

## Fire Department Calls Fens Brushfires Par for the Course

BY JAMIE THOMSON

Brush fires in the Fens—particularly in the *Phragmites* reeds that infest long stretches of the lower Muddy River as it winds its way through the Muddy River Reservation—are a pretty common occurrence, according to Steve McDonald, Boston Fire Department public information officer. They are decidedly not controlled burns. McDonald estimates they happen “a couple of times a year.”

PHOTO: STEVE CHASE



The April 28 fire along the Muddy (there was another one on April 22) was typical: tinder-dry *Phragmites* blaze up, the sky fills with soot and ashes, someone calls in an alarm, and the fire department scrambles personnel and equipment to suppress the blaze. The fire may have been caused by a badly snuffed cigarette, but the source in this case according to McDonald was “undetermined.” Origins of fires of this sort are typically only established if an eyewitness

provides that information; in this case, nobody volunteered.

Whatever the cause, the April 28 fire counted as a “one alarm” blaze; the department dispatched half a dozen engines (tankers and ladder rigs) and they dealt with the threat. No estimate was filed of the cost of the blaze: the department doesn’t work that way. Instead, using its budgeted share of tax dollars, it maintains men and equipment in constant readiness to deal with fires of all sorts—buildings and, in this case, what was classified as “a brush fire.”

When that fire occurred on April 28, the firefighters present at the scene determined that it posed no immediate danger to people or buildings, so they simply suppressed it as quickly as possible and returned to their stations.

One might wonder why the city doesn’t engage in annual controlled burns to remove the reeds. McDonald stated that Boston, like most large urban areas in the United States, has a fire code that prohibits controlled burns within the city’s borders. This prohibition takes account of the City’s environmental regulations and includes any kind of fire, e.g., fire pits, outdoor cooking fires and the like.

The acreage covered by the fire was not estimated; department officials filed a type of “check-off” report typical in the United States, that is, “Conditions – dry/rainy” and other technical matters of interest of the department, insurers and others.

Fires along the river seem likely to continue for the foreseeable future, unless members of the Muddy River Maintenance and Oversight Committee manage to have federal funding for bank-to-bank dredging restored. That would presumably eliminate the habitat the *Phragmites* reeds find so hospitable, and thus reduce the threat of bank fires.

*Jamie Thomson lives in the West Fens.*

## Street Pianos Set for Encore Performance



PHOTO: BARBARA BROOKS SIMONS

“Play Me, I’m Yours” said the design on one of the “street pianos” that showed up on street corners, in parks, and at other unexpected spots in the fall of 2013. More than 500,000 people—with varied musical talent—did just that, and sat down to play, often attracting an audience. The street pianos will return this fall. Hosted by the *Celebrity Series*, the program will put some 60 playable pianos in Boston neighborhoods from September 23 to October 10. This interactive public art project holds opportunities for other creative artists, too. Before the pianos make their first public appearance in the fall, visual artists will have the chance to decorate them. To apply (or donate a piano), go to [streetpianosboston.org](http://streetpianosboston.org) for details.

## PROUTY GARDEN HANGS ON FOR ANOTHER SUMMER, AT LEAST

BY ALISON PULTINAS

State review for Boston Children’s Hospital’s (BCH) expansion continues, with no word yet on when the state’s Determination of Need process will be complete.

This spring, BCH submitted responses to two requests from the Department of Public Health—one for more information on the site alternatives considered and reasons why each was eliminated and one discussing the impact of the project on Medicaid patients. BCH cited efficiency and cost as top factors considered for the choice of the site; construction on the Prouty/Wolbach location would bring inpatient beds online sooner than any other option.

In addition, BCH’s lawyer, Jane Willis of Ropes and Gray, sent letters in April to the three Ten Taxpayer groups refuting the contention of the Friends of Prouty Garden

(FPG) that the hospital was violating the requirement that major capital expenditures related to the new facility must wait for the Determination of Need decision.



PHOTO: JESSE COSTA

A large dawn redwood stands in the Prouty Garden.

Subsequently, lawyers for FPG filed a motion in Suffolk Superior Court for a temporary injunction against the hospital, arguing that construction started illegally.

**PROUTY GARDEN** on page 3 >

## THE FENWAY [BACK IN THE DAY]

With cranes looming over our neighborhood, it’s a wonder our history hasn’t been totally wiped away by new development. Turn to page 6 for a glimpse into the Fenway’s past—old photos are paired with their current counterparts to show how the neighborhood has changed (or stayed the same) in the last century.

## Fair Foods Aims to Cut Food Waste, Spark Healthier Eating

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Fair Foods has finally come to the Fenway! The nonprofit food-rescue organization has been supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to 50 Boston neighborhoods—including Dorchester, Roxbury, Mission Hill, and the South End—for close to 22 years. Now, they’ve made it to our own backyard.

Fair Foods supplies full shopping bags of groceries for \$2 a bag or for free if customers cannot afford \$2. The bags are packed with several fresh items, usually a selection of local fruits and vegetables. “The \$2 bags are always a surprise,” said Joyce Williams, a director of Fair Foods. “The goal,” said Williams, “is to have people eat healthier.” To that end, Fair Foods also supplies recipes.

The food is “rescued” food, produce that would normally be thrown away. It may be from a supermarket that has over-ordered, or often entire pallets of usable food will be left on the loading docks because some items have slight cosmetic imperfections. When that happens, distributors like the New England Produce Market in Chelsea or Stop &

Shop and Trader Joe’s donate such food to Fair Foods so that it can be distributed the same day. The Food Rescue Locator website states



PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

Volunteers help sort the produce at a Fair Foods distribution in the Fenway last month.

that 40% of the food produced in America is wasted. According to the site, 49 million Americans go to bed hungry every year; reducing food waste by 15%, could feed 25 million of them.

“We’ve wanted to come to the Fenway,”

said Nancy Jamison, one of the founders of Fair Foods, “but we needed a local sponsor to organize the volunteers and a location.”

At a community event in Dudley Square, Jamison met Kris Anderson, director of community programs at the Fenway Community Development Corporation (FCDC). Anderson was intrigued by the idea and took it back to the FCDC, which decided to become the Fair Foods sponsor in the Fenway. Anderson then recruited Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral to serve as the Fenway distribution site.

Fair Foods began when a group of Dorchester residents (including Jamison), unhappy about the expensive produce available in grocery stores that they saw going to waste, began discovering distributors who would donate surplus food. Unlike other programs, they supply food to anyone who needs it, regardless of income. They don’t require identification or income verification. Fair Foods operates on the belief that there’s more than enough to go around.

A cooperative work ethic is the

cornerstone of Fair Foods, which depends on volunteers. On May 4 at the first Fenway Fair Foods distribution, more than 30 volunteers—college students, church members, neighborhood residents—showed up at the Holy Trinity Church on Park Drive to unload trucks, sort vegetables, and pack green beans, cherry tomatoes, apples, lettuce, potatoes, and onions into shopping bags. Approximately 80 bags of produce were distributed that day; more established locations such as Dorchester often distribute 600 bags.

As Joyce Williams says, “We believe we can feed the city.”

The Fenway Fair Foods distribution takes place every other Wednesday in the basement of Holy Trinity on 165 Park Drive from 3-5pm. Come at 2pm if you want to volunteer.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*

## FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING JULY 14

All our readers are invited. See details on page 4.

