

Bias Against Muslims, Palestinians Permeate Press: Rights Advocate

By Adam Smith

The contrasts in the headlines were striking.

Projected on a screen were copies of online stories from *The New York Times* and the *BBC News*, both covering killings in the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Israeli bombings of Palestinians in Gaza.

Pointing out the differences in the treatments, Hena Zuberi of the non-profit human rights group, Justice For All, noted how in one set of headlines, the group carrying out deadly attacks, Israel, goes unnamed, and in the other, the opposite is true. Russia is named.

Zuberi pointed to the screen. “The Israeli army is not mentioned, at all,” she noted of the presentations by both publications in her examples. “Who conducted the air strikes? No attacker is named.”

In a *New York Times* headline she used as an example, the dead in Gaza were “reported” in the passive voice, and not simply stated as a fact, as was the case in the Ukraine coverage.

“When they start talking about Palestinian lives, the voices suddenly become detached and very passive,” said Zuberi, who was leading a workshop last week in Roxbury on recognizing and combating Islamophobia in the media.

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OMITTED TRUTHS: Advocate and journalist Hena Zuberi discusses anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian bias last week at a workshop in Roxbury. Photo by Adam Smith

Dorchester Art Project Set to Honor Vietnamese Diaspora

By Harmony Witte

An art project by a group of Vietnamese Americans in Dorchester will complement a proposed Vietnamese diaspora memorial and aim to become a permanent presence in Boston, say organizers.

The “Trung Bày Mẫu Thiết Kế” show debuts on Sept. 14, from noon to 3 p.m. at the VietAID Community Center at 42 Charles St. in Dorchester, as part of the “1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial.” The exhibit is lead by artist Ngoc-Tran Vu.

“This design showcase is an inclusive and accessible bilingual space for Vietnamese individuals, families, and the wider Dorchester community

to engage with the memorial’s proposed designs,” said Theresa Tran of the 1975 project. “It is an ambitious project set to become a public art installation with a long-term vision for a permanent memorial in the Boston Little Saigon Cultural District in 2025.”

The goal of the exhibit, said Tran, is to offer a place to honor the personal and collective history of Vietnamese Americans and to reflect on the lives of Vietnamese refugees who came to the U.S. after the fall of Saigon.

“We want to ensure this resonates with all generations of the Vietnamese Diaspora,” said Tran.

Tran added that the memorial itself pays homage to families and communities whose lives were forever changed by the war in Vietnam, and to “address healing, grief, and inter-generational trauma and to build ongoing engagement. As well as to be a countervailing corrective to the lack of diversity, equity, and inclusion in place-making public art in Boston and beyond.”

The 1975 team has community dialogue nights during which Vietnamese Americans discuss what they want to see in the memorial to ensure it will represent them, said Tran.

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Have Your Voice Heard in the 2024 Presidential Election Via Sampan Survey

The 2024 Presidential Election race is turning out to be like no other. Readers old enough to remember, or those of us who appreciate historical perspective, need to go back to March 31, 1968. Then, Democratic Presidential incumbent Lyndon Johnson withdrew his name from consideration for his party's nomination. The bombing of North Vietnam was in full force, divisiveness ruled the nation, and Johnson's brief speech contextualizing the state of that war and his nation culminated with a statement that seemed to foreshadow chaos at the Chicago convention later that year:

"I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

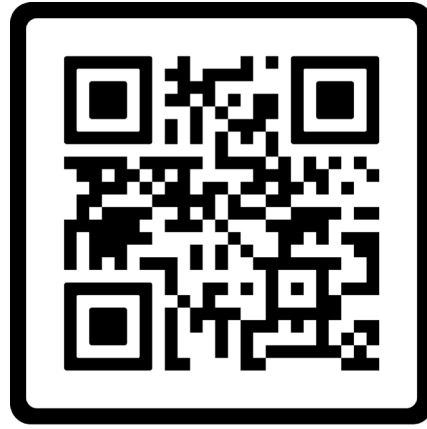
History books have produced interpretations of what happened that year and the generations that followed: anger, divisiveness, civil unrest in the streets outside of the Chicago convention that year and multiple perceived fissures.

Flash forward to July 21, 2024. President Biden is recovering from

Covid and the consequences of an inept performance at his sole debate with Republican Donald Trump. Biden withdraws from the race. Vice Pres. Kamala Harris assumes his position and is officially named the Democratic nominee 15 days later.

