The 2019 Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAFF) will screen short films, feature films and documentaries from Oct. 24 to Oct. 27. This year’s theme is “Rising Together,” and the film’s couldn’t be more timely.

Centerpiece film “Seadrift” is a documentary about a crabbiness community in Seadrift, Texas. Racial tensions boiled over in the late 1970s, resulting in the murder of a white man and the Ku Klux Klan burning Vietnamese boats and homes. Director Tim Tsi couldn’t help but notice the word-for-word similarities between archival footage of the KKK and the 2017 Charlotteites “Unite The Right” rally, according to one critic.

The festival’s closing film is “Yellow Rose,” about an undocumented Filipina girl who dreams of leaving her small Texas town to become a musician. Her world gets upended when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement demands her mother.

BAFF director Susan Chisens commented on the film’s resonance with local events in the Cambodian community. “We’re seeing literally this week, families being torn apart,” Chisens said in reference to the detention and deportation proceedings of several Cambodian residents of Worcester, Lynn, and Lowell earlier this month. BAFF’s parent organization, the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), held rallies to increase awareness, and partnered with Greater Boston Legal Services.

While BAFF avoids the overtly political, Chisens said the festival was established to bring more people into AARW’s advocacy work. “It was this idea of a bridge to let people become involved,” she said.

Chisens cited Angel Lee’s speech at the 2013 festival, who said film festivals such as BAFF helped propel his career. It was the 43rd Berlin International Film Festival that screened his film “The Wedding Banquet,” for which Lee won the Golden Bear for best film.

In line with BAFF’s mission to showcase Asian American experiences and [serve] as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community, the festival will open with Sasie Sealy’s “Lucky Grandma,” a heist comedy film featuring local talent Michael Tow.

“Mike has done a lot of work in recognizing the role that media has in shaping people’s understanding of Asian Americans,” Chisens said.

BAFF will screen a number of short films under the series “After Dark,” including Emily Ting’s “Go Back to China” and Deann Borshay Liem’s “Geographies of Kinship.”

“Lucky Grandma” will be preceded by shorts under the series “Chinese New Year.”

The full festival schedule can be found on www.baaff.org.

October 18 - October 31, 2019
www.sampan.org

The only bilingual Chinese-English Newspaper in New England

Boston Asian American Film Festival to highlight ‘Rising together’

BY FELIX POON

Data bill hearing takes place at Statehouse

BY LING-MEI WONG

“Vietnamese Americans are more likely to have Hepatitis B than other populations,” said Vietnamese American Initiative for Development executive director Liou in a prepared statement.

“The data points, along with others, is what guides the guide to determine the services we provide and partnership we make in order to help mitigate issues around mental health, housing, economic development and education/youth services that our community needs.”

Opponents of the bill cited privacy concerns, along with increased cost for expanded data collection.

“The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) works in underserved and immigrant Asian American communities in the Greater Boston region to create and preserve affordable, sustainable and healthy neighborhoods,” said ACDC executive director Angie Liou in a prepared statement.

The bill calls for the collection of data on ethnic subgroups within broader racial categories, which would help better serve the state’s diverse communities. Proponents include more than 100 community organizations.

The bill, filed by Rep. Tackey Chan, calls on state agencies already collecting demographic data to provide voluntary ethnic subgroup options to broader categories of Asian American, Pacific Islander, Black or African American, Latino, and White or Caucasian.

Advocates say more equitable representation through demographic data collection would bring increased visibility to often overlooked groups, including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Haitian, Cape Verdean, Somalian, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, and Dominican communities.

CONTENTS

Events
PAGE 2
Boston
PAGE 3
Metro
PAGE 4
Community
PAGE 5
Health
PAGE 6
Arts
PAGE 7
Lifestyle
PAGE 8

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Event Calendar

**English and Chinese. Each session is a nine-hour course over the course of a two-day weekend. Tuition is $50. Sign up for the 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@asiancdc.org or visiting https://asiancdc.org/hb101.**

**Silk Road Gala**
Saturday, Oct. 19
6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
275 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence will host its Silk Road Gala at the Marriott Boston Downtown. Tickets $225 at https://e.givesmart.com/events/7vi/

**CelebrAsian**
Saturday, Oct. 19
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
725 Albany Street
Boston, MA 02117
The CelebrAsian benefit fashion show will take place at Boston Medical Center’s Shapiro building atrium.