# Dudley Accelerator Looks Beyond White Men to Find New Tech Stars

BY ERICA YEE

Like the Yawkey Boys & Girls Club and the public library across the street, Smarter in the City serves the Roxbury community—but in a new way for Dudley Square.

Gilad Rosenzweig founded Smarter in the City, the first high-tech startup accelerator in Roxbury, in 2014. Since then, Smarter in the City has been home to 15 different startups. Each accepted startup is given five months of free workspace in the Dudley Square office, as well as financial and business guidance. The nonprofit Smarter in the City receives money from a variety of sponsors, including the Lewis Family Foundation, The Boston Foundation and Microsoft Corp.

In the Boston area, technology startups tend to live and grow in Kendall Square in Cambridge. Rosenzweig realized that Boston's inner-city communities have an abundance of talent, but their ideas are under-represented.

"There's a known problem that there's a lack of diversity in the tech sector—not just in employment," Rosenzweig said. "There's also a problem with investment in companies founded by diverse founders."

Four of the five companies in Smarter in the City's most recent cohort are founded by women, and all the founders are from minorities under-represented in the tech

sector. Most founders of high-tech startups who receive money are male and white, but there are still companies being developed by people in the black and Latino communities, Rosenzweig said.

"We're trying to fill in a piece of the puzzle, so the companies that do exist get the right exposure to the tech sector and to funding," he said.

BeautyLynk, a business from the accelerator's just-completed third cohort, is already taking in revenue. Instead of heading to a salon, a BeautyLynk customer can place an order for a stylist to come to her home or office for on-demand personal service.

Rica Elysee developed the idea out of Boston Natural, a meet-up group for women of color passionate about hair, makeup and sisterhood. Elysee said she applied to Smarter in the City because it was an opportunity to build up her company with an organization doing great work in Roxbury. She had no previous business experience.

"I literally took my idea and brought it to fruition," Elysee said.

The people in the Dudley Square office supported her through the stages of growing a business, and provided resources and technology for finding new team members. Now BeautyLynk, whose office is on Main Street in Cambridge, is looking to expand.

"Our model doesn't just go for geographical focus; it's more a scalable model. Being in Boston is just a stepping stone. We're launching in Atlanta in a few months," Elysee said.

Smarter in the City also helped startup ULink, which helps community college students transfer to four-year colleges efficiently through its Web platform and app. ULink works with schools in the area, such as Roxbury Community College, Rosenzweig said.

As Smarter in the City prepares for its fourth cohort in September, Rosenzweig reflected on what he has learned the past two years.

"We definitely want to grow by having more companies, and we also want to provide more resources for companies that come through here. Often an accelerator will support a company until they finish and then it's like, 'Now you're on our own.' We'd like to be part of the continuation for every

company that comes here," he said.

For example, his team noticed that startups have struggled to find the financing to produce beta products needed to attract investors.

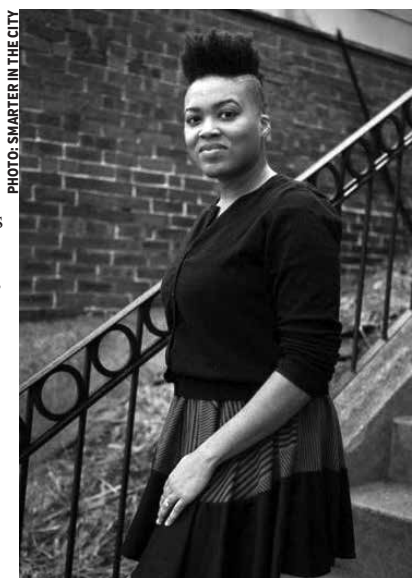
"How can we actually use resources here in Boston to reduce that cost?" Rosenzweig asked. "One of our ideas is to use interns to be part of the software development locally instead of outsourcing."

Rosenzweig said he hopes to continue adapting the program and improving how Smarter in the City benefits the community with every new cohort.

"What we're doing is trying to make the tech landscape more equitable, both who's a part of it and where it

takes place. In a city as small and closed-in as Boston, it's possible," Rosenzweig said.

Erica Yee is an undergraduate student at Northeastern University majoring in journalism and information science.



Rica Elysee

## FCDC FINDS GOOD THINGS COME IN LARGE PACKAGES



Commerce Bank recently awarded the Fenway CDC a \$5,000 grant in support of programs that connect residents to opportunities for employment, education, and job-skills training, and that help boost financial literacy. Nathan Pusey, director of corporate banking in Boston, presents a check to the CDC's Iris Tan. Not shown: Richard Thall, manager of the bank's branch on Brookline Ave.

## Farmers Markets

This month look for berries, salad greens, rhubarb, scallions, spring onions and ramps, cut flowers, and possibly fiddleheads.

ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)	
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
COPLEY SQUARE	
Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
B.U.: 775 COMM AVE AT MUGAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY	
Thursday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
MISSION HILL: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (HUNTINGTON/FRANCIS)	
Thursday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
NORTHEASTERN: BETWEEN RYDER HALL & RUGGLES MBTA STOP	
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
SOUTH END: 540 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	
Sunday	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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# The Fenway Ball

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016 6:00-9:30 PM  
PRUDENTIAL SKYWALK, 800 BOYLSTON ST, 50TH FLOOR

Join us to celebrate our community accomplishments with an evening of dining, entertainment, and a panoramic view of Boston.

Your support will enable the Fenway Community Development Corporation to serve over 1,000 low- and moderate-income people every year by providing affordable housing, resident services, workforce development, and civic engagement programs.

**TICKETS:**  
\$150 Individual  
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Please visit [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org) to purchase tickets or become a sponsor. For inquiries, please contact Iris Tan at [itan@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:itan@fenwaycdc.org) or (857) 234-6509.

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- Boston Red Sox
- Prudential Skywalk Observatory and Top of the Hub

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> **PROUTY GARDEN** from page 1  
 Judge Kenneth Salinger denied the request on May 9, but the FPG website notes that, “As a result of the lawsuit, the Hospital has assured the Superior Court that the Prouty Garden will not be closed and the Dawn Redwood will not be taken down while their DoN application is pending. We believe this is the first time the Hospital has made such a public commitment; the garden was slated to be permanently closed this past February. At least now, we appear to have succeeded in making sure it’s open for another summer.”

Preliminary work at the Wolbach building on Shattuck Street next to Prouty had triggered concerns, and parts of the Garden are now closed off. BCH asserts that the Wolbach administration building would be torn down whether or not the site was utilized for the new clinical facility; therefore, that construction work should not be held up because of the DoN process. The agreements signed with the Boston Landmarks Commission because of the building’s significance are mentioned as part of the rationale for the early site preparation;

preserving individual exterior features takes more time than a straightforward knockdown. The marble columns and entrance pediment have been approved for a staff entrance in the new 12-story clinical addition that will face Shattuck. (That is, if the State approves the site in the DoN application.) Wolbach houses offices for the top echelon of the hospital’s leadership but is deteriorating and no longer appropriate for administrative use, according to the BCH attorney.

In mid-May, McGregor and Legere, the law firm engaged by FPG, submitted a report on BCH’s analysis of the project’s impact on Medicaid patients. The report deals with the complex healthcare policies related to reclassification of MassHealth’s low-income pediatric patients to Medicaid managed-care plans. The report’s executive summary states that the DoN application should be denied because the new project will reduce the availability and accessibility of health care services to Medicaid recipients in Massachusetts.

