BY LING-MEI WONG

Beth Chandler joined YW Boston in November 2012 and was promoted to be the organization’s president and CEO in August 2018. She leads an organization founded in 1866 to support the welfare of women across the city of Boston, then called the Young Women’s Christian Association. Today, YW Boston provides education and support to nonprofits, corporations, schools, and government organizations so individuals can change agents for racial and gender equality.

“YW had a lot of firsts to empower women in particular. Early on in the organization, women across race and ethnicity would come together,” Chandler said. “We want to do the same work, but from a systemic perspective. We seek to address systems in place that reinforce racism. YW Boston’s mission of “Eliminating racism | Empowering women” is conducted through three initiatives: Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity, the Youth Leadership Initiative “InIt” and LeadBoston. Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity look at how racism impact individuals, how it impacts others and how participants can build an action plan to address it. The LeadBoston program is for leaders in Boston who want to develop a greater understanding of how their organization both impacts and influences overarching systems in the city and the importance of advancing greater racial and gender equity. Finally, the Youth Leadership Initiative fosters civic engagement and social justice leadership in high school students.

Becky Schuster, Boston Public Schools assistant superintendent of equity, was among the founders of the Citywide Dialogues on Boston’s Ethnic and Racial Diversity in 2003. Originally conceived as a short-term project, it was adopted and expanded by YW Boston, reaching thousands of Bostonians.

“I love that YW Boston has prioritized backing women of color in leadership,” Schuster said. “I can’t imagine a better person to spearhead that work than Beth.”

Chandler replaces Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, who led the agency for nearly 11 years, until she retired in November 2017.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Local 26 hotel workers to strike for living wage, benefits**

**BY VALERIE LI**

More than 1,000 hotel workers voted to strike at eight Marriott hotels on Sept. 12 in Boston. (Image courtesy of Valerie Li.)

More than 1,000 hotel workers voted to strike at eight Marriott hotel holdings in Boston on Sept. 12, giving the bargaining committee the right to call a strike at any time. The hotels are the W, the Westin Copley, the Westin Boston Waterfront, the Renaissance, the Ritz Carlton, the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Aloft and Element Hotels.

“We have been in negotiations with the Marriott since March,” said Unite Here Local 26 union president Brian Lang. “In spite of being the most profitable hotel chain in the past five years, the Marriott is just throwing pennies at us.”

The nationwide campaign bearing the slogan “One job should be enough” rolled out with rallies and sit-ins in Honolulu, Seattle, San Francisco and more. “I want a good contract for my retirement,” said Mei Leung, who has worked at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. “I’m a housekeeper at this hotel for all my life and I want to retire with dignity.”

Hotel workers are demanding moderate wage increases and better benefits, as the cost of living outpaces earnings in cities such as Boston. Contract negotiations will impact 5,000 hotel workers.

Local 26 represents 10,000 hospitality workers employed in the hotel, food service and airport industries in Boston and Rhode Island. The national Unite Here union represents 270,000 hospitality workers in America and Canada.
Event Calendar

Free parenting workshop
Every Friday (Sept. 21 to Dec. 21)
10 a.m. to noon
275 Hancock Street, Ste. 200
Quincy, MA 02171
A 12-week Parenting Journey workshop will take place at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center for parents of children 0-6. Free childcare and refreshments. Register with Grace Su at (617) 655-5129 x 1039, or email grace.su@finc.net.

Film screening
Friday, Sept. 21
6 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
A screening of “On Happiness Road” will take place at Boston College’s Devlin Hall. Tickets $20 at https://on-happiness-road.boston.eventbrite.com.

Chinese chat group
Fridays, Tuesdays
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
677 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
A Cantonese conversation group will meet Friday at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Kresge 201 on 2F. A Mandarin chat group will meet Tuesday. RSVP at www.meetup.com/bostonchina.

AAC Young Leaders Symposium
Saturday, Sept. 22
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
42 Charles Street
Dorchester, MA 02222
The 7th annual Asian American Commission Young Leaders Symposium will take place at ViatAID. Register at www.aac-commission.org.

Lantern Festival
Saturday, Sept. 22
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
70 Beach Street
Boston, MA 02111
The fifth Chinatown Main Street Lantern Festival will take place at Chinatown Park.

Free meditation class
Sundays, Thursdays
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
101 Mystic Avenue
Medford, MA 02155
Free meditation classes will take place Sundays and Thursdays (7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) at Boston Bodhi.

