AACA student, former Hong Kong sailor, begins a new life at 63 in spite of COVID-19

A profile of Chuen Kee Lee

By Anqi Zhang

Chuen Kee Lee (Left) in one of the GAMS classes before the pandemic.

During the ongoing pandemic, everyone is facing unprecedented challenges. Those most in need, such as new immigrants, often get the worst of it. However, some have still found a way to flourish.

Chuen Kee Lee is a first-generation immigrant in his 60s. Twelve years at sea taught him how to adapt quickly. Even during the toughest moments, Lee leveraged the resources he had, immersing himself in learning new skills and adjusting to foreign cultures. Having contracted and recovered COVID-19, Lee cannot wait to embark on a new career path.

“The working situation on the…

See page 4, Chuen Kee Lee

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**Celebrating 100 Years of Voting—But Not for Asian American Women**

By Christina Tuttle

This August, Americans celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment—an anniversary that excludes many Chinese Americans. While the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote, many Asian American women were denied citizenship due to laws like the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. It wasn’t until the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act that all Asian Americans could vote. This law allowed people of Asian ancestry to become citizens, thereby giving them the right to vote. Sixty-eight years later, Asian American political participation still lags.

In 2017, 29% of the Quincy population was Asian American. Yet, Asian Americans only made up 16% of the city’s registered voters. This gap reflects two factors: lack of citizenship for many Asian Americans and apathy towards the political process. Beyond voting, Asian Americans also lack representation among elected officials, a problem that troubles Tiffani Sykhammountry, executive director of the Asian American Women’s Political Initiative (AAWPI). The AAWPI is a political leadership organization that places young women—from prospective politicians to physical therapy majors—in Massachusetts State House internships to learn about politics and community activism.

Asian Americans make up nearly 7% of Massachusetts’ population, with higher proportions living in Boston and surrounding towns. Yet, when AAWPI was founded in 2009, less than 1% of state legislators across the country were Asian American women. AAWPI targets women in their political education efforts because of their role in the Asian American Pacific Islander community, often holding collective power and influence. “We wholeheartedly believe that in order for Asian American women to be more involved, to change what we see as an ineffective system, we need more women in politics,” Sykhammountry said. AAWPI aims to equip Asian American women with political knowledge to change whichever field they enter. Following their internship with AAWPI, some alumni make careers out of politics. Others advocate “from the outside” by participating in issue-based advocacy organizations.

This election cycle features a historic representation of women on the ballot, both on the national and local level. Still, according to Sykhammountry, Asian American voting history should contextualize today’s voting. “Knowing your history is powerful. Because of the model minority myth and the way we exist in white America, we must learn our history and constantly unpack what we’re told,” Sykhammountry said. “The more people that realize how recently we got the right to vote, the more they don’t take it for granted.”

**“We Love Boston Chinatown” revitalizes the community**

By Karen Mai

When the COVID outbreak created fears in the community and businesses were hurting, Mayor Marty Walsh made a #LoveBostonChinatown Small Business Bingo social media campaign that got people to visit Chinatown for dim sum, pastries, public art, and more. This support for the community brought more attention to the “Love Your Block program,” which is now the “We Love Boston Chinatown” campaign. Together the community is dedicated to revitalize businesses and support local artists and organizations. Events were held in hopes of beautifying the neighborhood and revive the impacts left by COVID-19 along with the years of resilience of anti-Asian xenophobia persistence.

In August, the Chinatown Main Street (CMS) and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center decided to get together with volunteers from the Boston Hurricanes volleyball organization, GE aeronautical engineers team, Chinese Freemason Athletic club, Boston Chinatown residents and many others to clean up the streets of Chinatown. CMS Board Member, Gilbert Ho said “we were spreading our volunteers in small groups to maintain social distancing to clean all the streets and clean up trash.” Amid the fears of COVID-19, everyone was willing to come together while socially-distanced to clean up the community because there were areas that needed some upkeep - areas included Chinatown Park, Reggio Wong Park, and Kneeland Street, Surface Artery, and around the Boston Common.

With a lack of outdoor events, i.e. the Lantern Festival and August Moon Festival being cancelled, this event hopes to bring everyone together in an outdoor setting, with the ability to see each other's progress virtually. The goal of the run was to raise at least $5000 by September 13th, and the donations would go towards the BCNC’s services. Over $10K worth of funding was raised thanks to matched donations by organizations and teams. The winners of the race were also awarded gift certificates to use at local small businesses. There were 192 runners of all ages coming from Virginia, California, and all over Greater Boston. Due to the great turn out, Eng hopes to establish this annual event and for it to be an in-person event in the future with the Chinatown Gate as the finish line.

