

Forecast: Boston's Sea Level Rise to Double in 15 Years

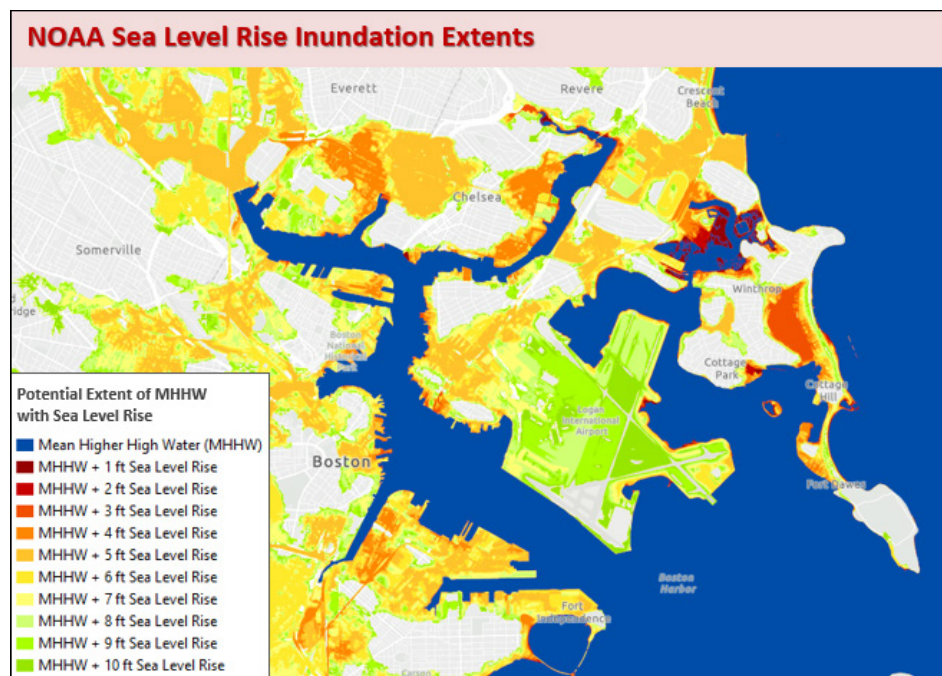
By Derek He

Since 1950, Boston has witnessed an 8-inch increase in sea level, a trend that has gained momentum over the past decade. The current rate of rise stands at approximately 1 inch every 8 years, a measurement derived from the meticulous data which is gathered every 6 minutes using advanced technologies, including satellites, floating buoys, and tidal gauges. These tools enable scientists to monitor local sea level changes with precision, capturing the accelerating pace of rise.

Over the last ten years, the acceleration in sea level rise across Massachusetts has become alarming. It previously took 36 years for the sea level around Boston to ascend by 6 inches. Looking ahead, scientists project a similar increase of another 6 inches within the forthcoming 15 years, highlighting the urgent need to address this escalating challenge.

The eastern coast of the United States is facing a crisis that threatens the very foundation of its coastal communities, infrastructure, and economy. Recent studies and satellite data analyses reveal a stark reality: the land along the East Coast is subsiding at an alarming rate, exacerbating the effects of sea-level rise due to climate change. This phenomenon, largely overlooked until now, is doubling the potential damage from rising seas, cutting in half the time cities and residents have to prepare.

As the Earth's atmosphere experiences



a marked increase in temperature, largely attributed to the heightened presence of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, the world's oceans become the principal absorbers of this surplus heat. This phenomenon leads to the oceans' thermal expansion—wherein water undergoes volume increase upon warming. Such thermal expansion is a critical driver behind the sea level rise observed since the dawn of the 20th century, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) attributing approximately half of the sea

预测：波士顿海平面将在15年内上升一倍

作者 Derek He

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Since 1950, Boston has witnessed an 8-inch increase in sea level, a trend that has gained momentum over the past decade

The ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica stand as the most significant contributors to potential future sea level rise. These ice sheets, which harbor immense volumes of ice—sufficient to elevate global sea levels by several meters if melted entirely—are reported to be diminishing at an accelerating rate. Research underscores that this rapid loss is primarily due to the warming of ocean waters that destabilize the ice shelves (the ice sheets' floating extensions) and increase surface melting. The ensuing discharge of ice into the ocean from these sheets plays a pivotal role in further amplifying sea level rise.

Forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) shed light on future expectations for sea level rise in Massachusetts. According to their projections, post-2024, the sea level is anticipated to climb by 2.82

Continued on Page 2

After Devastating Taiwan Quake, U.S. Northeast Jolted by Small Shake

By Harmandeep Singh and DongDong Yang

On April 3, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck Hualien County, Taiwan. Taiwan is located in the hub area where the Eurasian Plate, the Pacific Plate and the Philippine Subplate converge. The tectonic environment is very complex and it is one of the most seismically active regions in the world. This earthquake is the first earthquake of magnitude 7 or above to occur in 17 years since the 2006 magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Pingtung, Taiwan also the highest magnitude earthquake since the 921 earthquake whose epicenter was located in Jiji Town, Nantou County, central Taiwan 25 years ago.

Over 80 percent of major earthquakes occur along the Pacific rim, in an area known as the "Ring of Fire"; this is where the Pacific plate dives beneath surrounding plates. The Ring of Fire is the most seismically and volcanically active area in the world, and Taiwan is located right along the Pacific Ring of Fire. The 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.6, caused widespread destruction and 2,000 people lost their lives. Since then, Taiwan has made significant strides in earthquake preparedness and infrastructure development. However, the recent earthquake serves as a reminder of the ever-present threat. The fate of Taiwan lies in its resilience, as it continues to learn from past events and adapt to the unpredictable nature of earthquakes.

When Boston residents felt a tremor on the morning of April 5th, many confused it for a psychological lapse. But their suspicions were nullified when it was reported that an earthquake had calmly rippled through the Northeast. The earthquake which originated in the tri-state area was, according to authorities from Cornell University, "the largest earthquake in probably

140 years for this area." The earthquake, measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale, was centered in northern New Jersey, as confirmed by the U.S. Geological Survey.

level rise since 1900 to this process.

Moreover, the planet's glaciers and ice caps, located in diverse regions from the Canadian Arctic and the Andes to the Himalayas and Alaska, are integral to this narrative. These vast ice formations, built up from centuries of snowfall that have been compressed into ice, are now melting at an unprecedented rate due to the escalation in global temperatures. The resultant meltwater significantly contributes to the rising sea levels, adding fresh water to the oceans.

For Americans in the Northeast, earthquakes are a rarity. Areas surrounding California and Alaska are the most susceptible to earthquakes in the United States. The strongest earthquake in the history of the United States occurred in 1964 and had a magnitude of 9.2 on the Richter scale. California, especially San Francisco, had its share of earthquakes in the 1980s, the strongest one occurred in 1989 and had a magnitude of 7.1. While no serious damage or injuries were immediately reported, the tremors were enough to startle residents and prompt safety checks of buildings. This incident underscores the importance of preparedness in regions not typically associated with earthquakes.

The occurrence of these earthquakes emphasizes the unpredictable nature of seismic events and the global importance of preparedness. Taiwan's proactive steps to enhance infrastructure and readiness mirror a broader trend in earthquake-prone regions. Lessons learned from previous disasters fuel ongoing efforts to reduce risks.

Likewise, in Boston and across North-

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Free Tax Help in MA
PAGE 3

Events Calendar
PAGE 5

Book Banning Escalates
PAGE 6

Daughters of Shandong
PAGE 7

Political Corruption In Haiti
PAGE 9

Firelei Báez Brings a New Exhibition
PAGE 10

Thousands of Immigrant Deaths
PAGE 12

The Migrant Crisis
PAGE 14

Sea Level Rising

Continued from Page 1

inches, within a range of 1.31 to 2.6 inches, continuing to rise by about 0.4 inches annually. By the year 2050, this increment is expected to reach approximately 50 inches, with a variability range of 6.94 to 20.64 inches.

In Southern New England, particularly Massachusetts, the repercussions of sea level rise are exacerbated by the gradual sinking of the land. This phenomenon results in sea level increases surpassing the global average.

A recent study published in PNAS Nexus Volume 3, Issue 1, offers a stark prognosis for the East Coast of the United States, which is increasingly at risk of being consumed by rising sea levels. This research reveals that subsidence—the process by which land sinks or settles—occurs at a rate of 2 mm per year, impacting up to 2.1 million people, 867,000 properties, and crucial infrastructure across the East Coast.

John McNamara CPA, living between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, shares his experiences of the environmental changes at Hampton Beach, NH. His observations from his cottage corroborate the increasing threat of rising sea levels, noting significant flooding even during “King Tides,” a phenomenon once rare. Aware of federal flood mitigation initiatives and the availability of flood insurance, he acknowledges governmental efforts but remains concerned about the immediate and future impact on property value and lifestyle. The unpredictability of weather patterns, exacerbated by climate change, has also affected his boating activities, illustrating the broader lifestyle adjustments forced upon residents in these regions. His concern for his property’s future value underscores the

financial and emotional toll put on families invested in coastal areas. His account underscores a critical message: the effects of climate change on coastal communities are not hypothetical scenarios but present challenges demanding immediate attention and action.

According to “The Hard Facts About Sea Level Rise” by Liz Durkee, the Union of Concerned Scientists has highlighted the acute vulnerability along the Massachusetts coastline, where 75% of the state’s population resides. The area, characterized by essential infrastructure, residential zones, and natural habitats, faces significant threats from the advancing seas. Notably, the escalating risk has led major insurers to withdraw coverage for numerous homeowners, underscoring the growing concern.

Massachusetts’ islands and shorelines, historically capable of natural adaptation to changing sea levels, are now constrained by human development. The construction of roads, homes, and businesses along these dynamic boundaries has introduced a static element to the naturally evolving coastline. The state’s economy, particularly in beach resort communities, is deeply intertwined with the condition of its coastlines, making it particularly sensitive to changes in sea level. The consequences of rising sea levels are multifaceted, ranging from the loss of low-lying land and increased coastal erosion to more frequent and severe storm damage and the salinization of freshwater resources. Erosion, a significant concern, is reshaping beaches such as Wasque and Lucy Vincent, with Massachusetts facing restrictions on measures like ocean sand mining for beach replenishment.

