Amongst our nation’s immigrant community,ophobic sentiments have run rampant, and continue to shape this country’s ideals, and continue to have control over the affordability of their housing. However, this funding has not been acting alone. We have been seeing a growth in supporting tenants from disadvantaged communities to buy first-time homes, receiving support from both private and public Boston housing authorities. Boston Housing Authority (BHA) has created new programs to help residents towards correcting and improving the housing situation, MHIC President and CEO Moddie Turay says, “Ultimately, we want to see more developers helping to solve the affordable housing crisis in disadvantaged backgrounds. This fund marks a huge moment as it is the largest publicly led financing program in the country. In Massachusetts, the median price for a single-family home was $570,000 in January 2024. According to the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, that increased 9.6% from the year before. With housing becoming an increasingly tough challenge in Boston, especially for those living in areas gentrification and identity. Benjamin Franklin expressed concerns about the influx of German immigrants in the 18th century. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, against Irish, Italians and Chinese immigrants evolved in tandem with the changing demographics in our population. In “Immigration and in US History”, the Library of Congress wrote: “As immigration from Europe and Asia
Physician Pathway Act Receives Favorable Report from Joint Committee on Public Health, Included in Economic Development Bill

By Yizhen Zhang

On January 11, Massachusetts General Hospital, in almost four years after the hospital has experienced in its two centuries of service and caring for Boston and surrounding communities. Massachusetts General Hospital, in almost four years after the start of the COVID pandemic, continues to struggle daily with unprecedented overcrowding especially in the Emergency Department. Similarly, many hospitals across the Commonwealth are facing capacity constraints even today. This burden on emergency departments might be due to the extremely long wait times for primary care appointments as well as the primary care physician shortages, forcing many people to go to urgent care or EDs for that would be better dealt with in primary care offices. According to a study done by physician recruiters Merritt Hawkins & Associates, the current average wait times for primary care appointments in Boston range from 40 to 136 days. A person looking to get his/her physical examination for this year might probably only be able to schedule an appointment in May 2025.

According to the Bureau of Health Workforce, in 2021, there were approximately 268,297 primary care physicians actively working which represent 28.2% of total active physicians of 949,658 in the US. Adding on to the data, there were a total of 228,936 primary care physicians out of a total of 730,026 physicians, which amounts to approximately 31.4% of the total physicians according to data from Robert Graham Center. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of primary care physicians increased by 15%, while the number of specialists of other specialties had an increase of about 8.7%. Zooming in on Massachusetts, in 2018, of the total active physicians of 31,025, there were 26,536 primary care physicians, amounting to approximately 29.8% of total active physicians. There has been a shortage of primary care physicians and an aging primary care workforce in recent years. There have been more primary care doctors leaving the profession because they have retired and relatively older physicians are also choosing to retire earlier than expected mostly due to the stresses of the job. Primary care doctors get paid less than specialists yet have to know a lot about a lot, more than a specialist. The pandemic has for sure added to the stress of being a doctor. Furthermore, doctors in the US tend to get too much paperwork.

The physician shortage issue has been extremely severe in rural and underserved communities. According to the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, at least 500,000 people in Massachusetts, especially in western and southeastern Massachusetts, lack sufficient access to primary care, dental care, and mental health services. While Massachusetts has one of the highest health professional-patient ratios in the country of approximately 44.2%, nearly 40% of the active physicians practice in Suffolk county with a population estimate of 771,245 as of 2021 which holds merely 11.04% of Massachusetts population (estimated to be 6,985 million as of 2021). Adding on to the data mentioned above that about 29.8% of total active physicians in Massachusetts are primary care physicians, the acute physician shortages in these areas should be addressed immediately.

It is worth noting that according to the Migration Policy Institute’s estimate based on their 2017 data, Massachusetts has around 3,000 foreign-educated immigrants whose health needs are currently unmet and their need is not being fully utilized. The shortage of doctors and nurses could have been filled by these foreign-trained physicians. Nevertheless, internationally trained physicians, dentists, nurses, and practitioners in other health professions looking to get licensed in Massachusetts face numerous challenges. Foreign-trained physicians have to pass all three steps of the USMLE within a seven-year time limit. Foreign-trained physicians, regardless of their numbers of years of practice experience outside the US, have to complete a three-year US residency. Meanwhile, only 2 years of US residency is required for US-trained doctors. What’s worse is that residencies are competitive and many applications only go recent – within the prior 3 to 5 years – medical school graduates. Simultaneously, residencies are low-paid and require grueling hours. Furthermore, internationally-trained physicians and nurses have to get their credentials evaluated only by CGFNS which can take up to a year to complete the credential review. In addition, foreign-trained nurses are required to take an English proficiency test. What’s more is that physicians have to take the proficiency test and the credential evaluation test again even if they have already passed the test or completed the evaluation in another state. Summing up, the licensing process can be extremely costly and time-consuming for foreign-trained medical professionals, many of which are refugees and asylum seekers, who were unable to find employment in their home countries yet cannot afford to risk and go through the licensing process. This licensing process turned down many foreign-trained medical professionals. According to the Special Commission on Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals established in 2022, nearly 25% of internationally trained nurses are either unemployed or working in lower-skilled jobs, similar for approximately 13% of all migrants to Massachusetts with health care-related degrees from outside the US. Many of these medical professionals choose to work in hospitals as technicians or other lower-skilled jobs because they failed to get a residency or in order to get a job that will at least pay them a salary immediately. Nevertheless, these medical professionals are fully trained, qualified, and experienced and their expertise could have been mobilized.

Meanwhile, foreign-trained medical professionals face similar obstacles like the Cuban pediatricians where they are fully qualified yet need a salary and cannot go through the whole licensing process. This Physician Pathway Act will first issue qualified internationall-trained physicians like those just mentioned a renewable one-year limited license to practice medicine under mentorship of a federally qualified health facility that serves an area with a physician shortage where the physicians would have their skills evaluated. Subsequently, physicians will be issued a renewable two-year restricted license for them to practice in a shortage area or specially designated by the Board of Registration in Medicine. Then, physicians will be eligible for a full unrestricted license. In general, the act is aiming to have the internationally-trained physicians get additional training while getting paid to support their family and furthermore to support the underserved communities to address the physician shortages.

Up until this point, this Physician Pathway Act received a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Public Health and was just included in an economic development bill filed last week. Immigrants often seek out doctors who speak their languages, know their cultures, and understand their backgrounds. Having these internationally-trained medical professionals licensed can not only lighten the burden on the nation’s healthcare system but can also create a relatively more comfortable environment for immigrants in this country. Some states have either removed the residency requirements or have offered programs that fund some of these foreign-trained medical professionals.