Fall programs at AACA- Enroll now!

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**Linden Ponds values diversity. We welcome all faiths, races, and ethnicities, and housing opportunities are available for low and moderate income households.**
Residents can become artists and leverage existing creative potential. They can use spaces or create public art. Their own artists as they revitalize unseen invested places to cultivate culture. 1960s. Art is used as a strategy in rating the neighborhood. These pieces are known as ‘creative placemaking’, engaging its residents to public art. In the 1970s, members of the community participated in the mural of the Sam- bost, which depicted the historical experience of Chinese immigrants. Chinatown now faces a new foe. gentrification and displacement are disrupting the community and pushing out long-time locals, warranting for community organizations, such as Pao Arts Center and Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) to push for creative placemaking in their own programs. Before the pandemic, ACDC youth leaders hosted Saturday, a monthly Saturday event that features arts & craft tables and pop-up libraries in their creative and safe play-space for children. Youth managers saw how they built a better community through placemaking, stating, “As the youth who run the event, we get to know the residents and community members better while strengthening our project management, communication and leadership skills.” They hope to use this creative placemaking to push for a permanent play-space in Chinatown.

ACDC was also directly involved in the mural painted on Philips Corner, called “Tied Together by a Thou- sand Threads”. This was started as an ideas lab, called Think Chinatown, where residents can brainstorm ideas to transform public spaces. Hoping to share a story of a Chinatown resident, where they found Yvonne Ng. Community artist Shaina Luo was in charge of translating Yvonne’s vision into a painting. Shaina had been incredibly inspired by how Jeena, the youth program director, puts her own perspective in murals. She wanted to do the artist’s course of action, the community voices could result in an unwanted or controversial art piece. Additionally, if the art is not cele- brated or remembered, it could lose its purpose.

Creative placemaking is prevalent during COVID now more than ever. As social-distance guidelines isolate individuals from one another, creative placemaking reminds us of our shared experiences and unswerving community.

**Lifting up Chinatown through Creative Placemaking**

By Mandy Sun

Walking through the streets of Chinatown, you may notice colorful murals and beautiful structures decorating the neighborhood. These pieces are known as ‘creative placemaking’, a practice used in community development and urban planning since the 1960s. Art is used as a strategy in strengthening local historically dis- invested places to cultivate culture. Simply put, residents gather together within the community and become their own artists as they revitalize unused spaces or create public art.

Successful creative placemaking leverages existing creative potential. Residents can become artists and storytellers themselves. As the neighbor-}

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**VIVA Affordable Housing Lottery**

8 Studios @ $1,258*, 26 1BRs @ $1,331*, 34 2BRs @ $1,595*, 7 3BRs @ $1,834*

Rents subject to change in 2021. Tenants will pay own utilities: Gas Heat, Gas Water Heating, Gas Cooking, Electricity. Water and Sewer and one non-garage parking spot are included in the rent. Units are expected in approximately January 2021

**MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:**

- ($67,400 (1 person), $77,000 (2 person), $86,650 (3 person), $96,250 (4 person)
- $76,150 (4 people), $82,250 (5 people), $88,350 (6 people)

Introducing Bridgewater’s finest luxury accommodations – Viva! Viva is a 300 unit rental apartment community conveniently located within minutes of Route 24 and 495 in Bridgewater. Viva offers a spectrum of exceptional apartments including ample unit sizes, plank style flooring, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, personal washer and dryer, and amazing resort-like amenities including remote working areas, package reception stations, wellness center, designer salt water pool, outdoor kitchen and socialization areas, recreational areas, dog park, and much more! 75 units in this development will make available through this application process and rented to households that have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Units are expected in approximately January 2021

Completed Applications may be mailed, faxed, emailed, or delivered in person. Completed Applications and Required Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by October 23rd, 2020.

