

BEST OF MISSION HILL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 12

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GAZETTE

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER BOB LENNON



Father Robert "Bob" Lennon sits under his birthday tent, next to a larger-than-life oversized cake that reads 'happy birthday, as he waits for the procession of cars carrying special birthday wishes. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

ABCD offers free virtual ESOL classes via Zoom

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Learn English online - get help with computer skills. Sign up for September classes today. Do you need to learn English or improve your English-speaking skills so that you can find a new job, move up in your career,

help your children with school assignments and meet other challenges of life in America? Beginning September 21, ABCD will offer virtual English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses free of charge from its centers in Mattapan, Roslindale and Mission Hill

(Parker Hill/Fenway). The classes provide English skills at all levels and are taught by ABCD's experienced ESOL instructors. They are offered mornings and evenings to meet students' needs. Classes will be virtual over Zoom to start with the possibility of face-to-face meetings in the future. Instructors emphasize that the course will provide introduc-

Continued on page 2

ABCD ofrece clases de inglés gratuitas

ESPECIAL A GAZETTE

¿Necesita aprender inglés o mejorar sus habilidades para poder encontrar un nuevo trabajo, avanzar en su carrera, ayudar a sus hijos y enfrentar otros desafíos de la vida en Estados Unidos?

A partir del 21 de septiembre, ABCD ofrecerá cursos de inglés gratuitos (ESOL) desde sus centros en Mattapan, Roslindale y Mission Hill. Las clases brindan habilidades en inglés en todos los niveles y son enseñadas

Continued on page 2

Boston Black Coalition seeks more engagement in upcoming vaccine trials

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Members of the Boston Black COVID-19 Coalition (BBCC) and other allies gathered in protest at Brigham and Women's Hospital on August 24 because of what they said is "hypocrisy in action in the hospital's handling of its role with MODERNA in the COVID-19 vaccine trials," according to a recent BBCC press

release.

"For an institution that spoke so loud about how much Black Lives Matter, they have been totally unwilling to do anything different. Our insistence that they engage the Black community in the vaccine process has fallen on deaf ears even though they contacted us asking advice on how to increase Black partic-

Continued on page 3

What's in a name? Kennedy name is no longer enough to best Markey in Boston

Markey wins 8 of 9 precincts in Mission Hill

BY SETH DANIEL

Political pundits will be scratching their heads for weeks as they analyze the numbers and trends that propelled U.S. Senator Ed Markey - once labelled dead in the water last fall - to a clock-cleaning victory over Congressman Joe Kennedy III.

That was particularly the case in Boston, and Mission Hill

certainly followed that trend voting for Markey in all but one of the nine precincts. In Mission Hill, Markey beat Kennedy 2,775 to 1,504 - a landslide victory - without really campaigning that much in the neighborhood. Kennedy had made a few appearances in Mission Hill early in the campaign, but both candidates largely hit other spots in Boston down the stretch.

Markey pulled out a big win statewide, citywide and in Mis-

Continued on page 2

Visit MissionHillGazette.com Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com or call 781-485-0588 for your Mission Hill information

# ESOL

Continued from page 1

tory computer skills and help students get comfortable with virtual communications programs such as Zoom. You don't have to be a computer expert to join this class. We will make it easy!

The ABCD ESOL classes will improve your ability to find a good job and advance your career, help your children do well in school, continue your education, talk to doctors and other key supporters and more.

Assistance with access to computer hardware and an internet connection may be available for those who qualify.

ABCD is partnering with its

Metro North Career Center and other resources to help program participants find jobs and improve careers. Work-readiness skills will be integrated throughout the ESOL curriculum. Classes include resume and job-search assistance, computer skills, and conversation groups. In-class tutors will provide one-on-one help. As noted earlier, students will learn their way around online communications vehicles such as Zoom, a critical work-world skill in the COVID-19 era.

To sign up and for more information go to [bostonabcd.org/ESOL](http://bostonabcd.org/ESOL) or call ABCD MATTAPAN at 617-433-8891, ABCD PARKER HILL/FENWAY at 617-445-6000 or ABCD ROSLINDALE at 617-910-0867.

# Inglés gratuitas

Continued from page 1

por maestros experimentados de ESOL. Se ofrecen por la mañana y por la noche para satisfacer las necesidades de los estudiantes.

Las clases serán virtuales en Zoom y comenzará con la posibilidad de encuentros físicos en el futuro. Los profesores enfatizan que el curso proporcionará habilidades de introducción a la computadora y ayudará a los estudiantes a sentirse cómodos con los programas de comunicación virtual como Zoom. No es necesario ser un experto en informática para unirse a esta clase.

Las clases de ESOL mejorarán su capacidad para encontrar un buen trabajo y avanzar en su carrera, ayudar a sus hijos a tener un buen desempeño en la escuela, continuar su educación, hablar con médicos y otros profesionales.

Es posible que haya disponible

asistencia con el acceso a computadoras y conexiones de Internet para quienes califiquen.

ABCD está trabajando con el Metro North Career Center y otros recursos para ayudar a los participantes del programa a encontrar trabajo y mejorar sus carreras. Las habilidades de preparación de trabajo se integrarán en todo el plan de estudios de ESOL. Las clases incluyen currículo vitae y asistencia para la búsqueda de empleo, habilidades informáticas y grupos de conversación. Los tutores brindarán ayuda personalizada. Como se señaló anteriormente, los estudiantes aprenderán a manejar vehículos de comunicaciones en línea como Zoom, una habilidad fundamental para el mundo laboral en la era COVID-19.

Para registrarse y obtener más información, vaya a [bostonabcd.org/ESOL](http://bostonabcd.org/ESOL) o llame a ABCD Mattapan al 433-8891, ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway al 445-6000 o ABCD Roslindale al 910-0867.



*U.S. Senator Ed Markey made a campaign stop in Boston with Registrar of Probate Felix Arroyo last Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 26. Markey touted his long record in the House and Senate, and his experience growing up as a working class kid in Malden. Though he faced rising star Joe Kennedy III, the veteran politician scored a decisive win statewide on Tuesday, and did extremely well in Mission Hill – winning eight of nine precincts.*

# Election

Continued from page 1

sion Hill on Tuesday, Sept. 1, over Kennedy.

Kennedy kicked off his campaign more than a year ago and his star seemed to be rising without limit, and Markey had yet to even enter the race. But political contests are not sprints, but rather long-distance runs, and Markey and his Nike shoes are never to be counted out – prevailing in the long haul.

In Mission Hill, Markey claimed most of the precincts. Some, like 10-7 at the Julia Martin House on Bickford Street were close, with Markey winning 268 to 241. Others, like the Back of the Hill Apartments were blowouts, with Markey winning 521 to 223. The most lopsided victory was a 570 vote margin (748 to 178) at 10-9 in Jamaica Plain – a tally bolstered by massive support in Markey by JP residents attached to New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, both of whom backed Markey.

Markey pulled out the statewide win with 55 percent of the vote to Kennedy's 44.6 percent of the vote. In Boston citywide, it was even more lopsided as Markey collected 59 percent of the vote (77,518) to Kennedy's 40 percent (52,485).

Markey enjoyed strong support in Boston, western Massachusetts, and also on Cape Ann. Kennedy showed strength in southeast Massachusetts and central Massachusetts – as well as in Chelsea, Revere, and Lynn.

In his concession speech Tuesday night, Kennedy said his coalition will continue.

"The Senator is a good man," he said of Markey. "You've never heard me say otherwise. I know it was difficult between us at times -- good elections get heated -- but I am grateful for our debates, for his commitment to this Commonwealth, and for the energy and enthusiasm that he brought to this race. Obviously, these results are not the ones we were hoping for... We built a campaign for the people that our politics too often locks out and leaves behind. We built a campaign for Lawrence and Chelsea and New

Bedford and Roxbury and Brockton and Springfield and Lowell and Worcester. We built a campaign for working folks -- of every color and creed -- who carry the economic injustice of this country on their backs. This campaign's coalition will endure."