Tennessee became the first state in the country to remove the redundant residency requirements, permitting international medical graduates to bypass the requirements and obtain temporary medical licenses, which will take effect on July 1, 2024. Minnesota is offering a 9-month program that will prepare international medical graduates for residencies and will fund 2 to 3 residencies each year. Massachusetts’ Special Commission on Foreign-Trained Medical Professionals proposed in a report ways to eliminate redundant requirements and proposed recommendations for long term administrative and legislative reforms including developing a pathway to full licensure for physicians and dentists previously authorized to practice medicine outside the US, establishing state-supported program that facilitates access to residencies such as that in Minnesota, and creating a revolving loan program that would provide interest-free loans to help defray the expenses that accompany the licensure process and related costs.

The Physician Pathway Act was passed which will create an efficient pathway as proposed by the special commission to full licensure for qualified internationally-trained physicians. One person who is one of the active voices behind the Physician Pathway Act and a member of the special commission is Dr. Deeb Salem, MD, academic cardiologist and former Physician-in-Chief ofTufts Medical Center. Dr. Salem recalled meeting an older pediatrician, as a medical student at Boston University on pediatric rotation, from Cuba who had left Cuba with no money and had to end up sweeping floors in the hospital because he could not find work due to the onerous licensing process. Dr. Salem continued to recall that sometimes he and other fellow students would go to the old Cuban physician and ask medical questions regarding the treatment of the patient.

Many foreign-trained medical professionals face similar obstacles like the Cuban pediatricians where they are fully qualified yet need a salary and cannot go through the whole licensing process. This Physician Pathway Act will first issue qualified international-trained physicians like those just mentioned a renewable one-year limited license to practice medicine under mentorship of a federally qualified health facility that serves an area with a physician shortage where the physicians would have their skills evaluated. Subsequently, physicians will be issued a renewable two-year restricted license for them to practice in a shortage area or specially designated by the Board of Registration in Medicine. Then, physicians will be eligible for a full unrestricted license. In general, the act is aiming to have the internationally-trained physicians get additional training while getting paid to support their family and furthermore to support the underserved communities to address the physician shortages.

March 15, 2024

DINE BOSTON

DINEOUTBOSTON.COM

March 10 - 23, 2024

SAMPAN
Boston Housing Crisis

Continued from Page 1

A downpayment to purchase a housing unit within city limits. The number of Section 8 voucher participants buying homes in Boston through this program is increasingly growing this year. Boston Housing Authority officials say they hope to see more people taking advantage of this opportunity next year.

Megan Ryan, BHA’s director of homeownerhip and mobility grant programs, said, “This initiative is one part of Mayor Wu’s attempt to halt the displacement of longtime city residents from the neighborhoods. Families and neighborhoods are changing because of migration. Life-long residents of Dorchester and Mattapan are being driven out. They’re not able to afford to buy within the community without assistance programs.”

Many living in areas of Dorchester see the BHA program as a corrective approach one in a city that has a notorious history of redlining Black people, by gatekeeping and blocking the rights of Black people to be able to own property and get loans. Last year, a report by Grove Impact and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City found that Black and Hispanic real estate developers made up less than 1% of the industry. Hence, these programs are being seen as a step towards the right direction in tackling Massachusetts’ housing crisis.

In addition to their grant program, BHA created a second program called the ‘Citywide Voucher Homeownership program’ that uses city funds to assist BHA residents looking to purchase houses inside Boston instead of being driven out by affordable prices. By partnering with the Mayor’s Office of Housing and collaborating with approved partner agencies, they can recommend first-home buyers to participate in a lottery program to win monthly subsidies to put towards a mortgage. Ryan says that since last year’s launching of the home program, they have served 41 first-time homeowners.

With this increased financial assistance in the process of homeownership, developers have also agreed to preserve the availability of affordable housing in certain areas for low-income tenants in the future. LHIC Investment Group and Belveron Partners announced apartments at risk since the vacant units could be re-rented at market rate. Instead of letting that happen, LHIC made a deal to a preservation plan to protect all eligible existing households at Mercantile Wharf in Boston’s North End neighborhood and ensure that those homes stay available for low-income tenants for at least the next 20 years.

The change of many housing authorities and corporations in increasing growth opportunities for underrepresented developers stands as a new beacon of hope for first-home buyers. The combination of the programs of financial assistance, funding, and housing preservation plans offers a golden ticket to homeownership that might otherwise be unattainable. It not only, outright, doors open for low and moderate-income families but also contributes to the overall stability of the state’s housing market. The impact of these programs is enormous given the immense potential to reshape the landscape of ownership, hopefully making it a more inclusive and achievable goal for those who have longed to own a home.


American Attitudes

Continued from Page 1

neared its crest in the late 19th century, anti-immigrant sentiment soared along with it. The U.S. was in the grips of an economic depression, and immigrants were blamed for taking American jobs. At the same time, racist theories circulated in the press, advancing pseudo scientific theories that alleged that “Mediterrean” types were inherently inferior to people of northern European heritage. Drawings and songs caricatured the newcomer as a thieving, criminal, or subhuman became sadly commonplace. One 1891 cartoon claimed that “If immigration was properly restricted you would never be troubled with anarchism, socialism, the Mafia, and such kindred evils!”

Today, America is witnessing a new surge of migrants seeking sanctuary within our borders, driven by the same factors which drove earlier immigrants to take life-threatening measures to save their families from famine, civil wars, and rampant apocalyptic crisis. Sampan spoke to Henry, a Cali- formia restaurant owner in Boston, who works with them every day helping them find work. He said, “The Biden Administration’s Humanitarian Support Program, designed to aid nationals of failed or conflict- prone countries in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, has played a major role in the wave of recent migration. They are all legal with a right to be but many Americans are marrying them in with the people trying to illegally enter at the southern border. Unfortunately, the ongoing saga at the southern border has always been about deporting families seeking safety but without the legal right to enter. What both groups have in common is a singular need to work. They work hard and I pay my taxes. I don’t like that the government is using my taxes to support migrants.”

Sampan also interviewed Margaret, a Museum Archivist, who said that migrants who seek to settle in states such as Massachusetts encounter a myriad of problems including prejudice that prevent them from finding employment and opportunity in the US. She felt that: “A major problem is that there are not enough staff and judges to process applications for asylum, which has led to these numbers increasing, migrants will slip through the system. For many, the hope of finding refuge is in the fact that they are now seen as a protected and overworked justice system. Navigating through complicated legal processes makes these migrants’ situation even more difficult than they already were from forced to circumvent the rules in order to support their families.”

Massachusetts leaders have risen to the occasion, according to Carrie, a Youth Counselor and an immigrant herself of 5 years. She said that Massachusetts has dem- onstrated a commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of migrants. She believes that the Governor and her team have handled the migrant crisis extremely well. She con- tinued: “They have fed and clothed with dignity and with all the respect they de- serve as human beings. Their compassion- ate approach reflects the state’s ethos of inclusivity and em- pathy, both of which are extremely impor- tant in times of crisis. Further, individuals in areas of sanctuary cities across the country have also played a crucial role in welcoming and supporting migrants. Their tireless efforts to provide these individuals with sanctuary and support exemplify the humanitarian spirit and solidarity that we require in our response to ongoing chal- lenges.”