A Public Info Session will be held at 6 pm on September 21st, 2020 via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/e/SEBHOUSING (or just search for SEB Housing and via Conference Call) –(425) 436-6203. Code: 862627

The lottery for eligible households will be held November 4th, 2020 at 6pm.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-4900 (x1) and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillsdale Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

**Next Edition Marks The Start of Our 49th Volume!**

The affordable homes will be ready for occupancy in Fall 2020

This is a lottery for the 10 affordable homeownership units being built at The Foundry at Wakefield in Wakefield, MA. All 10 homes will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. 5 of the Affordable homes have 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom, and 5 of the Affordable homes have 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Condos are equipped with open, integrated space for today’s modern lifestyle. Units will contain luxury vinyl plank flooring throughout, stainless steel profile appliances by GE, shaker style cabinets, and granite countertops. The foundry hosts a luxury condominiums in an ideal downtown location, providing ready access to restaurants, shops, Lake Quannapowitt, and the Commuter Rail to Boston.

**Maximum Household Income Limit:** $75,000.

**Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received or postmarked by 2 pm on October 26th, 2020.**

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

A Public Information Session will be held on September 28th, 2020, at 6:00pm via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/e/SEBHOUSING (or just search for SEB Housing) and via Conference Call – (425) 436-6203. Code: 862627

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**Wakefield Affordable Housing Lottery**

**The Foundry at Wakefield**

**www.sebhousing.com**

**$282,300 for a 2BR unit (condo fees are $216/mo)**

**$250,000 for a 1BR unit (condo fees are $192/mo)**

**The affordable homes will be ready for occupancy in Fall 2020**

This is a lottery for the 10 affordable homeownership units being built at The Foundry at Wakefield in Wakefield, MA. All 10 homes will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. 5 of the Affordable homes have 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom, and 5 of the Affordable homes have 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Condos are equipped with open, integrated space for today’s modern lifestyle. Units will contain luxury vinyl plank flooring throughout, stainless steel profile appliances by GE, shaker style cabinets, and granite countertops. The foundry hosts a luxury condominiums in an ideal downtown location, providing ready access to restaurants, shops, Lake Quannapowitt, and the Commuter Rail to Boston.

**Maximum Household Income Limit:**

- $67,400 (1 person), $77,000 (2 person), $86,650 (3 person), $96,250 (4 person)
- $76,150 (4 people), $82,250 (5 people), $88,350 (6 people)

**The Maximum Household Asset Limit is $75,000.**

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received or postmarked by 2 pm on October 26th, 2020. Applications and Pre-Approvals postmarked, by October 23rd, 2020.

A Public Info Session will be held on September 28th, 2020, at 6:00pm via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/e/SEBHOUSING (or just search for SEB Housing) and via Conference Call – (425) 436-6203. Code: 862627

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Chinese people reside, actively seek-
ing after more interactions with locals. Getting rid of the pedestrian lifestyle in Hong Kong, Lee got a driver’s li-
cense as soon as possible. The couple embraced changes, and was excited about exploring a new way of living.

The couple could maintain their life with their pension and savings on hand, but he knew he wanted to find a job from the outset. For Lee, working is an important part of experiencing American culture. He believes it is a good way to learn about their atti-
tudes about work and life, their social norms, and available resources to them. Lee and his wife happened upon the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) while spending time in Chi-
natow. Out of curiosity, they went in and got to know about the job train-

ing programs offered at the agency, where Lee noticed the Green Auto-

motive Maintenance Skills (GAMS) Program. Considering his experience and interest in fleet maintenance, and learning about the overwhelming need in the industry, Lee signed up for the program. The industry of maintaining medium and heavy duty vehicles is lacking employees. This is partly due to youngsters’ shying away from hard physical labor, and their lack of requisite technical and profes-

sional experience.

Talking to Lee, one can feel Lee’s enthusiasm in learning new things and his confidence in future job-hunting. He was serious and articulate in de-
tailing the content and proceedings of the program - how many courses they had, what their schedule was like, and the exact names of the textbooks they used.

The courses took place from Feb-

ruary 18 to June 25. Due to the pan-
demic, in-person training transitioned into virtual meetings after less than three weeks. Although Lee believes in-person teaching is more effective, the virtual courses did not decrease his passion for learning. Lee remained op-

timistic and seized the opportunity to learn more about computer technology and software.

In order to be a successful full-
time fleet maintenance professional, Lee has to complete the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifica-
tion test. He is scheduled to take it in September along with the rest of his GAMS class. Lee has been preparing for the exam for a while now. He or-
dered reference materials and picked them up from the Boston Public Li-
brary. As they have not yet opened, he has been studying at home instead of going to the library as he would have before the pandemic.