Meditation. People with limited mobility are welcome to join. For more information, call (781) 874-1023.

American Asian Cultural Concert
Sundays, Sept. 23
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
1065 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
The Asian American Cultural Concert will take place at Battin Hall. For more information, visit www.aadday.com/boston.

CACA gala
Sunday, Sept. 23
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
680 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Boston Third Award Gala will take place at Empire Garden. Tickets $36 for members, $40 for nonmembers. Contact CACA at (617) 658-3318 or caca.bostonlodge@gmail.com.

English for college or job training
Monday, Sept. 24
8:30 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Attend testing for the Asian American Civic Association’s Next STEP program classes for college or job training. For more information, call (617) 426-9492 x 250 or email jco@aaca-boston.org.

Free information clinic
Mondays
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
275 Hancock Street 2F
North Quincy, MA 02170
Chinese American Citizen Right Alliance will help clients at Quincy Asian Resources Inc. to provide information and referral services to Chinese Americans. For more information, call QARI at (617) 472-2200.

Men’s health workshop
Monday, Sept. 24
6 p.m.
821 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
A free men’s health workshop by Tuffi MC, urologist Lylian Zhan will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel’s Cherry Blossom Room. Register by calling (617) 809-6266 or visit www.edcure.org/events.

Workforce training assessment
Tuesday, Sept. 25
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Asian American Civic Association offers workforce training programs building Energy Efficient Maintenance Skills (BEEMS) and Careers in Banking and Finance (CBF), and will offer assessments. The New Roots to Employment program is for people with a degree from their native country. Applicants should be at least 18 and have a Ged/high school diploma. For more information, visit www.aaca-boston.org/workforce-education.

CCBA meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 25
7 p.m.
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association will hold its bimonthly meeting.

Young adult mixer
Thursday, Sept. 27
6 p.m.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
A group for wives and mothers of smokers will take place at the Asian American Civic Association. Register with Kiki Tsang at (617) 426-9492 x 251.

Chinatown Safety Committee meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 3
10:30 a.m.
821 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown Safety Committee meeting will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Free immigration clinic
Wednesday, Oct. 3
Noon to 2 p.m.
1 City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201
The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Assistance offers free private immigration clinics at the Boston City Hall Room 806. For interpreters other than Spanish, please call at least one week in advance at (617) 635-2980.

Chinatown Resident Association meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 3
6:45 p.m.
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown Resident Association meeting will take place at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School cafeteria.

CHSNE banquet
Friday, Oct. 5
6 to 9 p.m.
88 Beach Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinese Historical Society of New England annual meeting and dinner banquet will take place at Hei La Moon. RSVP at www.chsne.org.
Tony Hashimoto enjoyed learning English at Embassy English School. However, a week after classes started, the Boston campus suddenly closed, with students told to enroll in one of its other U.S. locations in New York, San Francisco or San Diego.

“It was really sad for us because a lot of us had just started school at Embassy,” Hashimoto said, who was able to enroll at another school in Boston. “A lot of teachers were laid off or forced to relocate.”

English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) classes have tremendous demand, making Embassy’s closure surprising. Waitlists stretch for months for immigrants to secure a living wage. Other institutions offer language training for international students to learn English away from home.

The number of international students issued visas dropped 17 percent in 2017 to 393,573, from a March State Department report. By country, this represents a 28 percent drop for Indian students and a 24 percent drop for Chinese students.

Rachel Spilecki, a head teacher at a private ESOL provider OHC Boston, said, “There are very few students on F-1 student visas now, because a lot of them were denied a visa. It’s affecting our teachers as well, because we canceled a lot of classes. The teachers ended up losing their jobs.”

Embassy English School was accredited and able to issue student visas to overseas students. Some language schools do not issue student visas, working through agents to recruit students in their home country.

Darlene Madera, associate director of ESL programs at The Boston Language Institute said that “most of our students either live here or have tourist visas.”

In Boston, foreign-born residents account for 28.9 percent of the population, based on the 2016 American Community Survey. A total of 247,597 Boston residents speak a language other than English at home. Public programs for ESOL often have residency requirements, so private programs are available for local or international students who can afford tuition.

“We’ve seen a decline in F-1 student applications, especially for countries such as Turkey, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Haiti and Cameroon,” said Victoria Sacconagno, office manager at OHC Boston. The school has seen rejections for students from Iran and Iraq, but not for other countries until now.