**Great compassation repen- tance service**
Sunday, Oct. 20
9:30 a.m. to noon
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
The great compassion repen- tance service will take place at the Fo Guan Buddhist Temple.

**Malden at-large council forum**
Monday, Oct. 21
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
537 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
A Malden City Council-at-large candidate community conversation will take place.

**Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting**
Monday, Oct. 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.

**Financial aid assistance**
Wednesday, Oct. 23
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Get free assistance on college planning and applying for financial aid towards higher education. To make an appointment, call (617) 426-9492 x 0.

**Boston Asian American Film Festival**
Oct. 24 to Oct. 27
The Boston Asian American Film Festival showcases Asian American experiences. For more information, visit www.baaaf.org.

**EACH gala**
Saturday, Oct. 26
6:30 p.m.
237 Quincy Avenue
Quincy, MA 02169
Enhance Asian Community on Health will celebrate its fifth an- niversary at the China Pearl.

**English for college or job training**
Monday, Oct. 28
8:30 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Attend testing for the Asian American Civic Association’s English classes for college or job training. For more information, call (617) 426-9492 x 250 or email intake@aaac-boston.org.

**AAPI Civil Rights Forum**
Tuesday, Oct. 29
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210

**Wang Y Legacy dinner**
Saturday, Nov. 2

**Silk Road Gala**
Saturday, Nov. 2
8 p.m.
275 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116
Chinese American experience. For more information, visit www.baaaf.org.

**A AIM Teens at Work Symposium**
Friday, Nov. 8
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
201 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114
For more information, visit www.aimteensatwork.org.

**SAMPA**
Saturday, Nov. 16
7 p.m.
95 Myrtle Avenue
Salem, MA 01970
💎 **SAMPA** is a Publication of the AACA www.sampan.org 67 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02111 Tel: (617) 426-9492 x 206 Fax: (617) 462-2216 Editor: Ling-Mei Wong editor@sampan.org Health editor: Yiming Hayley Zhao Contributors: Linda Chin, Monique Chung, Ivy Le, Henry Katzman, Felix Poon, Ruoling Su Translators: Jingfei Gui, Emma Le, Melin Zhu Advertising: Emma Le ads@sampan.org Production: Ling-Mei Wong

SAMPA is New Eng- land’s only bi-lin- gual Chinese-English newspaper. SAMPA fosters cultural understanding and celebrates global diversity. Founded in 1972, SAMPA is published by the Asian American Civic Associa- tion. SAMPA is distributed free in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. All di- nations to the publication are tax deductible. Sub- scription: $65/year (1st class mail); $55/year (3rd class mail).

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Historical society honors Helen Chin Schlichte and Yu-Sing Jung

The Chinese Historical Society of New England recognized Helen Chin Schlichte Oct. 4 at Empire Garden. (From left) Sherry Dong, Lisa Hy, Chin Schlichte. (Image courtesy of Felix Poon)

A forum for Boston’s at-large council candidates took place Oct. 10 at the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao)

Incumbent Michael Flaherty expressed his support of Michelle Wu’s pitch to make the MBTA transit system free to the public.

“The City of Boston gives the MBTA $80 million and we don’t even get a seat on the board. That has to change. There’s no reason why fares can’t be free,” Flaherty said.

Mejia called for bringing back late-night public transportation. Many personal care attendants cannot work night shifts for older adults, because they can’t get home after their shift ends.

City Councilor at-large Althea Garrison proposed a more aggressive approach to the MBTA problem. In January, Garrison filed legislation to hold payment of $85 million to the MBTA until it fixes the system. The bill never made it out of the committee. She urged people to vote for her, so she could finish what she started.

The four at-large city council seats are held by Garrison, Annissa Essaibi George, Flaherty and Wu. Their challengers are Alejandra St. Guillen, Mejia, Erin Murphy and David Halbert.

Boston seniors host city councilor at-large candidate forum

BY YIMING ZHAO

After a low turnout in the preliminary election Sept. 24, the eight at-large Boston City Council candidates attended an Oct. 10 forum hosted by Mass Senior Action Council at the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church. Candidates answered questions on housing, transportation, substance addiction and their vision for Boston’s future, ahead of the Nov. 5 general election for the four at-large council seats.

“I believe it’s a false narrative. We’re not getting in a crisis. We’ve been in a crisis. I bought a two-family house. My mother lives next door and my brother and I share the other side. But it took the entire family for us to be able to do that,” said candidate Julia Mejia about housing income restrictions in the building.