As part of the program, GAMS stu-
dents complete a five-week internship. However, the internships were post-
poned due to the pandemic, but will start soon. Once Lee completes his internship, Lee will be all set for a real job and embark on a new journey after working persistently towards his goal. In addition to adjusting to learning in a new way, Lee had to suffer through a bout with COVID-19 during class. After getting a fever, Lee went to Tufts Medical Center and tested positive for COVID-19 at the end of February. Since he was not exhibiting other serious symptoms, he was told to self-quarantine and take care of him-
self at home.

“One day was not easy, I counted it day by day,” Lee said. “Eventually I did not leave the room to go outside until the 16th day.” During that time, doctors called him every day to monitor his symptoms. He contin-
ued to study remotely. His studies also helped to distract him from his anxiety-
ies about the virus. “Think positive,” he said.

Looking forward to the next few years, Lee hopes that he and his wife can have a more comfortable life after he gets a full-time job. “I don’t want to worry about not being able to find a job,” he said. He would like to travel more and explore various cultures of people from different walks of life, just like the golden days spent on the sea.
THE GREENWAY NEWS

The Greenway in Chinatown: Updates from Greenway Conservancy

New signage added to honor Mary Soo Hoo.

By Rachel Lake

It has been a busy month in Chinatown on The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy is excited to announce several updates on signage, public art, and community collaborations.

The Greenway Conservancy this month added new signage on The Greenway. Alongside the Chinatown Viewing Garden, new signage has been added to the fence line with information on the garden and the plants within. In Mary Soo Hoo Park, historical signage has been added to honor the park’s namesake, community leader and organizer Mary R. Soo Hoo.

The Greenway Conservancy is proud to partner with We Love Boston Chinatown, a resilience campaign led by a collective of Chinatown non-profit organizations, businesses, residents, and city officials to reactivate & heal Chinatown’s economic and social fabric.

Support your favorite local businesses and bring your takeout to The Greenway! Taking place on select Thursdays in September, Take-out Thursdays encourage residents and visitors to buy food from local restaurants while listening to live music from 12p-1p at Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park on The Greenway.

Musical performances will also occur on Thursday 9/24 from 6:30p-7:30p and Saturday 9/26 from 11a-1p. All performances are part of Experience Chinatown, a celebration of the rich cultural fabric of Boston Chinatown through free creative activities for all, organized by the Pao Arts Center. We Love Boston Chinatown and Experience Chinatown include signage and barricades to encourage physical distancing and face coverings. These performances are weather dependent and Pao Arts Center will stream virtually in the event of poor weather. Performances will follow Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines; if a crowd begins to form, the performance may be temporarily paused.

Last week, the Conservancy announced the much-anticipated new public art installation, Lantern Stories, by local artist Yu-Wen Wu, on The Greenway. Lantern Stories will be on display through the fall, located above the plaza on The Greenway in Chinatown. Celebrating Boston’s Chinatown community, Yu-Wen Wu designed 30 lanterns to illuminate the history of immigration, the community, culture, and resilience.

Thank you to our community jury partners, Josiah Quincy Elementary School, Pao Arts Center / Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Coalition, AVOYCE / Asian Community Development Corporation, Chinatown Main Street, City of Boston Arts Commission, the Greenway Public Art Advisory Group and many other community members and business owners who participated in the story sharing workshops and conversations with Yu-Wen Wu.

The Conservancy has continued to move forward with a lighting study for The Greenway in Chinatown and will be hosting a virtual community update meeting on Thursday, October 8, to give an update on upcoming lighting and infrastructure improvements on The Greenway in Chinatown. This update follows our community input meeting and online survey in February 2020 to solicit community feedback. Funding for the design work was provided by the Greenway Business Improvement District (BID) and the Conservancy has successfully fundraised from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund and the Greenway BID for a first phase of lighting construction in 2021. You can learn more about this event on The Greenway website and register in advance; translation services will be provided.

To learn more about all of the offerings in the park - free fitness classes, City Winery on The Greenway, the food trucks, the Boston Public Market at Dewey Square, the artisan Greenway Open Market, the Greenway Carousel, and more - check out our website at rosekennedygreenway.org. All Greenway programming features enhanced cleaning and physical distancing protocols to promote safety for our park visitors.

Have questions? Email info@rosekennedygreenway.org.

Rachel Lake is the Marketing and Community Affairs Manager at the Greenway Conservancy.