The great Union activist song "Which Side Are You On?" spoke to the generations before and since 1968, but it's the chant of "The Whole World Is Watching" that seems to resonate even stronger in 2024. Each Presidential election cycle we find ourselves proclaiming that the stakes have never been so high. We gird ourselves against collateral damage from the biting, incendiary political rhetoric spouted from various directions. We hold our collective breath from Labor Day until election day and hope for a reasonable outcome.

It is in this context that *Sampan* will welcome our readers' perspectives. What are your major social issues? What concerns you most when it comes to our economy, and how has the migrant situation of the past 12 months af-



ected your perspective on the ways we have (or have not) met the needs of the "huddled masses" coming to our shores "yearning to breathe free"?

Use this QR code so you can inform our coverage. This campaign season is changing at a breakneck pace. By the time of publication we'll have seen the first of what looks to be the sole planned debate between Harris and Trump.

It is our goal to open up some space for more and diverse voices.

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empty bamboo girl

by Lillian Lee



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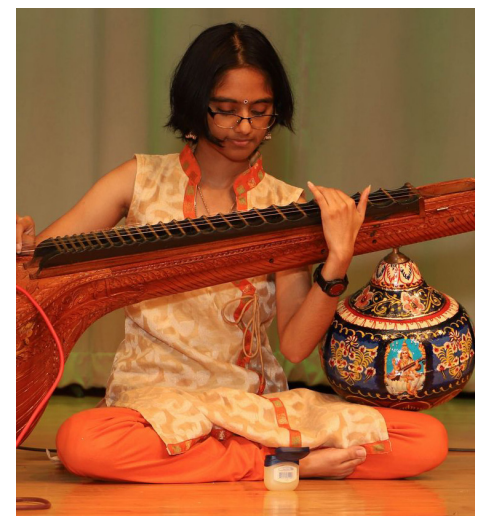
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India Day in Needham Celebrates Inclusion, Nation's Rich Diversity

By Christopher John Stephens and Sampan staff

This year's annual India Day celebration in Needham on Aug. 17 was all about inclusion.

"To showcase our inclusivity, we featured a fashion show highlighting traditional garments from various Indian states," said Karan Bhagat, a youth ambassador of the event's organizer, the Indian Community of Needham, or ICON.

India is a highly diverse nation in which around 100 different languages are spoken and hundreds of tribal groups reside. More so, while Hinduism, Islamism, Sikhism and Buddhism are frequently associated with the nation, every major world religion is practiced there.

So it makes sense that theme for 2024 was "Being Exclusively Inclusive."

To learn more about the event, *Sampan* spoke with Bhagat about the day that honored India's culture, fashion, food, music and history. (And if you missed

the festivities, ICON holds its next big event, Bollywood Day on Sept. 28. For more, see <https://www.iconeedham.org/>)
Editor's Note: Sampan reached out to the organizers of the Boston India Day, but did not hear back yet.

Sampan: How would you characterize the cultural diversity of Indians, both in their home country and those first- and second generation Indian Americans living in the United States?

Bhagat: The foundations of India and the United States are built upon shared values and principles – a reverence for democracy and an embrace of diverse religions, cultures, traditions, and opinions. Both nations honor their rich and multifaceted heritages while recognizing the importance of diversity.

The fabric of these two nations is intertwined, united by a shared commitment to freedom, the pursuit of innovation, and a profound appreciation for diversity and pluralism. Together, we forge a path

toward a brighter future, empowering our youth to thrive.

This shared foundation of diversity and respect for individual freedoms has laid the groundwork for the vibrant and multifaceted Indian diaspora, building upon American culture, and is reflected in the thriving Indian community in the United States including the Boston community. Second-generation Indian Americans often bridge the two cultures, blending their Indian heritage and American upbringing.

In Boston and Massachusetts, we can see this diversity through the vibrant Indian festivals, community organizations, the diverse range of Indian restaurants, and the representation of Indian Americans in leadership positions of organizations.

Sampan: What were the highlights of the India Day festivities this year, in addition to celebrating inclusiveness?

Bhagat: Another key highlight was our

ongoing commitment to youth empowerment. Building upon the success of last year's pilot program, our Youth Club, open to 8th graders and high school students, has been instrumental in developing essential skills for personal and professional success. By volunteering with ICON, students have the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities that foster leadership, teamwork, and communication skills while promoting cultural understanding. During the event, our youth actively participated in performances and played crucial roles in organizing the festivities.