In a recent interview about the impact of rising sea levels and coastal erosion on communities, Deeb Salem M.D. who resides on Martha’s Vineyard sheds

some light on a situation that is becoming increasingly dire for many coastal dwellers. Salem offers insights into how these environmental changes are not just future threats but current realities affecting homes, lifestyles, and plans for the future. He highlighted a firsthand encounter with the effects of erosion, observing coastal homes on the brink of destruction. This alarming situation prompted a cautious approach to property purchase, ensuring a distance from vulnerable oceanfront locations. Recent storms have exacerbated concerns, with flooding obstructing beach access and raising questions about the sustainability of critical infrastructure like ferry docks. The initiatives he is aware of, such as barrier creation and sand replenishment, are steps towards mitigation, yet he stresses the need for global efforts to combat climate change. Drawing from his professional background in medicine, he pointed out the surprising contribution of healthcare waste to global warming, emphasizing the necessity for a collective approach to reversing environmental degradation. He advocates for responsible property investment, reduced carbon footprints, and political action geared towards environmental sustainability.

An alarming increase in local erosion rates, attributing it to climate change-driven factors such as relative sea level rise and heightened storm frequency. This erosion not only threatens land and property but also necessitates costly dredging operations to maintain water quality in ponds, further complicating the state’s response to these challenges. Coastal flooding is set to redefine the landscape, impacting areas well beyond current flood zones and exacerbating issues like stormwater runoff and pollution. The health implications, including the spread of mold-induced asthma and allergies, are also significant concerns, alongside the economic strain of storm damage recovery on local governments. The shrinkage of salt marshes poses another critical issue, diminishing their role in flood mitigation, water filtration, and as habitats for marine life. The encroachment of development on potential migration paths for these marshes further complicates their preservation.

It’s a stark reality that individual efforts alone cannot halt climate change; a coordinated public policy is critical. However, property owners and housing providers are uniquely positioned to make impactful changes. Properties are equipped with numerous energy-consuming appliances and devices that often contribute to global warming. By transitioning to energy-efficient, non-polluting options, we can align with global efforts to mitigate warming and its adverse consequences. Such individual initiatives can also safeguard

us against the rapid shifts in policy and climatic conditions that are likely on the horizon. The comprehensive guide, “Landlord’s Guide to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Rental Properties,” speaks about these strategies in detail.

Beyond reducing emissions, it’s crucial to confront flood risks directly. The retreat of coastlines necessitates a reevaluation of property investment strategies. Moving away from or divesting in properties located along coastlines, rivers, and in flood-prone valleys becomes imperative. Many waterfront properties in Massachusetts, once deemed solid investments, now present significant risks. Early recognition of these changing dynamics can position you advantageously. For properties currently owned, prioritizing water management is essential. Investing in robust, commercial-grade gutters and directing runoff to dry wells or away from structures can mitigate flood risks. Additionally, reconfiguring landscapes to channel runoff away from buildings and constructing berms to block street water can be effective measures. In extreme flood-prone areas, consider temporary solutions like sandbag barriers around vital systems, particularly for properties with a history of stormwater intrusion. A more lasting solution involves relocating essential systems such as heating away from basements to higher, flood-safe zones. Embracing technologies like mini-split heat pumps, which can be installed on walls or roofs, offers both energy efficiency and reduced flood risk.

The catastrophic event at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in 2011 serves as a sobering reminder of the risks associated with ignoring flood dangers. The tsunami-induced flooding of the plant’s basement generators led to a chain of disasters, including nuclear meltdowns and the release of radiation. This incident underscores the critical importance of strategic system placement to prevent similar tragedies. Facing the challenge of rising sea levels, Massachusetts is on a path toward resilience and innovation. By harnessing advanced technologies, robust community planning, and sustainable practices, the state is adapting to protect its coastlines and communities. Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, alongside strategic adaptations for infrastructure and natural habitats, signal a proactive approach to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This forward-thinking stance, coupled with a commitment to environmental stewardship and public policy, brightens the outlook for Massachusetts, demonstrating a collective resilience that promises to safeguard the state’s cherished landscapes and vibrant communities for future generations.

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Free Help for Your Tax Needs in Massachusetts

By Scott Halper

April 15 is a big day for millions of people in America. It is Tax Day, the deadline for people to file their taxes for the previous year. Taxes play a very important role in our society. Besides being the main source of funding for our government, taxes also provide billions of dollars in aid every year to working class people and families.

We see the effects of our taxes every day: in our roads, our social services, and in our paychecks. While many people have a negative opinion of taxes and the IRS, there are actually a lot of great things that come from filing taxes, including refunds! While filing taxes can seem very stressful and complicated, there are many resources available to help you file correctly and save money. Even if you do owe money, the IRS is committed to working with you through that process.

What are taxes?

Put simply, taxes are sums of money that the government collects from people to pay for its operations. The money from taxes goes towards all different programs, from roads and bridges to the military to Social Security and Medicare. Every country collects taxes for its government, but each one does it differently.

There are different types of taxes. One type you may see on any receipt from a store is a sales tax. This is a small percentage applied to many of the items we buy. Property taxes are a type of tax for people who own homes, buildings, or lands. Most of the government's money comes from income taxes. Income taxes apply towards our wages, salaries, and other sources of income.

The IRS is a federal agency that collects taxes for the U.S. government. Last year, they collected nearly \$5 trillion in taxes from 262.8 million tax returns. The IRS employs nearly 80,000 people, including 15,000 customer service representatives. In addition to the IRS, each state has its own Department of Revenue that collects taxes to fund the state's government.

Who needs to file taxes?

Most people who work have to file taxes. The IRS sets a minimum level of income each year, and people who make more than that have to pay taxes. For people filing as "single" and under age 65, it is \$13,850. For married people filing together, it is \$27,700. In addition, if you were self-employed you likely also have to file taxes. And Massachusetts requires anyone making over \$8,000 to file state taxes. But even if you didn't make this much money, you may still want to file. There are two main reasons for this. One is you may have had federal taxes being withheld from your paycheck and filing will allow you to recover some of this money. Second, you may be eligible for tax credits.

The IRS offers tax credits which get subtracted from your income taxes. If you receive a credit that is higher than the tax-



es you owe, you may be able to receive a refund. One of the most popular credits is the Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides a credit for individuals who work and make under a certain amount. The Child Tax Credit provides up to \$2,000 for people who take care of a child or other dependent who is under age 17 at the end of the year. If you paid for college tuition or other college expenses, you may also be eligible for a credit. These credits alone provided almost \$100 billion in refunds sent out to millions of taxpayers last year.

In addition to federal credits, state credits and deductions are also particularly important. For example, Massachusetts allows you to deduct half of your rent payments (up to \$4,000) from your income, and also allows you to deduct up to \$750 in commuter expenses. The state also provides its own tax credits. For example, if you take care of a child under 13, a dependent over 65, or someone with a disability, you may be eligible for the Child and Family Tax Credit. This is a \$310 credit for each person you take care of.

How Do You File?

Once you decide to file your taxes, you need to figure out what documents you need. The first thing you will need is your basic personal information, like your Social Security number, your address, and your bank account info. Your bank account information is particularly helpful because if you receive a refund, or if you owe money, you can have it directly deposited/withdrawn to or from your bank account. Otherwise, you will receive or have to pay with a check. The next set of documents are going to be your W-2s, 1099s, or other documents that show how much money you made. Every year, your employer should send you a W-2 or other document. If they don't send it to you, just ask! And remember that income can come from many different sources, including unemployment payments, interest from bank accounts, social security, and retirement accounts.

One way is to file with paper documents and send them in the mail. Many people opt to file online instead using software programs like TurboTax, TaxSlayer, and Tax Act. If you are looking for in person help, there are also tax preparation companies like H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt, and Liberty Tax. One downside to these services is they cost money.

Fortunately, there are also free options available. One of the newest options is the IRS Direct File, a pilot program now available for residents in twelve states, including Massachusetts. The IRS also offers Free File software for those mak-

ing less than \$79,000 in 2023. One of the best options available is through the VITA program. VITA is an IRS funded Volunteer program that provides tax preparation for people making less than \$64,000 in 2023, or speak limited English, or have a disability. Over 9,000 VITA sites exist all over the country, including many in our area.

IRS and DOR Refunds

Yes, the IRS can owe you money too. The IRS offers tax credits which get subtracted from the income tax you owe. If you receive a credit that is higher than the taxes you owe, you may be able to receive a refund. One of the most popular credits is the Earned Income Tax Credit, which provides a credit for individuals who work and make under a certain amount. The Child Tax Credit provides up to \$2,000 for people who take care of a child or other dependent who is under age 17 at the end of the year. If you paid for college tuition or other college expenses, you may also be eligible for a credit. These credits alone provided almost \$100 billion in refunds sent out to millions of taxpayers last year.

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IRS Notice Letters and Help for Taxpayers

There are few things that raise your heart rate quite like receiving a letter from the IRS. However, many of the biggest issues stem from a few common mistakes. Many people's returns are not accepted because they put in the wrong personal information, often by misspelling a name or mistyping their Social Security card. This is a quick fix, and relatively harmless. A scarier problem comes when you realize that you put the wrong numbers into your tax return. Forgetting that comma or decimal is easy to overlook, but can result in a major headache if the IRS says you owe much more than you thought. This is also a simple fix, but one that strikes fear into even the calmest among us.

Many people are frustrated when they withhold money from their paychecks for taxes, only to find out that they still owe money. This can mean that not enough is being withheld. To increase the amount withheld, you should tell your employer to take more out of each paycheck so that you don't have to pay when you file your taxes. Another common issue is that people

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don't have taxes withheld on their unemployment because they don't realize that these payments are taxable income. Make sure you have the DUA withhold taxes so that you don't owe money when you file.

If you owe money to the IRS, they will usually send you a bill. If you don't respond, they will send another letter with an option to pay. But if you continue to avoid payment, the IRS will take steps to collect the debt. The IRS has many collection tools at their disposal. They can assign your account to a collection agency, file a lien on your property, take money from your bank account or wages, or even seize your car or house. It is important to know that these steps are their last resort, and the IRS will always offer you the option to pay, negotiate, or appeal.

Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITC) are another amazing resource available for those who owe money and need help. LITCs offer free advice for those who have a tax issue with the IRS. Their tax experts can help you submit the proper documents and represent you in tax court. Last year, LITCs helped their clients recover over \$10 million in refunds, and lower their tax debts by over \$40 million. A full list of LITC sites can be found by looking up IRS Publication 4134.

Earthquake

Continued from Page 1

east America, the sudden tremors are a reminder of seismic activity beyond typical earthquake zones. This underscores the necessity for thorough disaster planning, even in regions less accustomed to earthquakes. Such preparedness ensures communities can respond effectively to unforeseen natural events.

What do you need to know when Earthquakes happen?

During an earthquake, it's important to prioritize your safety! Here are some key steps to take:

- **Drop, Cover, and Hold On:** Get down to your hands and knees, take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall, and hold on until the shaking stops.
- **Stay Indoors:** If you're inside, stay there. Move away from windows,

glass doors, and exterior walls.

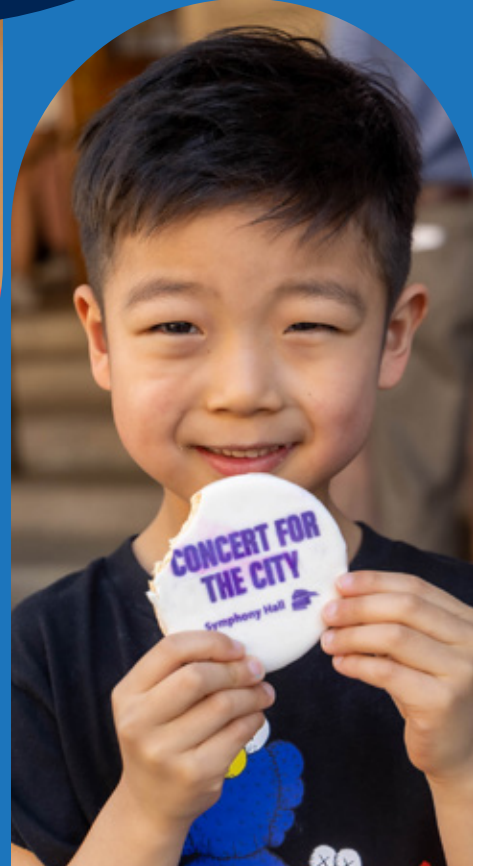
- **Remain Calm:** Try to stay calm and reassure others.
- **If Outside:** Move to an open area away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and utility wires.
- **While Driving:** Pull over to a safe area away from buildings, bridges, and overpasses. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.
- **After the Shaking:** Check yourself and others for injuries. Be prepared for af-

tershocks and further damage.

- **Stay Informed:** Listen for updates and instructions from emergency broadcasts.
- **Evacuation:** If told to evacuate, do so calmly and follow designated routes.
- **Utility Safety:** Check for gas leaks, turn off the gas if you suspect a leak, and be wary of electrical hazards.
- **Help Others:** Assist those in need, but be cautious not to put yourself in harm's way.

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Events Calendar

- East Boston Climate Workshop**
 Date: April 18, 2024
 Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
 Location: East Boston YMCA, 54 Ashley St, Boston, MA 02128
 Brief: Join the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and Save the Harbor at the East Boston Climate Workshop. Share your vision for the future of our beaches and contribute to climate change adaptation planning. Small group workshops and information sessions on climate resiliency efforts will be featured. Dinner provided.
Registration: <https://www.savetheharbor.org>
- Hull Climate Workshop**
 Date: April 23, 2024
 Time: 6:00-8:00 PM
 Location: Hull Lifesaving Museum, 1117 Nantasket Ave, Hull, MA 02045
 Brief: Participate in the Hull Climate Workshop hosted by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and Save the Harbor. A vital opportunity to influence the future planning for our coastlines, highlighting what you cherish about the beach, ocean, and coastline. Includes small group discussions and updates on current climate resilience initiatives. Dinner will be served.
Registration: <https://www.savetheharbor.org>
- World Premiere of GATSBY**
 Dates: Performances begin May 23, 2024.
 Opening Celebration: June 5, 2024, at 7:30 PM
 Location: Cambridge, MA
 Details: American Repertory Theater at Harvard University presents the world premiere of Gatsby, a musical adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel. Directed by Rachel Chavkin with choreography by Sonya Tayeh, the show features an original score by Florence Welch and Thomas Bartlett, and a book by Martyna Majok. Design and music teams include Mimi Lien, Sandy Powell, Alan Edwards, Tony Gayle, Kimberly Grigsby, and Wiley DeWeese.
 Ticketing Information: Tickets start at \$35. For tickets and more information, visit AmericanRepertoryTheater.Org/Gatsby. Discounts available for students, Blue Star families, EBT cardholders, seniors, and more.
 Accessible Performances: ASL Interpreted (July 10 & 14), Audio Described (June 27 & 29), Open Captioned (June 27 & 29), Relaxed Performance (July 14).
More Information: For booking access seats, visit AmericanRepertoryTheater.org/PlanYourVisit or contact Access@amrep.org.
- Shuttle Buses Replace Blue Line for Critical Track Work**
 April 17-19: Service suspended between Maverick and Wonderland.
 April 20-28: Service suspended between

Airport and Wonderland.
 April 9-11 (Evenings): Service suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights, starting at 8 PM through end of service.
 Location: Blue Line, Boston, MA
 Brief: Due to critical infrastructure upgrades as part of the Track Improvement Program, Blue Line service will be replaced by shuttle buses on specified dates. This is to ensure improved reliability and safety for riders. During the suspension, free and accessible shuttle buses will service the affected stations, except Bowdoin, which can be accessed via Government Center.
 More Information: For additional details and updates, visit MBTA Blue Line Service Information.

• Destination Boston Harbor 2024
 Date: Friday, May 10th, 2024
 Time: 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.
 Location: Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, 606 Congress St., Boston, MA
 Brief: Join Save the Harbor's Board of Directors, along with corporate and philanthropic supporters, government friends, and community partners, for a gala evening honoring our 2024 Harbor Heroes. The event marks the kickoff for another summer of free educational outdoor programming for over 25,000 children and families. Partners and sponsors are entitled to tickets.
Please RSVP through the provided link or contact mancini@savetheharbor.org for sponsorship opportunities.

• Late-Night Dining Celebration for Boston Marathon Participants
 Date: Monday, April 15, 2024
 Location: South Street Diner, 178 Kneeland Street, Boston, MA 02111
 Details: South Street Diner invites all Boston Marathon participants and attendees to continue the celebration after hours. The diner will donate 10% of in-house sales to the Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor Fund through the Greg Hill Foundation. Whether pre-marathon carb loading or post-race relaxation, enjoy comfort foods, milkshakes, and a new drink menu while supporting a great cause. Available for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or late-night munchies.
More Information: For further details, visit www.southstreetdiner.com or call 617-350-0028.

• Volunteer at the American Red Cross Sound The Alarm Event
 Date: April 27th, 2024
 Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Location: Mattapan Public Library, 1350 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan, MA 02126
 Details: Join the American Red Cross for a day of community service in Boston, where you'll help install FREE smoke alarms and disseminate vital home-fire safety

information. Your efforts can significantly reduce the risk of death in a fire by ensuring homes have working smoke alarms. This event promises to be a rewarding experience, complete with food and t-shirts for all volunteers.
Registration: For more information and to sign up, visit <https://www.redcross.org/local/massachusetts/about-us/news-and-events/events/sound-the-alarm-massachusetts.html>

• Sensory-Friendly Morning at the MIT Museum
 Date: April 18, 2024
 Time: 9-10:00am
 Location: MIT Museum, 314 Main St., Cambridge, MA 02142
 Details: The MIT Museum is delighted to offer a sensory-friendly morning tailored for visitors seeking a more comfortable museum experience. The event features a limited visitor count, sensory maps, a calm space, noise-reduction headphones, fidget tools, and special activities. Guests are invited to stay and explore the museum when it opens to the general public at 10:00am.
 Admission: Free, but pre-registration is required.
Registration: To register, please visit <https://mitmuseum.mit.edu/programs/sensory-friendly-morning>

• Self-Guided Spring Orchard Walk
 Dates: Saturday, April 20 - Sunday, May 26
 Time: Saturdays & Sundays, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Location: Cider Hill Farm, 45 Fern Avenue, Amesbury, MA 01913
 Details: Embark on a free, self-guided journey through Cider Hill Farm's blossoming orchards this spring. Wander amongst 10,000 fruit trees and take in the breathtaking farm views. No registration is required for this event, open only on weekends during the morning to early afternoon. The peak blossom viewing period is from late April to mid-May. Please note area closures are possible, and you might spot some of our 12 hives in the orchards.
 Admission: Free. No registration required.
More Information: For further details, visit www.ciderhill.com/farmevents

• MOUTH - Treasure Hunt
 Dates: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 6:00 AM - Sunday, April 21, 2024, 11:59 PM
 Location: Eastern Massachusetts (Starting point revealed through the opening puzzle)
 Details: Embark on a thrilling treasure hunt across eastern Massachusetts! Registered players will receive the initial puzzle by email at 9 AM on April 20th, setting them on a path of adventure. Solve puzzles, crack codes,

and decipher clues to outwit competitors and find the hidden treasure. It's a race against time and against each other!
 Admission: \$25
Registration: Now OPEN! To join the hunt, register here: <https://forms.gle/SzFqm53ZRykoMQeW6>

• Boston Landing Spring Challenge
 Dates: Monday, April 22, 2024, 12:00 AM - Sunday, May 5, 2024, 11:30 PM
 Location: Boston Landing, 90 Guest Street, Brighton, MA 02135
 Details: Dive into spring with the Boston Landing Spring Challenge! An opportunity to experience the diverse offerings of Boston Landing, perfect for lunch breaks, coffee stops, post-work gatherings, workouts, or shopping adventures. It's a splendid occasion to enjoy the spring weather with friends or colleagues. Don't miss out on the fun!
 Admission: \$5
Tickets: For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-landing-spring-challenge-tickets-868570346287>

• Harvard University's ARTS FIRST Festival
 Dates: Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 12:00 AM - Sunday, April 28, 2024, 11:30 PM
 Location: Harvard University, Harvard Campus, Cambridge, MA 02138
 Details: The Office for the Arts at Harvard invites you to the annual ARTS FIRST Festival, a celebration of creativity and innovation featuring the work of Harvard students, staff, alums, and faculty. Spanning several days, the festival transforms various iconic spaces across the campus into hubs of artistic expression and exploration, accessible to everyone.
 Admission: FREE
More Information: For further details, visit <https://calendar.college.harvard.edu/artsfirstfestival#tabs-45553411920249-45553411930499>

• Workers Rights Fairs
 Date: April 22, at 5-7pm
 Location: 99 Albany Street, Boston, MA 02111.
 The City of Boston and the Chinese Progressive Association are hosting a Workers Rights Fair at the Pao Arts Centers. Learn about your rights on the job and how to exercise them. Representatives from the Attorney General's Fair Labor Division, the U.S. Department of Labor, Greater Boston Legal Services, Justice at Work, the Fair Employment Project, and local worker centers will be there to answer your questions.