*Alison Pultinas lives on Mission Hill.*

## COMMENTS DUE JUNE 10 ON BURKE STREET DORM; NU WANTS BRA TO VOTE IN JULY

BY ALISON PULTINAS

**N**ortheastern University’s proposed 20-story student housing project on Columbus Ave. is under public review; comments are due by June 10 to the Boston Redevelopment Authority’s project manager, Katelyn Sullivan (katelyn.sullivan@boston.gov).

The BRA now lists the documents related to Northeastern under the planning section of its website, as opposed to including it with Development Projects. This includes the Draft Project Impact Report for the Columbus

Ave/Burke Street dormitory, the 2015 Community Benefits Report and the 2015 signed agreement between Boston Parks and Northeastern related to the Carter Playground and Northeastern’s Camden St. parking lot. Renovation work at the playground begins this summer and should be finished a year later.

In their own words, architects David Manfredi and Brian O’Connor are working to make the massing of the tower more appealing by varying exterior materials at different floor levels and trying to mitigate the flatness of the Burke street façade by adding more texture and some indentation to create shadows.

At a May meeting of the Boston Civic Design Commission, member Kirk Sykes spoke of NU’s special obligation to fit into the community and cautioned the planners to avoid the International Village syndrome of “You can look but not touch,” referring to the floor-to-ceiling glass walls on the ground floor and minimal public access facing the street.

At the May 19 Task Force public meeting, Jason Wills of the developer, American Campus Communities, briefly discussed the future business on the first floor, 2,500 square feet for a single “quick serve” retail operation. Steve Webber from Moriarty & Associates, the contractor, talked about construction hiring. It will be a union project, though subcontractors will be asked to outreach to the immediate neighborhood and—potentially—Moriarty could “sponsor” some residents for jobs on the site. Northeastern will seek BRA Board approval in July, and the anticipated date for student move-in is August 2019.

*Alison Pultinas lives on Mission Hill.*

## BIKERS WANT TO SEE SAFER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE LMA

BY ALISON PULTINAS

**O**n April 28 the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) hosted another Longwood Area Cycling Summit at the Jimmy Fund Auditorium on Binney St. Along with the cookies and fruit—and the ubiquitous handouts from bike-advocacy groups—the lunchtime audience watched a four-minute video from the LMA Cyclists Network with footage of some truly awful biking conditions and heard speakers present somewhat conflicting plans for future bike lanes.

David Read, senior administrator from DFCI and self-described as “passionate about improving biking on Longwood Avenue,” proposed bike lanes marked with paint and flexible bollards on Longwood. These would be temporary at first to assess the impact on congestion and would support a long-term goal of adding cycle tracks (bikes physically separated from other traffic). His plan would require removing turn lanes at the intersection with Brookline Avenue, a controversial proposal for the city’s traffic engineers.

Another speaker was researcher Anne Lusk from The Harvard Chan School of Public Health, who had a different strategy: prioritize the major streets (Longwood and Brookline avenues) for ambulances, buses and the transportation needs of hospital patients, but create bike routes using the area’s former road network, now mostly converted to alleys and driveways. Using old maps, Lusk demonstrated how these historic small side streets could become a revitalized bike alley system with lighting, greenery and social space.

As David Havelick asserts in the video posted on the LMA Cyclists Network Facebook page, the healthcare community should be the leaders for the future of safe biking in the LMA. “If we’re not, who will be?”

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Trans National Properties notified the BRA that it will file plans to redevelop its property at 2 Charlesgate West (where the Bowker Overpass crosses Ipswich). It envisions a 30-plus-story tower with 325 apartments and



condos, plus street-level commercial space. The plan would also include a major arts-themed redesign of Ipswich Street along the property. **The Red Sox added more concert dates, with the announcement of a second Jason Aldean/Kid Rock show announced after the first one sold out in 90 minutes. In total, twelve concerts will take place between July 15 and September 10, breaking the old record of eight.**

Amazon moved quickly after Bloomberg News revealed that Amazon Prime customers could get same-day deliveries throughout central Boston—unless they lived in one of three Roxbury ZIP codes. As social media threatened to blow up over the issue, Amazon announced it would add the excluded areas.

**The Boston Housing Authority announced it has renamed Bromley-Heath Housing in JP in honor of activist Mildred C. Hailey, who died last year. In the 1970s, Hailey led a group of Bromley-Heath residents in a revolt of sorts against BHA mismanagement, eventually winning the right to manage the development themselves in the first instance of tenant-managed public housing in U.S.**

Arne Glimcher, founder of New York’s Pace Gallery, gave \$1 million to his alma mater, Mass College of Art and Design. The gift pushed a \$12 million fund-raising campaign for renovation of the Paine and Bakalar Galleries past the half-way mark.

**A teacher at the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, Frank Harris, is one of five finalists for a national teaching award, according to the Boston Globe. The BPS school splits its campus between facilities in the LMA and 110 The Fenway.**

Boston Public Library trustees chose a career librarian from the West Coast to become the new president of the library system. Currently director of public libraries in San Jose, Jill Bourne will succeed Amy Ryan, who resigned last summer in the wake of a controversy over misfiled etchings in the library collection.

**The Walsh administration introduced a program that will make attending Roxbury Community College free for Boston Public School grads who meet certain academic and income thresholds. The plan builds on recent research showing that financial hardship pushes many low-income students out of college after a year, undercutting their lifetime earn potential. Students who qualify may also enroll at Bunker Hill CC.**

Deutsche Grammophon has reached agreement with BSO conductor Andris Nelsons on a second series of recordings and hopes to ink a third contract with him. In the first series, already announced, the BSO will record all of Dimitri Shostakovich’s symphonies. The second deal, announced last month, will have the conductor leading the Vienna Philharmonic through all of Beethoven’s symphonies, and the proposed third series will capture all of Bruckner’s symphonies in performances by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, where Nelsons will become music director (while continuing at the BSO) in 2017.

**Samuels & Associates announced that the Pierce, under construction at Brookline Ave. and Boylston Street, already has 30% of its 109 condos under agreement. Your new neighbors won’t be using the poor door: unit prices in the building start at \$1 million.** An engineering team at Northeastern is working to improve the dexterity of a robot that might take part in a future NASA mission to Mars, according to a *Globe* profile. Professor Taksin Padir leads the team hoping to refine Valkyrie’s skills to the point that it can set up a base years before humans would arrive on the planet.

SOX BOX	
Fri, June 3	7:10 p.m.
Sat, June 4	4:05 p.m.
Sun, June 5	1:35 p.m.
Tue, June 14	7:10 p.m.
Wed, June 15	7:10 p.m.
Thu, June 16	7:10 p.m.
Fri, June 17	7:10 p.m.
Sat, June 18	4:05 p.m.
Sun, June 19	1:35 p.m.
Mon, June 20	7:10 p.m.
Tue, June 21	7:10 p.m.
Wed, June 22	7:10 p.m.

# 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.

### → TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY** (contractor is Sunrise Scavenger): Trash pick-up on Monday and Thursday. Recycling pick-up on Monday and Thursday.
- **FENWAY** (contractor is Sunrise Scavenger): Trash pick-up on Tuesday and Friday. Recycling pick-up on Tuesday and Friday.
- **MISSION HILL** (contractor is Sunrise Scavenger): Trash pick-up on Tuesday and Friday. Recycling pick-up on Tuesday and Friday.