For Eyüp Mustafaoglu, he saved up to study English and worked with an agent in Istanbul, Turkey.

“I always wanted to travel to the U.S. and study English,” Mustafaoglu said. “Then the agent told me to wait because every application was turned down after Trump was elected.”

He waited four months to apply and came to study in Boston.

“I eventually got the visa but it took way longer than expected,” Mustafaoglu added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BY THE SAMPAN EDITORIAL TEAM

Linden Ponds values diversity. We welcome all faiths, races, and ethnicities, and housing opportunities are available for low and moderate-income households.

Join Linden Ponds for a
Sunday Open House

Get an inside look at vibrant retirement living on the South Shore. Come and tour our beautiful campus and maintenance-free homes. Experience top-notch amenities and discover dozens of exciting clubs, classes, and activities.

Sunday, September 30, 2018
Tours scheduled from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
300 Linden Ponds Way, Hingham
Call 1-800-989-0448
for more information and directions. Bring your friends and family! Light refreshments will be served.

Linden Ponds values diversity. We welcome all faiths, races, and ethnicities, and housing opportunities are available for low and moderate-income households.
The Chinese Women’s Association of New England celebrated its 78th anniversary gala Sept. 8 at Empire Garden. Nearly 400 guests gathered to promote the welfare of women.

Members held a women’s health workshop, beautified Chinatown streets and visited elders at Hong Lok House. Boston Councilor for District 2 Ed Flynn and visited elders at Hong Lok House.

“The eighth Asian American Festival and the third Asian American Day, themed “boundlessness,” lit up the Boston Common on Sept. 9. Promoting tradition as well as embracing innovation, the five-hour outdoor event had traditional Asian elements such as lion dance, qipao and traditional folding fan, along with contemporary performances.

“There is a diversity of acts, from traditional to modern,” said Kristina Howard, a visitor from Chicago who stumbled upon the festival. Attracted by the acts, she watched a team of street dancers perform, following Chinese opera singing.

An estimated 50,000 people attended the event, filled with performances, food and vendors. A painting run by vendor Cheri Dor The 4th Space allowed attendees to express themselves creatively through brushes and acrlyle paint.

Some attendees wanted to see more diversity for performances. Most signage was in English and Chinese, without translation for other Asian American communities.

“I think almost all of the Asian attendees here are Chinese,” said visitor Yawon Zhang.

Zhongkun Li, another attendee who has lived in Boston for almost 10 years, agreed the event was well-attended by Chinese Americans. “I haven’t seen many activities of, say, Japanese and Korean cultures,” Li said.

Asian American represent 6.5 percent of the population in Massachusetts for 2015, based on Census estimates from the Institute for Asian American Studies. Individuals of Chinese descent make up 34 percent of all Asian Americans in Massachusetts, the largest group among Asian Americans.

The Asian American Festival’s mission was to break boundaries and bring people together. To keep the programming fresh, only four performing groups from the 2017 event returned for 2018, said event organizer Yunzhou Gan. She was hoping to see attendees from the broader cultural background, which, as it turns out, went well.

“There are many local residents sitting on the grass and watching our show. This really delights us,” Gan said.

YW: CEO leads with head and heart

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Before being named CEO, Chandler was YW’s chief operating officer and served as interim CEO.

“Sylvia understood this work required patience, to not be content but patient,” Chandler said. “The building of cathedrals in Europe took generations before people would know what they were building toward.”

April English, assistant attorney general and organization development and diversity chief for the Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, met Chandler through LeadBoston and is now YW’s board of directors. She felt Chandler was a great leader who inspired her staff.

“She truly understands the idea of how bias permeates through every facet of our lives,” English said. “How negatively it impacts people of color, especially her being a person of color. It’s personal.”

Chandler has two children, who motivate her to continue her work. To encourage dialogue, she offered three tips:

1. Be informed, get to know people and be aware of issues keeping people apart.

“It’s hard to advocate for something if you don’t understand it,” Chandler said. “The more you understand somebody, you think less about difference.”

Jennifer Aronson, associate vice president of programs for The Boston Foundation, has worked with YW as a grant recipient.