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston
 (“EDIC”)

d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”)

INVITATION FOR BID

12 Channel Street Roof Drain Lining

Riley Moran; 857-294-5009; riley.moran@boston.gov

The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (“EDIC”) d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”), by its Chief Procurement Officer is pleased to issue this Invitation for Bid entitled “**12 Channel Street Roof Drain Lining**” (the “IFB”). The IFB is issued in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A – 44J., as may be amended. This IFB package including requirements for this project will be available to download on the BPDA Procurement Portal free-of-charge in digital print form to all interested respondents on **April 15, 2024 at 9:00 A.M** at www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement. All responses to this IFB must be returned no later than **12:00 noon on May 17, 2024** to: Teresa Polhemus, Clerk, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation c/o Real Estate Administration, One City Hall Square, Room 900A/Reception, Boston MA 02210. Tim Mathis, Interim Chief Procurement Officer

GEORGETOWN – AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP LOTTERY
 14 Larch Rd.: 2BR, 1BA, Price \$223,900 Asset limit: \$75,000
 Income limits: 1P \$66,300
 2P \$75,750
 3P \$85,200 App deadline 7/28/23
 4P \$94,650 Free LEP translation.

Info meeting 4/24/24 @ 6 pm via Zoom
 Meeting ID: 839 4678 0503, Passcode: 547999
OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, 4/27/24, 11 am – 1 pm.
 Lottery 6/5/24 @ 6 pm via Zoom
 Meeting ID: 854 7728 0745, Passcode: 764696
 Info & apps: LA Assoc. (978) 758-0197 fax (978) 657-7333
kristocosta@laassoc.com www.laassoc.com
 Town Hall, 1 Library St. (978) 234-5060 TTY: 711, 978-758-0197



Book Banning Escalates in US Public Schools and Libraries

By Brandon Wong

Throughout the United States, book banning is dramatically altering the complexion of the literary and social landscape. In a recent March publication, the American Library Association (ALA) reported a surge in book censorship attempts in 2023. Compared to the prior year, public schools and libraries encountered over 1600 more title challenges, amounting to 4240 total contested works. The Office for Intellectual Freedom, the ALA's department tasked with intellectual freedom education, disclosed data showing prevalent restrictive efforts against both institutions. While public schools observed an 11% jump in books being disputed, public libraries experienced a staggering 92% increase. Additionally, statistics showed that 34% of states saw over 100 unique titles challenged. While public schools have experienced a multitude of attempts to ban books, public libraries have lately been a larger target from pro-book banning groups. A guide by the Boston Public Library outlines titles that have either been challenged or outright banned in New England; prominent works include *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Melissa Andrews, Chief of Collection Management of the Boston Public Library, described to Sampan about book challenges that the BPL has received in recent times.

"In the last five years, we have had five patrons write to us sharing their concerns about titles in the collection. The reasons given include (very broadly): language and subject matter that are not appropriate for children, the political background of the author, and harmful and biased content. All requests for reconsideration are carefully and thoroughly considered. We look at a variety of factors when considering these requests including why we purchased the title, patron usage, and where the copy is held in the library. The BPL follows the principles expressed in the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements and opposes attempts to censor material in our collections. Our goal is to offer a diversity of ideas and opinions including those which may be unorthodox or controversial, recognizing that while the Library would like to have something for everybody, not every book will be for every reader. No titles have been removed from the library collection through a request for reconsideration."

Parents are the primary group leading this effort. Some parents explain that their efforts are geared towards shielding their children from unsuitable and controversial content including vulgar language and explicit material portrayed in certain compositions. Parent interventions have increased at school board and town hall meetings, along with direct requests to administrations to remove specific pieces. Parents have complained that a growing number of books are detrimental to cognitive development and have organized groups dedicated to eliminating scores of works in educational domains with a figure of 1247 challenges throughout the past year. Moms for Liberty, one of the well known groups, has chapters in Middlesex and Plymouth Counties.

In contrast to the book banning beliefs purported by these parents, about child development and learning, Gilda Morelli, Department Chair of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College, explained to Sampan how critically important it is for children

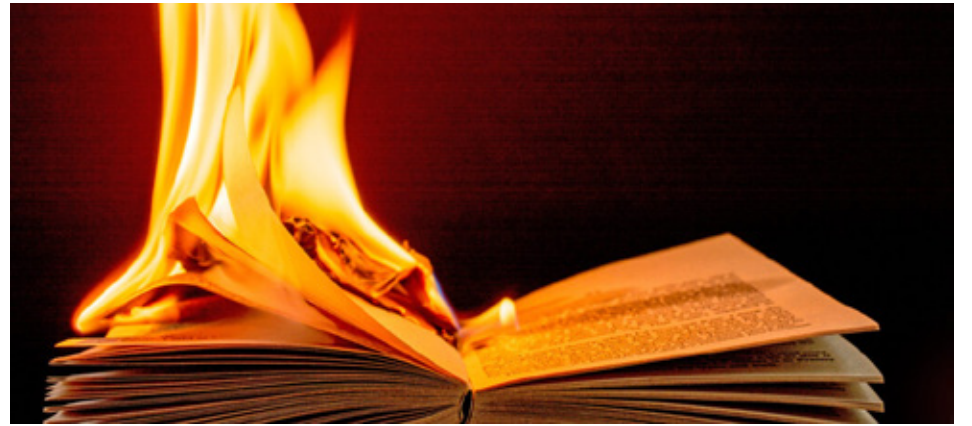
to learn and develop freely and in a self-directed way.

"Schools are places that play essential roles in children's social, emotional, and intellectual development. This setting is where children learn who they are in relation to and with others and, thus, how to think, feel, and act towards others. They are also spaces where children make sense of and understand their positionality in social contexts, as well as factors that contribute to this in the past and present. Book banning silences the voices of others, mostly minorities, and makes them invisible, erasing their experienced lives and circumstances related to their lives. It privileges particular narratives, especially those constructed by majority groups. When you censor the voices of people, it may be easy for the non-censored to dehumanize the censored and treat them with less respect."

Book Banning has limited titles to older children, required parental permission, or completely has removed books altogether. Research shows that the bulk of these efforts are initiated in conservative-leaning states like Texas and Florida with 1470 and 2672 books challenged respectively this past year. According to the ALA, nearly half of the suggested texts for removal involve LGBTQ+ or BIPOC themes. Despite its socially liberal reputation, Massachusetts has experienced its fair share of book banning efforts as well. In 2023, the state saw 37 attempts to censor titles, placing it 8th in the U.S. and 1st in the New England region; 63 unique titles were contested.

In a recent statement, Director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom Deborah Caldwell-Stone expounded how these disputes emerge from a handful of groups and individuals that impulsively demand book removal. Most complaints stem from wealthier suburban areas with a predominantly Caucasian demographic, as reported by *The Sun Chronicle*. One episode transpired in Great Barrington where law enforcement entered a middle school classroom after an anonymous complaint about the "obscene" book, *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe. It was targeted the most in Massachusetts in 2022. This incident triggered a student walkout at the nearby Monument Mountain Regional High School to protest the search. Following a request at Martin Elementary School in North Attleboro to remove "*Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*" by Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Olivia Gatwood, a piece encouraging children to activism, the book was swiftly taken off the shelves. A January 2024 study by *The Boston Globe* found that All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson was the most challenged title, with calls to remove the book in six districts. It is important to note that regardless of the frequency of challenges, a nominal fraction of these attempts resulted in successful restrictions, in part due to a lengthy review process; North Attleboro became just the fifth MA school district to discard a book from its collection. With ten districts implementing literary restrictions, this trend inevitably has grown.

Book banning has entered into the political conversation. The targeting of copious titles concerning LGBTQ+ and BIPOC topics has incited opposition from these communities. This past year, Mass State Senator Julian Cyr and State Representative John Moran of the 9th Suffolk District filed legislation to prevent book banning in Massachusetts. At a January hearing before the Joint Committee on Education, Cyr claimed that books represent an optimal path to attaining a greater perspective on our humanity and said, "We cannot allow small-minded bans or politically opportu-



nistic censorship to interfere with the right to read." In essence, their proposed bill would prevent book removal due to "personal or political views". Through these bills (H 4229 / S 2528) termed "relative to free expression," the officials advocate for a structure where librarians and educators bear rights in determining what titles are appropriate. This system would provide librarians and educators the ability to select appropriate titles for educational purposes based on their expertise. As reported by NBC, "To prevent the removal of materials based on personal or political beliefs in municipal libraries, the bill would require libraries to incorporate the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights into their selection policies." This proposition has been supported by organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Massachusetts School Library Association. Representative Moran explained the bill's purpose to Sampan:

"In Massachusetts, we are not immune from book ban efforts. In 2022, Massachusetts had the fourth highest number of attempts to remove books from shelves in the entire country. Massachusetts is meant to be a safe haven, a welcoming state for every person with diverse backgrounds and life experiences. Instead, we face targeted book ban efforts, especially books related to race, gender, and sexual orientation or identity. The bill that Senator Julian Cyr and I have put forth is designed to ensure professionally trained librarians and educators are able to adequately do their job without being retaliated against. According to the Joint Task Force for Intellectual Freedom, nearly 25% of school and public librarians reported being harassed on social media, 22% reported being harassed via email, 18% reported being harassed in-person for issues related to book challenges and program challenges. These librarians and educators have the adequate training to ensure that all of the books children have access to are age-appropriate materials and have educational purposes. Why should those who take care of our children in our communities be subject to these actions for simply doing their job?"