Jazeen caution that “beneath many US immigration laws are theories of “sci- entific” racism and eugenics – namely, on ideas of racial superiority/inferiority, gen- dered, sexual and psychopathic deviance, and prevailing notions of “common sense” which divide people.” From discrimination bans based on purported perceives disabilities to exclusionary mea- sures targeting specific ethnic and national groups, immigration in the US has been defined by power, privilege, prejudice, and privilege.” We interviewed Louis and Nancy who saw the immigrants as assets for America, not burdens or threats. Louis was an accountant who chal- lenged the claim that the new migrants are stealing jobs from native-born citizens. He said, “If someone feels their job was taken by an immigrant, it likely indicates their lower competence. We should not acknowl- edge immigrants as threats. Only the most capable individuals are able to thrive in the competitive job market of today’s economy.”

Migrants have repeatedly proven them- selves to be capable and driven workers that play a crucial role in our cul- ture. They deserve their opportunities just as much as anyone born in America, and no one is more entitled to a job simply because of their status as a citizen.”

Nancy, a teacher at a community col- lege has observed a stark difference in atti- tudes and work ethic between immigrants and native-born US citizens. She said, “All the immigrants (from many differ- ent countries) seem to be eager, punctual, and very hardworking. The Americans in my classes by contrast, have been late and absent and have negative attitudes. Immi- grants have consistently displayed the quali- ties that are required for succeeding in the workplace, compared to their native-born counterparts. They prove themselves to be disciplined and committed, which reflects in their hiring decisions made by employers.”

And finally from Dennis, a retired teacher in the Boston area: “I don’t believe that we have a migrant crisis. There has historically been a move- ment of people into the US. From time to time that movement has increased or de- creased depending on the global situation. People coming into the US have usu- ally brought with them an array of skills and talent.”

Sampan’s editorial content focuses on the very small group of people who are a criminal element.”

“I hope Trump wins. I work hard and I pay my taxes. I don’t like that the government is using my taxes to support migrants.”

March 15, 2024
### Certified Medical Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Malden
- Adult Medicine, Pediatrics, Podiatry, and Social Services
- WALK-INS AVAILABLE, APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED (接受無預約但建議預約)
- MON–FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM – 5:00PM
- SAT 習慣日 8:30AM - 1:00PM
- (Adult Med. Med. and Pediatrics ONLY 僅成人科及小兒科)

### Nursing Assistant – Boston/ Malden
- Nurse Assistant – OB/GYN (FT) – Boston
- MON–FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM – 5:00PM

### Dental Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Quincy
- Dental Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Quincy

### Birth Coaching (FT)
- Birthing Coach (FT) – Boston

### BIDMC Interpreter (FT)
- BIDMC Interpreter (FT) – Boston

### Unit Secretary (FT)
- Unit Secretary (FT) – Malden

### Nurse Assistant – OB/GYN (FT) – Malden
- MON–FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM – 5:00PM
- SAT 習慣日 8:30AM - 1:00PM
- (Adult Med. Med. and Pediatrics ONLY 僅成人科及小兒科)

### Social Service Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Malden
- Social Service Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Malden

Please search Indeed.com for more position information.

Or Contact our HR Department: 617-521-6701; lejiang@scchc.org
**Events Calendar**

**• Notice: Orange Line Temporary Closure**
Date: Monday, March 18 through Thursday, March 21
Location: Between North Station and Jackson Square
Details: Due to a temporary closure of the Orange Line segment between North Station and Jackson Square, the MBTA is offering free shuttle bus services and fare-free bus and Commuter Rail alternatives. For more information and to access “A Rider’s Guide to Planning Ahead,” please visit our website or contact the MBTA Public Engagement team.

**• Free Immigration Consultations**
Dates: Next sessions on March 6 (full) and March 20
Time: 12 pm - 3 pm
Location: Appointments currently conducted by telephone
Contact: Schedule, call (617) 635-2980 or email immigrationadvancement@mbta.com
Details: The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) collaborates with volunteer interpreters to provide free immigration consultations on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Interpretation services and disability accommodations are available upon request. Each consultation lasts 15 minutes and is limited to one-time only. For more information and materials in several languages, visit the MOIA website or contact directly.

https://www.boston.gov/departments/immigrant-advancement

**• THE CHER SHOW**
Dates: March 15 - 17, 2024
Location: Wang Theatre
Brief: Celebrate the legendary Cher in the Tony Award®-winning musical, THE CHER SHOW. Experience the story of Cher’s six decades of pop culture dominance through 35 smash hits, portrayed by three actresses embodying the phases of her career: the kid starting out, the glam pop star, and the icon. Following a Grammy®, an Oscar®, an Emmy®, and a Tony Award, work your way through the Right.

**• Notes on the World Around Us, Drawings by Ingrid Ludt and Sand T Kalloch**
Opening Reception: 5 - 8 pm, Thursday, March 14, 2024
Show dates: March 14th - April 14th, 2024
Location: City Tap House, 10 Boston Wharf Road, Boston, MA 02210
Admission: FREE

Brief: Transform Boston into a giant game board with this interactive scavenger hunt adventure. Blending the excitement of the Amazing Race with a comprehensive three-hour city tour, this activity is guided via any smartphone. Teams navigate through the city’s famous sights and hidden treasures, solving puzzles and completing challenges while uncovering local history. Available every day from sunrise to sunset. Start whenever you want; proceed at your own pace. Enjoy a 20% discount, with a final price of only $39.20 for a team of 2-5 players after using the code PAXشو. Register online at http://www.UrbanAdventureQuest.com.

**• Dutch Painting Workshop with Nard Kalloch**
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Time: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
Admission: $15 materials fee

Spent a day with Dutch painter Nard Kalloch as he leads a workshop exploring the painting techniques and styles of Vermeer, Rembrandt, and other 17th-century Dutch masters. This hands-on workshop offers a unique opportunity to delve into the world of historical art, enhancing your skills under the guidance of an expert. The workshop fee includes materials, ensuring you have everything needed to create your masterpiece.


**• PAX EAST 2024 - 20th Anniversary Celebration**
Dates: Thursday, March 28, 2024, 10:00 am - 11:00 am (Repeats weekly)
Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., Boston, MA 02210
Admission: FREE

Brief: Transform Boston into a giant game community. Blending the excitement of the Amazing Race with a comprehensive three-hour city tour, this activity is guided via any smartphone. Teams navigate through the city’s famous sights and hidden treasures, solving puzzles and completing challenges while uncovering local history. Available every day from sunrise to sunset. Start whenever you want; proceed at your own pace. Enjoy a 20% discount, with a final price of only $39.20 for a team of 2-5 players after using the code PAXشو. Register online at http://www.UrbanAdventureQuest.com.