### • UNOPPOSED RACES

In several races locally, state leaders were unopposed, making for no high-profile local elections, but votes were cast nonetheless.

State Rep. Nika Elugardo got 7,908 votes.

State Rep. Chynah Tyler prevailed with 3,998 votes.

State Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz won her unopposed race with 31,173 votes.

## Mission Hill Ward and Precinct Results:

### Mission Hill Result:

Markey – **2,775**

Kennedy – **1,504**

**10-1** (Mission Main Community Center, Smith Street)

Markey - **147**

Kennedy - **185**

**10-2** (Mission Main Community Center, Smith Street)

Markey - **149**

Kennedy - **102**

**10-3** (Tobin Municipal building, Tremont Street)

Markey - **168**

Kennedy - **94**

**10-4** (Robert & Theresa Parks Community Room, 2 New Whitney)

Markey - **292**

Kennedy - **215**

**10-5** (Tobin Municipal building, Tremont Street)

Markey - **221**

Kennedy - **109**

**10-6** (JFK Elementary School, Bolster Street)

Markey - **261**

Kennedy - **157**

**10-7** (Julia Martin House, Bickford Street)

Markey - **268**

Kennedy - **241**

**10-8** (Back of the Hill Apts., South Huntington Avenue)

Markey - **521**

Kennedy - **223**

**10-9** (Curley K-8, Centre Street, Jamaica Plain)

Markey - **748**

Kennedy - **178**

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## PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to [letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

## Vaccine trials

Continued from page 1

ipation which was dismal,” Priscilla Flint-Banks, Convener of the BBCC, said in a statement.

BBCC said in the release that that “no effective targeted outreach to the Black community” was done, which they said does not accurately reflect the Black population at large or the percentage of Black people affected by COVID-19.

Brigham and Women’s Hospital is one of 89 clinical trial sites for Phase 3 of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine trials.

A spokesperson for Brigham and Women’s told the Gazette that “at this time, 40 percent of our trial participants at the Brigham are from minority communities, and 12 percent are Black participants. Our community outreach team has been engaging with surrounding neighborhoods to raise awareness about the critical importance of ensuring that clinical trial participants represent the diverse populations which the medicines that are under investigation have the potential to benefit. To accomplish this, we have held education and recruitment sessions with health community centers, webinars, done outreach to churches, local businesses, community advisory

boards, patient and family advisory boards, relevant community groups (such as BBCC) and hosted a Town Hall held in Spanish. We look forward to continuing the dialogue and working together with them to raise awareness and improve enrollment.”

Flint-Banks told the Gazette that she felt the protest went “pretty well. We did get the attention we wanted,” she said, with many news outlets covering the event.

“We are very concerned about this vaccine and how it’s going to affect our people,” she said. “We know our history around the Tuskegee” study, she added, citing the 40 year clinical study where Black men were not aware that they were being studied for untreated syphilis.

She added that the BBCC wants to ensure that people of color are active participants in the entire process, from doctors and researchers to clinical trial participants.

“The rate is high,” she said. “We’re the ones that are dying at a rapid rate here and it’s like they don’t want to acknowledge us, they don’t want to partner with us, no that can’t be.”

She said that since the protest, the Fenway Health Center has requested to meet with the BBCC, and Harvard and

Brigham and Women’s will also meet with the group, she said.

“We have to keep this in the public view,” Flint-Banks said. “Our community needs to be educated. We need to know what the risks are.” She said that community input is vital, and that another protest will happen if need be. “We have to stay ahead of this as much as we can because we know we’re behind,” she said.

BBCC’s release states that “Moderna has already announced that it will be charging \$37+ per dose, a figure that Boston’s Black and Latino residents will not be able to afford given recent economic indicator reports.”

BBCC member Louis Elisa stated, “We came together when the pandemic started because we knew that Black folks would suffer worse: we wanted to make sure we advocated for appropriate resources for testing, health care, tracking and tracing. We are not about to stand by and watch the development of a vaccine that may not work for us! This is the ultimate fight, we’re ready for this battle.”

Flint-Banks said, “I just want the medical community to take us seriously and know that our people are dying every day. We have a right to be at the table; we ave a right to be heard.”

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**BOSTON MAIN STREETS**



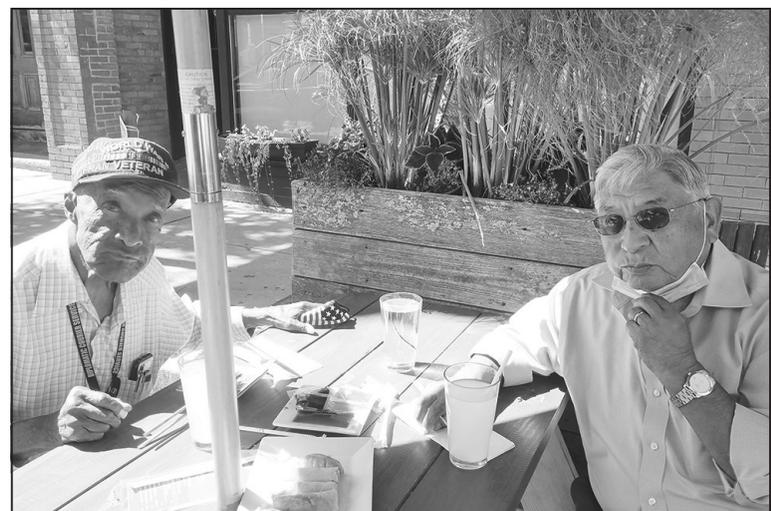
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# KEEPING IT LOCAL! MHMS ADVISORY BOARD AT LAUGHING MONK



Shown above, MHMS and several of its Board members were supporting small business in Mission Hill by gathering at The Laughing Monk Cafe, 737 Huntington Avenue. Owner Dome Nakapakorn, holding cups of freshly made ginger sorbet enhanced with slices of fresh coconut and mango, is with Ellen Walker, Christine Dwyer, Dermot Doyne, Tricia Fitzgerald, Gar Chiang, Michel Soltani, Rick Quiroga and Enoch Woodhouse. Also pictured is Nick Korboon. Shown left, MHMS Advisory Board member Tricia Fitzgerald, NEBH and Board member Dermot Doyne, owner of Penguin Pizza.



MHMS Advisory Board members Rick Quiroga, founder of Casa Esperanza and Enoch Woodhouse, attorney and former Tuskegee Airman.

## COVID-19 updates for Mission Hill

By JOHN LYNDS

The Mission Hill/Roxbury COVID-19 infection rate between August and September rose 8.5 percent. This was up from the 6 percent increase that occurred in the neighborhood between July and August.

According to data released last Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) the COVID-19 infection rate here jumped from 240 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 260.6 cases per 10,000 residents in one month.

There were 1,124 COVID-19 cases in Mission Hill/ Roxbury as of last Friday, an increase of 89 cases from the 1,035 cases reported by the end of July.

The stats released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race. Updated results are released on the BPHC's website on Friday afternoons.

Last week the BPHC reported that 12,602 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that only 2.6 percent of those tested in the area were COVID positive. Overall since the pandemic began 9.2 percent of Mission Hill/Roxbury residents were found to be COVID positive.

Last week, Mayor Martin Walsh addressed the ongoing psychological impact COVID-19 has had on residents in Boston. "Let's remember what people

are going through," said Walsh. "People are experiencing illness in themselves and loved ones; fear of COVID that many have anxiety around; financial stress around lost income, struggling small businesses, and people in fear of losing their home. And then there's the toll of systemic racism. Many residents experience it personally and they also see continual footage of violence against Black and Brown people on social media. All of it together is taking a tremendous toll. It's showing up in mental health concerns and physical health concerns. It's playing a role in domestic violence and street violence. And people are struggling with substance use. For anyone in recovery or interested in recovery, recovery meetings are online and now some meetings are happening in person, outdoors. You can reach out to AA or NA to find a meeting, or contact our Office of Recovery Services by calling 311."