# FENSVIEWS

## A Teacher Explains the Problems With Charter School Expansion

BY RAUL GARCIA

As the statewide debate over the expansion of charter schools continues and November's ballot question to lift the existing cap on charter schools looms, it's important to consider the impact of charter schools on the Fenway.

This year alone, charter schools will siphon off \$119,405,100 in funds that would otherwise stay in the Boston Public Schools, and be used to improve learning for all students. For BPS students, this funding loss means larger class sizes, fewer enrichment courses such as music, art, and athletics, and other damaging cutbacks.

None of us should be surprised that after years of shrinking budgets, our local schools are failing to meet the needs of many of our students. A recent report by a school budget review commission found that Massachusetts is underfunding public education by at least \$1 billion a year. The ability of our schools to provide students with more opportunities for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, and enrichment programs such as music, art, and athletics, is already threatened. And now, charter schools are taking more than \$400 million in funds each year from our local school districts.

Numerous studies have shown that early education is the most effective way to ensure a child's success later in life, but only 60% of 3- and 4-year-old children in Boston are enrolled in an early education program. Statewide, Massachusetts has over 16,000 children on waiting lists for pre-school programs. At the very least, we should provide access to pre-school and early-learning programs for every child instead of giving money to more unaccountable charter schools.

Part of the problem is that the state approves charter schools

even when the communities where they will be located are opposed to them. This has happened in Brockton, Gloucester, and many other communities. Charter schools are not accountable to the local taxpayers who have to pay for them or the communities they serve. That's wrong. Parents and taxpayers in the Fenway should have the final say on what kind of schools we want.

A report from the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University, released last month, found that 60 percent of charter schools in Massachusetts don't have a single parent on their boards of trustees.

Clearly, some of our schools are struggling, particularly in our urban areas. We should be committed to fixing them—not keep taking money away and giving it to charters that accept fewer English-language learners and kids with significant special needs, and whose teachers are not certified. Expanding a two-track system of separate and unequal schools, where students with the most challenges remain in local district schools with fewer and fewer resources, is not consistent with our Massachusetts values.

The ballot question will allow charters to expand into areas where they don't exist right now—anywhere in the state—taking millions away from successful neighborhood public schools and causing the elimination of programs, increases in class sizes, and other damaging cuts in the schools that most families choose. In the Fenway, allowing charter schools to take more money away from our public school system will only hurt the majority of students. We need to fully fund our public school system before we consider spending more money on charter schools.

*Raul Garcia teaches at the Boston Arts Academy on Ipswich Street.*

## GUEST OPINION

### AT ANNUAL MEETING, FCDC SPOTLIGHTS FRESH APPROACHES AND LONG-TIME HEROES

#### TO THE EDITOR:

On May 3, members of the community had a chance to celebrate the FCDC at its 43rd annual meeting. Hosted by St. Cecilia Parish, this year's meeting set an early tone of festiveness, inclusion and freshness. More than 140 people gathered in the parish hall to listen to a program delivered in English and interpreted into both Spanish and Mandarin—a new service offered this year. In attendance were State Sen. Will Brownsberger; State Rep. Byron Rushing; City Councilor Josh Zakim; Director of Operations of the Department of Neighborhood Development, Devin Quirk; and Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Jacob Wessel.

Executive Director Leah Camhi listed highlights from the FCDC's different departments, including community organizing, community programs, and fundraising. Despite our long history in the neighborhood, the tenor of the evening was one of freshness. In addition to opening up new partnerships

and reigniting old connections, the FCDC even has a new logo that celebrates the unity of the East and West Fens.

In the keynote address and a subsequent Q&A session, Massachusetts Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Chrystal Kornegay engaged the audience, beginning with crowd-pleasing references to the Green Line's unreliability and ending with a pledge of her department's commitment to partnering with the CDC. Kornegay even put a positive spin on the fact that less than 2% of the state budget is spent on housing, declaring that creative solutions often stem from the intersection of big problems and limited money.

Continuing the theme of freshness and celebration, the night was punctuated by the election of four new members to the board of directors; re-election of two current members; and the presentation of four awards to community members. New board members Kevin Cody, Lynda Maryanski, Kojo Osei-Bonsu, and Rosaria Salerno bring the board business, accounting, public health, and political expertise. In awarding Community Service Awards to the Clearway Tenants

Association, Jim Hoben of El Pelon Taqueria and community activist Richie Dunshee, the FCDC recognized people who have demonstrated uncommon selflessness in lifting up their neighbors.

The Joyce Foster Award went to Steve Wolf, who served on our board of directors for 27 years. Having worn many hats during that time, including that of board president, Wolf has been a critical voice in the FCDC organization and an invaluable member of the community. While this is Steve's last year on the board and we're sad to see him go, he'll continue to support the organization through some of our committees.

We cherish this opportunity to celebrate our victories, honor our heroes, and recommit ourselves to the fight. Following the example of Undersecretary Kornegay, let's recall the words of Florence Nightingale, "The connection between health and dwelling is one of the most important that exists." We look forward to joining in with you all to champion that connection for this next year and for years to come.

GEOFFREY TAM

FCDC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

## LETTERS

## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 14!

The Fenway News Association will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 14, in a special venue—the new Fenway Community Center at 1282 Boylston Street. The meeting will begin at 6:45pm. In addition to a guest speaker and light refreshments, we'll present a year-end summary and hold elections for new and continuing members of the board of directors.

Membership in the Fenway News Association is open to anyone in the broader Fenway neighborhood and other communities served by the paper. According to our by-laws, one must join the Association at least 14 days before the meeting in order to cast a vote. A list of current members appears. Please notify us by June 24 at the latest if you wish to join (or be taken off the list). Send your notification to [fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com). And we hope to see you on the 14th.

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 1, 2016:** Iory Allison, Delia Alvarez, Arlene Ash, Nicole Auberg, Jonathan Ball, Alison Barnet, Richard Barry, Stephen Brophy, Will Brownsberger, Kelsey Bruun, Bob Case, Steve Chase, Conrad Cizek, Brian Clague, Suzanne Comtois, Jim Cooper, Helen Cox, Tracey Cusick, Alex Danseco, Bennie diNardo, Richard Dunshee, Margot Edwards, Johnette Ellis, John Engstrom, Stan Everett, Lisa Fay, Mary Finn, Nikki Flionis, Michael Foley, Lori Frankian, Marie Fukuda, Steve Gallanter, Slim Gelzer, Galen Gilbert, Elizabeth Gillis, Kathy Greenough, Sam Harnish, Steven Harnish, Duke Harten, Mary Ellen Hendrickson, Tim Horn, Tito Jackson, Cathy Jacobowitz, Lois Johnston, Akshata Kadagathur, Rosie Kamal, Sajed Kamal, Mandy Kapica, Steven Kapica, Kyle Katz, John Kelly, Joseph Kenyon, Ruth Khowais, Jonathan Kim, Shirley Kressel, Marc Laderman, Nasreen Latif, Kristen Laueran, Nate Lescovic, Gil Loo, Aqilla Manna, Joanne McKenna, Mike Mennonno, Joan Murphy, Letta Neely, Patrick O'Connor, Catherine Pedemonti, Richard Pendleton, Jana Peretz, Ellen Pfeiffer, Camille Platt, Gloria Platt, Lauren Dewey Platt, Michael Prentky, Alison Pultinas, Michelle Reinstein, Bill Richardson, Karla Rideout, Mike Ross, Rosaria Salerno, Valarie Seabrook, Helaine Simmonds, Barbara Brooks Simons, Matti Kniva Spencer, Ginny Such, Mat Thall, Jamie Thomson, Eric Tingdahl, Anne Tobin, Theresa Tobin, Fredericka Veikley, Chris Viveiros, Derrick Warren, Jim Wice, Margaret Witham, Steve Wolf

## THE Fenway News

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

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### "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, JULY 1.**

#### > DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads is **Friday, JUNE 24.**

#### > ADVERTISING <

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## Working Through Nonprofits, Fellows Bring Extra Support to Low-Income Kids

BY CASSIDY DESTEFANO

Each year, the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship grants 40 young people the opportunity to devote a year of service to a local nonprofit organization.