“I’ve been doing this work for some time and it’s been challenging to find allies that both offer curriculum and effective approaches that move the needle on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and who are also able to meet organizations where they are in their own development and DEI journey,” Aronson said. “This work is head work and heart work. Practitioners need to help people be reflective and emotionally vulnerable, but also to translate those lessons into tools that lead to progress and impact.”

Asian American Day took place Sept. 9 at the Boston Common. (Image courtesy of Jingfei Cui.)
**CRIME: Local report for downtown Boston**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

**Robbery**  
Sept. 17, 2:56 a.m.: The suspect reported while speaking with a male known as “Prince” in the area of Essex Street, the suspect displayed a knife and robbed her of $20. The officers searched the area for the suspect to no avail.

**Robbery**  
Sept. 18, 2:30 a.m.: The victims reported while in the area of Harrison Avenue, they were assaulted and robbed by two black males and one white female. The suspects fled the area prior to the officers’ arrival.

**Assault and battery**  
Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m.: The victim reported while he was in the area of Oak Street West, he was assaulted by the suspect, after he refused to give the suspect a cigarette.

**Robbery**  
Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.: The victim reported while she was walking on Essex Street near Surface road, an unknown malemotioning like he had a gun under his shirt robbed her of her tan bag. The suspect fled the area onto Beach Street. The officers searched the area for suspect to no avail.

**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING**

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center will hold an Open Meeting to the public.

**Date:** Thursday, October 11, 2017 at 5pm.

**Location:** The Jarahis Family Center for Biomedical and Nutrition Sciences located at 150 Harrison Avenue, Behrakis Auditorium, Room 130 in Boston.

The IBC is responsible for ensuring that all research involving potentially biohazardous agents done at or sponsored by Tufts University or Tufts Medical Center is conducted in compliance with National Institutes of Health Guidelines and with proper concern for the safety of research personnel, the environment, and the surrounding communities.

The Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center IBC is based in Boston and regulates this research for the Tufts University Health Sciences Campus, Tufts University Medford/Somerville Campus, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, and Tufts Medical Center. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the open meeting to learn more about the Institutional Biosafety Committee and its regulatory functions and biosafety risk management. Meeting attendees must have a form of photo identification to enter the building.

For more information, please contact the IBC Office at 617-636-4142 or IBC-Office@tufts.edu.
Op-Ed: E-cigarettes are Chinatown’s next killer

BY BOSTON ASIAN: YOUTH ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Every day, dozens of elderly Chinatown residents gather near the Chinatown Gate to gamble, socialize and smoke cigarettes. The normalization of tobacco use in China and other Asian countries has spilled over into America, and it makes Chinatown a perfect location for dangerous e-cigarettes to take over.

With 300.8 million smokers, China has the most tobacco users in the world, partially because the dangers of tobacco use are not well known. People often feel ostracized if they are the only person not smoking in social environments or at work. It is customary to offer cigarettes as a conversation lubricant, a peace offering or to show respect.

This widespread, cultural tobacco use is having a negative effect on youth. According to a study by the Truth Initiative, nearly 40 percent of teens said the main reason they smoke is because a friend or family member uses tobacco products.

While cigarettes already harm health in the Chinese community, e-cigarettes now pose a new danger. The risks of smoking cigarettes are well-known. Smoking is common at the Chinatown Gate, as many immigrant elders who congregate there find it socially acceptable. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

In ancient China, farmers created 24 solar terms to help them plan agricultural activities throughout a year. The solar terms are based on the sun’s position in the zodiac. Starting in the eighth lunar month, fall has six solar terms: start of autumn, the limit of heat, the white dew, autumnal equinox, cold dew, and frost descent. An ancient belief suggests that “summer heat weakens the human body by 30 percent”, which means the loss of water can cause long-term health effects. On top of that, the lack of humidity in typical fall weather could result in dryness of our bodies. That being said, maintaining sufficient body fluids is key to prepare yourself for the cold winter season.

For fall diet, here are some tips:

1) Decrease spicy food intake and increase acidic food intake
   Spicy food can burn out your body fluids. They include scallion, garlic, chives, and peppers. Since acidic foods can help nourish yin, fruits such as cherries, grapefruit, lemons, hawthorns, apples, pomegranate, grapes, mangoes, cherries, grapefruit and citrus are recommended.

2) Eat more congee
   It is also time for nourishing soups. It is also a good fall diet option. Congee is a good choice for breakfast.

3) Drink more soup
   It is also time for nourishing soups. It is also a good fall diet option.