**• Second Star to the Right**
Dates: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 8:00 am - Saturday, March 30, 2024, 8:00 pm
Location: Emerson College Tufte Performance and Production Center, The Greene Theater, 10 Boylston Pl, Boston, MA 02116
Admission: $12

Second Star to the Right” reimagines the classic tale of Peter Pan. Follow Captain Hook, who was once Aunt Cora to three children, as she uncovers the secrets of Neverland after being drawn in by Pan’s allure. The arrival of the Darlings signals a turning point for all inhabitants of this magical island. Don’t miss this unique twist on a beloved story at The Greene Theater, presented by Emerson College.

https://emersonstage.org/second-star-to-the-right/

**• Spring Spectacular Egg Hunt 2024**
Dates: Friday, March 15, 2024, 11:00 am - Sunday, March 31, 2024, 4:00 pm
Location: Berlin Farms, 200 Central St, Berlin, MA 01503
Admission: $20-25

Get ready for an early Easter celebration with the Spring Spectacular Egg Hunt from March 20th to 31st at Berlin Farms. Join us in the enchanted world of Peter Cottontail’s magical carrot patch for an eggs-tra special event. Perfect for families and children eager to embrace the spring season with an exciting egg hunt. Secure your tickets on Eventbrite today!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spi ng-spectacular-egg-hunt-2024-tickets-4836530 54157

**• Notes on the World Around Us: Drawings by Ingrid Ludt and Sand T Kalloch**
Opening Reception: 5 - 8 pm, Thursday, March 14, 2024
Gallery Hours: Saturdays, 12 - 4 pm
Details: SJ Art Consulting welcomes multi-disciplinary artists Ingrid Ludt and Sand T Kalloch for a joint exhibition this March. This will mark our first dedicated drawing show, and we’re pleased to introduce each artist through this work.

https://sjartconsulting.com/gallery

**• Somerville Winter Farmers Market - 14th Season**
Dates: Saturdays, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm, Ends on April 6th, 2024
Location: Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA
Admission: FREE

Join the Center for the Arts at the Armory for the 14th season of the Somerville Winter Farmers Market. Featuring over 35 vendors, the market is your destination for the best locally grown and regionally produced foods.

**• Easter Bunny Visit at Harbor Sweebe Beverly**
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Harbor Sweebe Beverly, 140 Rantoul Street, Beverly, MA 01915
Admission: FREE

Celebrate Easter with a special visit from the Easter Bunny at Harbor Sweebe store in Beverly. Treats include the beloved bunny and indulge in samples of Harbor Sweebe's exquisite handmade chocolates. Discover a variety of seasonal treats and delicious bakes, a self-serve, candy wall, stuffed animals, Easter-themed gummies, lollipops, and ice cream. Don't miss this festive event and visit to HarborSweebe.com


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The marriage of two people from different cultures is becoming more common in the U.S. ever-evolving society. But it hasn’t always been this way. In the past, especially, interracial marriage had long elicited hostility and discrimination – and was even banned at times.

Even states now known for progressive and liberal policies like California prohibited interracial marriage. But consider: The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 had even restricted Chinese immigration for over a half a century. Chinese Americans including U.S. citizens were forced to “interment” camps during World War 2 – both symbols of persistent xenophobia. It wasn’t until the 1967 Supreme Court case Loving v. Virginia that remaining miscegenation ban was struck down.

The Sampan spoke with four people who are in interracial marriages about their experiences with love, discrimination and acceptance. Here are their stories:

By Brandon Wong

I was born and raised in New York, same third generation in America. All of my grandparents immigrated from Japan at the close of the 1800s. My parents were raised to be “good Americans” and were taught that being Japanese was not an issue. The world sees them as different which is reason enough to discriminate.

I took my parents for me to understand that despite being generations away from Japan, there is much about me that is Japanese. The same can be said about my wife. She is more than a half century away from Scotland, but much of her is Scottish. Of course, such differences have caused conflict because they have some white blood; they are classified by their minority blood. The fact that their mother and father comes from two different ethnic backgrounds and skin colors wasn’t an issue. The issue was that the world sees them as different which is reason enough to discriminate. It took many years for me to understand that being Asian or boy was something special. Maybe being Asian was a mysterious culture to the white folks. Asian people are good partners because they may be loyal and do not ask much for a living. When I was going to marry a white person, I was afraid to tell my parents. The idea of having my parents and relatives accept him … I was shocked. I thought my husband would not accept me. But I think living a great distance from them helped that I would not have to interact with them daily.

My daughter was a game changer as far as easing tensions with the parents. And because my husband had a good job and provided for this family, my parents were at ease that I had a “good husband.” I did not think anything of my daughter being accepted when she started school. I knew I felt sad and scared when I started school, being only one of a few Asian students in the school system. I know my daughter felt different when she started school. I never looked at her as being Asian. She said she thinks of herself as more Asian than White.

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By Ron Suga and his wife

Ron Suga: Who Cares What the Neighborhod Thinks

I am not worried about whether my children fit into a particular circle of friends due to racial/ethnic reasons as I fundamentally believe that friendships are a two-way street and not fitting in might be a good indicator that this environment is not the best for my children. I see that as an opportunity to find the alternatives instead of wasting my energy on people who would not accept me or my children should know they come from two great civilizations filled with thousands of years of wisdom. They are who they are: Chinese/Jewish Americans and we are ready to embrace the world and ultimately cultivate a different culture with another human being who might or might not share the same racial identity.

Did I also mention that researchers found that the more distantly related a person’s parents are, the more likely they are to be taller, smarter, and better educated?
Wild Coyotes Are in Cities and Suburbia: How To Protect Yourself

By Jeff Millman

The coyotes are a common sight here, though more often than not, you hear rather than see them. Urbanites may associate coyotes with wooded, rural parts of the state, but over the past few years coyote sightings have increased in the city of Boston and its surrounding areas. This isn't because the coyote population has grown, but rather because coyotes have become more comfortable in urban environments. Joanna, a resident of Jamaica Plain, reported to Sampan her frightening encounter with coyotes:

“I was driving around 11:30 pm and approaching my home when I saw two fast moving shadows running onto my front lawn. Thought they were burglars. Pulled into my driveway and left car lights on to scan my house and driveway. I saw nothing. Finally after 5 minutes I mustered enough courage to run to my house. As I began to open my car door, I saw two coyotes standing right next to my car. I waited in the car for about 5 minutes while they ran around my car and around the house until they disappeared. It felt like an eternity.”

There are now around 12,000 coyotes in the state of Massachusetts, but before 1950 there were none. Coyotes were mostly confined to the plains of the western half of the continent until the 1900s, when they began to migrate northeast. The coyote population in Massachusetts is thought to have descended from coyotes that migrated down from the forests of Vermont in the 1950s. Over the last 70 years, they have spread to every area of the state (except Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket). They thrive in rural, suburban, and urban environments, but it’s still somewhat strange to see a coyote strolling down the street in the North End. Yet over the past few years, this is precisely what residents in and around Boston have been seeing: coyotes seemingly adapted to city life.

