AUGUST MOON SPECIAL ISSUE

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A Happy August Moon!

祝波士頓華人社區中秋快樂！
Chinatown celebrates 50th August Moon Festival

BY MANDY SUN

Chinatown hosted the 50th annual August Moon Festival on August 11, attracting visitors from greater Boston area and beyond. Once celebrated historically as the annual harvest of rice and wheat on the fifteenth full moon of the lunar eighth month, August Moon has transformed to become a gathering of friends and family.

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association organizes Chinatown’s August Moon Festival. Susan Chu, CCBA executive director said, “We had a really good turnout. It was very busy.”

Adult learners celebrate English graduation

BY LING-MEI WONG

The 50th August Moon Festival took place August 11 at Harrison Avenue and Essex Street. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

The AACA intermediate English Next Steps Transitional English Program Level 10 students celebrated graduation August 9 at Tufts University School of Medicine with instructor Rebecca Liston (sixth right). (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

National Night Out took place at Tai Tung Village on August 6. (From left) Sherry Dong, Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Police Commissioner Willy Gross, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, an officer, Boston Police Capt. Ken Fong, Lili Mei. (Image courtesy of Yiyan Zheng.)

Chinatown and South End celebrate National Night Out

BY LING-MEI WONG

National Night Out was celebrated August 6 in Chinatown’s Tai Tung Village and the South End’s Castle Square. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Police Commissioner Willy Gross and Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins greeted community members.

Boston Public Schools launches registration on weekends

BY BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Superintendent Brenda Cassellius announced 11 “Neighborhood Registration” satellite locations to be held at community centers throughout the city for the next two Saturdays. This initiative aims to reach families new to Boston and BPS who have not yet registered their students for the upcoming school year, making the registration process more convenient and accessible to parents and families.

The BPS Neighborhood Registration sites are located at Boston Centers for Youth and Families. Families registering their students for school at a Neighborhood Registration site or a Welcome Center must bring:

• The parent/guardian’s picture ID;
• The student’s original birth certificate, passport, or I-94 form;
• The student’s up-to-date immunization record(s);
• The first day of school Sept. 5 for grades 1-12. For more information, visit bostonpublicschools.org/registerbps.
Event Calendar

Teen volleyball
Friday, August 16
3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
883 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
BCYF will host a free teen co-ed black light volleyball for teens at the Quincy Community Center. RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/25180805378171556/.

Chinatown history tour
Friday, August 16
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
2 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Quincy August Moon Festival
Sunday, August 18
 Noon to 5 p.m.
Coddington Street
Quincy, MA 02169
Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. will host the 31st August Moon Festival at Quincy High School.

National Asian Peace Officers Association Conference
August 19 to August 22
425 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210

English for college or job training
Monday, August 19
8:30 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02211
Attend testing for the Asian American Civic Association’s English classes for college or job training.

Mulan Society classes
Monday, August 19
11 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02211
Mulan Society Center for Women’s Empowerment citizenship classes will take place at AAC.
Register at (617) 426-9492 x 251 or mulan@aacaa-boston.org.

Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting
Monday, August 19
6 p.m.
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02211
The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting will take place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

Water drop teashop
Tuesday to Saturday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Water Drop Teashop offers light vegetarian dishes, coffee and tea at the Fo Guang Buddha Temple.

Financial aid assistance
Wednesday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02211
Get free assistance on college planning and applying for financial aid towards higher education. To make an appointment, call (617) 426-9492 x 10.

Free tai chi class
Every Thursday
10 a.m.
Symphony Park
Instructor Huan Zhang will lead tai chi at Symphony Park, on the corner of Edgerly Road and Norseway Street. All levels welcome. In the event of rain, classes will be at Morville House, 100 Norwalk Street.

Free yoga class
Thursdays
12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
2 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
Bring your own mat for free yoga at the Chinatown branch library.

Films at the Gate
August 23 to August 25
5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Chinatown Gate
The annual Films at the Gate free movie screenings will take place at the Chinatown Gate. For more information, visit https://asiandc.org/events/fang2019.