JOBS

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The City of Everett is looking for a dynamic leader to help drive organizational change around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Director will design and implement organization-wide DEI efforts, and help shape a healthy and inclusive culture where everyone can grow and thrive. We are looking for a candidate with a deep understanding of diversity challenges and an ability to lead systemic change. This position reports directly to the Mayor and collaborates with senior leadership and other key stakeholders to advance our diversity and equity initiatives, and overall inclusion strategy.

The Director will be tasked with measuring and monitoring organizational diversity, with a concrete goal to diversify leadership and staffing across the organization and to develop criteria for measuring the stations progress. This person must be able to create a vision of change that will inspire colleagues at all levels and help the administration meaningfully serve our ever more diverse public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelors degree required with a minimum of 5 years of related work.
- Experience implementing diversity and inclusion programs and educational tools; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job.
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Knowledge of on-going organizational development efforts in diversity and education resources concepts, practices and procedures. Working knowledge of design and development of professional development programs.
- Bilingual preferred.

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Hamel-Lydon Chapel & Cremation Service of Massachusetts

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2 Locations in Quincy

Our Chapel and main office is located at 650 Hancock Street in the Wollaston part of Quincy, Massachusetts. Most services are provided at this location. However, we also have a larger venue in Quincy Center where we can accommodate funerals with up to 500 guests.

Asian Funeral Staff

Chinese-speaking staff are trained to assist families and guardians throughout the funeral process. We are committed to providing excellent service and speak Cantonese, Mandarin, Toisanese and/or Patois.

Asian Funeral Customs and Traditions

Our team of experienced funeral counselors will discuss and guide families on the traditional Chinese rites and customs throughout the funeral process.

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We offer various funeral package plans that include services and merchandise tailored to traditional needs of Asian families.

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Over the years, we have helped thousands of families through the cremation process and it is an honor to be of assistance to those who place their trust and confidence in us during this time in their lives. Our counselors can explain the process of cremation and specialized services we offer to our families in need. Our cremation services extend across Massachusetts, covering the entire state.

Pre-Planning Funeral Consultations

Our licensed Funeral Directors can meet with you to discuss your wishes and provide you with guidance and assistance to set up pre-need funeral plans.

Hamel-Lydon Chapel & Cremation Service of Massachusetts

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<td>650 Hancock Street</td>
<td>(617)472-5888</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@hamelydondon.com">info@hamelydondon.com</a></td>
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Translation Services

- Chinese: (617)657-9016
- Japanese: (617)434-9016

Funeral Directors: Christopher P. Goulet, Sr & Michelle Lydon

Director of Asian Services: Lola Tom
In Memoriam
William (Bill) Moy (July 10, 1934 – May 25, 2020)

William “Bill” Moy passed away on May 25, 2020 at the age of 86. Born and raised in Boston, Bill is remembered for his important contributions and advocacy for the Chinatown community.

After retiring, he founded Moy Associates, Inc. to continue being involved in the civil engineering industry, consulting on engineering work and projects. As a retiree, he utilized his skills and experience in protecting the best interests of the Chinatown community. Bill was one of the many influential community members in Chinatown development and land use. He led and participated in several organizations, namely the Chinatown Neighborhood Council, the Chinatown Community Trust Fund, and perhaps his favorite group, the Wang YMCA.

For about 60 years of his life, he was involved with the YMCA. Bill filled many roles since his youth – as team basketball coach, program advocate, special events coordinator to a major gifts fundraiser, and branch board member.

Bill was also the Chairman of the Board of Advisors to the YMCA. In 2000, he lead the YMCA, at the time known as the South Cove YMCA, in redeveloping the former Boston Technical High School into the YMCA and the Hilton hotel into what is today the $42,000 square foot Wang YMCA.

He was proud of his work at the YMCA. He would often wear a baseball cap or windbreaker with the “Wang YMCA” logo on it. As a dedicated member of the Wang YMCA, Bill launched the annual Wang YMCA Christmas party and hosted it with his sisters and friends, servicing more than 700 youth. He was particularly fond of mentoring and fostering the development of youth.

Always thinking about the community, Bill worked to protect the community’s land use interests. He was very savvy in negotiating with the city of Boston and the developers who built around Chinatown over the last 30 years. According to his friends and coworkers, Bill could locate pressure points quickly in a negotiation. He knew how to force a common solution among diverse interests. He was a good advocate for the community and one of the key contributors in moving the community forward.

