Chinatown public schools blend culture and learning

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Josiah Quincy Upper School in Chinatown is highly ranked. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Among Boston’s best schools are the Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) and Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS), located in Chinatown. The elementary school was opened in 1847, while the upper school opened in 1999 to provide a pathway from kindergarten to 12th grade for students.

The K-5 JQES is led by interim principal Cynthia Soo Hoo, who taught at the school for 15 years before becoming principal. Her previous roles since 2000 included being a fifth, fourth, and third grade teacher as well an instructional math coach, ESL support staff, and interventionist. Growing up across the road at Mass Pike Towers, Soo Hoo is a lifelong Chinatown native.

JQUS has two headmasters, Richard Chang and Steve Cianciullo, both overseeing grades 6 to 12. Founded in 1999 by former JQES principal and Boston Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Bak Fun Wong, the school is housed in two buildings at 900 Washington Street in Chinatown and 152 Arlington Street in Bay Village.

Before the Upper School opened its doors, JQES students would graduate to different middle schools for sixth grade across the city. Boston’s three exam schools accept students in seventh, ninth and tenth grades, resulting in a second transition for students hoping to enter Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School and the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. The formation of JQUS allows a rare pathway from K-12 for public school students in Boston.

Cultural leadership

Chang and Soo Hoo are proud of their Chinese roots. Chang emigrated from Taiwan when he was 5, while Soo Hoo was born in Boston. Asians represent 6 percent of BPS’s 4,505 teachers and 9 percent of 57,000 students, according to BPS school year 2014 demographics.

“When children learn in an environment with adults who look like them, it minimizes cultural obstacles to learning,” Chang said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Fuel assistance program

Friday, Dec. 4
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

The fuel assistance program is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home heating bills in winter season. All eligible fuel assistance applicants will receive discounted gas, electric and telephone rates. Residents of Boston, Brookline or Newton may apply from Nov. 6 to April 30, 2016. To apply, please call (617) 426-9492 x 0 or make an appointment at the American Civic Action Association (AACA).

Toys for Tots collection
Dec. 5 and 6, Dec. 12 and 13 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Chinatown Gate

The Boston Chinatown American Legion Post 328 will collect new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Weekday donations can be made at Chinatown Main Street, 2 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Tree lighting in Chinatown
Sunday, Dec. 6 1:45 p.m.
Beach Street and Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

For the 20th year, the Mayor’s Enchanted Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting will continue the festive tradition of lighting up holiday trees throughout Boston while bringing presents and holiday spirit to children across the city.

Clean Up Chinatown meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 8 11 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Clean Up Chinatown meeting will take place at the Asian American Civic Association, 5F. The public is welcome to attend.

The Chinatown Coalition meeting
Thursday, Dec. 10 9:30 a.m.
58 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Chinatown Coalition meeting will take place at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 4F. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, visit cbonline.org.

BPS Superintendent Tommy Chang forum
Saturday, Dec. 12 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
42 Charles Street, Ste E
Boston, MA 02122

Come welcome Boston Public Schools Superintendent Tommy Chang to Boston at Viet-AID. Learn more about the issues facing Asian American students and families and the Boston Public Schools, and help advocate for positive change for our community.

Free credit card workshop
Monday, Dec. 14 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
58 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111

What’s the right credit card for you? How do you apply for a credit card and how should you use it? Learn about credit cards and ask Citizens Bank your questions at this free workshop by Boston Chinatown Center in simple English and Mandarin Chinese. Free and open to all. Register with Shirley Doan at (617) 625-5129 x1088 or shirley.doan@cbo.org.

Dedication ceremony
Friday, Dec. 18 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Bamboo Girl and Superman are coming to Boston Chinatown for the first time in a special dedication ceremony to celebrate the history of Chinatown and Asian Americans in Boston. The event will include cultural performances, speeches, and a dedication ceremony in Chinatown’s historic Chinatown Gate.