As an LGBTQ+ legislator, this topic very much resonates with my upbringing and is one of the biggest reasons I decided to partner with Senator Cyr on this bill. I grew up in a rural town north of Scranton, Pennsylvania, where to my knowledge I was the only queer kid, and we had one person of color in my elementary school. While I was fortunate to have amazing parents who were inspired by the Jesuit ethos of service to the community, my only exposure to gay culture, due to the lack of a library in my town, was the occasional light references in the movies or TV shows of the time. Needless to say, I did not feel seen. Luckily, as time went on, I came to get a better understanding of my feelings, and moved to attend accepting colleges with accepting communities. With some bumps along the way, I have been incredibly fortunate in my life's journey. But what

we are now facing today is a crisis: youth mental health, homelessness, and targeted hate toward LGBTQ+ youth and children of color.

It is even more important to these future generations that they have access to books to explore who they are and to not feel alone. It is also important that their peers have access to books so they can be understanding and supportive individuals. By banning books that tackle these critical issues, it takes away educational material from the entire population of children in that town or school."

Similar to parent-formed groups promoting book banning, a myriad of organizations and libraries have established initiatives to protect access to information. In 2022, the ALA introduced "Unite Against Book Bans" during National Library Week, aiming to inspire readers to join the cause against censorship. At the Boston Public Library, Andrews announced, "With our statewide eCard, any resident of Massachusetts can access our collection, including our digital collections which would give patrons and residents access to materials which may not be available in a local or school library. Nationally we have joined the Books Unbanned initiative started by Brooklyn Public Library to make items being banned in other parts of the country available to youth ages 13-26." Individuals can utilize these resources at <https://www.bpl.org/books-unbanned/>.

State Representative Moran shared his commitment to fight book banning:

"We are working every day to ensure that the topic of book banning is seen as a critical issue, even in Massachusetts. I have spoken about this legislation many times in front of colleagues, and those impacted by book bans such as parents, educators, and librarians have testified in front of the Education Committee and continue to spread the word about this legislation. California signed a law last year that prevents school boards from banning or censoring textbooks that tackle racial or LGBTQ+ issues. Illinois signed a similar law at the beginning of this year. The fight has even made it to the national level, with our congressional counterpart, Congresswoman Pressley leading the legislation aimed at combating book bans in schools. I think the efforts behind this issue both on the state and federal level speaks to the importance of this bill."

In all, the notion of book banning remains a divisive issue as parents covet the authority to shape their children's learning while other individuals, primarily academic figures, accentuate the importance of proper discussion about books pertaining to LGBTQ+ and BIPOC themes in an adequate manner. Professor Morelli asserts, "Banning books raises questions such as 'who gets to regulate what all children learn,' and 'what role should parents play compared to other stakeholders.' Should we ban all book-banning? Probably not. However, the decision should be made with many voices represented."

A Conversation With *Daughters of Shandong* Author Eve J. Chung

By Christopher John Stephens

Historical fiction writers need to serve two masters. The first is a strict adherence to facts, location, and real-life characters. The other is effective world-building through relatable characters. Eve J. Chung's new novel *Daughters of Shandong* is a confident, gripping, heart pounding epic that perfectly balances those priorities.

Chuang, a women's civil rights lawyer said "Chinese people have a saying 'Zhong nan qing nu,' ...'Value men, belittle women.' Sexism was, and still is, so ingrained in our culture that many women consider it part of fate." *Daughters of Shandong* is a thrilling debut from a writer adept at mixing unforgiving brutality with the tenderness of a family focused not just on surviving but persevering. Sampan spoke with Chung about her inspiration, process, and hopes for what this story from the past can teach readers of today and tomorrow. What follows is an edited transcription of her emailed responses.

“Chinese people have a saying ‘Zhong nan qing nu,’ ...’Value men, belittle women.”

SAMPAN: You've noted that this is a work of both passion and grief. Readers will notice immediately the careful balancing act you've walked in this fictionalized story of your grandmother and her journey. How would you describe that mission from writing a family history for your children to creating a compelling narrative?

CHUNG: The shift from family history to a fictional narrative was actually easier than I thought it would be, in part because my grandmother's life had so many amazing details packed into it, but also because there were many real stories from that period to draw from. I ended up borrowing true elements from other members of my family, and also doing research to see what refugees went through at the camp that my grandmother was at. The biggest fictional challenge for me was human relationships. I didn't know my grandmother's second sister well at all, nor did I remember my great-grandmother much, so I had to invent the dynamics between them. Though I do not have a sister, I used inspiration from my relationship with my own mom, and my own feelings as a mother to write my characters' interactions. In the end, I tried to empathize with each character, which helped me understand their motivations and imagine how they might respond to the challenges that they faced.

SAMPAN: The women of the landowning Ang family find themselves stranded in the Chinese countryside of Shandong. One of the big recurring themes of your novel isn't just about female empowerment, but also the marginalization of women. As a woman's human rights lawyer, your focus has been combatting slavery, torture, sexual and gender-based violence. Do you feel more compelled now than ever for readers to understand the entrenched sexism of Chinese culture? Is



it institutionalized in 2024, or do you see hope for change?

CHUNG: Though I didn't write this book with any lessons in mind, the reason I became a women's human rights lawyer is because of the injustices that I observed growing up. I would say now, having written the book, that I hope it helps draw attention to the entrenched sexism that women face in many cultures around the world. Regarding Chinese culture specifically, I have seen that in my generation, there have already been many changes, but challenges still remain. All over the world, there is backlash against women's rights, which is chipping away at hard-earned progress for gender equality—this is true as well in the country that I live in, the United States. That is both scary and disheartening to me, and I hope that we remember how far we have come in terms of moving away from harmful traditions and practices, and that we continue to push forward. It is imperative for us all to examine our own biases, and counter beliefs that make any person inferior to another on the basis of their sex.

SAMPAN: You make an effort to let us know that while the events of *Daughters of Shandong* take place in China and Taiwan, the challenges detailed are common in many places. What are the contemporary parallels between your story and others happening in 2024?

CHUNG: Today, there are still many laws, in many countries, that do not give women the same rights as men. Even without laws, there are still practices that discriminate against women. For example, there are still families that will prioritize boy children over girl children, because boy children pass on the family name. As a result, girls are still less likely to go to school, and they are more likely to be married off as children. In terms of laws, there are still governments in which women do not have the same nationality rights, marriage/divorce rights, employment rights, and inheritance/property rights as men do. What saddens me most is that there are still many women and girls who are refugees and/or suffer as a result of armed conflict, just like my grandmother and her family.

SAMPAN: The mother in your novel is valiant, indomitable, and certainly does seem to be the catalyst to potentially break the chain of events holding women down. The family makes it to Taiwan stronger, wiser, but certainly imbued with enormous grief and suppressed rage. How do you think that's manifested in this family,

yours, and others?

CHUNG: This book was also the product of grief and anger that I've held inside me about how women and girls are treated in the culture that I grew up in. My great-grandmother—who the mother in my book is based on—suffered from decades of domestic abuse, and her financial dependence on her husband was one of the reasons that she stayed. Her experience affected all of the women in my family, profoundly. From a young age, my mother emphasized that I needed to have my own job, so that if I was ever in an abusive situation, at least I'd have money that would allow me to leave. In the end, I feel like tradition binds a lot of people, more than money does, and I tried to reflect that in my book too—the stigma of being a single mom, and the fear that it might affect her children's future, was what kept the mother in my book tied to the family that treated her so poorly. Like Hai, I love the women in my family, but also have been disappointed by the extent to which they adhere to traditions which are harmful to them.

SAMPAN: While *Daughters of Shandong* is certainly a work of historical fiction, its reality is undeniable and conflict seems to have been at a frozen impasse for the past seventy-six years. Would the grandchildren of your characters have been involved in the Sunflower Movement in Taiwan, or are there other ways they'd have gotten themselves involved?

CHUNG: It's hard to say. Even within families, people can have very different political views. For example, on my father's

“I wanted to give voice to women!”

- Eve J. Chung

side, there were brothers who ended up joining different sides of the Chinese Civil War. In this case, I think I can only speak for myself, as the grandchild of my grandmother, and say that I want to be as involved in human rights as I can be. This is why I chose the career that I did, even though my parents were worried about me being in this field. Both of my parents grew up under Taiwan's martial law period, and as a result they are more cautious than I am about protesting against any government authority. Though there are risks in any field, I am lucky to live in a place where there is, generally speaking, freedom of assembly and expression. There are many human rights activists in our world who continue to be incarcerated, hurt, or killed as a result of their work. I try to do what I can to contribute, and hope that others do the same.



Eve J. Chung

SAMPAN: Who do you want to most reach with this novel? It's at times harrowing, unbearable, but always compelling. Fans of historical fiction will connect with it, while many will find the explicit violence revelatory. Again, the balance you strike is commendable.

CHUNG: Thank you! I hope this book helps people learn about a difficult time period, but primarily, I wanted to give voice to women—not just women from my culture, but any women who have grown up feeling like they were worth less because of their sex. It is a form of discrimination that is so ingrained that many women don't consider it to be unfair, and might perpetuate similar practices. I hope that in this new generation, there are fewer girls who experience this type of pain. For myself, and other women in my family, it is a complex issue because we love our relatives, and are often unsure of what to do, or how to react when they disappoint us—especially when they might not understand that they've done anything wrong because they were raised with sexist beliefs. I hope readers understand that I am not trying to attack my culture, or my ancestors—I am very proud of both, but I want to emphasize that we can still have respect for our roots while adjusting our behaviors and practices to conform with established human rights standards.

SAMPAN: *Daughters of Shandong* is equal parts tender, heartbreaking, brutal, and sweet. In the right hands, this story would be perfect for a Netflix limited series or feature film. It's extremely cinematic in its scope. How would you feel about that as the next manifestation of the Ang family?

CHUNG: I would absolutely love to see this book adapted to a film or a series, as that could help it reach a larger audience! I do have a film agent, so hopefully there will be something TV or movie related in the future.

GEORGETOWN – AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP LOTTERY

201 Central St. #12: 2BR, 2½ BA, Price \$173,400 Asset limit: \$75,000

Income limits: 1P \$66,300

2P \$75,750

3P \$85,200

4P \$94,650

App deadline 5 pm 5/15/24

Free LEP translation.