Tips for staying healthy during seasonal changes

BY DR. GUIPING GE

Dr. Guiping Ge is a gastroenterologist in Suzhou, China. (Image courtesy of Dr. Ge.)

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Extra exercise can keep your body active through seasonal changes. Keep your exercise mild and remember to hydrate yourself. This is also a great activity. Keep a positive mindset to be happy and healthy.

About the author
Dr. Guiping Ge is a gastroenterologist in Suzhou, China.

Tufts Medical Center’s Asian Health Initiative (AHI) has worked with the Chinatown community to address health needs for over two decades. The AHI identifies health priorities from public health data, community engagement and advisory committee member feedback. With community partners, the AHI has addressed various health priorities over the years, including chronic disease, mental health, family violence and promotion of healthy lifestyles. Community partners are presently focused on the harmful effects of smoking, including smoking cessation, prevention and education.

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Pre-diabetes is a warning sign. It’s a blood sugar level that is higher than normal, but not high enough to be considered diabetes. Pre-diabetes is an indication that you could develop type 2 diabetes if you don’t make some lifestyle changes. Another indicator of pre-diabetes is your body mass index (BMI), using the BMI chart for your height and weight. When your blood glucose level, or blood sugar level, is higher than normal, but not high enough to be considered diabetes, skin and nerve damage, kidney damage, stroke, nerve damage, kidney damage, and taking care of his father. Matt’s life choices, or current circumstances, challenge his family’s and society’s expectations of the success that straight white men should attain with their power and privilege. Lee is the first female Asian American playwright to be produced on the Great White Way. In an interview with the Huffington Post, Lee stated that “it’s a little sad, really, that it’s taken this long to open that door.” How should Lee manage the responsibility and expectations created by this distinction? While it is not my expectation that Lee bear the sole burden of responsibility for changing the stage, it does make me sad that Asian actors will never be cast as one of this play’s four principal characters.

ESOL: Low enrollment shatters school
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
Other students were not as fortunate. Fernanda came to study English in Boston from Mexico. She was accompanied by a friend, both women had student visas, but her friend was turned away by Customs officers. Language schools make up a small portion of greater Boston’s institutions serving adults. The overall approval rate of student visas went from 79.9 percent to 64.7 percent from 2013 to 2017, according to the State Department.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**BOSTON**
- Allston
  - McNamara House (617)347-6400
- South Boston
  - 50 West Broadway (617)349-7900

**NORTH SHORE**
- Andover
  - Andover Commons (978)470-2616
- Lynnfield
  - Lynnfield Commons (781)929-6000

**SOUTH SHORE**
- Weymouth
  - The Ledges (781)335-2626
- Taunton
  - Meadow Pond Apartments (508)824-1407

**METRO WEST**
- Framingham
  - Pelham Apartments (508)872-7373
- Holliston
  - Cutter Heights (508)297-9009

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
- Nashua
  - Amherst Park (603)882-0371

**RHODE ISLAND**
- W. Warren
  - Wentcott Terrace (401)286-1500

### EQUITY

BY LINDA CHIN

Playwright Young Jean Lee spotlights America’s newest ethnic group “Straight White Men” in the opening production of New Repertory Theatre’s 2018-2019 season. Her 2014 story of three adult brothers spending many hours in their youth playing the game Privilege, which their mother converted from a Monopoly board, may have led to more satisfying revelations about race and class.

Lee blurs the boundaries of the fourth wall by including a fifth character who is not a straight white man, called Person in Charge. Actor Dev Blair engages with the audience, delivers the pre-curtain speech and describes their preferred pronouns. Person in Charge steps on stage from time to time to pose the characters, rearrange set décor and bridge transitions between the play’s three acts.

The family dynamics get complicated when Matt displays his emotions by breaking down crying after dinner. The Harvard-educated Matt, the son with the most promise, is considered a loser for moving back home, working a temp job and taking care of his father. Matt’s life choices, or current circumstances, challenge his family’s and society’s expectations of the success that straight white men should attain with their power and privilege. Lee is the first female Asian American playwright to be produced on the Great White Way. In an interview with the Huffington Post, Lee stated that “it’s a little sad, really, that it’s taken this long to open that door.” How should Lee manage the responsibility and expectations created by this distinction? While it is not my expectation that Lee bear the sole burden of responsibility for changing the stage, it does make me sad that Asian actors will never be cast as one of this play’s four principal characters.