We share we listen
Friday, August 23
3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
79 Coddington Street
Quincy, MA 02169
A panel discussion about emotional health and growing up Asian American will take place at the South Shore YMCA. Register by calling (617) 635-5129 x 1020, emailing mandy.situ@benc.net or online at https://forms.gle/6sXdpjR5G3xPZbCCX.

RepresentAsian conference
Saturday, August 24
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
260 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

First-time homebuyer classes
August 24 to 25
9 a.m.
11 Dartmouth Street
Malden, MA 02148
ACDC offers HB101 classes in English and Chinese. Each session is a nine-hour class over the course of a two-day weekend. Tuition is $50. Sign up for a workshop, graduate and receive a certificate, and become eligible for discounted mortgage products. Registration required, by calling (617) 482-2380 x 208 or 202, emailing CHOP@asiandc.org or visiting https://asiandc.org/hb101.

Event Calendar
Millennials in Boston face divided job market

BY YANXUAN LI

Employers from nonprofits, government agencies and corporations discuss the future of work in Boston at Venture Cafe on August 1. (From left) Year Up growth initiative director Michael Goldstein, Root Cause founder and CEO Andrew Work, City of Boston director of business strategy Midori Morikawa, Appranti Massachusetts state director Lauren Jones. (Image courtesy of Anita Yip.)

A panel discussing the uncertainties millennials feel in Bostonian jobs in a competitive workplace was held on August 1 in Cambridge’s Venture Cafe. Employers from nonprofits, government agencies and corporations sat with young job seekers, listening to their needs and seeking solutions tailored to today’s job market.

Michael Goldstein, a veteran in business strategy and workforce development at Year Up, expressed his concern about the divide between employers and employees in today’s job market.

“There are a lot of companies in Boston that are growing, and they want to be able to find all these employees,” Goldstein said. “It shouldn’t be hard, right? Just set up an interview, and then you meet, and it’s happy. But that’s not the case. The case is, on this side, our job seekers don’t know about these jobs, and the other side has assumptions about what these job seekers are capable of, and shut them out entirely, because they don’t have that degree, or just because they don’t look like us.”

The information divide between employers and job seekers keeps about 6 million people in the United States from having access to a growing job market. The situation in Boston is not about these jobs not being there, but the other side has assumptions about what these job seekers are capable of, and shut them out entirely, because they don’t have that degree, or just because they don’t look like us.”

Other topics mentioned in the panel include wage gaps between Whites and people of color, along with opportunity gaps throughout greater Boston’s communities. Millennials in Boston are facing a more competitive workforce and more uncertainties with the rising cost of living, the threat of automation, and prevalence of the gig economy.

Women of color face health disparities

BY YIYAN ZHENG

Women of color face various issues while seeking health care in the United States. A panel discussion “Shattering the silence: Tackling critical issues in health care for women of color” was held July 31 at Boston Medical Center. Eliza Choi, governor of the American College Physicians, said language accessibility is one of the main issues for the Asian American community in health care. It is also difficult to have interpreters for multiple languages.

Chinatown crime blotter for August 3 to August 16

BY THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

All reports are submitted by the Boston Police Department. The time period is from August 3 to August 16 for District A-1, which includes Chinatown.

To report a crime or suspicious activity, call 911. Interpreters are available for Chinese speakers.

Hit/run property

August 3, 11 a.m.: The victim reported an unknown person struck his motor vehicle that was locked and parked on Ash Street and fled the scene without exchanging papers.

Warrant arrest

August 4, 6:05 p.m.: The suspect was arrested on Beach Street on an outstanding warrant issued out of South Boston District Court.

Drug arrest

August 5, 4:36 p.m.: The suspect was arrested on Boylston Street for violation of the drug laws. He had several packages of marijuana in his possession.

Violation of city ordinance

August 5, 5:21 p.m.: The suspect will be summoned in to court for drinking in a public way at Hudson Street.

Drugs

August 9, 8:30 p.m.: The suspect was arrested on Beach Street on a drug offense. The District A-1 Drug Control Unit observed him involved in an illegal drug transaction.

August 10, 6:44 p.m.: The suspect was arrested on Harrison Avenue extension on a drug offense. The District A-1 Drug Control Unit observed him involved in an illegal drug transaction.