As part of the Chinatown Trust Fund, which has given almost three million dollars in grants and awards locally, Bill, along with other community members, insisted that funds get dedicated back to neighborhood agencies and communities. Bill was also a longtime lead moderator of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council as a leading voice and liaison with local city agencies, planners, and established businesses.

Those who worked with him saw Bill as a selfless leader whose interests were always about helping others and making sure community was taken care of. He was of a strong character that brought people together. He could mingle with any group – from the CEOs of large investment banks and major companies to the neighborhood community residents living in the towers of Tai Tung village.

Bill was a strong and resilient man. When he had surgery on his back, he had to re-learn how to walk again in his 80s. He was determined to learn to walk again, as he could not be kept down. Even after stepping down from his roles he still attended every meeting as Chairman emeritus. Bill was able to let someone else lead the meetings and simply cared about being there for the meetings.

Many of those in Chinatown and Boston miss and love him. His selflessness and relentless commitment to the people and residents of Chinatown is remembered and honored. Due to COVID-19, his family conducted a private burial on May 28 in Forest Hills Cemetery.

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Working under the general direction of the Mayor and Director of Communications, the Communication’s Specialist is responsible to be part of the implementation of an integrated communications strategy for the City, incorporating public access media broadcasts, written materials, and social media trends and applications. Work includes conceptualizing, developing, and implementing media, brand, and various special projects that positively represent the City’s operations and departments. The focus will be on the conveyance of public information through multiple formats, and the success of representation of the City’s interests via social media and traditional news outlets in a timely and accurate manner.

Education:
Bachelor’s degree in communications, journalism, marketing, business administration, public relations, or a related field.

Experience:
At least five years of experience dealing with social networking, preferably in a municipal or government setting; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

To apply:
Submit cover letter, resume, and writing sample to Human.Resources@ci.everett.ma.us using the subject line “Communications Specialist.” Please include all of the above-mentioned documents as attachments to the email.

Come work with CDI!

We are seeking a Cooperative Housing Specialist to work in Southeastern/Central Mass. with resident-owned communities.

See cdi.coop for details.

Women, POC welcome.
Keep Saray Home
Continued from page 1

“If you have something to fight for, to live for, that’s how people change,” said Im, in the film. “That’s how I look at it.”

Kevin Lam, Organizing Director of AARW, and Bethany Li, Director of GBLIS’s Asian Outreach Program, led the discussion on concrete strategies to support community members impacted by deportation, following the screening.

Lam explained that the history of South East Asian deportations is linked to the history of September 11th, which led to hyper surveillance and the criminalization of Muslim and South East Asian communities. He also stressed that while Tony Pham, the new Director of ICE, shares similar experiences with South East Asian community members, he does not represent the interests of refugee and immigrant communities.

Presley spoke to the importance of legislation that has been passed on the federal level to support immigrants vulnerable to deportation. The New Way Forward Act addresses the connection between mass detention and deportation, reducing mass incarceration by ending mandatory detention and banning for profit immigration jails. It also gives judges discretion when deciding immigration claims for immigrants with criminal records and redefines the categories of “serious crimes” that currently bar immigrants from qualifying for asylum.

Miranda and Nuon described narratives that are perpetuated in society about the existence of a “good immigrant” and a “bad immigrant.” Individuals who make “positive” contributions to society are rewarded, while immigrants who commit crimes become part of a reductive storyline that is propagated through mainstream conversations. “The reality,” said Nuon, “is much more complex.”

“That are the notions that are used by the mainstream community, as a bias,” said Nuon. “There is no bad immigrant. I came here in 1982, to the United States, facing a language and cultural barrier. …There’s a lack of structural support and systematic violence. And so what do you do if you form your own group, … Eventually it draws you to commit some crime.”

Kim delivered an emotional account of experiencing the possibility of having her father deported. She was in school when she heard the news, and she described the impact that it had on her life and her family.

She spoke to the pressure that she felt to represent herself as an exemplary member of the community, explaining that she believed she would not be heard unless she achieved success—that her story would not matter.

“This fight is everywhere,” said Kim. “…I just hope that nobody else has to go through this anymore, because it is painful. I wish that no child has to have the conversation of ‘why is my mom or dad no longer here?’ It is emotionally and mentally taxing.”