Christmas Eve service
Thursday, Dec. 24 7:30 p.m.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Boston Chinese Evangelical Church will have a Christmas Eve service at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School auditorium.

Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting
Monday, Dec. 21 6 p.m.
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting will take place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. The public is welcome to attend.

Chinatown Resident Association meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 6 6:30 p.m.

The Asian American Civic Association invites the public to the dedication of the Stanley & Josephine Chen Center of Excellence for Immigrant Learning. RSVP by Dec. 14 to development@acaa-boston.org or call (617) 777-3952.

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Wednesday, Dec. 6 6:30 p.m.
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association holds officer election

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England election took place Dec. 1 at its 90 Tyler Street headquarters. (From left) 2016 officers are English secretary Susan Chu, Chinese secretary Larry Young, treasurer Philip Huang and auditor Grace Li. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England (CCBA) election took place Dec. 1 at 90 Tyler Street. Its five officers were elected for two-year terms, with 42 votes from the CCBA directors.

For president, Paul Chan won with 28 votes to Karen Lee’s 14. Larry Young ran unopposed for Chinese secretary and was received 31 votes. For auditor, Grace Li won with 26 votes while Rose Hsu had 14 votes. For English secretary, Susan Chu won with 25 votes against Simon Chan’s 17 votes.

“The officers begin their terms in 2016. Outgoing officers are president Hung Goo, English secretary Karen Lee, auditor Philip Huang, Chinese secretary Victor Louie and treasurer Larry Young. The CCBA is made of family associations and local organizations, which send a representative to its board of directors. The CCBA owns its 90 Tyler Street headquarters, Tai Tung Village, Waterford Place and 50 Herald Street, which is rented to C-Mart.

Schools: Chinese principals honor roots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Soo Hoo added, “I don’t speak perfect Chinese, as I was American-born like my mom, but I’ve noticed Chinese families are much more at ease with me; they don’t think I’m judging them because we share the same cultural background.”

Both schools make sure they have staff who can communicate in both English and Chinese. While Chinese is spoken in the different dialects of Cantonese, Mandarin and Taiwanese, the written Chinese characters remain the same. “We partner with many community organizations to support our families, including the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and Boston Centers for Youth & Families,” Soo Hoo said. The elementary school offers Chinese-specific sheltered English immersion classrooms as one of two schools in the district.

At the Upper School, English as second language (ESL) courses allow students to continue their English language development through the K-12 pathway. JQUS has the highest rate of progression from ESOL level 3 to formerly limited English proficiency, meaning students have attained sufficient proficiency in academic English, Chang said. In June, the JQUS earned a US News & World Report World report Gold Medal for its “Best US Public High Schools” and top 1.5 percent was NPS’s “Most Challenging High Schools” ranking, establishing it as an academically excellent school.

Wang YMCA celebrates Chinatown legacy

The Wang YMCA of Chinatown hosted its gala on Nov. 7 at Empire Garden. Sherry Dong (left) introduced Wang Y award recipient Frank Chin. Awards were presented to three community leaders: Frank Chin, Richard Chin and Dr. Deeb Salem of Tufts Medical Center. “Uncle Frank” Chin recalled playing volleyball at the Wang Y 67 years ago and his many years of service to the community. Dr. Salem is a national expert in coronary artery disease and physician-in-chief at Tufts Medical Center. Richard “Big Eyes” Chin is director of community development at the Wang YMCA and a long-term Chinatown resident. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Quincy Asian Resources reflects on year of service

BY ELLEN DUONG

Quincy Asian Resources (QARI) held its annual meeting at State Street Corporation in North Quincy on Nov. 19. The event was an opportunity for QARI to recognize its accomplishments over the previous year, to talk about its services and programs, and to honor departing board members and welcome their replacements.

QARI board president Abby Nguyen-Burke and executive director John Brothers thanked city and state officials and QARI partners for their support. They then presented the Founder’s Award to Frank Poon for his exceptional service to the Asian community as a QARI Board Member.