Mejia proposed revising the Inclusionary Development Policy to 50 percent. It currently requires market-rate housing developer to provide 20 percent of the units to low-income families.

“Sometimes that placed them into deportation,” she said, “and after serving their time — 10, 20 or 30 years later — those convictions are now putting them into deportation.”

Mr. Murphy and David Halbert.

American Asian Resource Workshop organizing director Kevin Lam spoke at an open house on Sept. 20 in Dorchester. (Image courtesy of Felix Poon)

Uyen knows firsthand about deportations in the Southeast Asian American community. Her uncle was deported six years ago.

“He did not have status here,” she said. “I don’t think we ever grieved about it…. Those things are just not talk ed about.”

Uyen attended a Sept. 20 workshop event called “Protecting our Community from Southeast Asian Deportation” led by the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) organizing director Kevin Lam with volunteer organizer Austin Nguyen at its Dorchester office.

“Even though the war in Southeast Asia happened 40-plus years ago, we see that displacement of Southeast Asian communities is continuing to happen, but in different forms,” Lam told attendees.

Lam and Nguyen highlighted three pieces of legislation from the 1990s which formed a deportation “pipeline” for many Southeast Asian Americans.

The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act expanded funding for more police officers and new prisons.

Lam said due to “refugee resettlement, being placed into those black and brown communities [that] are already underserved and underserved, Southeast Asian communities were impacted.”

The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act broadened the definition of an aggrav ated felony and deportable offenses, and applied retroactively to past convictions.

This had repercussions for many who joined gangs as young adults to protect themselves from violence.

“If we were living in 1996,” she said, “there would be no reason why fares can’t be free,” Flaherty said. “Sometimes that placed them into deportation,” Lam said, “and after serving their time — 10, 20 or 30 years later — those convictions are now putting them into deportation.”

AARW is working with Greater Boston Legal Services to fight deportations.

AFFORDABLE RENTAL OPPORTUNITY - VILLAGE GREEN in Littleton

Village Green has opened its waiting list for 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom apartments and is now accepting applications. Please see below for income limits and details.

Household Size Income Limits
1 Person $62,450
2 Persons $71,400
3 Persons $80,300
4 Persons $89,200

1-Bedroom Rent is $1,552
2-Bedroom Rent is $1,835
3-Bedroom Rent is $2,102

No utilities are all included in the monthly rent

Village Green is pet friendly with a community room, fitness center and seasonal swimming pool.

To learn more or obtain an application, please visit our office 19 Boxwood Drive, Littleton, MA 01460
Office Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Rental Office Phone Number: 978-776-6114
Free Translation Services available upon request.
TTY: 800-225-5254

TOWN OF KINGSTON Affordable Housing Lottery

BRAND NEW 3 & 4 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bathrooms and Garage
$281,300—3 Bedroom
$304,200—4 Bedroom

Application Deadline November 19, 2019
Applications must be received by 5pm
Send to Delphic Associates, LLC, 651 Orchard St., Suite 308, New Bedford, MA 02744
Lottery Drawing December 2, 2019
Kingston Town Hall, 26 Evergreen St, Kingston, MA at 7pm

Research opportunity for Mandarin-speaking patients with aphasia

中文失语症患者参与研究的机会

研究对象：具有流利中文能力的失语症患者

研究背景：中文失语症患者无法获取足够的研究机会，这限制了我们对中文失语症的了解。本研究旨在通过提供普通话康复治疗，探索汉语患者在语音疗法中的应用。

研究方案：研究将采用个案研究设计，通过与患者的直接交流，获取他们的意见和体会。

研究目的：本研究旨在了解中文失语症患者在语音疗法中的参与情况，为未来的中文语音康复治疗提供参考。

如果您对参加研究感兴趣，请主动联系我们。

联系方式：
Aphasia Research Laboratory
Boston University
Aphasia Research Laboratory
Telephone: 617-559-2756
aphasialab@bu.edu

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Malden council candidates discuss park

BY MONIQUE CHING

The topic that stirred the most tension at the Malden council at-large forum was Roosevelt Park, and whether it should be turfed or kept as real grass.

“The kids want grass,” a woman in the audience yelled as she walked out of the Oct. 10 forum, partway through Councilor Steve Winslow’s closing remarks.

“Winslow, who is running for another term as an at-large councilor, contended he wants grass at Roosevelt Park like other Maldonians, but it would be challenging and expensive to maintain grass fields there.