“Anyone that really wants to give back or focus on an issue that surrounds youth development comes to us,” said Cecelia Auditore, evaluation and volunteer manager of the program. She said that, in exchange, participants receive an allowance of \$14,500, career coaching, and free courses through Northeastern University’s College of Professional Studies.

“We’re a dual-focused organization,” she said. “On the one hand, we are focused on building youth success with our partners; on the other hand, we want to encourage our members to pursue their personal goals after graduation.”

The fellowship is an AmeriCorps nonprofit operation that receives its economic backing from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, Auditore said.

Northeastern acts as a fiscal agent for the fellowship, matching an unspecified amount of federal grant money that the program receives with amenities, including complimentary classes, resources and office space in the university’s Center of Community Service, based in the Huntington Avenue YMCA.

According to the program’s website, more than 390 fellows have served at local organizations, including Massachusetts General Hospital, the Science Club for Girls, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, since the fellowships’ inaugural year in 1999. Community partners contribute between



At left, Northeastern students at work at the Center for Community Service. Below, posters created to celebrate Cecelia Auditore by members of her fellowship class. She now serves as evaluation and volunteer manager for the program.



PHOTO: CASSIDY DESTEFANO

\$10,000 and \$15,000 to house a fellow based on their operating budgets as outlined in the fellowship’s request for proposals. Once hired, fellows mentor sixth- through 12th-graders by providing tutoring, coaching students in the college process, and designing community service programs.

Since the program’s founding, its curriculum has been rewritten to encompass not only dedication to community partners but to increased awareness of social justice issues.

“The restructuring of the fellowship reflects the evolving needs of our under-served communities,” Auditore said.

Those communities are highlighted in the new training program, which focuses on race; class; discrimination against those with physical disabilities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

Fellows have fashioned programs to bolster youth development and service opportunities.

According to a press release, 400 to 450 applicants compete for 30 open spots each year. Ten spots are reserved for fellows who choose to serve a second term.

“We have fellows this year that are as young as 30 and as old as 36. We get a vast array of ages and experiences that really builds diversity within the program,” Auditore said.

She listed the general qualifications for a fellow as someone who has experience working with youth, is above age 17, and is a permanent U.S. citizen.

After a brief orientation in August, participants are sent to in-state locations, including Boston, the Berkshires, Lynn, and Fall River.

Auditore said that although service sites are scattered, periodic retreats and more than 170 hours of training forge a sense of community among fellows. The support system acts as a safety net for those in the program who have to work additional jobs to make ends meet, she said. Because fellows receive a stipend and not a wage, many of them also qualify for public financial assistance.

“Applying for food stamps and fuel assistance is an experience that a lot of our members have,” she said. “Resilience is a huge aspect for being a successful member and fellow.”

Despite financial challenges, the fellows Auditore has encountered are committed to the experience rather than the paycheck, she said. “It’s a year of ups, downs, wins, losses, friendships, tears and lots of laughter,” she said. “But I think when you put together a group of like-minded individuals around believing and empowering youth, you just have a lot of fun.”

Cassidy DeStefano is a freshman journalism major at Northeastern University.

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# THE FENWAY [ BACK IN THE DAY ]

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CITY OF BOSTON ARCHIVES (2, 3)  
CONTEMPORARY PHOTOS (2, 3): STEVE CHASE



We've got different cars, certainly, and an abundance of new development. But it's still possible to find pockets of history in the neighborhood that are somewhat untouched by the whips and scorns of time. Photo 1 shows an early view of Boylston Street from roughly where Jerry Remy's now stands. Photo 2 shows Agassiz Road, once nicknamed "the Speedway." Photo 3 shows a police wagon about 1925 on Park Drive (then known as Audubon Road) and the same view today.

## LMA Turbine Awaits Green Light, Despite Doubts About Air-Quality Impacts

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Medical Area Total Energy Plant (MATEP), owned by partners Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners and Veolia Energy North America, is trying to add a third turbine to its facility in the Longwood Medical Area. Before the expansion can go through, federal and state air-quality regulations require a public review process. As of this writing, the project's Draft Permit states that emissions will not exceed federal limits.

On May 23, 20 people in the Longwood Galleria conference room heard Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Edward Braczyk read the three-page legal notice. Following that, MATEP's consultant A.J. Jablonowski from Epsilon Associates

presented a brief slide show showing how a combined heat-and-power plant works. Collin Fedor and Sam Botsford from State Representative Jeffrey Sanchez's office listened to representatives of local nonprofits Mary Ann Nelson (interim director of the Mission Hill Health Movement) and Karen Gately (director of Roxbury Tenants of Harvard [RTH]) and other Mission Hill residents testify. Most hearing attendees were MATEP or state employees. All comments on the addition of the turbine were due to Braczyk by 5pm the following day.

Conflicts are inevitable when Boston residents speak of their neighborhoods, including streets now part of the institutional district codified by the city as the Longwood Medical Area, or "the campus" in the

corporation's description of the power plant's service area. Historically all of Fenwood Road Francis Street, and Longwood Avenue were part of Mission Hill. Susan Wladkowski of Fenwood Road agreed with other speakers that air-quality monitoring should test for pollution at the upper floors of the nearby apartment buildings (Neville House at Vining and New Whitney, and the Mosaic on the Riverway), but she reserved her primary concern for the "old neighborhood," the Victorian-era two- and three-family homes without central air conditioning. As she pointed out, "We can't shut our windows," when temperatures rise. Questions were asked but, according to the hearing protocol, not answered.

The Department of Environmental Protection has issued a Draft Permit that

goes into effect immediately if there are no comments requesting specific changes. Consultants for RTH analyzed the technical submission and concluded that additional background air-quality analysis is needed. The project's analysis compares background air-quality levels in Mission Hill to those in Kenmore Square (the closest state pollution-monitoring station), but it failed to show that the two are equivalent. Another factor to consider is that the residents of the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard development are demonstrably poorer and therefore less healthy than the general population. Dolores Pullen, of Mission Park Drive, spoke movingly of her chronic respiratory illness and the prevalence of asthma in the neighborhood.

*Alison Pultinas lives on Mission Hill.*

## The Arts

### BPL LIBRARY-ON-WHEELS HEADS OUR WAY

BY BARBARA BROOKS SIMONS

Looking for a good book? And somehow just don't get to the library? Well, keep your eye out for the Boston Public Library's Bibliocycle! The BPL's bicycle-powered mobile library has started its third season of bringing books to markets, fairs, and other community events. Its brightly painted trailer holds about 50 books, from best-selling novels to gardening, bike repair, and kids' picture books. The program began in 2014 as a partnership with Boston Bikes.