Info meeting: 4/8/24 @ 6 pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 810 9205 8761 Passcode: 852080

Open House: 4/13/24, 11 am-1 pm

Lottery: 5/22/24 @ 6 pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 858 5573 9964 Passcode: 574626

Info & apps: LA Assoc. (978) 758-0197 fax (978) 657-7333

kristocosta@laassoc.com www.laassoc.com

Town Hall, 1 Library St. (978) 234-5060 TTY: 711, 978-758-0197



Job Corner

Museum of Science, Boston, MA

- **Position: Carpenter, Full Time, Boston**
-High school diploma or equivalent.
-4 or more years of carpentry, building and/or construction trade experience
-Salary 27.00-32.00 per hour
- **Position: Executive Assistant, Human Resources and Volunteer Services, FT**
-Ability to handle confidential material
-Demonstrated ability to adapt to changing priorities
-Demonstrated oral and written communication skills
-Demonstrated customer service skills
-Salary: \$65000-71000 per year
- **Position: Social Media Specialist, FT**
-Post high school course work, technical degree, associate's degree, business or vocational certificate.
-3 or more years of social media, marketing experience.
-Proven verbal and written communications skills
-Salary \$55,000-\$63,000 / year
Website: <https://mos.applicantpro.com/>

Hilton Boston Logan

- **Position: Banquet Houseperson, FT**
-Basic knowledge of Meeting Rooms Set up, service standards, guest relations and etiquette
-Knowledge of appropriate table settings and service ware
-Must possess strong organizational skills
Apply at <http://jobs.hilton.com/>

Tufts Medical Center-Boston, MA

- **Position: Patient Services Coordinator**
-High school diploma
-One (1) year of medical office, insurance, physician's office practice, or hospital registration experience.
-Bilingual

- **Position: Plumber, FT**
-High school diploma or equivalent
-Licensed as a Journeyman Plumber.
-Three (3) years of experience in the plumbing trade.
- **Position: HVAC Tech, Boston, FT**
-High school diploma or equivalent
-Current HVAC/Refrigeration License
-Three (3) years of experience as an HVAC Technician
- **Position: Environmental Services Aide I, FT, Lowell**
-No specific requirements
Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Boston Medical Center-Boston, MA

- **Position: Senior Financial Analyst, FT**
-Bachelor's Degree required, with preference for concentration in Economics, Business, Accounting or Finance. Master's Degree highly desired.
-Minimum of five years professional experience in research administration or a financial analysis/ accounting function
- **Position: Transporter, Perdiem, FT**
-High school diploma or GED preferred
-Requires 6-12 months of experience as Patient Transporter in our current Patient Transport Department.
- **Position: General cleaner, Full Time, 40 hrs Days and rotating weekends**
-Work requires the ability to read, follow oral and written instructions in English at a level acquired through the completion of elementary school
-Ability to learn and perform basic housekeeping practices and understand the policies and procedures of the hospital.
-HS Diploma or completion of GED preferred

Website: www.jobs.bmc.org

Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

Boston Centerless

- **Position: Warehouse Attendant, FT Woburn**

- Basic data entry and computer experience.
- Knowledge of basic fractions and decimal conversions.
- Ability to measure length using carpenters' rule and other measuring devices.
- Accurately count pieces of material.
- Maintain a clean and orderly work area. Performs all work safely and efficiently.
- Salary : \$18-19.00 per hour.
- **Position: 2nd Shift Machine Operator, 4 h PM-2h45 AM, Woburn**
-High School Diploma
-Comfortable with math, including fractions and numbers up to 4 decimal places (.0000 or ten thousandths)
-No experience necessary. Prefer to have either vocational education, manufacturing work experience, or apprenticeship in an industrial environment but not required.
-Salary: \$18-19 per hour

Apply at www.bostoncenterless.com

Contact: Steven Vanaria
svanaria@bostoncenterless.com

Boston Public School

- **Position: Director of Programs and Partnerships, Full Time**
-Bachelor's Degree
-Strong leadership skills
-Strong organizational skills
- **Position: Part-time Cafeteria Attendant, 4 hours per day**
-High school diploma or GED required.
- **Position: Senior Computer Repair Technician, FT**
-High school diploma or equivalency
-Minimum of two years experience that includes configuration, installation and troubleshooting of workstations, servers, network devices and network infrastructure. This experience must have been in a WAN/LAN environment using the hardware and software installed and used by Boston Public Schools.
-Ability to communicate effectively with users
-Must be Boston resident

Website: www.bostonpublicschools.org/

Contact:
Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- **Position: Program Coordinator I, FT Hybrid**
-Applicants must have at least two years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, professional, administrative or managerial experience in business administration, business management or public administration the major duties of which involved program management, program administration, program coordination, program planning and/or program analysis.
-Salary: 2,353.69 - 2,425.03 Biweekly
Website: <https://www.mass.gov/>

ABCD-Boston, MA

- **Position: Cook, FT, 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.
Demonstrated ability in quantity food preparation.
-Salary \$21.93 - \$24.69 / hour
- **Position: Career Advisor, FT Chelsea, Hybrid**
-Minimum of High School Degree or GED required and minimum of three years of customer service or relevant experience required
-Bilingual skills in Spanish are required.
- **Position: Business Service Representative, FT Cambridge, Hybrid**
-A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in business, public administration, human resources or related field, and at least three years of related experience required.
Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>
Contact: Lavette Sealls, lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org

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Environmental Degradation and Political Corruption In Haiti

By Sabrina Yeung

The transformation of Haiti from a lush, forested island to a country now grappling with the severe consequences of deforestation is a stark example of environmental degradation and its interplay with political corruption. Once covered 97% by beautiful forests, Haiti's landscape tells a different story today, with only 2% of its original forest cover remaining. This drastic change is not only an ecological crisis but also a reflection of the broader issues of governance and corruption that have been an issue in the country for centuries.

The starting point of Haiti's deforestation can be traced back to the colonial era, under French rule, when large swathes of forest were cleared to make way for plantations. However, the problem has escalated recently, primarily due to the demand for charcoal, the country's main source of domestic energy. According to an article on Earth.org written by Ekpali Sant on December 30, 2022, over 80% of Haiti's energy is generated from burning charcoal, leading to a significant loss of forest and significantly increasing the country's vulnerability to environmental disasters such as landslides and floods. The environmental implications of deforestation in Haiti are severe. The loss of forests has not only led to habitat destruction and biodiversity loss but has also accelerated global warming. Forests, known as carbon sinks, play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, when trees are cut down, the stored carbon is released, contributing to the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) highlights the critical role of forests in supporting biodiversity and in communities relying on them for food and livelihoods.

The political backdrop of Haiti's deforestation crisis is deeply intertwined with issues of governance and corruption. The lack of effective environmental policies and the failure to enforce existing regulations can be attributed to a broader issue of political instability and corruption. The government's struggle to address deforestation is compounded by these challenges,

making it difficult to implement sustainable solutions. The reliance on charcoal production for livelihoods underscores the complexity of tackling deforestation. As highlighted by Earth.org, solutions must align with the needs of the people, indicating the necessity of alternative livelihood support to limit forestry practices sustainably. This approach requires a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic dynamics and an effort from both local and international stakeholders.

Haiti once covered 97% by beautiful forests ... but now only 2% of its original forest cover remaining

The environmental degradation in Haiti is not an isolated issue but a part of a larger crisis. The crumbling infrastructure, a direct consequence of political corruption, exacerbates the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, further undermining the efforts to combat deforestation. Political instability has long been a barrier to effective environmental governance in Haiti. The assassination of Prime Minister Jovenel Moïse in 2021 and the subsequent political disruption have compounded the challenges facing environmental conservation efforts. Amidst this chaos, however, initiatives like the reforestation project led by Haiti National Trust (HNT) demonstrate resilience and determination. Despite economic and political upheavals, these efforts aim to restore Haiti's forests, showcasing the potential for positive change even in the face of adversity, as stated in an article by Jeremy Hance for Mongabay on November 10, 2022.

However, the path to environmental recovery in Haiti is fraught with obstacles. Deforestation is not merely a result of individual actions but is deeply rooted in sys-

temic issues of poverty and lack of access to sustainable energy sources. As noted by Manos Unidas on Fairplanet.org on June 7, 2023, addressing deforestation requires "not only reforestation efforts but also a transformation in energy consumption patterns and agricultural practices."

Moreover, the international community plays a pivotal role in supporting Haiti's environmental conservation efforts. The U.S. Embassy in Haiti's initiative to combat deforestation through the USAID Reforestation Project is a step in the right direction, emphasizing the importance of good and effective governance in the management of natural resources. This initiative aims to plant over five million trees and restore critical habitats. Such projects highlight the importance of external support in complementing local efforts to combat deforestation and improve environmental governance.

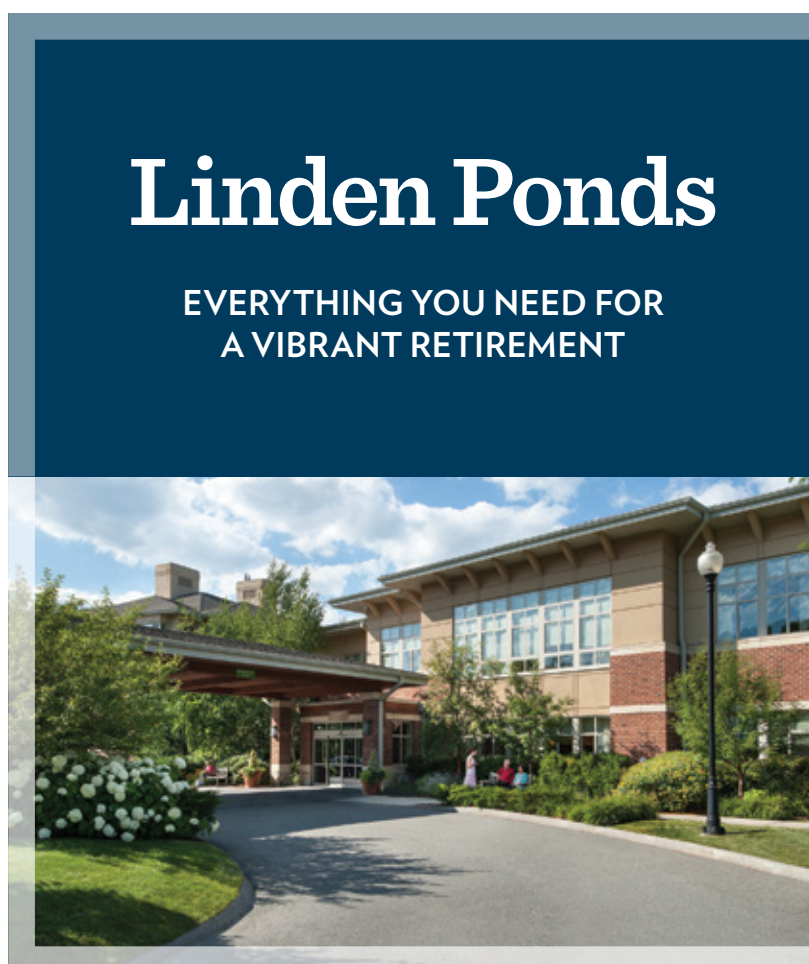
The challenge of deforestation in Haiti is representative of a broader global struggle to balance human needs with environmental sustainability. The lessons from Haiti's experience underscore the importance of integrated approaches that address the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to environmental degradation. Sustainable development in Haiti requires a concerted effort to strengthen governance, combat corruption, and invest in community-led conservation initiatives.