“Let’s all agree to work together to make Roosevelt better. (It will) not be passed over for another decade,” Winslow said. “My assessment is grass will not grow there.”

Earlier in the forum, councilor Jerry Leone expressed his support for grass and said the decision to use artificial turf – which some Maldonians are concerned – was rushed through by some councilors sharing the stage with him.

Councilor Craig Spadafora noted the issue had been raised at public meetings. “It’s understandable people are concerned,” Spadafora said. “…if there’s any conclusive evidence that the artificial turf is unsafe, I will not support it.”

Councilor Debbie DeMaria said the decision was not made in secret, but acknowledged it was not made the way it should have been. “One of my biggest concerns is the maintenance of real grass,” DeMaria said. “Turf is beautiful, but it’s almost like keeping plastic in a couch.”

Leone also expressed a harder stance than the three councilors regarding housing, bicycle paths and bump-outs, sidewalk extensions that shorten the distance for pedestrians to cross the road. “I don’t support bump-outs or bike lanes,” Leone said. “That’s something I’ll fight against.”

On housing, Leone said he only will support apartments for seniors or veterans.

The Malden council has three at-large seats. Incumbents DeMaria, Spadafora and Winslow are being challenged by Leone for the Nov. 5 election.

BY YIMING ZHAO

Four Morgan City at-large candidates attended a forum to discuss housing and diversity Oct. 16 at North Quincy High School.

In a relatively short time, Quincy has undergone dramatic changes in the diversity of its residents, including significant growth in the Asian American population.

“Regardless of who comes into the city, regardless of what color, size, shape, making sure they feel connected, making sure they have a voice, making sure they’re representative is the most important thing,” said City Councillor at-large Nina Liang.

Councilor Frank Rubino explained why he does not offer residential property tax exemptions to homeowners.

“We cannot continue to say that because we have a low commercial tax base, the burden falls on the residents. That cannot be the answer to how we fund the much-needed services in this city,” Liang said.

The event was sponsored by Quincy Asian Resources Inc. and Asian Community Development Corp., and moderated by Paul Wohsleben, director of the center for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

The Quincy City Council election will take place on Nov. 5 for the three at-large council seats.

Quincy council candidate Frank Rubino speaks out for gay community

BY LING-MEI WONG

Frank Rubino is running for a Quincy City Council at-large seat. (Image courtesy of Quincy Pride Action Programs.)

For Frank Rubino, it’s important to give back. As a member of Quincy Pride, he helped put together the first LGBT Pride Day and was honored by the city of a municipal LGBT commission.

“We’ve been trying for the past several years for Quincy to be more welcoming and inclusive to the LGBT community,” Rubino said. “I would like to see the momentum continue.”

Rubino’s partner is a Vietnamese immigrant who came to America 10 years ago. He recently had his citizenship application approved, which inspired Rubino to assist organizations that help with citizenship classes such as Quincy Asian Resources Inc.

“I never realized how complex the citizenship process was,” Rubino said. “If elected, I would want to reach out to them as a partner.”

Rubino has a background in finance and created financial literacy tutorials for Quincy’s public access channel QATV. He also used his accounting skills as a volunteer tax preparer for Quincy Community Action Programs.

“Quincy Police Station is a topic of concern, as it’s an antiquated station built in 1920s,” Rubino said. “It’s in the process of being torn down and rebuilt. If I’m elected, I want to make sure the project is on schedule and on budget.”

Housing is one of his top concerns, as Quincy is becoming less affordable for renters and homeowners with increased property taxes.

“Quincy has an affordable housing trust fund. The last I heard, there’s a good amount of money in it, something like $5 million,” Rubino said. “The city is having trouble spending it, so I want the fund to go toward affordable housing initiatives.”

Quincy is the largest city in Massachusetts without a hospital, after Quincy Medical Center closed in 2014. Rubino would like an emergency care center to open, especially in the Wollaston area, which has a high Asian population.

Rubino hopes to revitalize empty storefronts by working with small business owners, finding out their needs for marketing or zoning.

For more information on Rubino, visit his website at FrankRubino.com or at Quincy Pride Action Programs.

Aspen Apartments is a community that will be eight elevator buildings with 384 units and includes amenities such as a professionally landscaped common area with resort-style pool. The clubhouse includes a kitchen, fitness center, game room and televisions. There are 52 affordable units that will be rented to households with annual incomes not exceeding 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) adjusted for family size as determined by HUD.