Walsh reminded the public that these are not normal times and a tendency toward conflict will not serve us well in every situation right now."

"I ask everyone to work together in a spirit of unity and I urge everyone to be kind to yourself and others," the Mayor added. "Let's take it a day at a time."

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose 2.5 percent last week from 15,232 cases to 15,673 cases. So far 12,025 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and six additional residents died last week bringing the total of fatalities in the city to 754.

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# Northeastern University is ready for students; safety measures in place for on- and off-campus students

Northeastern University has been working these past few months diligently to prepare our campuses, including our classrooms and residence halls, for the arrival of our students. Every aspect of our planning has been done with the health and well-being of our community in mind, including testing every member of our community for COVID-19 and reconfiguring indoor and outdoor spaces on campus to reduce density and maintain healthy distancing. Wearing face masks is mandatory. Nonetheless, as college students prepare to move back to the Boston area in the next few weeks, we understand that neighbors are growing increasingly worried about students living in private accommodation off-campus. We want to assure you that the testing protocols, contact tracing, and agreement to COVID-19 Health Commitments & Expectations as a condition of being a member of the Northeastern community apply to students living both on-campus and off-campus. As of August 26, the university had completed 14,595 tests, with 14,588 negative results and 7 positive results. An online dashboard is updated daily with the latest results from Northeastern's Life Sciences Testing Center, a new, state-of-the-art laboratory on the university's Innovation Campus in Burlington, Massachusetts.

Every member of the Northeastern community is required to submit the university's Expectations for Return to Campus

Attestation form as a prerequisite to returning to campus. The attestation form must be complete before students return to Boston. These Expectations are also summarized in this Fall 2020 Expectations video.

"Protect the Pack" is Northeastern University's new mantra for encouraging healthy behaviors throughout the university community. A public health campaign titled the same is in operation on the university's campuses and across its digital platforms. The campaign is informed by the notion that staying healthy is a group effort that will require everyone to do their part. Fostering a community culture of mask-wearing, physical distancing, and personal hygiene is essential, and that requires putting faith in students. 'Health Husky Leaders' and Community Ambassadors to help those students understand best practices for interacting with peers on or off-campus. These students will serve as community ambassadors, and they will be supported by University officials to monitor for social distancing and mask compliance this fall. 'Health Husky Leaders' will help ease the burden on University and City police officers to respond to coronavirus rule-breakers.

Students, both on campus and in neighboring communities, who fail to meet these health expectations and commitments, will face swift and severe sanctions. On August 22, 2020, Madeleine Estabrook, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, issued a letter to students concerning unsafe behavior. Students were reminded that being a member of the Northeastern community is a privilege. It comes with an understanding that student conduct mirrors Northeastern University's respect for and adherence to standards for the common good. As indicated in the enrollment information available to students via Northeastern University's Terms of Admissions, Northeastern University reserves the right to rescind students' offer of admission if they engage in conduct that is inconsistent with Northeastern's mission or its expectations of admitted students. On August 28, a further letter was sent to all Northeastern University students warning them that any student who host or attend an unsafe (no masks and without healthy distancing) gathering, social or party, either on or off-campus can expect suspension.

If you see members of the Northeastern community not respecting the guidelines outlined, please report the behavior. The more information you can provide, the better able we are to follow up with appropriate consequences. Northeastern has established a confidential tip line for reporting off-campus behavior that does not follow health and safety guidelines. Members of the Northeastern community and our Neighbors can report student non-compliance with University COVID-19 Protocols and Expectations by calling 617-373-TIPS (7477), 24 hours a day. If there are cases of late-night parties or large gatherings, please call 911, so the incident is documented with local law enforcement and then contact the Northeastern Tipline. You can also fill out an Incident Report with Northeastern. Please give as much information as possible, including

supporting documentation such as pictures or videos. To succeed, we have to work together.

We will not be taking these incidents lightly, and there will be consequences for students breaking their code of conduct. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [j.tobin@northeastern.edu](mailto:j.tobin@northeastern.edu) or 617-373-5810.

## Learning for the Love of It

Lifelong learning program at UMASS Boston goes online for the fall

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

With all of the uncertainty that currently surrounds us, it's time for good news. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston announces that its full fall course schedule will continue not on campus but using zoom online video conference technology.

No fighting traffic, no more parking fees, and no more worrying about what clothes to wear; just taking courses and interacting with your peers in the comfort of your own home. Some 50 classes on a variety of subjects will be offered Monday thru Saturday. These courses offer a chance to connect with the facilitator and fellow students on Zoom to learn new knowledge and exchange comments and ideas. Classes will be offered during the mornings and after-

noons and begin on Sept. 14.

Class subjects will include Introduction to Opera; History; Beginning Yoga; Tai Chi; Creative Writing; Poetry; and Current Events to name a few. Somerville resident and OLLI member Anne Kelly sums it up: "OLLI offers such a wide variety of interesting courses and activities for its members. There's something for everyone! The best part of being a member of OLLI is the friends I've made who share common interests with me. As I always say, there are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met."

Approximately 50 classes across a variety of subjects will be hosted Monday through Friday at 10am and 1:30pm with Brown Bag presentations scheduled at noon.

For more information about the OLLI program and its course listings, please visit our website: <https://www.umb.edu/olli>.

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# Hill Happenings

Last Saturday (Aug.25), dozens of parishioners gathered in front of Mission Church to pay homage to Father Robert Lennon on his 90th birthday.

Often called “Father Bob,” this extraordinary priest succeeded the late Father McDonough as Mission Church’s Healing and Restoration Minister in 1986. Father Bob, who is a graduate of Mission Grammar School, was an infielder on the famous 1944 Mission Hill CYO baseball team. That group of 13-year-old kids lived out their dreams, playing games at Fenway Park and Braves Field, en route to the Mass. State Championship.

Before the games, the play-

ers would light candles at the Church, praying for their big brothers who were engaged in battle during World War II. The coach of the ‘44 team was Frank Power. Power, who fought in World War I, and is part of the lineage of the prominent Mission Hill Power ancestry.

Happy 76th birthday (Sept.19) to my big brother, Dan Martin. Being close with Dan, and with the rest of my large family dearly departed, he and I share many lunches and casino trips.

Dan stays in terrific shape playing handball and drinking pints of Guinness beer. In 1994, Dan won the World Handball Championship (50-and-over

division) in County Clare, Ireland. Last month, I attended an outdoor handball tournament at Constitution Beach in East Boston to see Dan and the great Killion Carroll was also in the tournament.

I was in awe watching the 25-year-old Carroll, who is regarded as the world’s best handball player. I chatted with Carroll, an Irishman who lives in Dorchester, and he is such a nice guy.

Dan, as were my other siblings, was blessed with athleticism. In 1966, local boxing fans filled the old Boston Arena (currently Northeastern University’s



Residents drove by with signs wishing the Father Lennon well.

Matthews Arena) to watch Dan in his ring debut. Dan startled his opponent in the first round with a flurry of punches as the partisan Mission Hill crowd roared. Dan, however, soon ran out of gas, and he lost the bout.

Also on the boxing card

that memorable evening was Dan’s buddy, the late Tom “Cannonball” Earley. Tom gave it the old Mission Hill project effort, but he was also defeated. Tom, the son of the late Walter Earley, a beloved Boston Policeman from Mission Hill, is also the grandson of a former Major League pitcher named Tom Earley as well.