Finally, we celebrated local artists and performers. Attendees could purchase handcrafted wares from traditional artisans, and a lively Bolly-X performance got the crowd dancing to popular Bollywood music.

Sampan: How long does it take to prepare for these celebrations each year?

Continues next page

ICON's India Day Cheers Inclusiveness of Nation

Continued from last page

Bhagat: ICON's India Day event has been one of our free flagship events open to both members and the public, attracting up to 350-400 attendees. Due to its scale, preparations typically begin approximately six months and sometimes even earlier, before the event

Sampan: Over half a million foreign-born Indians reside in Massachusetts, with over 38,000 here in Boston. Indians comprise the 9th largest country of origin population in this city. What do you think makes the state so attractive to Indians? Do celebrations like India Day every August help bring the population together?

Bhagat: The significant Indian presence in Boston is a testament to the opportunities, quality of life, and diversity that Massachusetts offers. Many Indians are drawn to the state due to its world-class educational institutions (including K-12 schooling), thriving job market, and diverse cultural representation. Cultural events like India Day are invaluable in fostering unity and cultural pride within our community. They create a sense of belonging and allow us to preserve our cultural heritage while sharing it with the broader community. This contributes to the city's rich multicultural identity. In this way, both the growth of the Indian

population and events like India Day play essential roles in enriching the social fabric of Massachusetts.

Sampan: What would you like the general public to have taken away from the India Day celebrations?

Bhagat: There is overflowing color, pagentry, infectious music, joyous dances, a rich array of food choices and a pervasive sense of community.

We hope our guests enjoyed the sense of community and unity that the event brought. We hope it was as much an embracing of friendship between India and the United States as it was a celebration of India and its rich colors, dances, food, and culture.

Sampan: What struggles remain for the Indian population in the United States in general and Boston in particular. What are you and ICON hoping to accomplish for the immediate and long term future?

Bhagat: ICON's mission is to promote awareness, celebrate, and support people of Indian origin from all walks of life, fostering a strong network of allies and friends. By the same token, ICON aspires to be a supporter and friend to communities and organizations outside of its own....



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SPECIAL HEALTH SECTION PAGES 5-8

New Screening Tech Could Address Racial Disparities in Cervical Cancer

By Esther Wang

For many women, Pap smears are an uncomfortable, even painful experience. While effective at screening for cervical cancer, the technique calls for the patient's legs to be held apart and a metal speculum to be inserted into the vagina to scrape cells from the cervix. The process can cause physical distress and evoke mental trauma.

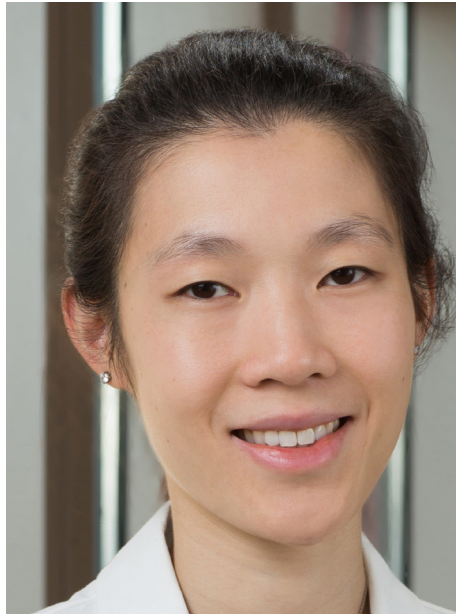
Pap smears, however, might soon become a thing of the past. In May, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new method of testing for cervical cancer that will allow women to self-swab their own vaginas while in a medical setting and leave a sample for testing, much like how urine samples are taken. The new self-collection method is made possible by a breakthrough in technology that lets samples be taken from the vagina, not the cervix, and still be adequate for testing. In taking this step, the U.S. has joined many other countries, such as Denmark and Australia, in making cervical cancer screening more convenient and comfortable.

"Anything that can help increase cervical cancer screening will be helpful in lowering cervical cancer rates," Dr. Lucy Chie of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, told the Sampan.

While still under review, there is also the possibility that at-home testing—with women self-swabbing at home and sending their samples to labs for testing—will be implemented next year.