The 80% AMI Income Limits are as follows:

- 4 people: $52,850 (1 person), $60,400 (2 people), $67,950 (3 people), $75,500 (4 people)
- 1 person: $49,800 (1 person), $56,000 (2 people), $62,900 (3 people), $70,500 (4 people)

Property tax exemptions to homeowners.

Frank Rubino is running for a Quincy City Council at-large seat. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao.)

Quincy is the largest city in Massachusetts without a hospital, after Quincy Medical Center closed in 2014. Rubino would like an emergency care center to open, especially in the Wollaston area, which has a high Asian population.

Rubino hopes to revitalize empty storefronts by working with small business owners, finding out their needs for marketing or zoning.

Traffic congestion is another concern. Rubino wants the City Council to work closely with the Office of Emergency Management on flood mitigation and severe weather plans.

Quincy police are seeking information on a hit-and-run.

Quincy council at-large seat candidate Frank Rubino spoke at a gathering in Malden.

Quincy City Council at-large candidates discuss diversity and affordable housing

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Quincy council at-large seat candidate Frank Rubino spoke at a gathering in Malden.
Republic of China celebrates 108 years

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston celebrated National Day Oct. 4 at the Park Plaza Hotel with a toast. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston celebrated National Day Oct. 4 at the Park Plaza Hotel. More than 700 guests celebrated the founding of the Chinese republic.

“Our steadfast commitment to democracy is crucial to our bilateral relations with the United States,” said Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston Director-general Douglas Hsu. “Taiwan will stay firm in its values and beliefs. Taiwan is strong because our democracy is strong.”

Double 10 parade highlights culture

BY HENRY KATZMAN

Representatives from the six New England states served by TECO attend ed. Taiwan is the second largest trade partner for Vermont. For the Rhode Island dragon boat festival, Taiwan donated six new vessels.

The Republic of China was founded by Sun Yat-sen in 1911, overthrowing imperial rule under Qing dynasty Emperor Puyi. October 10 is the commemoration of the revolution, known as Double Ten Day.

BY LING-MEI WONG

Professionals in Alliance for Asian American Civic Association hosted a mixer Sept. 27 at the Doubletree Hotel. (Image courtesy of Christina Maiorano.)

More than 100 individuals learned about the AAC’s work to educate, employ and empower disadvantaged people.

Internet essentials event at BCNC helps immigrants bridge digital divide

Comcast, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and Tech Goes Home hosted an Internet Essentials event Oct. 8 at the center’s Ash Street facility. Comcast provided 20 laptops to mothers who participate in digital literacy training programs at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, so they have the tools they need to study and do their homework. (Image courtesy of Canyon Twin Photography.)

Affordable Housing Lottery

Oriole Landing
1 Mary’s Way, Lincoln, MA

Nine 1BRs @ $1,678*, Six 2BRs @ $1,876*

*Rents subject to change in 2020. Rent does not include utilities. Tenants will be responsible for paying gas (heating, hot water), electricity (cooking is electric) and water.

Oriole Landing is a brand-new community comprised of 60 rental residences in the highly desirable town of Lincoln, MA. 15 of these units will be made available through this application process and rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Residences are offered in varying, unique layouts, with upscale in-home finishes including quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, and an exceptional level of detail throughout. Each building features three stories and an elevator and is designed with the ambiance of a modern farmhouse. The community amenities include garden space, a state-of-the-art fitness studio, and distinctive community room, creating a tranquil and balanced lifestyle with extraordinary onsite service.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:
$62,450 (1 person), $71,400 (2 people), $80,300 (3 people), $99,200 (4 people)

A Public Info Session will be held on November 14th, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Tarbell Room at the Lincoln Public Library (3 Bedford Road)

Applications also available at Lincoln Public Library on 3 Bedford Road.
Flu season arrives with reminder to get vaccinated

By THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

With the arrival of flu season in Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health (DPH) urges people to get vaccinated now to protect themselves, their families and prevent the spread of flu.

On Oct. 4, DPH began Massachusetts’ flu surveillance monitoring and reporting for the 2019-2020 flu season. Since the start of September, 82 lab-confirmed flu cases have been reported in Massachusetts. The number of cases is within the expected range for this time of year.

“We don’t know how severe this year’s flu season will be, but we do know that the flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and everyone around you,” said Public Health commissioner Monica Bharel. “Although the flu vaccine won’t prevent every case of the flu, it’s still the most effective way to reduce your risk of serious illness.”