This month the Bibliocycle makes stops in the Fenway, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester. Fenway visits include the Fenway Community Center on June 22 (3-5pm) and the LMA on Monday, June 13 and June 27 (11:30am-1:30pm both days). The Bibliocycle will also visit the Loring-Greenough Farmers' Market in JP on Thursdays, June 4, 16, and 30 (4-7pm).

Besides checking out books—up to 10 per visit—readers can get other help from the roving librarians. You can sign up for a library card, get help with reference questions, and learn how to use the library's digital resources. There are even pop-up story times. If you have fines, however, they must be paid at a bricks-and-mortar branch. (To schedule a Bibliocycle visit to an event, go to [bpl.org/programs/community.htm](http://bpl.org/programs/community.htm).)

*Barbara Brooks Simons lives in the East Fens.*

PHOTOS: BPL



# The Arts

## OPERA, COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU...MAYBE

Once again, Fenway opera lovers can look forward to a season of live HD broadcasts from Metropolitan Opera Saturday matinees. This marks the eleventh season for the series, which is shown in more than 700 US theaters and in 70 other countries. It opens on October 8 (at 12pm), with Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, featuring Nina Stemme—the 100th broadcast in this series. The ten transmissions will include five new productions, including the Met premiere of a little-known contemporary opera, *L'Amour de Loin*. And they will include a star-filled roster of Met favorites, including Plácido Domingo, Renee Fleming, Anna Netrebko, Simon Keenlyside, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

And now that important question: Will the broadcasts return to the Regal Fenway Theater on Brookline Avenue? Or will opera-goers have to trek to venues in Revere and elsewhere, as they did this past season? The answer is still...“maybe?” Priority tickets go on sale July 14, and according to the Regal Fenway, that may be the earliest that they know the answer. Stay tuned.

Here are the broadcast dates for the rest of the 2016-17 season. Mark your calendars! (Most will begin at 12:55pm on Saturdays. The dates for encore presentations will vary from theater to theater.) Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Oct. 22; Kaija Saariaho's *L'Amour de Loin*, Dec. 10; Verdi's *Nabucco*, Jan. 7; Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, Jan. 21; Dvorak's *Rusalka*, Feb. 25; Verdi's *La Traviata*, Mar. 11; Mozart's *Idomeneo*, Mar. 25; Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Apr. 22; and Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, May 13.

—BARBARA BROOKS SIMONS

## JAZZ AND BBQ AMONG THE ROSES



It's back! Fenway Civic Association's annual Rose Garden party returns on Wednesday, June 8, 6-8pm. The evening will feature refreshments from Sweet Cheeks BBQ accompanied by jazz music from perennial favorite Dave Ehle Guitar Trio. Bring a blanket or chair and post up with friends and neighbors. In the event of rain, the party will happen June 9.

## Old Play, New Tricks: BU Gets 'Prometheus' Right

BY JOHN ENGSTROM

Most of us nowadays are likely to approach the prospect of a live performance of an ancient Greek play with querulous trepidation: How on earth are they going to do all that stuff—characters from myth, a stylized chorus, song and dance, formal declamation, epic settings, magical events?

Despite being taught in universities, these plays have fallen out of favor with modern audiences, although every so often a noteworthy production will come along to bring some relief to the theatrical drought:

Ralph Fiennes as Oedipus, Juliette Binoche as Antigone, Fiona Shaw or Kristin Scott-Thomas as Elektra are some of the more recent examples—if you can get to see them. Boston University's College of Fine Arts made a brave contribution in April and May, with student performances of *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus (525 BC–c.460 BC). A more unusual choice for a college theater could not be imagined!

How was it? Well, it wasn't the Royal Shakespeare Company doing *The Greeks*. It wasn't *Clash of the Titans* either—although Aeschylus's play has Titans in it. But the gifted actors at BU took the almost intractable piece in hand and made something of it. They made it work for them and showed their chops. That much exceeded expectations.

Greek tragedy got the ball rolling on Western drama at more than one level. It grew out of hymns to the god of wine and unbridled sexual behavior, Dionysus. It has elements and methods that our writers (and playwrights) continue to draw nourishment from—characterization, dialogue, psychology, violence (always off-stage), myth, social and political relevance, epic or mythic subjects. Only a small number of Greek tragedies are extant today, out of hundreds that were produced; all of the ones that survive are by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. Of those three, Aeschylus was the first to make a mark on theater history.

The earliest plays featured only one actor and a chorus; Aeschylus added characters and thus increased the potential for dramatic conflict. He wrote between 70 and 90 plays, of which we have only seven (and his sole authorship of *Prometheus Bound* has been disputed). His most famous production is *The Oresteia*, a three-part drama exploring the violent aftermath of the Trojan War and the only complete trilogy of Greek tragedies that survives.

Only traces remain of the original productions of the Greek dramas—they're found at museums and archaeological sites. Boston's MFA has artifacts of ancient Greek

performances and ceramic vases from the 5th century BC that depict scenes from the dramas. The old amphitheatres in Greece and other parts of Europe and Asia may be in ruins, but we can visit and even witness live entertainment in them. If we approach the plays as literature without being able to read ancient Greek, there are many English-language translations to choose from. Some of the more famous ones are by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Henry David Thoreau, and Robert Lowell. And every so often there will be a performance that makes history: Laurence Olivier as Oedipus and Judith Anderson as

dignified maturity. Solari's handling of the five-member chorus (all women)—who take pity on Prometheus and elicit his story—was effective; everyone moved and spoke (and at one point, sang) with graceful specificity.

There's little we can glean about how these plays were done when they were first written. We know that they were performed at competitive outdoor festivals; the most famous was the Festival of Dionysus in Athens. The performances involved singing, dancing, musical instruments such as pipes and percussion (the MFA has a handful of examples) and sculpted masks, and there were

power-grabbing, sadism and paranoia are among their qualities. Hephaestus (Kaidie Carr), who hammers Prometheus into place, is a sniveling whiner. Zeus emerges not as a benevolent father figure but as a supernatural precursor of the evil dictators of world history. Prometheus's excruciating punishment for passing on the gift of fire to humanity is to be chained to a crag in the Caucasus Mountains, where an eagle feasts daily on his liver and prolongs Prometheus's suffering.

Zeus's sister-wife, Hera, is no nicer than her thunder-bearing husband: to get back at Zeus for fooling around with the maiden Io, she turns the latter into a cow and sends a gadfly to sting her as she roams the world distractedly. At BU, the only discordant note was struck by actress Shawna James as Io, who worked hard—maybe too hard—but erred on the side of screechiness at the expense of verbal clarity. Other than Prometheus, who has to stand in one spot and hold forth for ninety minutes, Io is the most challenging part in the play. The actress has the difficult dual task of suggesting both a cow and the tormented woman trapped inside the cow. She was helped by costume designer Jonathan Berg-Einhorn, who provided James with the required horns and tail. (His wardrobe for the other characters was functional but unattractive.) But during the performance, you were more aware of the actress's struggle than the character's. Another week of rehearsal might have helped.

In an ideal production of *Prometheus Bound*, the designer—at BU this was Bori Yoon—would present a towering rock-face with the protagonist fixed in place at a great height, with winged Hermes (who turns up at the end of the play) flying in on wires like Peter Pan. The Lane-Conley Studio 210 at BU doesn't have fly space—essentially it's a long, horizontal box—so we missed out on the play's exciting verticality; this production was about making much out of sparse resources.