The elder Tom Earley pitched for six years in the Major League for the Boston Bees and Boston Braves (currently the Atlanta Braves), and he was a World War II Navy veteran. Before making his Big League debut in 1938, Tom honed his skills as a pitcher for Mission High School. My late friend, John “Abner” Keiley, played center field and was Tom’s teammate at Mission. Abner would often spin yarns at the Mission Hill Post about Earley’s prowess on the ball field.

Condolence to the family of Eleanor (Healy) Spurr, who passed away on Aug. 20. I didn’t know Eleanor, but I’ve known her brothers, particularly Bobby Healy and Father John Healy, since childhood, and they are a great Mission Hill family. R.I.P. Eleanor.

A tip of the hat goes to Mike Spinney of Spinney Insurance, 1560 Tremont St., for beautifying the neighborhood. Mike created a pretty bassinet of flowers, which is displayed next to his office at Tremont and St. Alphonsus streets.

Thanks to my friend, Sal Giarratani, a fine writer for the Post-Gazette for his kind words about the Mission Hill Gazette and me in his Aug. 14 column. Sal spotted my piece about Mission Church priest, Father Cabasino, who passed away at age 99. Sal and Fr. Cabasino knew each other from back in



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Shown above, Father Bob receives his special birthday crown. Shown below, friends and neighbors of Bobby wish him a happy birthday





Despite the on and off again showers, rain couldn't stop the party. Father Lennon and company stayed dry underneath the tent. Shown right, residents drive-by to extend well wishes to Father Lennon..



## Hill Happenings

Continued from page 6

the days when Sal worked at Ma. Mental on Fenwood Road as a Campus Police Officer, and the wonderful priest would often visit the patients. The Post-Ga-

zette is a weekly paper out of the North End in Boston, and it has been continuously published for 125 years.

Happy birthday (Sept. 4) to Mairead Murphy, my favorite bartender at Flann O'Brien's Pub. When Mairead serves me

my 16-ounce Coors Light draft, it tastes especially good, perhaps because she is so nice.

BPD Officer "Big Mike" O'Rourke will celebrate his birthday Sept. 29. Big Mike is our Mission Hill Community Police Officer and he does an excellent job. .



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# What's Happening on Main Streets

By Ellen Walker  
Special to the Gazette

As Summer is passing, it is natural to reflect on the recent months we have all lived and worked through. Human nature continues to prove itself with the ability to overcome hurdles and move forward making us stron-

ger and better. It is September and we welcomed many students back to Mission Hill during and prior to the September 1st annual "Student Move In Day," residents submitted their CENSUS 2020 forms, exercised their rights to vote early or by mail and now we are about to celebrate our first



Mission Grammar School President - Aliece (Ali) Dutson, Principal - Beth Looney and Facilities Manager - Steve Braithwaithe.

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holiday of the month on September 7th - Labor Day! Labor Day honors and recognizes the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of our great country.

Just recently I had the pleasure of spending some time with Aliece (Ali) Dutson the President of Mission Grammar School, Beth Looney who is the new Principal of Mission Grammar and Steve

Braithwaithe, Facilities Manager who oversees the operations of the entire property. Mission Grammar Early Childhood Program is open and keeping the team onsite! Several well-known Mission Hill residents attended Mission Grammar including Kevin W. Fitzgerald, Maurice (Mossy) Martin and George Rollins.

Education certainly has been crucial to the members of

MHMS' Advisory Board and we are delighted to have a strong, diverse Advisory Board consisting of members who broaden our ability to serve the Mission Hill Main Streets district. This month we are featuring Ricardo (Rick) Quiroga. Rick is the founder of Casa Esperanza, Inc., a bilingual, bicultural recovery treatment center for substance abusers. Since its incorporation, Rick oversaw the growth and development of the agency. Currently the agency operates four programs: Casa Esperanza Men's Program, which houses 25 men; The Latinas y Niños Center, a treatment program for 20 women and 12 children; Supportive Housing that include 27 units of supportive housing for men and women with children; and, the Familias Unidas Outpatient Program that provides Relapse Prevention Services. The Casa Esperanza programs are centered on a vision of helping individuals and families overcome addiction and reintegrate themselves into society. This is a great example of a neighborhood person who has done well for himself and his community. Rick was a long-time resident of Mission Hill when he and our Board President, Gar Chiang, went to the Woodstock Music Festival back in 1969!

When you walk around Mission Hill, look up and see MHMS newly installed banners for 2020.

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### 'JEAN'

Jean, pictured here, is one of 21 cats that the MSPCA (with the help of our friends at Animal Control) took in from a house in Brighton. They were all in great shape but have varying degrees of comfort with humans. We've spent the last few weeks figuring out their needs, and while some have gotten adopted, we still have 8 available for adoption! Some need to go home to another social cat (either within the group or one you already have at home), and some are good to go solo! So if you're looking to add a feline friend to your home, give us a call! Email [adoption@mspca.com](mailto:adoption@mspca.com) today for more information on Jean or the other Brighton cats!



(617) 522-5055  
[www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org)

For more information about Jean and other animals in need of adoption, please contact:

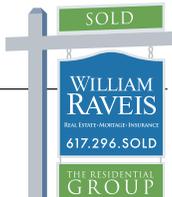


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## Main Streets

Continued from page 8

They reflect recent and past Community Award recipients and honor our Legacy businesses like the Hillside Market that has existed for over 100 years! There are 14 businesses that are 20 years old or more here in Mission Hill including Mike's Donuts at 44 years and both Flann O'Brien's Pub and Brigham Circle Chinese Food at 30 years. Congratulations to you all!

A new business in the community is Needham Bank. They chose Mission Hill to open their first bank in Boston and Joe Campanelli, Needham Bank's President and CEO stated, "When the pandemic first started, bringing one of the most challenging economic crises I've ever witnessed, we never rethought our choice to open in Mission Hill." He added, "We thought, who opens a bank branch at a time like this? We do. Because we know how important a strong local financial partner will be to help community members and local businesses get back on their feet." Karen Marryat, Chief Marketing Officer stated, "As we have gotten to know the community better in



MHMS' new banner recognizing Mission Hill's oldest Legacy business Hillside Market, established 1919

the past few months, we are more and more impressed and excited by what's to come in Mission Hill." MHMS welcomes Needham Bank to Mission Hill and thanks them for their support of this year's annual Community Awards program in November.

For those of you who are reading this article, our featured restaurant this month is Crispy Dough Pizzeria at 1514 Tremont Street. During the month of September, mention this article and with any purchase and you will receive a FREE can of soda!

Mission Hill Main Streets' logo

states: Eat. Play. Live. This is the best neighborhood to enjoy it all, so eat locally, play in our parks, and live by "shopping small, shopping local!" Visit us on our webpage – [www.mission-hillmainstreet.com](http://www.mission-hillmainstreet.com), "like" us on Facebook and download our free mobile app at [Distrx.com](http://Distrx.com) to find the latest on our Farmer's Markets, restaurants and coffee shops in the neighborhood!

*"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, and others make it happen." Michael Jordan*

## Baker deactivates National Guard

By SETH DANIEL

After calling up the National Guard on Friday, Aug. 28, for up to 1,000 Guardsmen to potentially help municipal leaders, Gov. Charlie Baker deactivated the National Guard on Monday.

Baker said National Guard members were there to assist municipalities until further order. National Guard personnel were ready to assist cities and towns throughout the activation but did not take an active role in any municipal operations.

The worry seems to have been about potential protests following the police-involved shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin.

Major protests did not materialize throughout the region though.

"Following coordination with municipal leaders through the weekend regarding potential

large scale demonstrations, Governor Baker authorized the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard to end the Governor's Aug. 28 activation order. That activation, which made Guard personnel available in the event that municipal leaders required their assistance, will end at midnight tonight," said an administration spokesperson.