Last summer, NBC10 Boston reported that residents in Jamaica Plain were growing concerned about the number of coyotes seen in the neighborhood. Multiple coyote sightings were also reported in Brighton, South Boston, and the North End. Susan McCarthy, of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife confirmed that there has been an increase in reports of coyotes in suburban and urban environments, but she noted in an interview with WGBH that the coyote population in Massachusetts has stabilized over the past 10 years. Coyotes are simply becoming more visible, rather than increasing in number. Why? McCarthy says that there is usually “a link to artificial or intentional feeding,” meaning that people are accidentally “a link to artificial or intentional feeding,” meaning that people are accidentally

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Project Bids until the date and time stated below and will be posted on www.bidx.com, forthwith after the bid submission deadline. No paper copies of bids will be accepted. Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects. Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Project Bids at least 14 days prior to the scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. B99C15, EAST STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, DEDHAM, MASS. Mass. Code: 6-GLASS GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION - $13,000,000.00 and CLASS 4A - STEEL STRUCTURES - $13,000,000.00, Project Value $13,199,252.00, can be submitted at https://www.bidx.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on Thursday April 4, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The Work consists of the replacement of the existing Railroad Bridge over East Street in Dedham, Massachusetts, and the reconstruction of a section of East Street. The new bridge will be a two track, through girder superstructure on a new reinforced concrete substructure. The bridge will be constructed by Accelerated Bridge Construction methods within an active railroad right of way. The new bridge will have a span of fifty one feet and a width of thirty seven feet. Approximately six hundred feet of East Street will be reconstructed with two roadway lanes and sidewalks on either side. The project involves structural work, structural work, track work, roadway work, stormwater system work, utility work and other construction specialties.

Bidders’ attention is directed to Appendix B, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix C, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-coyotes

Learn more about Coyotes: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-coyotes

Wild Coyote

Protect your property, remove food sources from around your property, and use loud noises and gestures towards coyotes in your environment to deter them from sticking around.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

10 PARK PLAZA

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Project Bids until the date and time stated below and will be posted on www.bidx.com, forthwith after the bid submission deadline. No paper copies of bids will be accepted. Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects. Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Project Bids at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. W43CN07, ALEWIFE PARKING GARAGE STRUCTURAL REPAIRS PHASE III, CAMBRIDGE, MA. (CLASS 12A – GENERAL CONCRETE, ALEWIFE PARKING GARAGE STRUCTURAL REPAIRS PHASE III – $10 Million) can be submitted at https://www.bidx.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on April 4, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The contract consists of concrete repairs to the Alewife Parking Garage beams, deck, and columns, located at the north end of the Red Line in Cambridge, MA.

Bidders’ attention is directed to Appendix A, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. While there is no DBE goal associated with this contract, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

https://mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Phillip Eng

General Manager and CEO

March 6, 2024

March 15, 2024

SAMPAN
SAMPAN
March 15, 2024

Affordable Housing Lottery
The Pastures at Dover
61 County Street
Dover, MA

**YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:**
https://com.jumt.com/SEBHousing/Participate/Dover

**Affordable Rent Amounts**

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Applicants must be residents of the Greater Boston area.

The Pastures at Dover is a brand-new rental development located in Dover. The property will contain 34 total units of affordable housing.

**Position: Project Worker ESD, Full Time, Boston**
- Three (3) months housekeeping experience
- Position: Patient Service Rep, Full Time, Boston
- One (1) year of medical office, insurance, physician's office practice, or hospital registration experience.
- Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

**Hilton Boston Logan**
- Position: CDL Shuttle Van Driver
- Salary: $19.71 per hour
- Position: Banquet House Attendant
- Salary: $19.74 per hour

**Tufts Medical Center-Boston, MA**
- Position: Food and Nutrition Representative, 40 hrs - Day/Even and Rotating Weekends
- Requires a high school diploma or GED preferred.
- Minimum of two years’ experience in food service/customer service environment.
- Website: www.jobs.bmc.org

**Boston Medical Center-Boston, MA**
- Position: Certified Pharmacy Technician I (Inpatient, Full Time, Boston)
- Requires a high school diploma or GED preferred.
- Website: www.jobsmhc.org

**Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494.**

**Boston Centerless**
- Position: Shipper / Back-Up Driver (Woburn, MA)
  - Basic woodworking skills – hammer, saw, measurements
  - Self-motivated, with the ability to work independently and in a team environment.

**New England Center for School Social Work, Counseling**
- MA DESE School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor License (All Levels)
- Successful completion of the application process.

**Boston Public School**
- Position: Master’s Degree in Social Work, Counseling
- Minimum of 3 years of effective professional experience in an urban setting similar to Boston Public Schools providing clinical services.

**Job Corner**
- Minimum of an Associate’s degree in human services, public administration, business management or related field and 1 to 3 years’ relevant experience required.
- Experience working in a career center, providing software/social media instruction, or other related experience required.

**Position: Solar Technician Program Trainer, Full Time, Boston**
- A minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Minimum of one year’s experience as a journeyman/journeywoman or as a technician in the solar industry is required.
- Three years experience as a certified teacher in a vocational-technical school environment or a related training program preferred.

**Position: Cook, Full Time, Everett**
- Minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Excellent written and verbal communication as well as interpersonal skills.
- Must be able to read, maintain records and prepare simple written reports.

**Position: Carpenter, Full Time, Boston**
- Experience in construction and/or construction trade experience.
- A minimum of one year’s experience as a journeyman/journeywoman or as a technician in the solar industry is required.

**Position: Environmental Services Aide I, Full Time, Boston**
- One (1) year of related experience
- High school diploma or equivalent required.

**Position: Disability Case Manager, Full Time, Boston**
- Bachelor’s degree in psychology, social work, or related field.
- Minimum of 3 years of effective professional experience in an urban setting similar to Boston Public Schools providing clinical services.

**Position: School Health Monitor, Part Time, 3 hrs per day**
- Must be a Boston resident.
- Position: Part-time Cafeteria Attendant, 5-HOURS-Lyon High School-9:00-2:00
- Bachelor’s degree

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
- Position: Receptionist , Full Time
- Applicants must have at least three years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, experience in office work.

**Position: Cook, Full Time, Everett**
- High school diploma or equivalent.

**Position: Media Trainer, Full Time, Hybrid, Woburn**
- Minimum of an Associate’s degree in communications.

**Position: Firefighter, Full Time, Boston**
- Minimum of 3 years of effective professional experience in an urban setting similar to Boston Public Schools providing clinical services.

**Position: CDL Shuttle Van Driver**
- Must be a Boston resident.

**Position: Household Registration Agent, Part Time**
- Minimum of three years of experience in office work.

**Position: Food and Nutrition Technician I, Full Time, Everett**
- Minimum of two years’ experience in food service/customer service environment.