In accepting his award, Poon said, “The reward of helping others goes all the way back to yourself. I thank the people of the community for putting their faith and trust in me so I can assist them.”

Dr. Wan Wu was also recognized as a departing board member, and newly appointed board members Nancy Lee, Ellyses Kwan and Margaret Cheung were welcomed.

Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch Mayor offered praise for QARI and thanked the organization for “keeping the city become stronger every day.”

Newly elected City Councilor at-large Nina Liang was the guest speaker and shared similar sentiments. She praised QARI for its service to the community and urged people to foster relationships with each other by participating in community events and organizations like QARI.

“No matter how much you plan ahead and prepare,” said Liang, “there’s always going to be bumps in the road. When that happens, people should always feel they have someone to reach out to. That’s why it is important for individuals to come out and be active in their communities. To open lines of communication, form a bond, and establish lifelines.”

During the meeting, QARI recognized its many achievements over the past year. As part of its civic engagement initiative, QARI helped register 400 new voters and hosted a Quincy mayoral and city councilor candidate forum. In reflection of its success, the turnout of Asian American voters during the election was as high as the non-Asian population. QARI also recognized the success of its youth programs and adult education programs in helping to improve the English literacy of Asian residents in the Quincy community.

Guests were invited to stay for a reception following the meeting.
South Cove Manor celebrates 30th anniversary

BY NATHALIE ORNELL

Jerry Chew was concerned about his elderly mother’s health after she fell at home and experienced a concussion and bleeding to the brain. After trying out one nursing home, he realized he needed to find one which better suited his Tosa-nese mother’s needs. He and his sister, Donna Wong, found the right place at South Cove Manor at Quincy Point, where they said elders are venerated.

Speaking at a 30th anniversary celebration for South Cove Manor, Chew said, “The staff clearly respects her. In the other nursing home, she was the only Asian woman.” Chew said he was relieved that he and his family were able to find a nursing facility that was equipped to take care of his mother and culturally competent enough to make her stay comfortable.

Around 300 people came to celebrate the nursing facility’s 30th anniversary at the China Pearl on Nov. 20. The nursing facility opened in Boston in 1985 and the nursing facility’s 30th anniversary at

oporables. It’s hard to get used to mashed potatoes and gravy,” she said.

Paul Grogan accepted an award on behalf of the Boston Foundation. The Foundation provided a grant of $21,000 in 1980 for the facility.

1 person $41,400
2 people $47,280
3 people $53,220
4 people $63,840
5 people $68,250

Applications can be obtained in person, by fax, by email or via mail. For more information or reasonable accommodation, please contact:

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71 Westland Avenue

Located in the Fenway Area in Boston –

71 Westland Avenue, Located at 71 Westland Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 is Accepting Applications for 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartment homes.

INCOME GUIDELINES APPLY AS FOLLOWS:

Chinatown meeting roundup: CSC, CRA

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Chinatown Safety Committee (CSC) held its monthly meeting Dec. 2 at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Boston Police Department District A-1 Capt. Ken Fong reported on crime in the area in the past 30 days. A robbery took place on Beach Street and Oxford Place when a victim reported a stolen gold chain after drinking at a nightclub. Two aggravated assaults took place and seven larcenies occurred. The police made 22 drug arrests and 16 warrant arrests. Fong gave an update on an arrest on Nov. 24 at My-Tan Fashion on 693 Washington Street. Three women, owner Phuong Quach, 54, and employees Feng Dong, 71, and Cindy Tran, 49, were charged for buying and receiving stolen goods. Police retrieved 5,000 items worth $100,000 from the store, which has been closed since the arrest. My-Tan Fashion’s owner would pay shoplifters about 25 cents for each dollar of goods stolen, often with tags from local businesses such as Macy’s, CVS and DSW.

“We’ll take a look and see how this affects our shoplifting numbers,” Fong said. “The rent was $6,000 a month, and the owner said [shoplifting] was the only way they could afford the rent.”