Hit/run property

August 11, 7:25 p.m.: The victim reported an unknown person struck her motor vehicle that was parked and locked on oxford place. The suspect fled scene without exchanging paperwork.

Drugs

August 14, 5:35 a.m.: The suspect was arrested on Harrison Avenue on a drug offense. The officers observed her involved in an illegal drug transaction.

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Quincy council candidate Danielle Kempe wants welcoming city for all

BY LING-MEI WONG

Danielle Kempe has been a proud Quincy resident for more than 10 years. When she started a family with her husband David, they chose to stay in the city to raise their daughter Elise in “a city that is safe and I fell in love with Quincy,” Kempe said. “Part of why I’m running is Quincy has given me so much, so I want to give back.”

Kempe grew up on the North Shore and found Quincy affordable, along with convenient on the Red Line. She is running for Ward 1 against incumbent David McCarthy and candidate Joe Murphy. “Part of what makes Quincy great is having people from every aspect of life,” Kempe said. “I love our diversity and running into everyone at the library.”

Kempe was also inspired by Boston and regulates this work for all campuses of Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center will hold an Open Meeting to the public on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5pm.

The meeting will be held at The Jaharis 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, teaching, and training 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 local regulations with proper concern for the safety of personnel, the environment, and the surrounding communities.

The meeting attendees must have a form of photo identification to enter the building. For more information, please contact the Tufts IBC Office at 617-636-6982 or IBC-Office@tufts.edu. The website can be found here: https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/ibc/

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING

The new system includes convenient features

Customer Service Self Portal
• Register for E-bill
• Register for AutoPay
• View and download your bill
• Pay your bill
• View your account history
• Monthly consumption
• Daily consumption

New E-Bill
• Receive your bill electronically by opting out of a paper bill
• Electronic monthly notification
• Exact copy of the paper bill in PDF format easily downloaded, stored in the online portal

Boston Water and Sewer Commission is Going Live With a New Billing System in September

BY ETHNIC MEDIA SERVICES AND MIRA COALITION

The Trump administration on August 12 finalized a rule which creates additional hurdles for those who’ve waited years to legally stay in the United States. This “public charge” rule expands the list of public programs the government will consider in deciding some immigration applications. The programs will now include certain health care, nutrition, and housing programs. The proposed rule does not apply to those applying for citizenship, humanitarian migrants such as refugees and asylees, and those applying to renew their DACA.

“This rule is a perfect example of the wanton cruelty and bigotry that drive this administration,” said Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition in a prepared statement. “It accomplishes two hateful goals at once: to keep out immigrants who are not wealthy on arrival — mainly people of color — and to sow fear in immigrant families and deter them from accessing ‘safety net’ programs that help keep their children safe, healthy, nourished and learning.”

The new rule requires that future receipt of certain kinds of government programs — namely Medicaid, nutrition assistance (SNAP), and public housing (Section 8) — will factor into the determination by immigration officials of who gets a green card. The rule does not go into effect immediately — there is a 60 day waiting period before the rule is enacted. In the meantime, multiple legal challenges are likely which could lead to further delays.

Advocates and experts emphasize that individuals should not take immediate action if they are currently participating in government programs since the DHS rule does not apply retroactively. Advocates and experts encourage individuals to use caution when deciding whether to participate in certain programs, making sure that they have the information they need to make informed decisions.
White Snake Projects kicked off its "Sing Out Strong: Immigrant Voices" concert series at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center on August 1, showcasing original songs by immigrant artists in the Greater Boston area. The music and lyrics were composed by artists from Peru, Latvia, India, China, Taiwan, Mexico, Haiti, Brazil, Vietnam, and the Dominican Republic. The lyrics focused on the challenges of immigration and the difficulties of acclimating, often juxtaposing the immigrants’ home countries with the United States, said White Snake Projects creator Cerise Chung on the cello.

The theme of the concert series, immigration, was inspired by the White Snake Project’s upcoming new opera about deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), "I Am A Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams." The opera will run from Sept. 20 to Sept. 22 at the Emerson Paramount Theater.