Personnel drawn from the Guard's military police units undergo federally-accredited police training and receive additional instruction on Massachusetts police training standards. When assisting a local police department, they use that department's policies, radio frequencies, etc., whenever possible. While federal Title 32 funding has been extended for COVID-19 missions, Guard personnel activated by this order served on state active duty.

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# Ethnic studies is a must for our schools, claim 12 Boston City Councilors

STAFF REPORT

Twelve of the 13 Boston City Councilors signed onto a letter supporting the Boston Teachers Union's Ethnic Studies Now! Committee and its campaign to fully integrate Ethnic Studies into the City's public school curriculum. The Committee, headed by educators from the Boston Teachers Union (BTU), is advocating for the program to become a core element of what is taught in the District's curriculum, making the school curriculum more representative of one of the state's most diverse student populations.

The vision for Ethnic Studies in Boston Public Schools (BPS) centers on the history and experiences of people of color to empower educators and students alike to not only collaboratively learn about world history, but also learn about the history that honors and affirms intersectional identities. Ethnic Studies builds on the collective power of communities of color and their social movements to inspire all to act locally and globally toward justice and transformation.

"Our students deserve an education that honors their identities, critiques the systems of oppression that structure our world, and creates opportunities

for them to build community and make real, impactful change," said Cecil Carey, an active member of the Ethnic Studies Now! Committee and an educator at Charlestown High School.

The 12 Boston City Councilors who signed the letter in support noted that more than 84% of BPS students are students of color, coming from 139 different countries. The letter was signed by City Councilors Ricardo Arroyo, Andrea Campbell, Kenzie Bok, Ed Flynn, Michelle Wu, Liz Breadon, Anissa Essaibi-George, Kim Janey, Julia Mejia, Michael Flaherty, Matt O'Malley, and Lydia Edwards.

"We share your commitment to providing the best educational opportunities for students in the district," the letter reads. "This [integration of Ethnic Studies] has become all the more important given recent movements for social justice that have occurred in our communities, around the country, and around the world."

BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius has announced her support of Ethnic Studies and added the curriculum to the district's Strategic Plan, though no funding has been allocated for any Ethnic Studies positions for the 2020-21 school year as of press time. The Ethnic Studies Now! Committee encourages

funding for Ethnic Studies being allocated as soon as possible in order to follow through on the district's commitment to racial equity.

The proposal put forth by the Committee urges the district to:

- Pilot an Ethnic Studies course in three to six schools within BPS in the 2020-2021 school year.

- Allocate funding for one or more district-level full-time Ethnic Studies "Instructional Coach" educational position(s), supervised by the Social Studies Academic Department.

- Allocate district funding for professional development training for teachers and staff in which the pilot course is being taught.

- Allocate district funding for curricular development, including classroom materials and the implementation of a cycle of development, piloting, reflection, revision, and expansion of new courses like African American, Asian American, Native American, and LatinX studies.

The Ethnic Studies Now Committee has built support for the policy among parents, families, students, community leaders and educators for the past three years. Dr. Bettina Love has endorsed the proposal as have many community organizations including the Citizens for Public Schools, Orchard Gardens United, the Boston Education Justice Alliance, BLS Asian Students in Action, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Vietnamese American Initiative for Development Inc. The list is still in formation.



# BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## BPL brings back Museum Passes Program

STAFF REPORT

The Boston Public Library announced it is reinstating a version of the Museum Passes program, granting BPL patrons access to free and discounted passes to Massachusetts museums and cultural institutions.

As museums continue to open in Phase 3 of the Commonwealth's reopening plan, the library will add more institutions to the program. For more information on COVID-19 safety requirements when visiting these organizations, patrons can call or visit their websites directly.

Library card holders can utilize the Museum Passes program. This program is effective immediately, and will expand as more organizations continue to open. Passes can be picked up at all BPL branch locations, and are available at the organizations listed below:

- Boston Children's Museum
- Boston Harbor Island Cruise
- Massachusetts DCR ParksPass hang tag
- New England Aquarium
- Institute of Contemporary Art,

Boston (ICA)

- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

- Larz Anderson Auto Museum
- Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Trustees of Reservations Go Pass

- More to come!

Patrons can reserve museum passes online in Tixkeeper. The library also allows patrons to reserve passes over the phone (with a library card number). There are three types of passes: physical passes that need to be returned, paper coupons that do not need to be returned, and digital passes that require an e-mail address and no physical pick-up. During this time of social distancing, each institution may have their own procedures for obtaining tickets even with a library pass. Patrons should call the institution or visit their website to find out next steps after securing a pass from the library.

Reservation information and instructions for reserving passes can be found at [bpl.org/museum-passes](http://bpl.org/museum-passes).

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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

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The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. (CCHERS) will offer **seed funding** and **training support** for community-academic collaborations seeking to develop research proposals for future grant submissions. Priority areas include addressing health disparities/achieving health equity and/or helping patients, families, and communities make better-informed decisions about health and healthcare.

Massachusetts-based 501(c)3 community organizations, community health centers, patient advocacy and support groups, Patient-Powered Research Network (PPRN) groups, Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs) are eligible to apply. Individuals and for-profit business are not eligible.

The awardee will receive up to \$5,000 of funding that can be used for building relationships, developing research plans, or collecting preliminary data.

Visit <https://www.cchers.org/request-for-proposals> for the full RFP and application details.

**Questions?** Contact [a.oendari@northeastern.edu](mailto:a.oendari@northeastern.edu)

## PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to [letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

# Girls on the Run opens registration including live, virtual options

STAFF REPORT

Girls on the Run Greater Boston (GOTRGB) announced the launch of its Fall 2020 season, ensuring that Boston area girls can stay active and healthy during the pandemic. Twice weekly, small teams of girls in grades 3-8 are led by trained coaches through the research-based curriculum that uses running and other physical activities to build girls' confidence, connection, and resilience.

Girls who want to enroll but who do not have a site in their community can still do so virtually. GOTRGB has created virtual teams so that all girls anywhere in the Boston area can register to participate, regardless of school district or financial circumstances.

For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTRGB is offering a flex-

ible programming model with virtual options to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic. Registration for the season is open at [girlsontherunboston.org/register-now](http://girlsontherunboston.org/register-now)

If schools and sites are able to meet in person, GOTR after-school programming will take place in person with strict adherence to safety measures set forth by public health authorities, including physical distancing modifications. For schools and sites operating virtually, GOTR will be run by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror in-person Girls on the Run sessions. Virtual programs will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, providing girls with an opportunity to build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

"Our staff and coaches

are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming to greater Boston girls at a time when they need it the most," said Kate Yenrick, Community Engagement Manager. "We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts. Our virtual program options will make it possible for all girls to stay active despite the pandemic."

Girls on the Run Greater Boston is an independent nonprofit organization affiliated with Girls on the Run International, which has 200 chapters across the United States and has served over 2 million girls in its 24-year history. Through more than 120 sites across the Greater Boston area, GOTRGB has served more than 6,000 girls since it was founded in 2010.



Girls on the Run is open for enrollment whether virtual or controlled, in-person meet-ups this fall.

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# Poll Power

## Women's suffrage celebrates 100 years, with caveats

BY SETH DANIEL

It was a note from mom that changed the landscape for women to get the right to vote 100 years ago on Aug. 18, and 100 years later it has led to a lot of victories and a lot of sobering realities too.

The caveat, of course – and one that must be stated, is that African American women did not win the right to vote 100 years ago, but rather not until the 1960s Voting Rights Act.

That said, the milestone was celebrated in a muted way this week due to COVID-19 restrictions, but Aug. 18, 1920 was the day that cleared the way for the largest single increase in voting in American history – known as Ratification Day. And it did come down to one vote by Tennessee state legislator whose mother shamed him into doing the right thing.

Harry Burn was a very young state representative at the time in Tennessee from a very small town, and it was his mother's note that changed his mind.