Josiah Quincy Elementary School assistant principal PK Chan asked police to add a security camera at the intersection of Oak and Tremont streets where the Eliot Norton Park is completing a renovation. He also asked for a change to free resident parking hours to after 4 p.m., as late school buses do not have room to park to pick up handicapped student riders. Finally, Chan asked the community to support the school’s petition to extend its school day — currently from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. — to 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for extended learning time.

The CSC is a standing committee of the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council.

Chinatown Resident Association

The Chinatown Resident Association (CRA) met at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on Dec. 2.

Three presentations took place, including an introduction on city services from City of Boston Chief of Civic Engagement and Office of Neighborhood Services Jerome Smith. “Want to make sure you all have a seat at the table as we make decisions affecting Chinatown going forward,” he said.

CRA chairman Henry Yee requested more affordable housing in Boston, rather than construction of luxury condos. Smith said more than 42 percent of Boston residents have indicated affordability of housing as their No. 1 priority. He reiterated the Walsh administration’s commitment to a library in Chinatown, as plans for an expansion at China Trade Center fell through.

Alice Brown gave an update on public transit for Go Boston 2030. “Chinatown is well-served by public transit, but also deals with a lot of congestion,” she said. The City of Boston is seeking public input on public transit and is in the action phase, after the initial vision phase. Go Boston 2030 will envision Boston’s long-term transportation future through transformative policies and projects and an inclusive public process, with more information at goboston2030.org.

A third report was from the Chinatown Community Land Trust.

The Chinatown Safety Committee met Dec. 2 at the DoubleTree Hotel. (From left) Mary Hig-gins of Emerson College, Boston Police Department Sgt. Jimmy Chin, District A-1 Capt. Ken Fong. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)
Be prepared when disaster strikes

BY KRISTEN ALBERINO, SOCIAL SECURITY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST IN QUINCY

For many of us, preparing for winter involves pulling out heavy coats from the closet and making sure our vehicle is ready for intense weather. Whether your winter brings snow, ice or flooding, you need to be prepared.

Preparing for a possible physical or mental disability is the same. Many people don’t think of disability as something that could happen to them. Statistics show the chances of becoming disabled are greater than most realize. Fifty-six million Americans, or one in five, live with a disability. Thirty-eight million American adults, or one in 10, live with a severe disability. A sobering fact for 20-year-olds is that more than a quarter of them will become disabled before reaching retirement age. Disability can happen to anyone. But who is prepared?

When disability does happen, Social Security can help people meet their basic needs. Our disability programs provide financial and medical benefits for those who qualify to pay for doctor visits, medicines and treatments. You can learn more about how you might be covered if you are disabled at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/disability.

Social Security pays benefits to people who worked and paid Social Security taxes, but who can no longer work and whose medical condition meets the strict definition of disability under the Social Security Act. A person is considered disabled under this definition if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

The person’s medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work based on their age, education, and experience.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), our other disability program, is a needs-based program for people with limited income and resources. You can find all the information you need about eligibility and benefits available to you by reading our publication, “Disability Benefits,” available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Chinatown crime blotter for Nov. 20 to Dec. 4

BY THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

All reports are submitted by the Boston Police Department. The time period is from Nov. 20 to Dec. 4 for District A-1, which includes Chinatown. To report a crime or suspicious activity, call 911. Interpreters are available for Chinese speakers.

Motor vehicular accident property damage
Nov. 15, 6:35 p.m.: The victim reports an unknown person struck his motor vehicle that was parked and locked on Essex Street. The suspect fled the scene without exchanging papers.

Sick assist
Nov. 15, 6:40 p.m.: The officer responded to Oak Street West on a report of a woman down. Upon arrival, the officer observed the victim being treated by Emergency Medical Services. She was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

Shoplifting
Nov. 16, 8:56 a.m.: The victim reports an unknown person struck his motor vehicle parked and locked. The suspect fled the scene without exchanging papers.

Buy/receive stolen property
Nov. 28, 10:05 p.m.: The officers responded to Washington Street on a report of a larceny in progress. Upon arrival, the victim stated the persons that stole a tool from him.