The "Sing Out Strong: Immigrant Voices" concert series toured at two other venues in Boston: the Pao Arts Center in Chinatown on August 8 and the WBUR CitySpace on August 22.

"It’s a great way to imagine America, as you realize how massive the migration was," Wu said. "I’ve heard feedback that some people want this to be a movement; they found it poignant, unburdening and healing."

Throughout the project, these bundles were collected and exhibited in public spaces to generate conversation, dialogue and bridges across experiences, generations and ethnicities. Wu plans to exhibit the bundles in a cargo net at an upcoming show in Santa Fe.

"I hope this is a directional project that is seen in different parts of New England and throughout the country," Wu said.

Funded by national funder ArtPlace America, Wu received a stipend for 2018 to 2019 as part of her residency, as well as programmatic support and space at the Pao Arts Center to carry out her project.

Wu seeks cloth donations for "Leavings/Belongings" bundles, as she noted people selected beautiful fabric for their bundles. "One woman selected blue for her boat escape," she said. Another creator chose a bright yellow cloth that reminded her of a home in the Canary Islands.

"This is quiet activism," Wu said. "It’s a multiplicity of actions for collective impact."

“Leavings/Belongings” is on display at the Pao Arts Center until the end of August. For more information on Wu’s work, visit www.yuwenwu.com.

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Easton Affordable Housing Lottery

Meadowview Commons Easton Affordable Housing Lottery

www.s-e-b.com

2BR Single Family Homes for $190,800 ($106/mo HOA fees)
3BR Single Family Home for $213,800 ($106/mo HOA fees)

This is a lottery for the 9 affordable single-family homes. These 9 homes will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The first affordable homes will be ready in Winter 2019.

Meadowview Commons is located on 338 Tampico Street, South Easton, MA. Meadowview Commons offers 8 two-bedroom affordable single-family homes and 1 three-bedroom single family home. The affordable homes at Meadow View Commons are approximately 1,600 sqft for the 2 Bedroom homes and 1,790 sqft for the 3 Bedroom homes. All homes have 1.5 bathrooms, one garage, central A/C, kitchens with granite countertops, full (but unfinished) basements, and a farmers front porch with Compostable decking. Hardwood to be installed in the Kitchen, Eating and Living Room on first floor. The Meadow, Laundry and Bathrooms will have tile floors. Carpeting to be installed in all bedrooms and on stairs from first to second floor. Please see www.s-e-b.com for more details!

The Maximum Income Limits for Households are as follows:
- $52,850 (1 person), $60,800 (2 people), $67,950 (3 people)
- $75,300 (4 people), $84,530 (5 people), and $97,840 (6 people)

Households cannot have more than $75,000 in assets.

For more information on the Development, the Units or the Lottery and Application Process, please visit: www.s-e-b.com lottery or call 617.782.6880 (ext 2 for homeownership).

Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, or postmarked, by 2 pm on September 23rd, 2019. An Info Session will be held on August 13th, at 6 pm in the Queset House at Ames Free Library. The Lottery for eligible households will be held on October 15th, 2019 at 6 pm in the same location. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

For more information and application details, please visit www.s-e-b.com.

Final applications must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on September 23rd, 2019. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households for the first 24 rental apartments will be held on October 11th, 2019 at 6 pm in the Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road.

Applications are also available at the Nantucket Athenaeum Library located at 1 India Street. (Mon 9-3/1-0, Tu,Wed,Fr. 9-3/5-00, Th 9-3/5-7-0, Sat 9/3-4/0)

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Affordable Rental Housing Lottery

Richmond Meadows II Rental Apartment Development

20 Davkim Lane, Nantucket, MA

Studies @ $1,209*, 1BRs @ $1,378*, 2BRs @ $1,521*, 3BRs @ $1,664*

*These monthly rents are based on 2019 HHS income levels. They are subject to change in future years. In addition to the monthly rent, Tenants will pay for their own Electricity, Heat, Water, and Cooking as all electric. Landlord will pay for Water and Sewer charges.