### ESOL: Low enrollment shatters school

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

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Robots in the kitchen: How automation is changing food service

BY YANXUAN LI

In Downtown Crossing, a bowl of Middle Eastern chicken and rice will cost you less than $8. However, robots could drive prices down, sparking fears about automation replacing human workers.

The Chicken & Rice Guys (CNR) opened six years ago in Boston with a flagship chicken and rice recipe. It grew from a food truck driving around university campuses to a fast-casual brand with four restaurants across the greater Boston area. The CNR location in Downtown Crossing welcomed new neighbor Spyce this summer, a restaurant operated by Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduates Kale Rogers, Luke Schlueter, Michael Farid and Brady Knight.

"Honestly, we see a little bit nervous," said CNR cofounder Ian So. "When a restaurant opens across the street from CNR across the street. However, Spyce features a robotic kitchen conceived by the four MIT engineering graduates. Seven rotating woks are tilted so customers can see grassy green onions, julienne carrots and diced chicken cook before they are served in a bowl. Spyce announced Sept. 7 that it raised $21 million in venture capital. Kale Rogers, one of the cofounders of Spyce, said the kitchen can serve up to 200 meals per hour, which cost around $7.50 each. With the robotic kitchen, Spyce pared down labor costs and can spend more of its budget for improving food and service.

Upon its debut, Spyce has sparked concerns about automation in restaurants replacing human workers. So was initially worried, but a visit to the competition eased his concerns. "I counted seven workers on duty when I dined at Spyce," So said. "That’s the same number of human staffers at CNR across the street. However, Spyce is able to direct more of their team to customer service functions, like answering questions and cleaning tables."

So supports “human capitalism,” the idea that technological innovations and economic growth should serve for maximizing human well-being and fulfillment. He feels automation can free up human workers instead of replacing them.

"Now, customer service is not for everyone," So said. "But, if a machine comes along that can do the very basic, repetitive tasks better, faster and more accurately than our human staff, then we should use it. I’d much rather see our staff engaged creatively, performing the kinds of complex tasks that won’t be automated anytime soon."

The Spyce team echoed his sentiments, emphasizing a commitment to workers. “We are not going to cut back on staff generally,” Rogers said. “But a lot of them are not going to do the repetitive work that can be conducted by machines. The meals here will be cooked by machines, but they won’t be handed to you before our garde manger puts the final touches on them.”

With staff engaging in customer service, Spyce calls itself a restaurant “at the intersection of hospitality and technology.” Automation is not widespread in food service yet, but Rogers believes it has the potential to shape the fast-casual food industry. Spyce is now seeking cooperation with universities such as Boston University, Northeastern University and Bentley University, trying to bring their service to a larger group of customers.

Chinatown youth visit Harbor Islands

Chew Lun pays respects to ancestor Jiang Taigong

BY VALERIE LI

Chew Lun Family Association of New England commemorated ancestor Jiang Taigong’s 3229th birthday on Sept. 12 at its Tyler Street office. (Image courtesy of Valerie Li.)

Chew Lun Family Association of New England honored ancestor Jiang Taigong’s 3229th birthday on Sept. 12 at its 98B Tyler Street headquarters.

The family association represents four surnames: Tan, Tan, Xu and Xie. The four families are descendants of Jiang Taigong, a Chinese ancestor who founded the four families to help Chinese immigrants settle in North America.

Chew Lun Family Association of New England sponsored the Chew Lun Family Association of New England’s celebration of ancestor Jiang Taigong’s 3229th birthday on Sept. 12 at its Tyler Street office. (Image courtesy of the Chew Lun Family Association of New England.)

Three youth groups from Chinatown, including Idil Learning Center, Castle Square Tenants Organization and Asian Community Development Corporation, climbed aboard the Bay State Cruise Company’s flagship Provincetown II on trips to Georges and Spectacle Islands, for free All Access Boston Harbor cruises in July and August. The youth started each trip cruising the cool, clean waters of the Boston Harbor, learning sea chanteys and history about the Harbor cleanup. On the islands, the Chinatown youth spent the dry fishing, crabbing and exploring Boston’s spectacular urban natural resources.

“The Harbor Islands are truly Boston’s treasure, and we’re certain that the more than 10,000 kids and families that will attend these free trips this year will agree,” said Bruce Berman of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.