Assault and battery
Nov. 29, 3:37 a.m.: The victims reported they were assaulted by an unknown male. The victim declined medical treatment.

Kung fu sweeping

BY ADAM CHEUNG

If I want to volunteer to Street Sweep, where can I get equipment?
I attended the Clean Up Chinatown Committee (CCC) for the Boston Chinatown Blog. I decided that I didn’t understand most of the meeting but knew that I could sweep one block where my kung fu school was, as if that block was my hometown and my broom was a weapon defending it from trash.

I teamed up with Chinatown Main Street’s (CMT) Rick Wong and Courtney Ho, who quickly devised a plan to get rid of the trash with Tai Tung Village’s help. You can get brooms directly from CMT, but we decided to go with Tai Tung Village because it was closer to Tyler Street, the street I had targeted.

Where can I dump trash if I sweep the street?
You can’t just dump trash wherever you want. That is illegal dumping and is part of the problem in Chinatown. I got Tai Tung Village’s permission to use its equipment and dumpster.

Do people care?
Tai Tung Village residents, many of whom were my old kung fu teachers, have come out in full force every week. And the CCC has worked with the City of Boston to draw attention to the China-town area.

Does it make a difference?
The first week I swept, I blogged about picking up fees and heroin needles. I’ve since learned to call 311 to have EMS come and pick those needles up.

Through CCC and CMT’s help, with the Boston Police, this past week was much cleaner and it took us a shorter time to sweep a larger area. The more groups and individuals targeting one small part of Chinatown there are, the cleaner and better the community will be.

Adam Cheung grew up in Castle Square and is the father of two boys. He blogs at Kung Fu Dad, http://kungfudad.blogspot.com.

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-Located in the Fenway Area in Boston –
West Fenway Apartments, Located at 110 Peterborough Street, Boston, MA 02215 is Accepting Applications for 0 bedroom, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom apartment homes.

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<th>Number of People</th>
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BY NICOLE BALTAZAR

With social media manipulating today’s young generation, it is surprising how teenagers are constantly preoccupied with Facebook posts, Instagram photos and tweets rather than politics and news. For me, civic engagement is one’s willingness to get involved in the society and make a difference.

For young people, civic engagement is when they perceive themselves as future responsible individuals who are constantly engaged in different civic issues and are brave enough to act when necessary.

There are different measures of civic engagement. One example is voting because people are given the chance to vote for their desired candidates, hence having the freedom to choose leaders. While it is true that voting is restricted to people under the age of 18, that does not necessarily mean that they cannot participate in the community anymore.

Another example is the Councilor-At-Large Debate held Oct. 22, where four candidates discussed their visions before the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition.

Nicole Baltazar is a senior at Malden High School. She is the winner of an essay contest for high school students hosted by the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition.
Staying healthy during winter

BY KA HEI KAREN LAU, REGISTERED DIETITIAN

Maintaining health and managing diabetes during the winter in New England is often a challenge. During the wintertime, there are many family gatherings and holiday feasts – Thanksgiving in November, winter solstice, and Christmas in December, and Lunar New Year in late January and early February. The cold winter also makes going out for a walk more difficult. On average, an American gains one pound during the holiday season. Blood sugar has also been seen to increase during the holiday season. With some planning, people with diabetes can still enjoy the holiday while staying healthy.

Eat wisely

• Do not skip meals to “save up” for the calories and carbohydrate intake for the feast. Not only will this make you feel hungry and lead to overeating, those who are on certain diabetes medications may also have low blood sugar.
• Eat smaller meals during the day. Try to include more vegetables and choose lean protein (such as chicken without skin) and whole grains (such as brown rice) in these small meals.
• Enjoy your feast but in smaller portions. You may try all the food that you like, but keep the portion sizes small.
• Try to choose more vegetables and lean protein during the meal. Select whole grain products whenever possible.
• Take your time in enjoying the food. This will help you to feel more satisfied and prevent you from overeating.
• Share desserts with your family and friends.
• Drink in moderation. For women, keep it to one 5-ounce glass of wine, or one 12-ounce beer. For men, have no more than two 5-ounce glasses of wine or two 12-ounce beers. Remember to have the alcohol with food, as it may increase your risk of having low blood sugar.
• Eat to 80 percent full. Focus on treading this time in catching up with your family and friends.