The Richmond Meadows II Rental Apartment Development is a 225 unit rental apartment community located on 20 Davkim Lane in Nantucket (off Old South Road). This lottery is for the first increment of 24 affordable apartment units which are scheduled to be delivered by mid-2019 (future phases will include an additional 33 affordable apartment units). These first 24 rental apartments will be made available through this application process and rented to households with annual incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. All apartment units will include a combination of hardwood floors (in kitchens, living rooms, and bedrooms) and tile floors (in bathrooms). All units will have (electric) forced hot air / central air conditioning, with one temperature control zone in each apartment unit. Kitchens will be appointed with wood cabinetry and laminate countertops. All apartment units will be appointed with (electric) stainless steel appliances, and in-unit washers and dryers. The affordable rents shown include the following number of parking spots for each unit type:

- Studios: 1 spot (1 BR unit)
- 1BRs: 2 spots (2 BR units)
- 2BRs: 3 spots (3 BR units)

Pet friendly. No smoking (of any kind) permitted in units or surrounding common areas.

The MAXIMUM Household Income Limits are as follows:
- $63,150 (1 person), $70,750 (2 people), $76,350 (3 people), $82,950 (4 people), $88,000 (5 people), $93,050 (6 people)

Applications are also available at the Nantucket Athenaeum Library located at 1 India Street. (Mon 9-3/1-0, Tu,Wed,Fr. 9-3/5-00, Th 9-3/5-7-0, Sat 9/3-4/0)
South Cove Manor hosted its monthly breakfast seminar on July 25. Guest speaker So Yee Ng discussed senior mental health care with 40 senior participants. (Image courtesy of South Cove Manor.)

Seminar discusses senior mental health

BY SOUTH COVE MANOR

South Cove Manor hosted its monthly breakfast seminar on July 25 at Boston Chinese Evangelical Center. Guest speaker So Yee Ng discussed senior mental health care with 40 senior participants. (Image courtesy of South Cove Manor.)

According to a report by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, around 20 percent of adults aged 55 or older have experienced some type of mental health concerns; among those who are aged 65 and older, only five percent of them reported having current depression issues. Ng mentioned in the seminar that depression, homesickness, illness or loss of a loved one are the most common mental health concerns among the seniors, which can affect seniors’ emotions and memories.

Ng suggested if elderly feeling confusion, disorientation, depressed mood all the time, they should seek help if their loved one or spouse is experiencing this symptoms.

- Keep a healthy diet.
- Pick up a new hobby. It’s important to maintain a routine for seniors after retirement. Keeping a hobby or pursuing a lifelong goal such as singing, dancing, photography, sewing or painting! Stay connected with friends. Attending to social events and health seminars could also help seniors on the right track of healthy aging.
- Play mind games — learning new technologies can be an effective way to stimulate seniors’ brains to stay sharp and avoid cognitive decline common as they age. Try new things and ask questions.
- Keep a grateful heart and pleasant mood all the time.

The next breakfast seminar will be on August 29. The topic will be health care decision making.

Breast cancer rates up 89 percent for Asian women in Boston

BY LING-MEI WONG

When Chien-Chi Huang turned 40, she immediately scheduled a mammogram. Her aunt had died from breast cancer at 60 and she wanted to be proactive about screening.

“The first mammogram didn’t see anything,” Huang said. “Then two months later, I found a lump under my armpit. By the time I found the lump, the cancer had already spread through the lymph nodes.”

Huang’s experience with breast cancer led her to launch the Asian Breast Cancer Project and Asian Women for Health. The volunteer-run groups advocate for Asian women, who have the lowest rates of screening.

Breast cancer rates for Asian women in Boston increased 89 percent from 1999 to 2013, according to the Boston Public Health Commission. In its 2018 “Health of Boston Special Report: Cancer Among Boston Residents, 1999-2013,” breast cancer incidence for Asian women was 89 percent in that time period, while rates for Latina and white women decreased 53 percent and 30 percent respectively. Black women had decreased breast cancer mortality rates from 2002 to 2013, but the change from 1999 to 2013 was not statistically significant.

“Asian Americans still have the lowest screening rates compared to other populations,” Huang said. “It’s mostly cultural and language barriers.”