Food for Thought
Hong Cuc Grand Eatery

While in Lowell, we went to Hong Cuc Grand Eatery. They have “take out” only for a variety of Vietnamese Sandwiches (Bánh mì aka Vietnamese Buns and literally means wheat bread in Vietnamese), plus they have a selection of prepared foods to “order out” only for a variety of Vietnamese dishes. These were not greasy at all and a paste topped with white sesame seeds. Each one was the clear favorite for all of us.

Next was the Bánh Mì Nem Nướng (#3 $6.50 (BBQ Nem / Pork, Patties/ Meatballs), cucumber, onion, Dō Chua (pickled daikon and carrot), cilantro and sweet sauce. The Nem Nướng was cut into slivers and while tasty kind of mild in flavor. Then we had to try two rarely seen options at the usual local bánh mì shop. Bánh Mì BI #5 $6.50 (Shredded Pork BI) (acts like a Vietnamese pug skin / pork rind), cucumber, onion, Dō Chua (pickled daikon and carrot), cilantro and Nuoc Chán (Vietnamese fish sauce). The BI is cut in very thin pieces but I felt it added more a rubbery texture than flavor to this Bánh mì sandwich.

Lastly we got the Bánh Mì Chả Cả #7 $6.50 (Fish Cake) Chả Cả, mayonnaise, cucumber, onion, Dō Chua (pickled daikon and carrot, cilantro and Nuoc Chán (Vietnamese fish sauce). The fish cake was more on the fishy side so we rank this one last of the four we ordered.

My friend loves their Chả Giò (Vietnamese Egg Rolls filled mung bean) which is a lovely dessert ball shaped dessert that is fried with a creamy, golden glazed glutinous rice dough stuffed with a sweet mung bean paste topped with white sesame seeds. These were not greasy at all and a lovely ending to our bánh mì feast.

Affordable Housing Lottery
WATERMILLS
330-350 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA 02472
857-618-9114

80% AMI Affordable Units: Three 1BDRs @ $1,737*, Ten 2BDRs @ $2,892*.*Rents subject to change. Rents include water, but do not include gas, electricity, parking, general, hot water or cold water. One senior parking spot included in the rent.

Watermills is a new 99 unit rental community located on 330-350 Pleasant Street. 15 affordable apartments will be made available through this complex at the rents described with an individual attention to maximizing space and natural light. Units have in unit washer/dryers, slant-ank floor flowing throughout, stainless steel appliances, designer kitchens and granite counters, and central air. Units are pet friendly (pet restrictions apply). Elevators are conveniently located in opposite areas of the development and the units are spread out and contained within three separate buildings that are connected with enclosed bridge structures, which further emphasizes the creative and colorful design conducive for maximizing interior space and light. Other features provided for at Watermills include ample bike storage, future self-storage options, electric car chargers, and a gym.

80% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits: $67,400 (1 person), $77,000 (2 people), $86,650 (3 people) 80% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits: $58,240 (1 person), $68,560 (2 people), $74,080 (3 people) 65% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits: $53,135 (1 person), $63,830 (2 people), $69,460 (3 people) $77,000 (2 people), $86,650 (3 people)

Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 3 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on November 16th, 2020 at 6pm. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 3 business days from the deadline.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.shbhousing.com or call (617) 752-4980, and leave a message or post mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducido gratis disponible.
**Việt Citron: Phở, Bánh Mi & More**

“We opened Viet Citron because we love cooking for the adventurous and savvy foodies in this community.”

--Trần Ngọc Lee

They use the seasonal dishes to introduce customers to unique Vietnamese regional dishes.

At the beginning of the year, a short time before the pandemic began, Việt Citron, a Vietnamese restaurant on Middlexurng Turnpike in Burlington, opened. They were closed for a few months and recently reopened, under restrictions due to the pandemic. Since the reopening, I’ve been dining there at least once a week, enjoying its fresh, delicious Vietnamese cuisine.

The small restaurant is owned by a husband and wife team, Howard Lee and Trân Ngoc Lee, who want to bring authentic Vietnamese food to the area, choosing to offer a small, selection of dishes, made from scratch and using many local ingredients. Currently, they’re open for lunch and dinner, offering take-out, delivery and limited outside dining. The menu is intentionally small, with regular items including Bánh Mi and Phở, as well as Seasonal Specials, which change regularly. Trân Ngoc Lee told me that many of these dishes were items she enjoyed as a child in Vietnam. She also stated that they use the seasonal dishes to introduce customers to unique Vietnamese regional dishes that are not commonly found in typical Vietnamese restaurants. They also offer several Pound/Bulk Order products, great if you are having a party. For example, I’ve taken a pound of their Salt Roasted Crispy Pork Belly ($16.95), to a grilling party and everyone loved it, quickly devouring the delectable pork.