**Position: Receptionist, Full Time, Hybrid, Woburn**
- Minimum of an Associate’s degree in communications.

**Position: Environmental Services Aide I, Full Time, Boston**
- One (1) year of related experience
- High school diploma or equivalent required.

**Position: Dietary Aide , Full Time, Boston**
- Ability to read, speak basic English, and follow instructions.
- Website: https://careers.bostonabcd.org/

**Contact:**
- Steven Vanaria
- svanaria@bostoncenterless.com
- www.bostoncenterless.com

**The City of Boston**
- Position: LifeGuard I , Full Time, Temp

**Affordable Housing Lottery**
**Norton Links**
195 Mansfield Avenue
Norton, MA

**Affordable Rent Amounts**

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<td>$8,092</td>
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**Contact:**
- Ramon Rodriguez
- ramos@boston.gov
Lot Used by Church, Community Groups Denied Parking Permit Amid Push for Cleaner Air

By Sampan Editors

The Boston Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) voted at a December 2023 meeting to reject an application to keep in use 30 parking spaces which are owned by the Church of St. James the Greater Roman Catholic Church. They have all the right to decide whether they wish to use the Tyler Street parking lot. It's hard to be fair. Because the decision was already made it possible for our parish to thrive as a community. We fully intend to remain a visible, valued advocate and partner in the community, and look forward to continuing to provide this important

TSS received letters of support from the following neighborhood organizations:

- AACA – Asian American Civic Association, Inc.
- CBA - Chinatown Business Association
- Chinese Freemasons
- Chinese Merchants Association
- Go Hoak Oak Tin
- Kwong Kwong Chinese School
- St. James the Greater Roman Catholic Church
- Chinese Economic Development Council (CEDC)
- Boston Planning & Development Agency
- Boston Asian YOUTH ESSENTIAL SERVICE
- Petition of parishioners of St. James the Greater Roman Catholic Church (290 signatures)

Lydia Lowe of the Chinatown Community Trust said that she hoped the park advocates can get a chance to sit down and talk with the property owners so that we can figure out the best way to work together and meet different community needs. She explained that it was always her group's understanding that the church-owned spaces would cease to be used for parking after the nearby property was given for community use. It is now being developed as affordable housing.

James Foley, Executive Director of Tufts Shared Services (TSS), stated at the meeting that "Tufts Shared Services is pleased the APCC has granted us use of the Tyler Street parking lot through 2031. We have leased this lot for 17 years. Its 30 spaces are used by people engaged in medical care at the Tufts Medical Center, providing a critically important service and convenience to these patients and their families. TSS has been a strong, long-standing partner in the Boston Chinatown neighborhood, including supporting local businesses, schools, churches and youth organizations. At the request of the Chinatown community, we have hosted the National Chinese Volleyball Championship, art installations and community movie nights, and we are very supportive of efforts to cultivate green spaces around Chinatown. We fully intend to remain a visible, valued advocate and partner in the community, and look forward to continuing to provide this important

[Image of a parking lot]

AACA – Asian American Civic Association, Inc.
CBA – Chinatown Business Association
Chinese Freemasons
Chinese Merchants Association
Go Hoak Oak Tin
Kwong Kwong Chinese School
St. James the Greater Roman Catholic Church
Chinese Economic Development Council (CEDC)
Boston Planning & Development Agency
Boston Asian YOUTH ESSENTIAL SERVICE
Petition of parishioners of St. James the Greater Roman Catholic Church (290 signatures)

Applications: Kristen Costa (978) 758-0197
Info Mtg. 4/3/24, @ 6:00 pm, Zoom ID: 838 2201 4960
4P $94,650, 5P $102,250, 6P $109,800
Max. household income:
1P $66,300, 2P $75,750, 3P $85,200
4P $94,650, 5P $102,250, 6P $109,800

Info Mtg. 4/3/24, @ 6:00 pm, Zoom ID: 838 2201 4960
Code: 090421, Call: 309-205-3325
Mail: 5/8/24 @ 6:00 pm, Zoom ID: 850 9102 7743
Code: 988475, Call: 929-205-6099

Applications: Kristen Costa (978) 758-0197
www.iaassoc.org, kriscosta@iaassoc.org
City Hall & Library, Deadline: 5/3/24
Interview with Greenway Artists Ponnapa Prakkamakul and Zhidong Zhang

By Harmony Witte

The Greenway Conservancy recently announced two new public art installations that celebrate the Year of the Dragon which will be installed at Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park. The installations are Year of the Dragon by Ponnapa Prakkamakul and Far Away, From Home by Zhidong Zhang. Sampan sat down with the two artists to talk about their work, which is part of the annual Chinese Zodiac series.

Sampan: What does it mean to you to have your installation on The Greenway?

Ponnapa Prakkamakul: I used to be a play volunteer at The Greenway from 2016 through 2018. At that time, they called it “play ambassador.” My job was to play with kids at Chin Park exactly where the sculptures are, because at that time, I think they put the storage containers over there at that location. And then when they open the container, they put the toys out. During one of the volunteer shifts, they asked me to do a temporary mockup of their hopscotch using tape. When I did that, everyone liked it, and then it became a printed version, and that's kind of the starting point of that. I think that's probably my first public art in a public space, and that's where things started to happen. Having the installation at The Greenway at the exact spot again really means a lot to me.

Sampan: How much did the planned location of the piece at Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park in Chinatown influence your work?

Ponnapa Prakkamakul: Before I did the proposal, I did research on what dragon means in Chinese culture. Some people in the South of China believe that dragons are the protector of the water. And it's actually not like a fire dragon, it's a water dragon. I think the serpentine curve form that kind of reminds me that's the body of the dragon that was hidden in the greenway. As it used to be water, too, before the land reclamation in this area, like the Beach Street at Chinatown Gate used to be next to the beach. I think that kind of resembled the dragon, and that's where the inspiration came from. I have the dragon actually heading towards Chinatown Gate, and also because the park kind of has a play element, like the play cube, and then the water mist in the planter area. I was thinking about connecting it so that kids can feel the whole space as a play space connecting the play cube and then the water mist with the installation.

Sampan: What do you hope people will take away from your installation?

Ponnapa Prakkamakul: This installation has a lot of people's contributions in it, actually, like 90 Chinatown residents of our generation helped me imagine it. I feel that they feel that this belongs to everyone. And I hope when they see this, they realize when they come together, they can achieve something as big as a dragon.

Sampan: When will the tail be installed at the park?

Ponnapa Prakkamakul: Hopefully in June. We don't have snow this year, but at first, we were planning in June just to make sure there's no snow.

Sampan: The piece will be on display for a year?

Ponnapa Prakkamakul: Until February 2025, I think until the next Chinese New Year, or around that time.