While awareness is improving — among Boston Residents, 1999-2013"

Help improve the Sampan’s health coverage and you could win a $20 Whole Foods gift card! Fill out the survey and send it to: Sampan, 87 Tyler Street, 5F, Boston, MA 02111. Or complete the survey online at

Congratulations Chinese New Year health survey winner Johnny Chan!
Asian LGBTQ community share ‘unbearable pressure’

BY YIDAN SUN

Boston area has the fifth-largest population of LGBTQ people in the United States at about 5 percent. As a city rich in immigrants and international students, however, we seldom hear the voice of international communities that intersect.

For those who are from Asian countries or have other backgrounds where gay culture is suppressed, it can take an incredible amount of courage to discuss identity.

Despite those challenges and taboos, I asked several people to share their unique stories. Below are their reflections from Chinese, Taiwanese and Thai perspectives — all powerful, and all previously untold.

Miles from the mainland

“Could you not be a gay?”

Joey’s mother hugged him at the airport on the day she returned home to China. Joey said nothing, comforted her with gentle pat on the back, and saw her off.

It’s Joey’s fifth year staying in the United States. Growing up in a small city in Hunan in southern China, where the sex and gender education was scarce at the time, he had been uncertain about his sexual orientation for a long time — even when he had his first boyfriend in high school.

“It’s not right,” Joey recalls the boy saying to him after they dated for a while. Heartbroken and unsure about whether their relationship was love or friendship, Joey reached out, and after several long talks, finally came to believe that only made him feel less comfortable. He said to his mother after they dated for a while. Heartbroken and unsure about whether their relationship was love or friendship, Joey reached out, and after several long talks, finally came to believe that he is physically and mentally normal. After years of struggle, it was a relief.

After three years in America, Joey still hasn’t completely come out to his parents, and the open secret concerns him. Though he’s posted articles about gay people on social media, he’s never addressed it with his mother and father. But once during his mother’s visit in Boston, she asked a question — almost a plea.

“Son, could you not be a gay?”

Joey felt it was the right time to come out to his mom. Face to face, now or never.

“Mom, I’m a gay.”

After a long silence, his mother whispered, “You’re not my good boy.”

Joey felt sorry for his mother, but he couldn’t change who he is. “Yes, I am.”

We at Hamel-Lydon Chapel recognize the importance of honoring our loved ones when they pass away. We are here to provide support and assist families in saying goodbye in the most respectful and loving ways. This is our Hamel-Lydon promise.

我們安泰殯儀館理解對摯愛離世的妥善殯葬極其重要。在此我們會支援並協助親屬以最崇高及充滿愛的方式向先人告別。這是我們安泰殯儀館的承諾。

Gift organized the Thailand Pride Parade, the first Thai LGBTQ community participation in the ancient and cosmopolitan city in northeastern China, Joey was considered an abnormal male with gentle voice and womanish behavior. He said manhood was a label he was never able to fit in his body and more depressed. At one point he was suicidal; helpless, Joey turned to his mother for a doctor, but she told him to get more exercise instead.

He started running daily, which helped with his depression, but answers came from Joey educating himself by watching videos and chatting with people online and by phone.

In the early 2000s, Weibo, a Chinese social media platform, became a central stage for LGBTQ groups to discuss gender issues. It was there that Joey found a famous blogger, Youjian Wu, who was the first internationally recognized mother in China’s history to publicly support a gay son. Wu started blogging at the age of 60 and established PFLAG, the country’s first NGO formed by LGBTQ individuals, families, and friends. Joey reached out, and after several long talks, finally came to believe that he is physically and mentally normal. After years of struggle, it was a relief.

After three years in America, Joey still hasn’t completely come out to his parents, and the open secret concerns him. Though he’s posted articles about gay people on social media, he’s never addressed it with his mother and father. But once during his mother’s visit in Boston, she asked a question — almost a plea.

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“Mom, I’m a gay.”

After a long silence, his mother whispered, “You’re not my good boy.”

On the day his mother left for China, she burst into tears and asked again.

“Could you not be a gay?”

Joey felt sorry for his mother, but he couldn’t change who he is. “Yes, I am.”