DPH recommends that you:

• Get a flu vaccine as soon as possible. The flu vaccine is widely available across the state, including at health care provider offices, pharmacies, school and workplace vaccination clinics, and flu vaccine clinics sponsored by local boards of health. A list of flu vaccine availability based on zip code can be found at https://vaccinefinder.org/.
• Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly, and use hand sanitizer when washing is not possible.
• Always cover your cough, and sneeze into your sleeve — not your hands.
• Stay home when you are sick with fever and a cough or sore throat, and keep children home from school and daycare when they are sick.
• Contact your healthcare provider promptly if you think you have the flu, especially if you have health conditions that make you more likely to develop severe illness when sick with the flu. The provider may prescribe antiviral medications, which work best when started early in the course of illness.

“Increasing our flu vaccination rates among children and adolescents is key,” said Dr. Larry Madoff, medical director of the DPH’s Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. “But we need people of all ages to be vaccinated to help protect friends and family members from getting flu.

Flu can be very serious. Every year in the United States, millions of people get the flu, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands die from flu-related illnesses. The most common symptoms of flu are fever, cough and sore throat. Symptoms can also include body aches, headache, chills, runny nose and fatigue.

Some people are at higher risk of serious health problems when they get flu, including pregnant women, infants, older adults and people with medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, neurological and neuromuscular conditions, and weakened immune systems.

Flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu-associated death by half among children with underlying high-risk medical conditions and by nearly two-thirds among healthy children. Nationwide, there were 136 pediatric deaths from flu last year.

For more information about influenza, visit www.mass.gov/flu, or call your health care provider, local board of health, or DPH at (617) 963-6800.

Tufts Medical Center’s Asian Health Initiative (AHI) has worked with the Chinatown Community Health Center to address health needs for over two decades. The AHI identifies health priorities from public health data, community engagement and advisory committee 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 present-ly focused on the harmful effects of smoking, including smoking cessation, prevention and education.

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Next generation of Asian American theater artists gain steam

BY LINDA CHIN

Katie Zhao dazzles in debut ‘The Dragon Warrior’

BY LING-MEI WONG

Seafood Day celebrates Massachusetts’ bountiful waters

BY YIMING ZHAO

The disproportionate representation of Asian American stories and artists in the American theater canon has galvanized Greater Boston theater artists to take action. This fall, their efforts are collectively gaining steam.

Harvard undergraduates Eric Cheng and Julia Riew co-founded the Asian Student Arts Project (ASAP) in November 2018 to “provide resources, community, and support for students to make art that showcases Pan-Asian and Asian-American experiences and perspectives.” In the spring, ASAP presented aBuying Musical theater production “The East Side,” cowritten by Riew, classmate John Lim and Jared Leong of Emerson’s class of 2019. Across the river, Boston University’s College of Fine Arts (CFA) School of Theater students Sharon Shin and Michael Rosegrant launched Asian American theater Artists of Boston (AATAB). The social collective’s mission is to “empower and connect Asian American, MENA American, Kanaka Maoli theater artists of the Boston area.”

Riew will play Rosie in the Hindi production of “Mamma Mia.” She is writing “Thumbelina,” a family-friendly production for young audiences to premiere at the Arlington Repertory Theater (ART) in December. Chang will perform the lead role in David Henry Hwang’s “M. Butterfly” produced by ASAP at ART’s Loeb Ex in November. Student momentum led to a residency with award-winning film, TV and stage actor BD Wong at Harvard in October.

Asian American Playwrights’ Collective (AAPC) recently released AAPC 2, featuring the work of AAPC cofounders Christina Chan, Hortense Gerardo and Greg Lam, along with Rosanna Altara, Mariko Kanto, Michael Lin, Quentin Nguyen-Duy and Takeo Rivera.

Young Asian American actors with musical talents will rock the stages of Greater Boston in the next few months. “Cambodian Rock Band” by acclaimed Chinese American playwright Lauren Yee at the Merrimack Repertory Theater runs Oct. 16 to Nov. 10.

Lily Park plays the plum role of Violet Beaugrande, the intensely competitive, astonishingly aloof and excessive gum-chewer in “Willy Wonka” at Boston’s Wheelock Family Theater opening Oct. 25. Choi-Harris will play the title role of “Oliver” at the New Repertory Theater in Watertown. Several rabid theater artists gain steam.