The title of this installation takes inspiration from the essay “Far Away, From Home: The Comma Between” written by filmmaker and writer Trinh T. Minh-ha. The installation explores Trinh’s musings on otherness as both “a site of return” and “a site of change”. Far Away, From Home delves into these questions and expands on notions of home, immigration, identity politics, diaspora, and queerness in the public sphere.

Sampan: What does it mean to you to have your Far Away, From Home installation on the greenway?

Zhidong Zhang: I think it definitely

Continued on Page 11
means a lot. It’s my first public art piece, and I think it’ll be my first time having the work seen by a wider audience. That’s not only limited to the gallery spaces, museum spaces, what’s that I usually exhibit my work at. I’m very excited to see how the public responds to the piece in various ways. I think that’s even more exciting to see how they respond than actually having the piece in the space—in a way.

Sampan: How long did it take you to create this piece?

Zhidong Zhang: Almost a year in the making. The process started about last year this time, and then just went through some iterations. But the fabrication process or the making process was, for the past six months, intense making.

Sampan: What materials did you use in your piece?

Zhidong Zhang: The cabinet will be constructed with solid wood, like a marine grade plywood. Again, to reference, it’s a furniture piece. Or, like, the material that you will find when you have your own domestic furniture. So that’s what I’m thinking. The furniture legs, the four legs will be 3D printed.

Sampan: How do you think people will find when you have your piece?

Zhidong Zhang: I hope people will just enjoy it. That’s the first and foremost my take away from your installation?

Sampan: When you applied for this, since this is your first public art piece, were you surprised that you got it?

Zhidong Zhang: Yeah, I think Audrey Lopez, she’s the director of the public art department, throughout the whole process, she definitely gave me the creative freedom to come up with the initial proposal and also allow me to go through different iterations. I think that really’s supportive. Adam Torres, the public art project manager, is also so supportive throughout this process. So definitely a shout out to Greenway.

They’re being so supportive so in terms of it’s my first experience working with public art, but they do provide substantial support, so it’s very smooth.

Sampan: It will be on display for a year?

Zhidong Zhang: Yeah, maybe until March 2025.

Zhidong expressed, ‘It has been almost six years since I moved to the United States from China by myself. I am considered a resident alien by the government—not because I’m a green card holder but because I pass the USCIS “substantial presence” test, which is based on the total days that I’m physically present in the US. The act of passing this test is to reenact the disappearance of oneself by virtue of absence from one’s home country. It’s easy to get mixed up reorienting oneself to a new place when the precarity of displacement is enmeshed in the promises of unknowning the old self and becoming a new self. I remember the sheer desire I had early on to hide my accent and repel any foreignness that inhabited my body. For immigrants of color and queer individuals, I’ve always wondered if the assimilation and categorization of ourselves becomes unavoidable, and even more, as a necessity, to reassert, reinvent, and rebuild from the preexisting identities that we are bound to lose…’

Far Away, From Home by Zhidong Zhang

Celebrate Women’s History Month and Honor Trailblazing Women

During March we pay special tribute to the women who have made a significant impact on history. From trailblazing activists and leaders to groundbreaking scientists and artists, women have been at the forefront of shaping our world. Join us in recognizing and appreciating these women who have paved the way for future generations.

For more information or reasonable accommodation, please call the property that interests you. We provide free language assistance by phone, just take your language and hold for an interpreter.
Laurence Louie is Making Big Waves as a Chef at Rubato

By Harmony Witte

Rubato, a Hong Kong style cafe, in Quincy

Sampan went to Rubato, a Hong Kong style cafe, in Quincy to speak with Chef and co-owner Laurence Louie about his busy year as a Chopped champion, being a James Beard semifinalist, winning both Bon Appétit and Eater Boston’s Best New Restaurants awards in 2023, as well as being an expectant father.

Of the items that we tried, the real stand out was Rubato’s signature dish—the fried chicken bolo bao. It was the perfect blend of succulent, perfectly cooked, fried chicken with a slightly tangy slaw on a delightfully chewy bao. A close second was the decadent French toast with the lava egg yolk. It is sweet and crispy, and beautiful to observe.

The ji cheung fun with sesame and hoisin was so tasty that we ordered a second round. We also got a plate of bao and very much enjoyed its flaky goodness. We sampled a beef brisket bao and a chiu bao and decided they were perfect examples of the dishes. The food is very reasonably priced. There was a wave of lunchtime customers who came in while we enjoyed our food. Seating is limited, so be prepared to pick up your meal and enjoy it elsewhere or to wait, it’s definitely worth the wait!

We sampled a beef brisket bao and a cha siu bao and decided they were perfect examples of the dishes. The food is very reasonably priced.

Laurence Louie: Congratulations on being a James Beard semifinalist! What was your reaction when you heard the news?

Laurence Louie: It was a surprise. I didn’t know when they released the list for this year. It was a Wednesday, and it was my friend Irene Lee, who owns Mei Mei’s in Boston. She’s the one that texted me the photo of the list, and I was like, “what?"

Laurence Louie: I was like, ‘I don’t know.’ Maybe Chopped was always the one that I was like, ‘I think if I did one, it’d probably be Chopped.’ They reached out to us last year, and you still have to go through a pretty intense interview process. There’s several rounds and you have to submit an application. You have to go through several interviews before you’re actually cast. It takes quite a while for that to happen. But I was super honored and super excited to be able to take part in it and just kind of get the vibe of what it’s like on the restaurant too, and just put it on a big stage like Chopped and Food Network and all that.

Laurence Louie: So essentially, it’s four contests, four chefs, and three potential winners. In each round, there’s a mystery basket. The first round is appetizers. You open it up, and there’s four ingredients that we don’t know what’s inside. The first round, you get 20 minutes to cook one dish. We have to make four dishes, one for each judge or one for display. There are three judges. And the second round, you have three minutes, and you have to make 30 minutes to do the same thing as the new four ingredients that you don’t know about. And then the last round is dessert, which is another 30 minutes. Again, four more ingredients that you don’t know about. You have to make one dish out of it.

Laurence Louie: Before you opened Rubato here in Quincy, your mother operated a bakery in this space. How did you come up with the idea to turn it into a restaurant?

Laurence Louie: My mom had been here for 22 years. I was a chef in London at the time, and it was during the pandemic when she called me and was essentially like, she doesn’t really want to do this anymore. She’s 72 this year, so she’s like, ‘my neck hurts, my back hurts, my legs hurt.’ She’s totally ready to retire. She called me to ask if I wanted to take over. And I think given the current historical moment that we’re in right now in this pandemic, and the world was very different than when I first started cooking. And this seemed like a really good opportunity. My wife and I moved back to Quincy from London, and we tried to figure out what to do with this space, and we had ideas from everywhere, from super fine dining with a tasting menu and 23-ingredient-type of restaurant, to what we’re doing now. I think Rubato was always kind of my dream for what kind of restaurant I want the world to know the street from me and the food that really spoke to me and my experience as a Chinese American. And I think being a chef for a while, it gave me the skills to be able to cook a lot of foods that were meaningful and kind of touched on different nostalgic points and kind of comfort moments in food, growing up Chinese American. We did some renovations, and we opened up.