In his mother’s two-month stay, Joey patiently discussed with his mother the three questions that most often worry the parents of gay people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
by Quincy Asian Resources Inc. on August 18 will feature the unique talents of Ryu. Part of the Boston Circus Guild, Ryu was the first Japanese man to graduate from the Quebec Circus School. He toured the world performing his sensational acts for audiences in Dubai, Germany, Russia and France. Ryu has even performed with the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil.

At the Quincy festival he’ll be juggling and performing daring pole acts, delighting multicultural and intergenerational attendees.

Japanese circus performer Ryu dazzles audiences

BY LINDA CHIN

As an advocate of greater representation of people of Asian heritage in American arts and culture, it is gratifying to see Asian and American artists in the spotlight. I cheered on Sandra Oh for donning an “It’s an honor just to be Asian” T-shirt at high-profile awards ceremonies. It was also a thrill for local residents to see ARSENAL OF CULTURE go to Company One for its “Vietnamese Christmas” collaboration with the BCNC Pao Arts Center, and to the August Moon Festival in Boston’s Chinatown and Quincy.

The Quincy Asian Moon Festival was also a thrill for local residents to see the 2019 Best of Boston awards in arts and culture go to Company One for its “Vietnamese Christmas,” A better community

Joey Carter has always felt different from others. Growing up in an extremely white town around Christmas with his twin brother, he thought with a smile. “I had my own special ways been treated well by the children around. As a lesbian, she has always felt different from others. Growing up in an extremely white town. As she got home, Joey said his mother that his plans are to stay in America, and to get married. He’s pur- suing a doctorate and a happy life here in Boston, where he says he can be himself in a way that he couldn’t back home.

gray area

Jo-Hon will always remember the time that he was mistaken for a girl while giving cookies to his neighbors. He toured the world performing his sen- sational acts for audiences in Dubai, Germany, Russia and France. Ryu has even performed with the world-renowned Cirque du Soleil.

At the Quincy festival he’ll be juggling and performing daring pole acts, delighting multicultural and intergenerational attendees.

AUGUST MOON FESTIVAL WILL BE ON SEPT. 13!

Affordable Housing Lottery
Metropolitan at Reading Station
35 Lincoln Street, Reading, MA

1BRs @ $1,595*, 2BRs @ $1,842*, 3BRs @ $2,114*
*Rents subject to change in 2020. Utilities not included except Hot Water, Water and Sewer. Tenants will pay own Electric, Electric Cooking and Electricity.

Affordable Housing Lottery Metropolitan at Reading Station is a 68 unit rental apartment community where 17 apartments will be made available through this application process. Metropolitan at Reading Station is a modern luxury apartment building steps to the Reading Commuter Rail Station and features a gym with Peloton equipment, a “flex space” on the first floor with Coffee Bar, and a Lounge on the fourth floor overlooking Downtown Reading complete with Fireplace, kitchen, table games, large screen TV. Units feature custom cabinets, quartz countertops, Hotpoint appliances including washer/dryer and dish washer, AC, high ceilings, large windows, and an open air feel. One parking spot is included in the rent with affordable units. Units will be ready for occupancy in October 2019.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits
$62,450 (1 person), $71,400 (2 people), $80,300 (3 people), $89,200 (4 people), $96,350 (5 people), $103,500 (6 people)

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by 2 pm on September 20th, 2019.

A Public Info Session will be on August 13th, 2019 at 6 pm in Select Board Meeting Room in Reading Town Hall (16 Lowell Street, Reading MA). The lottery will be on October 9th, 2019 at the same location.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.aahb.com/lottery or call (877) 782-4900 (x1) and leave a message. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

Applications and Info Packets also available in the Reading Public Library, 64 Middlesex Ave Hours: M-W 9-9, Th 1-9, F-Sat 9-5.

AUGUST MOON FESTIVAL

As an advocate of greater representation of people of Asian heritage in American arts and culture, it is gratifying to see Asian and American artists in the spotlight. I cheered on Sandra Oh for donning an “It’s an honor just to be Asian” T-shirt at high-profile awards ceremonies. It was also a thrill for local residents to see ARSENAL OF CULTURE go to Company One for its “Vietnamese Christmas,”

A better community

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For more information, visit CarterSchoolApartments.com.