In addressing the challenge of deforestation in Haiti, Jacques Philemon Mondesir, an agronomist, natural resources engineer, and university professor, highlights the widespread adoption of solar energy as a pivotal alternative to wood burning. Despite the potential for solar and wind energy to contribute to Haiti's energy source, especially given the limited capacities of Haiti's National Electricity Service, Mondesir underscores that these alternatives have yet to significantly impact the primary use of wood for cooking, pointing out the economic barriers to adopting electric or solar ovens. Furthermore, he evaluates Haiti's sustainable farming activities through the lens of agro-forestry, suggesting it as a viable model for balancing ag-

riculture with environmental conservation. Mondesir critically identifies education as the cornerstone for addressing deforestation, advocating for a comprehensive educational approach to foster a better relationship with the environment and promote self-reliance among Haitians.

Marc Durands, a program manager for an international organization in Haiti, concurs on the recognition of solar and wind energy but emphasizes the socio-economic complexities behind deforestation. He argues for a holistic solution that combines alternative energy sources with economic opportunities for vulnerable communities. Durands also points out the challenges faced by sustainable farming in Haiti, including technical, financial, and institutional limitations, advocating for a robust reforestation program that incorporates economically valuable trees. Highlighting the necessity of a collaborative governance model involving the government, civil society organizations, and international partners, Durands underscores the critical role of political will and governmental involvement in combating deforestation. Both Mondesir and Durands draw attention to the urgent environmental degradation in Haiti, stressing its implications for biodiversity and regional stability, thereby underscoring the immediate need for concerted efforts in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

In conclusion, the relationship between environmental degradation and political corruption in Haiti illustrates the complex challenges facing the nation. However, the efforts of local communities, supported by international partners, offer hope for a sustainable future. To effectively address deforestation and its associated impacts, Haiti must navigate a path that intertwines environmental conservation with socio-economic development and political stability. This journey is fraught with challenges but is essential for the well-being of the Haitian people and the global community. As we look towards the future, the resilience of Haiti's people and the support of the international community will be critical in solving the problem of deforestation and towards a more sustainable Haiti.



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Firelei Báez Brings a New Exhibition to the ICA

By Harmony Witte

A new exhibit has opened at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston featuring a survey of the work of artist Firelei Báez with 40 pieces of her striking work on display. This is the first museum survey dedicated to her work with the exhibit spanning 20 years of her career.

At a recent press preview Báez spoke about her art, in particular an installation called “*A Drexcyen Chronocommons (To win the war you fought in sideways)*” created in 2019. When the viewer walks into the gallery containing this piece they are transported to a mythical world. The walls and ceilings of the gallery are shrouded in blue tarpaulin which is full of holes allowing pinpricks of light that cast dappled shadows across the floor and on the people walking through the gallery. Two large paintings of female figures with emotion-filled eyes that follow the viewer through the gallery hang on opposite walls, shrouded by the fabric and verdant foliage. The figures are painted in vivid blue, green, orange, yellow, and pink hues made by pouring paint and allowing it to pool. Well-hidden fans create a gentle breeze that moves the leaves and the tarps making the installation feel as if it is a breathing, living thing.

Báez explained the sculpture, “The Drexcyen Myth is an epic story built by two Detroit DJs in the nineties, in a time when Detroit was very blighted by the collapse of industrialization and commerce and a drug epidemic in the United States. And what they came up with over a series of nine albums was this storyline of black excellence and ingenuity, in the sense that they started from the point that the history books all agreed on. (Joseph Mallord William) Turner made a painting about it of women and enslaved people being thrown overboard, many times for insurance value. And what they thought of was, what if the women who were pregnant survived and their kids survived and were able to breathe underwater? What kind of thriving society would they build? And what would the joy, the technology, the highs, and lows of that space be and what they built is something that has inspired many visual artists, musicians, poets. There are books written about this, and I’m just one, and a lineage of that, making odes to that space and thinking how, in line with someone like Saidiya Hartman. What is the value of critical fabulation, of building? When we are told that there are no archives to basically mark our history, that we only have our bodies left in that sense, that our bodies are that archive, what is the potential in that? How much can we encompass? There’s actually



Firelei Báez at the ICA

this wonderful and strange new development in sound and optics, like a slicing of both, where they can recreate a room, quite literally from the echoes within another object. So, like micing the inside of a potato chip bag can give a sense of what the outside room is. I feel like many times the archives, what we’re left with, are like that. That we have to recreate an entire space based on that goes from what’s unstated. And that is what the Drexcyen Myth does for me, that it creates all the nuance that we live, and experience are now aware of, but are not marked and told to us in normative history. All of that to say, this is an environment that is meant to make you feel present and alive and bodily and into your senses. A place to reflect and feel connected to everything around you.”

Báez’s hope that the environment makes people feel present and alive bears fruit as this installation was the highlight of the survey for me. As she spoke more about the meaning behind the piece I was captivated. Báez continued, “I’m Dominican and Haitian, and there is a point in our history that is in line with everything I said, not very well marked. There was the northern kingdom of Haiti, where there are these gorgeous portraits by the same portrait artists that painted Napoleon, painted King Henri Christophe, and his son. And those versions of those portraits are in, I think, the Harvard archive. You can go see them there. But there are no portraits of his wife and daughters, who were exiled in Italy and had a long odyssey in exile. And so, these are meant to be portraits of the two daughters speaking to each other. And one thing about these portraits is that they. The way the paint, the eyes are painted, they will follow you as you travel across the room. No matter where you are, you’re making direct eye contact. So that is something that, in a lot of my portraits, I grew up in Latin America, where there is a very codified way of looking at the face. There is the

cents. So, you walk into these spaces that have stalactites and stalagmites, and everything is literally glowing. When you interact with the water, when you go into the space, your body will make the space, the organic material, glow around you. This is, in a way, meant to evoke a bit of that. And I grew up in Miami as well. And every time there’s a hurricane, the blue tarp is the one thing that is a marker of either shelter or disaster, sometimes both. And so, as a kid, the wonder of seeing pinpricks through that tarp was always something that I was drawn to. And so, this is a mix here of both those environments. What does it mean to be in places that were holy but were conscripted or taken for some other purpose. And to be in a hurricane in a place of hurricanes and to feel safe within a hurricane is something that is also a mess.”

Another work spoken of at the press preview was called, “*Once We’ve Torn Shit Down, We Will Inevitably See More and See Differently and Feel a New Sense of Wanting and Being and Becoming.*” When asked about the large painted arch, tilted at an impossible angle, curator Eva Respini said “To me, that title really sums up a lot about what the work is trying to do, which is to question how we receive history and power, how histories have been told, specifically the histories of the Atlantic Basin and thinking about the Caribbean and the African Diaspora and its long sort of trenches and tentacles, and how those various images and iconography that are swirling around in Firelei’s head from those kind of cultural touchstones, how those are then iterated through variety of different artworks that you’ll see... It really illustrates how Firelei, who is trained as a painter, really thinks through the medium of painting, how she has jumped off the canvas to think in three dimensions. And even those canvases that are traditional in two dimensions have this feeling, as of enveloping the viewer in these various worlds.”

There were other striking pieces in the exhibit such as “[*Title TBC NEW MAP Painting*]” which was completed so recently that curator Eva Respini joked that it arrived at the museum still wet. Other notable pieces were “*Adjusting the Moon (The right to non-imperative clarities): Wanting*” which is a space behind a curtain with mirrors lined up to infinitely reflect two of Báez’s paintings, to the large, vibrant, floor-to-ceiling mural facing the Boston Harbor. Firelei Báez made a strong showing at the ICA and is poised to become a very important artist with her messages about colonialism and her challenging of the notions of received histories.

The exhibit will be on display at the ICA from April 4th until September 2, 2024.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Fid Kennedy Realignment Phase II

Jason Tobin; 617-918-6211; Jason.w.tobin@boston.gov

The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (“EDIC”) d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”), by its Chief Procurement Officer (“CPO”), is pleased to issue this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to perform consultant services for the “**Fid Kennedy Realignment Phase II**”. The RFP is issued in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30§39M, as may be amended. This RFP package will be available to download on the BPDA Procurement Portal free-of charge in **digital print** form to all interested respondents on **April 8, 2024, 9:00 A.M.** at bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement-portal. All responses to this RFP must be returned no later than **12:00 (noon) on April 29, 2024**, to: Teresa Polhemus, Clerk, Boston Planning & Development Agency, One City Hall Square, Room 900A/Receptionist, Boston, MA 02201-1007. Tim Mathis, Interim Chief Procurement Officer.

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Thousands of Immigrant Deaths From Greed, Racism: A Painful Reminder

By Tracy Huang

Last month six construction workers were found dead in a red pickup truck submerged in 25 feet of water in Baltimore, Maryland. The truck fell into the river following the collapse of the bridge they were working on. Only the bodies of 26-year-old Dorlian Castillo Cabrera and 35-year-old Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes were found inside the truck, according to USA Today. According to the media outlet Firstpost, the six construction workers were part of a Central America crew from places like Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Many immigrants come to America in search of the American Dream, where they believe they will be able to strike rich and give their children a successful life if they work hard. Although that is the case for some, many are left with very low-paying and dangerously high risk jobs. Death was considered a constant, ever present issue on the Panama Canal project in 1904-1914 where 25,000 workers died. Yellow Fever, drownings, electrocution and avalanches due to the explosion of over 60 million pounds of dynamite.