The disproportionate representation of the Chinese American or Asian American theater artists has not gone unnoticed by the local community. “I wanted it to be fast-paced but empower Asian American, MENA American, Kanaka Maoli actors to ‘The Dragon Warrior’” went on sale Oct. 15.

Zhao’s desire for an adventure series that was fun and accessible for kids. Faryn longs to overcome her destiny as a girl forbidden to become a warrior, despite showing a natural aptitude. Other characters also want to buck expectations, such as Wang, who loves acting more than kung fu.

“I would go to Chinese school and see,” Zhao said. “I knew kids growing up like me didn’t want to be a lawyer or doctor, so it did because it was what their parents wanted.”

The book is centered around Chinese New Year, when Faryn’s quest as the fabled Heaven Breaker ends on Lantern Festival. Zhao watched Pixar’s “Coco” while writing her book and was inspired to add a cultural celebration. She also took inspiration from Rick Riordan, whose work made her love reading, and an animated Chinese version of “Journey to the West” she watched countless times as a child.

“I wanted it to be fast-paced but embed a lot of the culture I grew up with,” Zhao said. “I wanted an adventure series that was fun and accessible for kids.”

Seafood Day was held at the Massachusetts Statehouse Oct. 10 to celebrate the state’s multimillion dollar seafood industry. The annual event features seafood tasting, live music and interactive displays. Hundreds of people attended the event to enjoy the food and the opportunity to meet with the local fishermen.

Representatives from 17 industry organizations set up in the Great Hall. A raw oyster bar provided by Massachusetts Aquaculture and seafood buffet brought by Snapchat were both big hits. People lined up in front of the booths for a taste of the fresh and delicious seafood from local fishermen. Live music from the Ram Seaked Crooks kept the ambiance lively, with several attendees dancing along to the music.

The event was sponsored by Fishing Partnership Support Services and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. The seafood industry employs approximately 90,000 residents across the state. Seafood Day created a great opportunity for fishermen to share their story and communicate with legislators.

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Seafood Day took place Oct. 10 at the Statehouse. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhai.)
Four budget Halloween costume tips

BY YIMING ZHAO

1. Make your own costume
If you can sew, why pay anyone else to do your costume? Now is the time to show off your design and sewing skills. Your costume will not only cost less, but also be one of a kind. Do plan ahead.

2. Check out dollar stores or second-hand stores
You’re only going to wear the costume once, so quality shouldn’t be your main concern. If you find basic designs boring, make some changes on your own. Remember, creativity is the key.

3. Swap last year’s costume with your friends
No one wants to wear the same costume every year. Why not swap last year’s costume with a friend? Host a costume swap party, if you’re in the mood.

4. Buy a discounted costume after the holiday
Planning ahead is a good thing. Buy a costume you know will never go out of style after Oct. 31, when everything goes for reduced prices.

These are a few costume tips we have for you. Do you have any useful tips you want to share? Want to show off your awesome costume? Tag us on Instagram @sampan_boston, and we will share your tips and photos.

Lifestyle

‘A Big Bed for Little Snow’ by Grace Lin

BY LING-MEI WONG

Award-winning author and illustrator Grace Lin has enjoyed publishing success with more than half a dozen picture books and chapter books. Lin follows up on her 2018 release “A Big Mooncake for Little Star” with companion book “A Big Bed for Little Snow.”

Little Snow loves his soft new bed made by Mommy for cold winter nights. When Mommy tells him the bed is for sleeping and not jumping, Little Snow can’t resist. As soon as her footsteps fade, Little Snow jumps gleefully, as the bed’s feathers flutter down like snow. The sweet bedtime story recreates the snow myth, perfect for winter.

“For a ‘Big Mooncake,’ I thought, ‘Would my daughter be considered an all-American girl?’ That’s why I featured her as the protagonist,” Lin said. “I tied in many folk tales, traditions who does everything by hand,” Lin said. “There’s something so beautiful in being able to indulge in slow paint.”

Lin chooses Asian American protagonists to be the heroes of her stories. Her next release is an original prequel to Disney’s “Mulan” before the February 2020 live-action release. “They gave me a lot of artistic freedom,” Lin said. “I tied in many folk tales, like I always do.”

Lin is working on board books for fall 2020, and a picture book. The picture book examines the true story of a stone Buddha, installed in a California street filled with trash and nefarious doings. After the Buddha was glued to a street corner, people stopped dumping garbage and made the area a lovely park.

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