With cooler weather on its way, a great choice would be their Phở ($13-$16), that iconic Vietnamese soup. Currently, they serve four types of Beef Phở, though I’ve previously enjoyed their Chicken Phở. It was an aromatic dish, the smells delighting you even before you took a taste. The Phở broth was complex and flavorful, with tender pieces of chicken and each spoonful was pure hedonistic pleasure. A perfect dish to warm the belly. Their Bánh Mì ($12) is made with an artisan Vietnamese baguette, pickles, jalapeños, cilantro, signature aioli, garlic soy reduction, and your choice of protein, including lemongrass sirloin, chicken, grilled prawns, crispy pork belly, or crispy tofu puffs. The pork belly is my favorite. It’s tender and crispy, with crunchy bits and soft fat, and there was an ample amount within the sandwich. The freshness of the other ingredients, including the baguette, stood out and each bite beckoned you to have another.

The Bánh Mì Hỏi Bowl ($13.50) comes with square rice noodles, lettuce, fresh herbs, cucumbers, pickles, scallion oil, ground peanuts, and a choice of protein, along with a side of chili garlic fish sauce. I chose the lemongrass sirloin, tender and aromatic beef, enhanced by the crunchy peanut bits and fish sauce. The square rice noodles are little light packages of noodles, and can easily be dunked in the sauce. Mama Trân’s Chả Giò ($7) are crispy fried egg rolls wrapped with ground pork & shrimp and seasonal vegetables, and accompanied by a chili fish sauce dip. The wrappers are made from rice paper and are thin and light, with a pleasant crunch. The interior is tasty, with a nice blend of meat, seafood and veggies, that works harmoniously together. The sauce has a mild heat which complements the egg rolls.

The Summer Rolls ($6.50) are made from fresh rice paper rolls wrapped with pork, shrimp, herbs, lettuce, and vermicelli, and come with a peanut sauce dip. Instead of the pork and shrimp, you could select tofu or grilled sirloin. The translucent wrappers show off the plump shrimp inside. Again, the summer roll has a delicious blend of flavors with an emphasis on freshness.

One of their most recent seasonal specials was the Chılı Lemongrass Pork Ribs ($15.00). These were tender and meaty, with a delightful spicy dry rub and a slight bit of heat. Frankly, they are some of the best ribs I’ve tasted in some time. They are served atop rice and served with fresh veggies. Another seasonal special was the Bò Lá Lốt, tender beef wrapped in the thin leaves and then grilled. They can be atop rice or noodles. This was another aromatic and delicious dish, and each beef roll was flavorful, moist and compelling. This dish is traditionally paired with Mắm Nem Sauce, a pungent fermented fish sauce and mixed with chili, lemongrass, and pineapple. I loved the umami of this complex sauce, which had elements of both heat and sweetness.

In all of the dishes, there is a freshness to the ingredients which appealed to me. There is a nice depth of flavors and textures to each dish as well. I’m impressed with their cuisine, and their seasonal specials mean there is often something different on the menu to enjoy. With autumn almost here, I’m looking forward to enjoying more. Phở Việt Citron earns my hearty recommendation.

**HARMONIOUS**

By A Chinese individual from Queens, NY

Mental health was not a conversation topic in my home. Growing up with a single mom my whole life, I was eager to try dorm life and get a taste of the world outside our apartment. This one week away from home was the trigger for all the underlying mental health struggles and unspoken burdens that had built up. I took a gap year to assess the panic attacks I had experienced during that week away from home. This was all new to me... I was the put together friend and daughter secretly bottling up emotions. These internalized feelings led me to a fight with my mom who invalidated my mental health struggles.

After several conversations and tears she said it might be a good idea for me to see a therapist. My therapy sessions were freed of my mom like the anxiety, panic, and emotional problems I experienced were finally real. I wasn’t crazy, I just needed help. For those who are facing this kind of tension with family and with yourself, look to yourself for answers. Be affirmative and be kind to yourself. This story is part of a series for &music HARMONIOUS, a Chinese mental health initiative, overseen by Dr. Xiaoduo Fan for the UMass Chinese Mental Health Program. To share your story, please use the anonymous submission form found at https://projectharmionous.org/share

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