*—all featuring works in a variety of media from different moments in the artist's career.

group, composed of top young music school graduates, will premiere its first commission, by Andy Vores, and perform works by Copland, Weigl, and George Onslow (the "French Beethoven"). 7:30pm. Tickets \$25, \$45. Details and ticket purchases at [www.symphonymova.org/April-7-2017/](http://www.symphonymova.org/April-7-2017/).

#### Fri, 4/7 → Sun, 4/9

More theatrical circus than monument to piety, **LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S "MASS"** calls for everything from blues singers to a children's chorus to a marching band. Fri-Sat 8pm; Sat-Sun 2pm. Tickets \$25-30, with discounts available. Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway Street. More at <https://boston-conservatory.berklee.edu/events>

#### Sun 4/9

The Museum of Fine Arts opens **"MATISSE IN THE STUDIO,"** an intriguing look into some of the studio objects—a pewter jug, a Spanish vase, African textiles—that inspired Henri Matisse and often found their way into his artwork. The exhibit includes paintings, cut-outs, and many other samples. Members preview days are Tuesday-Saturday April 4-8. MFA, 465 Huntington Ave.

#### Wed 4/12

- The **NEC SYMPHONY** presents a world premiere along with two familiar orchestral friends: a suite from Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* and Schumann's Symphony No. 2. The premiere is "Flora & Fauna" by Joshua Mastel, winner of NEC's composition competition. Hugh Wolff and student Jacob Joyce conduct. 7:30 pm, Jordan Hall. FREE

- Philadelphia architect James Timberlake presents the **25TH CASCIERI LECTURE AT BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE**. His firm, Kieran Timberlake, has built a national reputation as pioneers of new materials and construction methods designed to reduce environmental impacts. 6pm, BAC, 320 Newbury Street. More info at <http://the-bac.edu/experience-the-bac/news-and-events/events/cascieri-25-lecture>. FREE

#### Thu, 4/13

The **CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION** hosts a screening of *Sacred Cod: The Fight for the Future of America's Oldest Fishery* at the BPL in Copley Square. The documentary delves into the forces behind the collapse of the New England cod fishery and considers "the prospect of a region built on cod having no cod left to fish." Director (and *Boston Globe* reporter) David Abel join's CLF's Peter Shelley for a Q&A afterwards. Film 6pm, discussion 7pm. Rabb Lecture Hall. More at [www.clf.org/sacredcod](http://www.clf.org/sacredcod). FREE

#### Fri, 4/14 → Sun, 5/14

**WHEELLOCK FAMILY THEATRE** closes out its current season with an adaptation of the children's classic *Charlotte's Web*. Fri at 7:30pm; Sat-Sun at 3pm. Tickets \$20-\$38, available through the box office at 617-879-

2300, at [tickets@wheelock.edu](mailto:tickets@wheelock.edu), or through [www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org](http://www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org).

#### Sat, 4/15

Take a **90-MINUTE WALK ALONG MASS. AVE. FROM HARVARD SQUARE TO SYMPHONY HALL** led by social and architectural historian Stephen Jerome. Sponsored by Brookline Adult & Continuing Education. \$25; registration required by phone (617-730-2700) or at [www.brooklineadulted.org](http://www.brooklineadulted.org).

#### Thu, 4/20 → Sun, 4/30

**BOSTON PLAYWRIGHTS' THEATRE** teams up with BU's School of Theater to present Mary Conroy's *Every Piece of Me*, about a prodigal daughter whose visit to her family in Ireland opens old wounds and suggests a path to redemption. 949 Comm Ave. Thu 7:30pm; Fri-Sat 8pm; Sun 2pm. Tickets \$10-30. Tickets and more info at [www.bu.edu/bpt/](http://www.bu.edu/bpt/)

#### Sun, 4/23

The **GARDNER MUSEUM WELCOMES THE HANDEL + HAYDN SOCIETY** for a program of Mendelssohn and Brahms, including soprano Margo Rood singing lieder by both composers. 1:30pm, tickets \$36 general, \$33 seniors, \$24 members, \$12 children 7-17; your ticket includes museum admission. [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org).

#### Wed, 4/26 → Thu, 4/27

A Berklee/Boston Conservatory cast presents the **WORLD PREMIERE OF 'THE KISS,'** a musical story set in 1904 Vienna that seeks to unmask the woman at the center of Gustav Klimt's dazzling painting. Ticket \$8 (free for Berklee students/staff). 7:30pm, Berklee Performance Center. Tickets at the box office or through [www.berklee.edu/events/kiss-0](http://www.berklee.edu/events/kiss-0)

#### Fri, 4/28

Neo-soul/jazz singer **ERYKAH BADU** performs at the House of Blues. Tickets \$65-79.50. Doors at 7pm, show at 8pm. More information at [www.houseofblues.come/boston](http://www.houseofblues.come/boston).

## @ THE CENTER

Here are highlights from the Fenway Community Center's calendar. All events are free unless noted. Visit the Center at 1282 Boylston and check out the full calendar at [www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar/](http://www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar/)

- **THU, APR 13: Hula workout, 6:30-8pm. Free for members/\$5 for non-members. Follow along with us to a low-impact workout DVD. Healthy snacks and drinks with umbrellas.**
- **FRI, APR 21: Neapolitan Orchestra, 6-7:30pm. A 40-piece Berklee College orchestra will present an original composition. Light refreshments.**
- **THU, APR 27: Bingo and Game Night, 6:30-8:30pm. Free for members/\$5 for non-members. Your choice of bingo, 25 board games or PlayStation 4.**