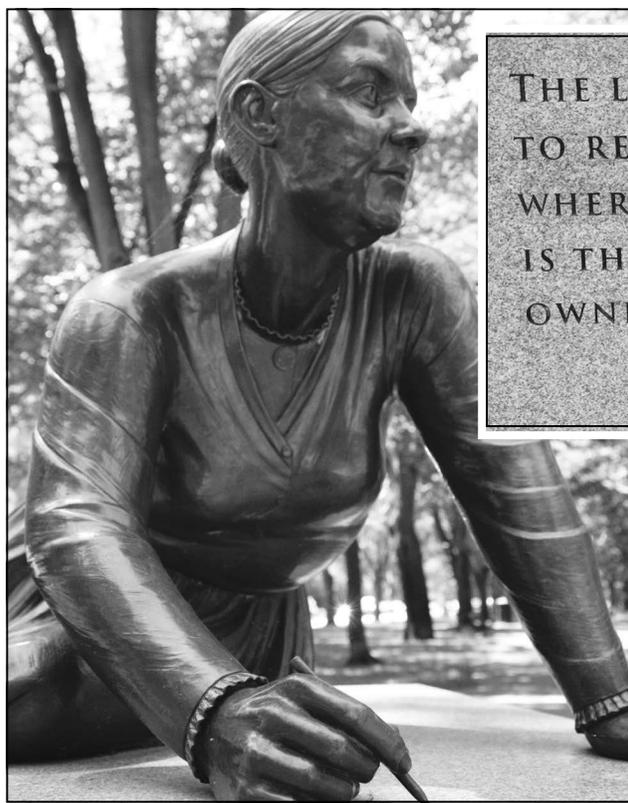
"It didn't look like Tennes-

see was going to approve the amendment," said Karen Price of the League of Women Voters in Massachusetts. "He came in wearing a red rose, which meant he was against it. When on the floor, he did find a note from his mother. It basically told him to do the right thing and he did and ended up voting for it. It ended up being the deciding vote when he changed his mind because it prevailed by one vote."

Price said the Ratification Day would have been a major celebration for the League, which was also founded in 1920 to educate women on issues of the day. The official approval came on Aug. 26, 1920 by the federal government.

"It was an extremely large and long movement," Price said. "I think it was probably one of the largest movements ever in U.S. history. It lasted about 80 years and was dramatic at every turn. At every turn, it seemed they were just squeaking through. It's a very impressive story."

As it turned out, women were able to vote in the 1920 presidential election, and it is said – though not proven – that they



THE LEGAL RIGHT FOR WOMAN TO RECORD HER OPINION WHEREVER OPINIONS COUNT, IS THE TOOL FOR WHOSE OWNERSHIP WE ASK.

WOMAN'S JOURNAL, 1891

At the Boston Women's Memorial on the Comm Ave Mall, there is a constant reminder of those women who fought for equality in all things – including voting. Pictured here is Lucy Stone, a long-time advocate of suffrage for women. While a leading voice in Women's Rights issues in the late 1800s, she died nearly 30 years before some women won the right to vote. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment occurred Aug. 18.

were the driving force in electing Republican Warren Harding and his Vice President Calvin Coolidge, who was from Massachusetts.

Looking back from 100 years, in Boston, the milestone is met with a City Council that is majority female, with women holding eight of the 13 seats and including the Council President post.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok – who represents Back Bay, Bay Village and Beacon Hill – said the milestone is joyous and sobering at the same time.

"I think it's both energizing and sobering at the same time," she said. "It's energizing because you see how hard people worked to get this right and they were effective in doing it and all they went through, yet it's sobering because you have a majority female Council 100 years later, but it took 90 years to get one or two women."

She also said it is sobering in that African American women were not included in the milestone.

"Black women weren't included in that, and you also saw a long history of poll taxes and voter suppression to keep people from voting, and that's sobering too," she said.

Councilor Lydia Edwards, who still wouldn't have been able to vote at the 1920 milestone being an African American woman, said it was a time to celebrate, and also a time to acknowledge more can be done.

"As we enter one of the most consequential elections of our time, it's important to remember so many of us are able to have a voice today and vote because of

those who fought for a greater democracy," she said. "This year marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Let's utilize this moment to reflect and acknowledge that many people were not included in the movement for women's voting rights. We have learned and are still learning that gender and racial justice are inextricably linked and both are necessary."

Both Price and Bok point out that historically, the Aug. 18 milestone and the 1920 election – which saw the first women voters in the United States – gave birth to larger women's issues.

Bok – a doctorate in history – said the passage of the 19th Amendment gave rise to one of the largest infusions of federal money into what were perceived as women's issues, notably education and maternal health.

"Right after Women's Suffrage passed, Congress took up the biggest set of pro-family, pro-women bills it ever had," she said. "That was because all the men were terrified of losing their seat due to women getting the vote...So that moment of Women's Suffrage also pushed Congress to address education and women's maternal health."

Likewise, Price said that in the moments after suffrage, many of those active in the movement began to rally around the Equal Rights Amendment – which is still being fought for.

Suffragist Alice Paul authored the ERA shortly after the 19th Amendment passed, Price said.

"Now that they had the vote, they wanted to get equality in

other areas," said Price. "That's when the ERA was born – right after the right to vote was won."

Price said that for many young women and girls, it can be confusing for them to hear that women actually couldn't vote at one time – and not so long ago in the history of the country. She said they strive to educate them about the fight, the ups and downs, and the good and bad of it.

This week, however, marks a milestone and a call for more to be done to advance what was achieved 100 years ago this week.

"It's a slow road," she said. "But there is reason to believe we're making progress. We had the first female presidential candidate in 2016, and now we have the first Asian/African American woman as a candidate for vice president and that's a milestone. However, African American women in particular did not get to vote in 1920. They had to keep waiting until the Voting Rights Act...I like to say we've seen a lot of victories but still have a lot of work to do in regards to inclusion."

After holding a small celebration on Tuesday afternoon next to the Boston Common, Kerry Costello of the Boston League of Women Voters, said it was important to know just how important one vote – and one's mother – is.

"It was an important milestone certainly, but it wasn't complete because it wasn't for all women," she said. "It is remarkable how important one vote can be. We saw that in the Boston City Council race last year. One vote does make a difference."

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## EDITORIAL

### Enjoy a safe Labor Day weekend

"Time and tide wait for no man," wrote the poet.

The summer of 2020 is entering its final week as we approach the traditional Labor Day weekend and once again the summer season has flown by much faster than any of us would have liked, especially during a time when we find ourselves being held hostage by a microscopic virus.

But the calendar never lies and soon the summer of '20 will be just a memory.

Ordinarily, our end-of-summer editorial recalls the happiness and joy that the summer months have brought us. But this era of a pandemic has forced all of us to abandon almost every aspect of our traditional summer rituals, both big and small and on both communal and personal levels.

As this most awful of summer seasons winds down to just a few precious days, we certainly understand the desire on the part of many (if not all of us) to just let it all out, so to speak: "If this is the last, let's make it a blast!"

But amidst the chaos in our lives, one thing that has not changed, and that requires even more urgency than usual, is our annual admonition to our readers to enjoy the Labor Day weekend safely.

We certainly do not wish to rain on anyone's parade, so to speak, but we would be remiss if we failed to urge our readers that if they intend to have a good time, they should do so safely, both for themselves and their loved ones.

First and foremost, excessive drinking does not mix with anything -- whether it be boating, driving, water sports, hiking, bicycling, or just about any activity that requires some degree of coordination and observance of the rules of safety.

The news reports will be full of tragic stories over the weekend of those who died or were seriously injured in accidents that could have been avoided had excessive drinking not been involved.

In addition, though this is a holiday weekend for us, we must remember that the COVID-19 does not take a holiday. It always is lurking and seeking new victims who do not wear a face mask in public and who do not practice appropriate physical distancing at all times.