Laurence Louie: Will you describe some of the dishes you serve here at Rubato and talk about the inspiration behind them?

Laurence Louie: Yeah, they’re all inspired by, as a Chinese American chef, I want to cook things that are honest to my experience and authentic to my experience. I would say the signature dish, the star dish is most popular by far, is the pull chicken bolo bao, which is the bolo bao is, like, a classic kind of Hong Kong Cantonese bun but with you can, you can see the sauce is essentially like a butter roll and then on top of that, there’s a thin cookie crust that’s sweet, but it’s not filled with anything. We essentially started making sandwiches out of it, and we did a fried chicken bao with this really nice, light, vinegar-based sauce and some house made sauce.

Laurence Louie: Rubato was named best restaurant of 2023 by both Bon Appétit magazine and Eater Boston. You’re accumulating some pretty huge accolades. What does all of this positive attention mean to you?

Laurence Louie: It means a lot! I think as a new chef on the scene, and young, we don’t do it for the accolades and all that. We’re going to be doing what we do anyway. But it’s just really nice to be appreciated and be seen. I think especially when its Chinese food. It’s not like anything else in the city right now. And it’s also in Quincy, which is not the most exciting. I mean, I think it’s really exciting as a food scene, but it just doesn’t get as much attention as Cambridge and Somerville and Boston, those areas are a bit more buzzing. So it makes it stand out.

Laurence Louie: But it’s really important for us to be able to kind of create a platform for us to be able to share our food with people.

Laurence Louie: This is a huge year for you personally and professionally with a child on the way. So how do you balance it all?

Laurence Louie: Yes, we’re going to have our first child this year. It’s a bit small. Nothing crazy—just for a life around. I think that’s a big part of it. We’re going to be doing what we do anyway. But it’s just really nice to be appreciated and be seen. I think especially when its Chinese food. It’s not like anything else in the city right now. And it’s also in Quincy, which is not the most exciting. I mean, I think it’s really exciting as a food scene, but it just doesn’t get as much attention as Cambridge and Somerville and Boston, those areas are a bit more buzzing. So it makes it stand out.

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Laurence Louie: Yes, we’re going to have our first child this year. It’s a bit small. Nothing crazy—just for a life around. I think that’s a big part of it. We’re going to be doing what we do anyway. But it’s just really nice to be appreciated and be seen. I think especially when its Chinese food. It’s not like anything else in the city right now. And it’s also in Quincy, which is not the most exciting. I mean, I think it’s really exciting as a food scene, but it just doesn’t get as much attention as Cambridge and Somerville and Boston, those areas are a bit more buzzing. So it makes it stand out.

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Lunar New Year Celebration throughout Greater Boston

The 4th Lunar New Year Rolling Parade
hosted by Chinese American Heritage Foundation

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Chinese American Heritage Foundation wants to bring happy Lunar New Year cheers, solidarity and hope throughout Greater Boston and at the same time express our appreciation, admiration, respect and support to our first responders, the men and women in the Police Departments, the Fire Departments and the United States Military. This year is our 4th Annual LNY Rolling Parade. Our 2024 Rolling Parade Grand Marshall was Brigadier General Joseph Milano, Honorary Consulate of Thailand and the President of Union Oyster House.

Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, Boston City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, and the Wu Ching White Crane Lion Dance Team opened the 12 noon celebration in front of the Lion Gateway in Boston’s Chinatown. The 20 vehicles were escorted by local police. General Milano and 2023 Miss Chinese Boston Sarah Chu presented a case of fortune cookies and a case of oranges to the Boston, Cambridge, Belmont, Somerville, and Malden Police and Fire Departments.

Chinese American Heritage Foundation希望为整个大波士顿地区带来农历新年的快乐、团结和希望，同时向我们的急救人员、警察局、消防局的男女员工以及美国军方，表达我们的赞赏、钦佩、尊重和支持。今年是第四届年度农历新年游行，2024年滚动游行的大元帅是Joseph Milano准将、泰国名誉领事馆和Union Oyster House总裁。

波士顿市议会主席Ruthzee Louijeune、波士顿市议员爱德华费连、波士顿市议员Erin Murphy、州代表Aaron Michlewitz、胡静白鹤功夫舞狮队在波士顿市警方的护送下，中午12点的庆祝活动拉开帷幕。这20辆车由当地警方押送。Milano将军和2023年波士顿华裔小姐朱玉珊拉向波士顿、剑桥、贝尔蒙特、萨默维尔和摩顿警察局和消防局赠送了一箱幸运饼干和一箱橙子。

Cambridge - Presenting oranges and fortune cookies to our first responders
剑桥 - 向我们的急救人员赠送橙子和幸运饼干

Belmont - one of our co-hosts: Belmont Pan-Asian Coalition with lion dance performance by Tiger Crane Kung Fu
主办方之一贝尔蒙特:贝尔蒙特泛亚联盟与超武馆舞狮表演

Somerville - one of our co-hosts: Korean American Citizens of League in NE with lion dance performance by Wah Lum Taichi Kung Fu
主办方之一萨默维尔 :东北部的韩裔美国公民联盟与华林功夫太极馆舞狮表演

Malden - Lion dance performance by Asian American Culture Center
摩顿 - 亚裔美国文化中心舞狮表演
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association New Year Banquet at Empire Garden in Chinatown

Sunday February 11th, 2024

Traditional Chinese drum performance

Group pictures of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) leaders, Mayor Wu, government officials

Guests enjoying treats from Double Chin Restaurant and Bao Bao Bakery

Photographer: Jeremiah Robinson

Photo courtesy of City Of Boston Mayor Office

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Gee How Oak Tin Association Lunar New Year Banquet at the Empire Garden in Chinatown

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Lion dance to celebrate New Year with guests

Group pictures of Gee How Oak Tin Association Association leaders, Mayor Wu, government officials

Sunil Kumar, Tufts University President Sunil Kumar addresses guests at Tufts Lunar New Year celebration

JQES 5th Graders perform a fan dance

Rev Cheng Imm Tan of Gund Kwok Asian Women’s Lion & Dragon Dance Troupe

Photographer: Alonso Nichols

Photo courtesy of Tufts University

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Tufts University Lunar New Celebration

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

Sonal Kariat: Tufts University President Sonal Kumar addresses guests at Tufts Lunar New Year celebration

Guests enjoying treats from Double Chin Restaurant and Bao Bao Bakery

JQES 5th Graders perform a fan dance

Rev Cheng Imm Tan of Gund Kwok Asian Women’s Lion & Dragon Dance Troupe

Photographer: Isabel Leon

Photo courtesy of City Of Boston Mayor Office

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March 15, 2024