The construction of the Suez Canal which connected the Mediterranean and Red Seas through a sea-level waterway, killed many people from cholera and plagues because of the lack of sanitation facilities, polluted drinking water, and rotted food. There were many industrial accidents and no basic medical facilities. Over 120,000 workers died during the 11 year

project.

The use of Chinese workers to build the Transcontinental Railroad Project was one of the most tragic times for immigrant workers in America. The construction started on January 8, 1863 in Sacramento, California. The purpose was to connect the east and west coasts and make rural and unexplored areas accessible. This was part of the government's Manifest Destiny, where Americans believed that they had a god-given right to expand westwards. Through years of aggressive colonization which annihilated the American Indian. America was able to expand from the original 13 colonies to an enormous territory spreading across the entirety of North America.

However, how were they going to be able to effectively communicate and transport resources became the next critical issue. That is where the transcontinental railroad came in... to become the fast mode of transportation between America's two coasts. After the first two years, the U.S government realized that they needed many more workers. In January 1865, the Central Pacific published an ad, seeking 5,000 additional railroad workers. Although some white workers responded, they began recruiting people from Chinese companies abroad. Chinese people willingly came, particularly from China's Guangdong province, where they were fleeing their country's Opium War. It has been estimated that over 20,000 Chinese laborers participated in the Transcontinental Railroad Project.

Chinese workers were abused daily.

They were given one half of what the Euro-American workers were paid and even had to pay for their own food. The Chinese workers organized a strike to demand better working conditions and equal pay. However, the bosses broke the strike by threatening violence and to withhold food rations, causing the workers to back down. There were extreme weather conditions like harsh winters and constant threats of avalanches, there were brutal summer temperatures that reached up to 120 degrees. The most dangerous area was the Sierra Nevada's Cape Horn where teams of Chinese workers had to remove boulders, trees, and brush from the mountain's slopes where any delays in pulling back the boulders would lead to sudden death from explosives. Over 1,000 Chinese people died and had their bones shipped back to China to be buried.

Many believed that the Chinese were going to "steal their job" since many Chinese workers were willing to work long hours in terrible conditions for extremely low pay. The Naturalization Act of 1870 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of May 6, 1882 were enacted because Americans believed that the Chinese immigrants should not be allowed to come to America, or there would be no more opportunities left for them. There were many horrific acts of violence against the Chinese. In the 1880s, thousands of Chinese laborers were targets of murder, assault, due to growing natives, increasing resentment towards Asians and anti-Asian Legislation.

Along with the railroads, there was a huge "gold rush" from the mining indus-

try which drew many Chinese workers to America as well, hoping to strike rich and find gold. Although there was a lot of anti-Asian legislation and resentment growing, many Chinese immigrants played a large role in shaping the country. However, much of history tries to rage and hide the facts. Many photographs taken during the Transcontinental Railroad Project did not include Chinese workers. Despite many of the railroad workers' descendants attempting to seek acknowledgment of their ancestor's labor, the then Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe refused to acknowledge it.

The story of the Chinese immigrants and the thousands of laborers who died building the Transcontinental Railroad and Panama and Suez Canals transcends generations of suffering and death is reflected today among the poor. There are still many deaths that have claimed the lives of immigrants in the construction industry in places like Baltimore and New York. Juan Chonililio, a 44-year-old Ecuadorean immigrant fell to his death while getting stuck in a moving crane. His family was only able to get a \$10,000 compensation for his death. His nephew was outraged. "Nobody got locked up. Nobody got a real punishment, I guess that means you can put somebody at risk, just plead guilty, and that's it."

We, as a nation, need to realize that immigrants are very important to making America great. There has continuously been pushback from many Americans, thinking that immigrants are stealing their jobs; when in reality, the ancestors of these Americans were immigrants. Rather immigrants provide an important foundation in America. Many immigrants take on jobs that no one wants, either because of low pay or dangerous conditions, like the bridge in Baltimore.

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mail to: **Astrid Walker-Stewart**

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Update on The Migrant Crisis in Massachusetts

By Jeff Millman

Immigration in Boston is changing. A report from the Boston Foundation and the Immigration Research Initiative published in February found that the most common places of origin and settlement for immigrants in Boston have shifted significantly in recent years. In 1990, the most common country of origin for Greater Boston's foreign-born population was Canada. Six of the top ten countries were in Europe. By 2021, Canada and European countries weren't even in the top ten – China, the Dominican Republic, and India led the way.

Even more interesting is the comparison of Boston's immigrant population with the immigrant population of the country more generally. Researchers noted that Greater Boston has a "different makeup" than the country as a whole, with a "more diverse global spread." There are substantial populations of Cape Verdean, Cambodian, Brazilian, and Haitian immigrants compared to the rest of the nation. Where immigrants are settling is changing as well.

Places like Revere, Boxborough, Marlborough, and Brockton, all communities farther away from the "urban core," saw significant growth from 2011 to 2021, much more than Cambridge, Somerville, and Chelsea. Researchers attribute this to "skyrocketing" housing costs, which have pushed new immigrant families to "farther flung parts of the region." The surge in migration to Massachusetts over the last year has also strained the state's emergency shelter system, and given the difficulty of finding shelter space in Boston itself, it's unsurprising that people are looking to other parts of the state to live.

The Boston shelter system continues to be a point of contention for residents and politicians. Governor Maura Healey announced at the end of March that the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, currently vacant and previously scheduled for demolition, would be converted into a facility to house up to 100 migrant families. Some Chelsea residents protested this decision online, even though the facility was initially closed in December last year because a larger veterans' facility opened at Powder Horn Hill. There is enough space for both immigrants and veterans.

Similarly, a temporary shelter that opened in Roxbury at the end of January caused some controversy. According to Boston.com, residents thought the site was "unfair" and that the neighborhood "is already overburdened and under-resourced, and the plan will disrupt vital programs residents rely on." The plan was unpopular enough that even Mayor Michelle Wu expressed frustration on behalf of the residents: "For the first community where this is being proposed to be Roxbury, a community that over so many decades has faced disinvestment, redlining, and disproportionate outcomes, it's very painful."

But the shelter was clearly badly needed. Just a week after it opened, it was already approaching capacity. The state plans to close the shelter by May 31, but it's unclear what will happen to the families living there if no more spaces are made available. The uncertainty around the state's plans is familiar. Multiple venues have been floated as potential emergency shelters, and some shelters have been organized without community input. At the beginning of March, the state announced emergency housing at a building in the Fort Point neighborhood. City Councilor Ed Flynn criticized the plans, telling NBC10 Boston that "the process and the community process itself were lousy...there was no resident or community input."

Migration to Boston over the last year has obviously caused logistical issues and friction among residents. But it's important to remember that the city's immigrants are part of what makes the city socially and economically successful. The Boston Foundation report noted that about six in ten foreign-born residents in Boston work middle- or upper-wage jobs, and that immigrants are more likely than native-born individuals to start businesses. Immigrants represent 28% of all business owners in Boston and 40% of "Main Street businesses." Boston University economist Tarek Hassan recently published studies showing that immigrants help fuel local economies, "sparking innovation and driving up wages." He also showed that when we live near people from other countries, our views can shift, "decreasing hostility and prejudice while boosting empathy and knowledge."

Federally, the Biden administration has taken action to ensure that new immi-

grants will be able to obtain work authorizations more easily to begin contributing to the economy and supporting themselves. The administration announced on April 4 that it will extend the eligibility of work permit renewals to 540 days for people currently waiting for authorization. This rule will benefit up to 800,000 people nationally, and will aid those who applied for work permits on or after October 27, 2023. The rule will remain in place until 2027. More generally, processing times for employment authorization, naturalization, and other forms and documents are significant-

ly lower in 2024 than in previous years.

As the state works out the difficulties around its shelter system, and the country grapples with immigration reform debates, immigrants and Boston residents alike may continue to experience frustrations or problems. If the trend of increase in immigration to Massachusetts continues for the next few months or years, it will be important for residents to work together with their community leaders to handle immigration practically and empathetically. Boston, the birthplace of the American Revolution, has always been a safe place for immigrants. This will hopefully remain the same, even as our population continues to grow and change.

MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 10 PARK PLAZA BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

LEGAL NOTICE

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. A26CN03, SYMPHONY STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, HUNTINGTON AVE., BOSTON, MA, CLASS 1 & 7, PROJECT VALUE - \$70,911,615.00, can be submitted at www.bidx.com until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on **May 23, 2024**. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work consists of but is not limited to the following: Renovations to MBTA's Symphony Station. Installing 4 elevators, raising the platforms to accommodate train heights and level boarding, customer assistance areas on the IB and OB platforms, adding egress stairs on each platform, expanding the lobbies, and upgrading life safety systems, lighting, finishes and wayfinding. This Contract is subject to a financial assistance Contract between the MBTA and the Federal Transit Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation. FTA Participation: 80% percent.

Bidders' attention is directed to Appendix 1, 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. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of Appendix 3, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation Provision, Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bids that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated **DBE goal of 25% percent**.

To view the full Notice to Bidders, please see link below.
http://bc.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 & CEO of the MBTA

April 10, 2024

IN THE NEWS

MA Senate passes bill to make child care more affordable

Thursday March 14 2024 - State House

The Massachusetts Senate on Thursday unanimously approved a bill that supporters say would help make early education and child care more accessible and affordable at a time when the cost of care has posed a financial hurdle for families statewide.



Speakers, supporters, and media gathered outside the Statehouse in Boston on Thursday, March 14, 2024. 2024年3月14日星期四, 演讲者、支持者和媒体聚集在波士顿州政府大楼外



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马萨诸塞州参议院通过法案, 使儿童保育更加负担得起

2024年3月14日, 星期四 - 州政府大楼

马萨诸塞州参议院周四一致批准了一项法案, 支持者称该法案将有助于在护理费用给全州家庭带来经济障碍的情况下, 使早期教育和儿童保育变得更容易获得和负担得起。