Stay active

• Exercise helps you to control your blood sugar, and also helps you to lose or maintain your body weight.
• Every physical activity counts – cleaning up your place before hosting your family and friends is also a kind of activity!
• Wear a pedometer and aim for walking 10,000 steps during the day.
• Take a walk of 20 minutes after the feast. This will help in lowering the blood sugar, and it will also help you to burn about 100 calories.
• Try to exercise on the day that you have the feast. But if you really cannot make it, at least exercise the day before and after. Your body will be sensitive to insulin (a hormone that helps to lower your blood sugar) 48 hours after you exercise.

About the author

Ka Hei Karen Lau is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator in the Asian Clinic at Joslin Diabetes Center. Two presentations took place, with the first on colon cancer and the second on cancer prevention.

Colorectal cancer

Dr. Lilian Chen is a colorectal surgeon from Tufts Medical Center. She explained how the digestive system works: The hollow organs that make up the gastrointestinal (GI) tract are the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine — which includes the rectum — and anus. Food enters the mouth and passes to the anus through the hollow organs of the GI tract. The liver, pancreas and gallbladder are the solid organs of the digestive system.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. Based on the American Cancer Society’s estimates, about 49,700 deaths in 2015 will be from colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer develops in the large intestine or rectum as polyps. Polyps are growths that arise in the lining of the colon and are visible when the bowel is examined by colonoscopy. Polyps can become cancerous over time. More than 90 percent of cases occur in people over 50.

Cancer prevention

The second speaker Alan Yeo is a doctoral student at Tufts Medical School. New research found ginger and vitamin C could kill certain cancer cells.

A breakfast seminar took place Nov. 19 at Mass Pike Towers, hosted by South Cove Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Two presentations took place, with the first on colon cancer and the second on cancer prevention.
Eight graduate from supermarket employment class

BY THE BOSTON CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Eight adults graduated from the second Occupational Skills Training for Supermarket Employment. Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) provided the 14-week training program. Three students have been offered job placements. The graduation celebration took place on Nov. 19.

This program was made possible by the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development - City of Boston and the Chinatown/South End Collaborative, which includes BCNC, Chinese Progressive Association, BEST Corp, Hospitality Training Center, MA Worker Education Roundtable, Whole Foods Market South End and Roche Bros. Special thanks also to Community Labor United and Castle Square Tenants Organization. The Collaborative provided a 14-week training for low-income immigrants with English, customer service and mainstream job search skills to obtain employment in the supermarket and customer service industry. Students also received one-on-one job and career coaching.

Graduates of the program spoke about the positive aspects of the program on their personal success and how they believed their training would make them productive workforce members of the community. Sponsors also spoke briefly about their own personal workplace experience and why community-based programs such as this one are so important to the larger community.

Hong Lok House community center opens

BY THE SAMPAN EDITORIAL TEAM

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Hong Lok House’s community center took place Nov. 19 at its 25 Essex Street location. More than 60 people attended the opening luncheon. The community center opened to the public on Nov. 23, offering seniors nutritious lunches, health seminars, dance classes, singing classes, art courses and tai chi classes.

The Hong Lok Drop-In Services Program is made possible in part of a grant from the Boston Foundation. It aims to create a place in the community that is easily accessible and can provide linguistically appropriate and culturally sensitive programs and services for older adults through one-on-one case management assistance, tai chi exercise, English classes, dancing and more. Chinese style hot lunch will also be served at the center.

For more information, please contact Jessica Chan at (617) 936-3966 or (617) 936-3990.

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