We welcome people with disabilities to our community. Call Wingate Management at (978) 840-1420 to request reasonable accommodations. TTY: (877) 782-4900 (x1). www.CarterSchoolApartments.com

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Chinatown residents gather for stabilization block party

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

LGBTQ: Asian advocates find welcome

Luckier than many LGBTQ people in similar situations, Gift, who is Thai, has always had support from family and friends — experiences that gave her the confidence and inspiration to organize the Thailand Pride Parade, the first Thai LGBTQ community involvement with the Boston Pride Parade.

As an organizer with the Thai Organization of Boston, Gift has organized a lot of cultural events and performances. She noticed that a lot of performers are LGBTQ people and are pretty open to expressing themselves on stage, which has provided opportunities to show people outside of the Thai community their lively group of LGBTQ members.

With a strong sense of community among Thai LGBTQ people, Gift says that members of her group may be more open to coming out than people from some other Asian countries — the partial result, she says, of a changing popular culture in Thailand in recent years.

In Boston, they’re also raising their profile; for this year’s Pride festivities, they had an official sponsor, costumes representing different regions of Thailand, and about 20 people on the route. It’s a good start, and Gift says they will likely have an even bigger turnout next year.

Groups like Gift’s organize around LGBTQ causes to promote equal rights internationally, share stories, and form a support structure. For those abroad and struggling with gender and racial identity questions, these organizations provide a home.

Address: 99 Summer Street, Suite 801, Boston, MA 02110

Follow us on Facebook: Taiwan in Boston @Taiwan.Boston
A food aficionado: Futago Udon

BY ANNA ING

The team behind Somerville’s Sugidama opened udon eatery Futago Udon in Brookline this February. Minh Bui and Xue Zhen Cao make udon noodles and broths daily for a simple menu. It is in an airy space with minimal décor.

We started with idako karaage ($7) aka fried baby octopus, served with a mayo-based sauce on the side. The octopus came out chewy with crispy batter. Remember to squeeze a lemon slice before eating the fried octopus.

The nasu nibitashi ($6) is braised Japanese eggplant, simmered and served in a cold broth of dashi, soy sauce and ginger. Dashi is the cornerstone broth in Japanese cooking, using kombu (dried kelp), katsuobushi (bonito shavings), anchovies and shiitake mushrooms. The bountiful bonito shavings, chopped scallion and grated ginger along with the eggplant melded together for a sweetly savory mouthful. The broth was delicious, so we ordered kaedama ($3) or extra udon noodles to soak it up. The fresh udon is not overcooked but al dente.

For the main course, we opted for Futago’s signature selections: the sukiyaki udon ($18), the miso carbonara udon ($15) and the cold uni udon ($17, with a daily special $30 option for uni from Hokkaido, Japan).

The sukiyaki udon filled an enormous casserole-like bowl with udon, a poached egg, silken tofu, enoki, napa cabbage and thin slices of Angus ribeye beef. A delicate, sweet and savory soy-based broth complemented the hearty beef.

Cold uni udon came in a big bowl. The soy and dashi broth paired well with the udon. I was pleasantly surprised by the generous portion of uni and ikura (salmon roe). The uni had a creamy texture and tasted of the sea. It paired with a burst of umami from the delicious ikura. Uni is an acquired taste not for everyone. If you don’t want the uni from Japan, you can opt for the regular uni from Maine, which is just as delicious.

The miso carbonara came out in yet another massive bowl, with udon swimming in a rich sauce loaded with bacon bits and grated parmesan. Contrary to its appearance, the dish has a light creamy flavor, enhanced by smoky bacon, eggs and parmesan cheese. However, a hint of miso could not be detected. The flavors are simple, clean and light without being overpowering.

Our server surprised us with sliced ice cream mochi for dessert. Bouncy noodles and housemade broths show the food is made with love and care. The service is efficient and friendly. Do note there can be long waits and Futago only seats full parties, but the food is well worth it. I am not usually an udon fan, but Futago holds a special place in my heart.

Cold uni udon with Hokkaido uni and salmon roe, in soy and dashi broth. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

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