We must do our part to ensure that none of our loved ones -- let alone ourselves -- are among the inevitable, sad statistics. We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Labor Day weekend.

### A summer of chaos and tragedy

As America approached the Memorial Day weekend of 2020, the death toll from COVID-19 in the United States stood at just under 100,000 of our fellow Americans.

But now, three months later, that number soon will have doubled, as our nation's death toll from the virus approaches an astonishing and tragic 200,000 persons.

On May 25, a Black man, George Floyd, was murdered by a white Minneapolis police officer, who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes while Mr. Floyd lay prone on the ground until Mr. Floyd stopped breathing.

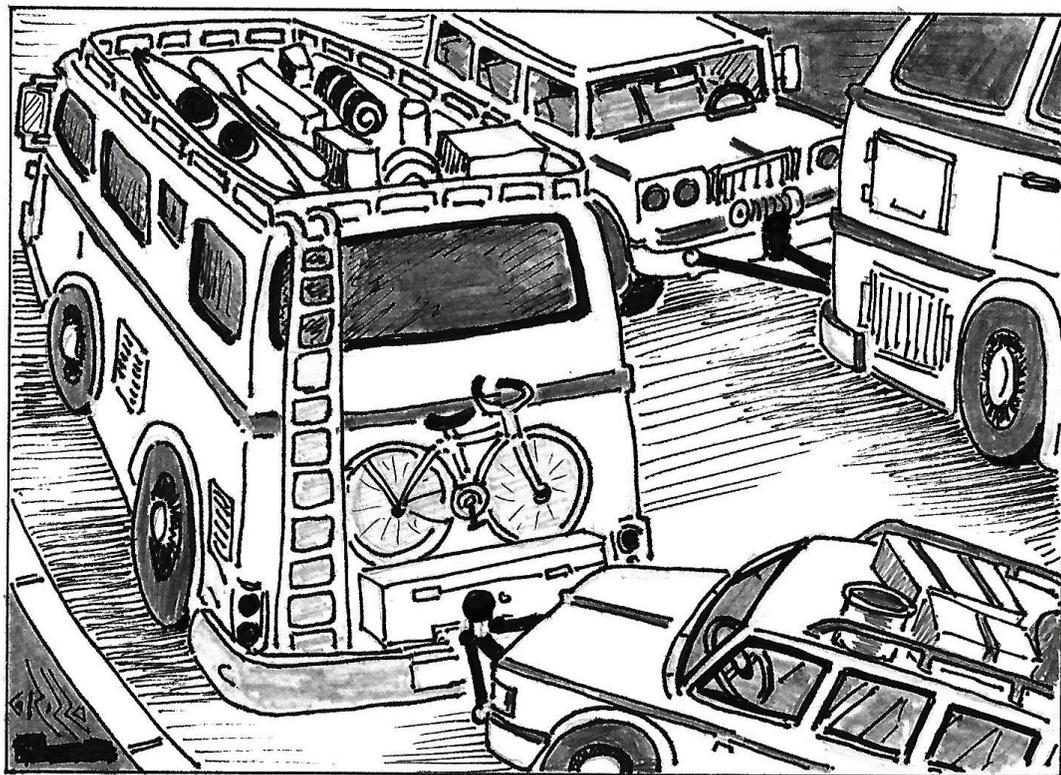
Three months later, a white Kenosha, Wisconsin police officer shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times in the back in front of his three young sons, leaving Mr. Blake paralyzed from the waist down.

Neither Mr. Floyd nor Mr. Blake posed a threat to any of the officers such that the officers were justified in using deadly force.

In May 2020, our national unemployment rate and number of business failures stood at levels not seen since the Great Depression. Three months later, the improvement has been minimal with the spectre of worse to come thanks to the inaction by our leaders in Washington.

The Summer of 2020 has been a tragic disaster in this country by any and every measure. But instead of learning from our mistakes in order to move forward, our national leadership has offered no plan to alleviate the many problems we are facing.

Instead of giving us hope that better days lie ahead, the present administration's dysfunction has ensured that America will continue to spiral downward.



AT HOME OR AWAY, ENJOY LABOR DAY

## OP-ED

### Unmasking toxic white privilege

BY DOROTHY A. CLARK

There is a long history in America of white progressives bravely standing up for Black causes like civil rights, voting rights, social and economic justice, judicial reform, and, more recently, Black Lives Matter.

But there is a parallel history of white progressives who practice a toxic form of white privilege.

One manifestation is using the Black community for personal and political gain -- putting up a progressive façade to mask a reactionary record or pushing a white privilege agenda while pretending to serve the interests of African Americans.

Another is white progressives running the show with prominent people of color fronting the message, only to be cast off when white privilege conflicts with Black demands for having more say in shaping the message or running the operation.

Massachusetts history is littered with examples of both, including, most recently, U.S. Sen. Ed Markey's efforts to cloak himself in the garments of a racial justice warrior.

In my own lifetime, "Urban Renewal," launched in the name of social progress in Boston in the 1960s, turned into "Negro Removal" on the ground, with residents of Roxbury and the

South End uprooted with little or no say in the bulldozing of their neighborhoods by supposedly well-intentioned guardians of the public welfare focused on saving the village by destroying it.

Before the Civil War, Frederick Douglass, handsome and eloquent, was a perfect spokesman for the abolitionist movement, until his own ideas got in the way of his chief sponsor, the controlling William Lloyd Garrison. Douglass left Boston to start his own movement in Rochester, N.Y.

White progressives can be great allies. But those imbued with white privilege have little tolerance for actually increasing access to power or resources. Witness the fights over affordable housing in what are otherwise reliably liberal bastions. Or battles over integrated schools -- which Markey opposed -- or economic equity in the form of hiring and contract goals to make up for centuries of discrimination and bias.

Just recently, we have seen peaceful Black Lives Matter protests hijacked by white antifa activists, setting up barricades, tossing Molotov cocktails and burning police stations in the name of justice for George Floyd. Who asked masked marauders of white privilege to commit mayhem in our name?

What is too rare is finding white progressives who listen rather than lecture and cooper-

ate rather than dictate from their seat of privilege.

Months before the arrival of 2020, women eagerly anticipated marking the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which, after nearly a century of agitation, extended voting rights to women. White women, that is.

I sat through suffrage centennial planning sessions in which I had to inform white women that for women of color, particularly Black women, the passage of the 19th Amendment didn't give them the vote, notably in the South. Many white suffragists, angered that the 15th Amendment extended the right to vote to black men, had no interest in working with African American women to fight for universal suffrage.

White women's racism bifurcated the suffrage movement, requiring African American women to forge their own brand of intersectional activism. Still, African American women are expected to celebrate the centennial with a colorblind perspective.

Recently, a self-proclaimed anti-racism "ally" attempted to scold me on a social media platform after I told her that her efforts to associate with people whom she said "don't look like me" was a hollow and insincere way to make friends.

Continued on page 15

## OP-ED

## Our fall school plans are guided by health, safety and equity

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH  
AND SUPERINTENDENT BRENDA  
CASSELLIUS

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping Boston's families safe, healthy, and equitably supported has been our top priority. That's why we made the tough but necessary decision to close Boston Public Schools buildings in March. In a matter of days, we began distributing Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to students, we set up meal sites to continue feeding tens of thousands of students and families, and we transitioned to fully remote learning. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, and one we kept up while planning the upcoming school year.

We are still facing uncertainty from coronavirus, but the values that guide us are unchanged. Our plans for the upcoming school year put health, safety, and the needs of our most vulnerable students at the center of our plans. After conducting an equity analysis and incorporating the feedback of thousands of stakehold-

ers, we have decided to move forward with a cautious, responsible, phased-in hybrid model for the school year. In the optional hybrid model, students learn at home three days a week and attend school in-person two days a week.