But Yoon was able to evoke the mountain wilderness by means of layered slabs of artificial rocks with jagged fissures that harbored lengths of chain. And the billows of fog and smoke (which made you cough occasionally) provided a spooky, otherworldly atmosphere, as did the sound design by Aubrey Dube: it built to a powerful storm at the finale.

Stanislavski said (in a classic cliché) that there are no small parts, only small actors. *Prometheus Bound* is a big play—very big—and the BU actors successfully evoked something of that size and scope.

John Engstrom lives in the West Fens.



Medea come to mind.

There were no equivalents to those luminaries among the BU performers of the Aeschylus play, but everyone acted their parts with sensitivity and agility. Despite several rough patches, there were almost no weak links or faux pas in the whole 90 minutes. Director Jonathan Solari delivered a clear through-line to the largely static action and provided apt, lively choreography. The translation used was by James Kerr—it's crisp, plain and free of clinkers. My favorite line (I forget who speaks it): “Art stands in the shadow of Necessity.” Hear, hear!

Aeschylus, who in his day was more famous as a soldier than a playwright, because he fought in the Greek war against the Persians, was said to have been inspired to work in theater by a dreamed encounter with Dionysus. We can be glad that he took up this vocation, and the BU endeavor confirmed that *Prometheus Bound* can still hold the stage.

There's nothing easy about this play. Its underlying mythology is obscure to most viewers and its declamation often verges on the abstract or the abstruse. But, as they say, talent will out! To the larger-than-life characters—especially Power-Force (Alice Kabia), Oceanus (Alyssa Yoffie) and Prometheus himself (Eli Raskin)—the BU fledgelings brought youthful energy and

various “special effects” (mechanical cranes were used to swing supernatural characters high in the air).

The Greek amphitheatres were fan-shaped. Semi-circular rows of stone benches on a hill surrounded a circular platform at the bottom of the slope for the chorus to perform on. Behind that was the stage for the principal actors, who were masked and alternated between singing and speaking; and there was backstage space for costume changes and sound effects (including thunder machines).

*Prometheus Bound* may be a bit harder to follow than other Greek plays because its subject matter is not from Homer or “The Odyssey” but from cosmic legend, based on archaic creation stories. Prometheus is, as he reminds us, himself a god—he's one of the Titans who did battle and were defeated by the new generation of Olympian deities, led by the implacable and vengeful Zeus.

The deities in this Aeschylean version are not people you can introduce your parents to. They are a compendium of bad human traits: jealousy, capriciousness, mania, opportunism,

**The gifted actors at BU took the almost intractable piece in hand and made something of it.**

# June

## CALENDAR

**+** THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.

### ➔ Through Sun, 6/12

**ODYSSEY OPERA** presents *When in Rome*, featuring two early, seldom-heard operas both set in ancient Rome. Gluck's *Ezio* (6/3, 6/5) is a story of love and loyalty and court intrigue. *Lucio Silla*, an early work by the 16-year-old Mozart, focuses on similar themes and settings (6/8, 6/10, 6/12). Gil Rose directs the Odyssey Opera Orchestra. Weeknights at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 3 pm, Boston University Theatre, 254 Huntington Ave. Visit [odysseyopera.org](http://odysseyopera.org) or call 617-926-1626 for tickets.

### ➔ Wednesdays/Fridays in June

**NOONTIME AND EVENING CONCERTS** continue in Boston Public Library's Concerts in the Courtyard series. June concerts range from brass bands to jazz to blues and world music and feature both local and international performers. In the McKim Courtyard, Boston Public Library, Copley Square.

**+** Wednesdays at 6–7 pm; Fridays, 12:30–1:30 pm. FREE

### ➔ Through Sun, 6/26

If you haven't caught **PAIRING PICASSO**, a small but dynamic exhibit, don't delay—it ends soon. Picasso subjects are paired by theme for a dramatic exhibit. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org).

### ➔ Through Sun, 6/26

**HUNTINGTON THEATRE**'s final production of the season is Craig Lucas's new play, *I Was Most Alive with You*. Described as both "funny" and "beautiful," the play shows a family's resilience and recovery as they face several challenges. It is presented simultaneously in English and American Sign Language. At the Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St. Tickets \$20-75. Visit [huntingtontheatre.org](http://huntingtontheatre.org) for curtain times and ticket information.

### Fri, 6/3 and Sun, 6/5

**BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS** members throw their 175 voices into "POPular" songs that range from the Beatles to Beyoncé. With guest (and Boston Conservatory grad) actor Nick Adams. At Jordan Hall. Fri, 8pm; Sun 3pm (7pm show sold out). Tickets \$20-60. Tickets and more info at [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org).

### Sat, 6/4 and Sun, 6/5

**COMMON BOSTON**, the annual festival of architecture and design, will open more than 50 Boston buildings for behind-the-scenes visits this weekend. Fenway sites include the MassArt "Treehouse" dorm (tours on Saturday at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm) and Fenway Studios. [www.commonboston.org](http://www.commonboston.org)/ FREE.

### Wed, 6/8 to Sat, 6/11

**DIAMOND ALICE** is a staged workshop production with costumes and lighting. Inspired as children by the legend of Robin Hood, a gang of female jewel thieves carries

the promise of women's suffrage in the early 20th century from complacency to a radical retaliation against male-dominated hierarchy. Directed by Candice Brown. The Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St. Wed 7pm, Fri. 7pm, Sat. 2pm. Advance registration is not required. Donations will be taken at the door (\$15 suggested). Seating is first-come, first-served. Visit [www.bostonconservatory.edu/perform](http://www.bostonconservatory.edu/perform) for details.

### Thu, 6/9 to Sun, 7/10

*New York Times* critic Ben Brantley called Bedlam Theater Company's production of **TWELFTH NIGHT** "inspired." The Off-Broadway company presents two versions of the Shakespeare comedy in rotation (one goes by the play's subtitle, *What You Will*), with five actors playing all twelve parts in both—which by all accounts were memorable last year in New York. The versions alternate through the week, Mon-Thurs 7:30pm; Fri 8pm; Sat. 3pm and 8pm; Sun 2pm and 7pm. Tickets \$15-59, discounts for seniors, college students, students under 18. [www.centalsquaretheater.org/](http://www.centalsquaretheater.org/)

### Sat, 6/11

The 2016 race for the presidency is breaking all the rules. Get a historical perspective on the office and the changes in presidential power at Massachusetts Historical Society's program, "The American President: From Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton," featuring celebrated **PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN WILLIAM E. LEUCHTENBURG**. 1154 Boylston, 5pm–6pm, with pre-talk reception at 4:30. Registration required; visit to [masshist.org/calendar](http://masshist.org/calendar) for details.

### Wed, 6/15 to Sun, 6/19

You'd be hard-pressed not to find something to like on the **BOSTON GUITARFEST** schedule, which actually opens Monday with a free concert by the Young Guitarist Workshop's faculty (7:30pm, Williams Hall at New England Conservatory). This year's festival, taking *¡Viva Espana!* as its theme, offers a roster of international stars specializing in flamenco and traditional Spanish sounds. There's an nightly concert, ranging in price from free to \$40, and many of the competition rounds are free and open to the public. All performances take place at New England Conservatory. Find out more at [www.bostonguitarfest.org/2016/](http://www.bostonguitarfest.org/2016/)

### Sat, 6/18

**BARBERSHOP BRUNCH**: A live barbershop quartet performance for all ages. 12-1:30pm. **+** At Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St., entrance on Jersey. FREE

## COMMUNITY meetings

**ALL MONTH: The Fenway Community Center at 1282 Boylston offers great programming all month. Check out their full calendar at [www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar/](http://www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar/)**

**TUE, JUNE 7:** Fenway Liaison for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services holds office hours 3:30-5:30pm at the YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave.