This is our plan:

- We pushed the first day of school back to September 21, to give schools and teachers extra time to prepare.

- On September 21, all students will start with all-remote learning.

- No sooner than October 1, the option of hybrid learning will begin for students with the highest needs.

- No sooner than October 15, optional hybrid learning may begin for the three grades of kindergarten: K0, K1, and K2.

- No sooner than October 22, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 1-3.

- No sooner than November 5, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 4-8. That will include grades 6-8 in the high schools that include those grades.

- And no sooner than November

16, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 9-12.

In every step, families have the choice of whether to opt in to hybrid learning or stay fully remote. BPS is surveying families about their learning environment and transportation preferences for the fall. We know that many families want and need their children to be in school, but many other families are not yet comfortable with in-person learning. That's why we are honoring family choice.

We've learned a lot from the spring remote learning period. This plan is an opportunity to make remote learning more robust, inclusive, and creative. We are expanding technology and internet access; creating new outreach and support plans for families; developing solutions for special education students and English learners; and talking with childcare providers.

We have also spent months preparing our school buildings and training staff to protect students' and teachers' health. We are working with school leaders and facilities professionals to make

sure every school is safe and in compliance with DESE recommendations. We will not send students, teachers, or staff into buildings that are not safe.

We are focusing on equity and meeting the needs of our students. Our plan responds to the significant opportunity gaps facing students from low-income households, students of color, immigrants, and English language learners. Many parents are essential workers who must return to work, and cannot leave their young children home alone. For these families, opportunity gaps grow with every day students are out of school. It's also important to remember that school is about much more than learning. For many students, it's their place of safety, support, and social development.

Supporting students with special needs is a big focus of this plan. We are prioritizing high needs special education students by giving them the option of in-person learning, up to four days per week, starting October 1. This is the right thing to do. We are committed to meeting the

requirements of every student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

We need to keep our communities safe, get kids back to school, and provide quality education. That's what this plan makes possible. At every step, we will follow public health data. Every family will have the choice about when to send their children into school buildings. And we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achievement gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.

We are deeply grateful to all of the teachers, school leaders, staff, families, students, and public health experts who lent their time and expertise, and helped us consider all aspects of our plan. This is the most difficult chapter in our city's recent history, and time and time again the Boston community rises to the challenge with solidarity and compassion. To see the full BPS reopening plan, and for more information about how to submit feedback, visit [bostonpublicschools.org/reopening](http://bostonpublicschools.org/reopening).

## Op-Ed

Continued from page 14

Individuals typically form friendships because they relate on some level, not because they're curating acquaintances as part of a virtue-signaling project. I have no interest in being added to a white person's people-of-color

menagerie, I told her. She then accused me of not wanting to engage in an educational, transformative discussion on racism. I disengaged after that; nurturing white privilege is exhausting.

Toxic white privilege is all around us, even in politics. We are now in the final weeks of a political campaign pitting U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III against

long-time incumbent U.S. Sen. Ed Markey in the September 1 Democratic primary for U.S. senator.

Markey has donned the mantle of a white progressive in spite of the fact that he opposed the integration of Boston schools during the fight over court-ordered busing in the 1970s. While Markey argues that he eventually changed his position, there are more recent measures of how woke he really is. When the parents of D.J. Henry approached the senator in 2014 to help push an investigation of the police killing of their unarmed son in New York, Markey ignored their pleas for assistance and used the word "colored" to refer to Black people.

The 2010 death of Henry, a Black college student from Easton, Mass., took place long before Black Lives Matter protests swept across America in the wake of George Floyd dying beneath a cop's knee in Minneapolis. And long before Markey discovered the convenience of arguing about intersectionality between racial justice and climate change in order to garner the support of progressive young activists. The fact is that anyone's commitment to a cause is

best measured when the cameras aren't on. By this measure, Markey fails miserably. His inaction falls into the category of toxic white privilege, using Black and brown people as campaign props when his record shows he is no ally of African Americans.

In contrast, Joe Kennedy III has advocated tirelessly for the Henry family. He has fought for more compassionate mental health care and expanded addiction services – social needs he's learned about by listening to people in the community and on the front lines of the battles that matter, by going to those closest to the pain to forge the policies of the future.

We need white progressives in office who have shed the mantle of white privilege, not wear it like a cape.

The issue of white privilege is bigger than any single election. But an election does serve as a test of alliances and authenticity.

Those who reject white privilege understand the hard truth that by giving up power and control, the broader society benefits.

What's unacceptable is seeing naked self-interest cloaked in self-righteousness and hypocrisy. That's the white privilege that

must be unmasked and rejected.

*Dorothy A. Clark is a writer and historian who lives in Jamaica Plain.*

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Patricia DeOliveira  
Advertising Manager

Sandra Storey  
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1993-2011

Seth Daniel, Reporter  
[seth@reverejournal.com](mailto:seth@reverejournal.com)

Lauren Bennett, Reporter  
[lauren@thebostonjournal.com](mailto:lauren@thebostonjournal.com)

## INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Stephen Quigley, President [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com)

Debra DiGregorio, Director of Marketing [ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com](mailto:ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com)

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## Mission Hill's Sociedad Latina, Inc. receives Art and Culture grant

By JOHN LYNDS

On Thursday, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced Mission Hill's Sociedad Latina, Inc. was one of 146 local arts and cultural organizations to receive grant money as part of the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund.

Sociedad Latina, Inc. will share in \$815,000 in grants money from the City of Boston's CARES Act funding. The CARES Act funding was established earlier this summer to support small and mid-sized arts and culture nonprofits in adapting their programs, spaces, and operating models as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Supporting the organizations that bring transformative arts programming to every neighborhood in our city is imperative during this unprecedented time," said Mayor Walsh. "These organizations have put a tremendous amount of effort into making sure Bostonians can still participate in the arts and express themselves creatively, and it's important that we do what we can to ensure they remain a part of Boston's arts community in the

future."

Since 1968, Sociedad Latina has been working in partnership with Latino youth and families to end the cycle of poverty, inequality to access health services, and lack of educational and professional opportunities in Mission Hill and surrounding communities.

Each year, Sociedad Latina serves 5,000 young people and adults. Over a thousand of these young people participate in the program's integral and coordinated daily programming, in four key areas that meet the needs and interests of the community: Education, Workforce Development, Civic Engagement, and Arts and Culture.

However, like many community programs, the COVID-19 pandemic has halted many in-person programs and forced organizations like Sociedad Latina to adapt and change how they operate.

Sociedad Latina continues to operate remotely at this time, while adapting all youth programs and family services online.

In addition to its summer learning program, Sociedad Latina has been keeping youth active through its virtual Youth Artist Mastery music classes, STEAM

team online, and Youth Community Organizers' "Stay at Home/ Quédate en Casa" social media public advocacy campaign.

The City's Chief of Arts and Culture Kara Elliott-Ortega said COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the arts and culture sector, particularly performing arts organizations. As organizations and cultural facilities begin reopening, the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund aims to mitigate costs for finding new safe spaces for performance and rehearsal, adapting existing facilities to comply with public health standards, developing new capacities in streaming and virtual engagement, addressing issues of equitable access on digital programs, retraining staff, and other costs associated with physically distanced program delivery.

"Providing ongoing support to Boston's arts organizations is critical during this time," said Elliott-Ortega. "We hope this will encourage Boston residents to do what they can to make sure these organizations are able to continue providing valuable programming to our communities in the future."

If you are a parent or guard-

ian and are interested in learning more about Sociedad Latina's out-of-school time programming, contact Andrea Gilbert at [acosta@sociedadlatina.org](mailto:acosta@sociedadlatina.org). If you

are a currently enrolled Sociedad Latina family and are in need of assistance due to the pandemic, please contact Andrea at [acosta@sociedadlatina.org](mailto:acosta@sociedadlatina.org).

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