**SAT, JUNE 11:** Prime Timers, an educational/social network for older gay/bisexual men, meets at Harriet Tubman House, 564 Columbus Ave. Refreshments 2:30, program 3:30; \$2 at the door. Visit [www.bostonprimetimers.org](http://www.bostonprimetimers.org), email [bostonprimetimers@uses.org](mailto:bostonprimetimers@uses.org) or call 617-447-2344.

**THU, JUNE 16:** 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.

### TUE, JUNE 21

- East Fens Police/Community meeting, 6pm, Morville House, 100 Norway St.
- Audubon Circle Neighbhd. Assn. board meets at 7pm. All are welcome. Room 3C, Harvard Vanguard annex, 133 Brookline Ave.. Call 617-262-0657 for questions.

## Get Your Beach Bod Ready at Symphony Park



Start the summer off right with free fitness classes in the great outdoors. From Jun. 7 through Aug. 30, yoga classes led by Nicole Ferraro take place at 10am in Symphony Park at 30 Edgerly Rd. The gentle moving and breathing class will use chairs and mats, and it welcomes anyone, regardless of physical limitations.

Yoga not your thing? Hit the park on Thursdays, instead—from June 9 to July 28, Huan Zhang leads a Tai Chi class at 10am. All ages are welcome. In the event of rain, both classes move inside Morville House at 100 Norway St. For more information, visit [bphc.org/summerfitness](http://bphc.org/summerfitness).

### Sat, 6/18

The South End Garden Tour benefits the Trustees of Reservations. Known for suburban properties like Crane Beach, the Trustees also run the Boston Natural Areas Fund gardens throughout Boston. The tour of private gardens, community gardens, and parks starts at Clarendon/Tremont streets. 10am-4pm, rain or shine. Tickets: advance, \$24 Trustees members/\$30 nonmembers; day-of, \$30/35. Visit [www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do](http://www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do) for details

### Sun, 6/19

**"30 YEARS OF CINEMA BY AND ABOUT CAPE VERDEAN RHODE ISLANDERS."** Second-generation Cape Verdean filmmaker Claire Andrade-Watkins presents a cinematic transatlantic chronicle created between 1986 and 2016. At 11:00am, *Cape Verdean Shorts*, followed by a conversation with Andrade-Watkins and Anthony Ramos. At 1:30pm, *"Some Kind of Funny Porto Rican?": A Cape Verdean American Story*, chronicles the disruption of a Cape Verdean community driven out of their Providence neighborhood by urban renewal. At 3:30pm, *Working the Boats*, a six-part Web series profiling Cape Verdean longshoremen and their Providence union in the 20th century.. \$9 member; \$11 nonmember. Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Huntington Ave.

### Sun, 6/19 to Sat, 6/25

New England Conservatory presents eight intense days and nights of contemporary chamber music in its **SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PRACTICE** (SICPP). Performers include SICPP faculty,

pianist Marilyn Nonken, the resident ensemble Callithumpian Consort, and composer-in-residence Vinko Globokar. Besides evening concerts, the week includes master classes, lessons and discussions. Concerts will include works by John Cage and Steve Reich as well as lesser-known 20th- and 21st-century composers. The final Saturday concert is a music marathon that begins at 4pm and can continue far into the night. Most SICPP concerts are in Jordan Hall. For programs and times, visit [necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu).

### Tue, 6/21

The **[BITS AND FLOW]** series moves to the East Fens for a discussion of "Legacy Institutions & Emerging Artists: Engaging New Audiences," a 7pm open roundtable on ideas for future art/media/tech events.

**+** Morville House, 100 Norway Street. Visit [www.bitsandflow.com](http://www.bitsandflow.com) for more information. FREE

### Wed, 6/22 to Fri, 7/1

The 18th **ROXBURY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** showcases independent films created by directors of color, often working with multicultural casts. Films and workshops take place at the MFA and Haley House Bakery Café in Dudley Square. For more info, tickets, and festival passes, visit [www.roxburyinternationalfilmfestival.com/](http://www.roxburyinternationalfilmfestival.com/)

### Wed, 6/22

**SINGER-SONGWRITER JOHN PAUL WHITE** won Grammys for his work with now-defunct country duo The Civil Wars. He performs, with Secret Sisters, at Cafe 939 at 939 Boylston Street. 8pm; tickets \$15 advance/\$18 day of; standing room only. More at [www.berklee.edu/red-room-cafe-939](http://www.berklee.edu/red-room-cafe-939)

- Fenway CDC's Urban Village Committee meets. 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 Grace Holley at 617-267-4637 x16 or email [gholley@fcdc.org](mailto:gholley@fcdc.org).
- Symphony Neighborhood Task Force meets, 6 pm. 320 Huntington Ave., 2nd floor. Contact Nick Carter at 617-635-4225 or [nicholas.carter@boston.gov](mailto:nicholas.carter@boston.gov) with questions.
- Councilor Josh Zakim hosts District 8 Community Night, 5:30-7:30pm at the Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. Meet Josh, raise any concerns, and enjoy light refreshments! Contact [josh.zakim@boston.gov](mailto:josh.zakim@boston.gov) with any questions.

**WED, JUNE 22:** From 3-5pm, Boston Public Library's Bibliocycle will be at the Fenway Community Center. Sign up for a membership or check out books from the bike.

**THU, JUNE 23:** Fenway Ball Gala, Prudential Skywalk, 6-9:30pm. Tickets are \$150 general/\$100 Fenway CDC member. Visit [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org) for details and to buy tickets online. Questions? Contact Iris Tan at [itan@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:itan@fenwaycdc.org) or (617) 267-6437. x25.

**FRI, JUNE 24:** 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.

**SAT, JUNE 25:** Fenway CDC and People's United Bank present free financial literacy workshops to all Boston residents. Learn the basics of budgeting, savings, credit and more and have the opportunity for one-on-one financial coaching. 10 am—12 pm, St. Cecilia's Church, 18 Belvidere Street.

**MON, JUNE 27:** The LMA Forum for community review of development projects meets when necessary at 6:30pm, location to be determined. Contact Rachel at [tcarpenter@masco.harvard.edu](mailto:tcarpenter@masco.harvard.edu) for details and to be added to the notification list.

**WED, JUNE 28:** West Fens Police/Community meeting, 6pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston.

**THU, JUNE 30:** Rep. Michael Capuano's liaison holds office hours, 10-11am, at JP Licks in Brigham Circle, 1618 Tremont St. Call 617-621-6208 if you have concerns but can't come.

For BRA meetings and hearings, visit [www.BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org/calendar/calendar.asp](http://www.BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org/calendar/calendar.asp)

## FOCUS ON seniors

All events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center, two blocks from Boylston between 100 and 108 Jersey St. (Walk down the alley and look left.) For more information, call 617-536-7154.

### RECURRING

#### TUESDAYS

- 9:30am—Coffee hour
- 11am—Exercise with Mahmoud
- 11am—Trivia!
- noon—Hot lunch and movie

#### WEDNESDAYS

- 9:30am—Coffee hour
- 10am—Blood pressure screening

#### THURSDAYS

- 9:30am—Coffee hour
- 11am—Music with Berklee students
- All day—Book swap