"Self-collection may increase screening uptake," said Dr. Jenny Ruan, an obstetrician and gynecologist at Tufts Medical Center. "At Tufts Medical Center, we are working with our colleagues in the laboratory to better understand the sensitivity and specificity of the test. After we have completed the evaluation, we can then disseminate information to patients regarding this novel process in cervical cancer screening."

There is hope that these new advances might close the screening gap associated with the Pap smear, which has historically failed to reach wide swaths of people. In fact, according to the *New York Times*, thousands of women die from cervical cancer per year—deaths that are completely preventable. Statistics indicate that women living in rural areas, with lower socioeconomic statuses, and without insurance are much more likely to be under-screened. African American women are 30% more likely to develop cervical cancer and 60% more likely to die from it than non-Hispanic white women. African American women make up 14.4% of the female population and around half of



DR. RUAN

the African American population, yet they have the highest mortality rate for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer, including cervical cancer. Asian American women have one of the lowest screening rates. Some view the current state of cervical cancer screening that's reliant on the Pap smear is deeply flawed.

"These disparities can be due to a variety of reasons," Dr. Ruan said of the health outcomes of African Americans. "This patient population may have lower Pap smear screening and follow up rates due to social disparities such as access to healthcare and health literacy... [or] lower rates of HPV vaccination, which can help protect against certain types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer."

For example, African American women with cervical cancer are likely to be diagnosed at a later stage, which decreases the odds for survival. One reason for this is due to distrust of the medical community, and with good reason; from the inhumane practices of J. Marion Sims, widely considered the father of modern gynecology, to the Tuskegee syphilis study of the 20th century, there is a precedent for the exploitation of African Americans in the name of medical study. In addition, a lack of follow-up care and the provision of relevant information to patients are also serious issues in ensuring that African American women are diagnosed and treated in a timely manner.

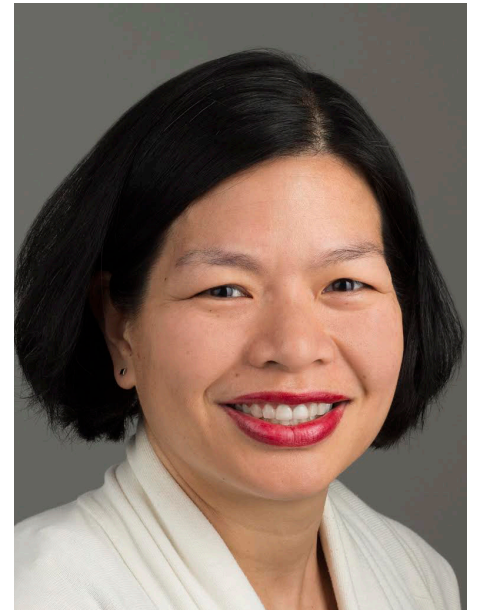
In response, the American Cancer Society recently launched the new study VOICES of Black Women, which aims to enroll and follow more than 100,000 African American women for the next 30 years. The study's investigators hope that their findings will shed more light on the disparities and barriers African American women face in treating their cancer. Another group, Tamika and Friends, was founded by former cervical cancer patient Tamika Felder.

Felder used her own experience in navigating the process and advocating for herself to start a support group for other women in similar circumstances. Now called Cervivor, Inc., the group helps to link women with cervical cancer into a global support community.

Others are turning to technology for a new solution. Outcomeus, founded by Brian Meshkin, is working on developing a new medical model that emphasizes predictive and preventive healthcare. The new model plans to integrate artificial intelligence to better tailor healthcare to individual needs and expand its access. In particular, Meshkin has highlighted the importance of predictive healthcare in not only addressing manifested symptoms but also "social determinants" and "systemic barriers" to care—in other words, looking not just at the individual but at the whole.

Asian American women are another vulnerable population when it comes to cervical cancer screening. Studies show that as a whole, Asian American women are generally poorly educated about cervical cancer, with little awareness of prevention practices such as regular screening. Asian American women are often lumped together into one large category and historically underrepresented in medical research. Only a small percentage of clinical trials in the U.S. focus on minority populations, and only five such trials focus on Asian Americans, compared to 83 for African Americans and 32 for Hispanics. This means that cultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic differences among Asian communities are easily overlooked.

However, more knowledge about these factors are needed to better understand the different screening behaviors among Asian American women. For example, according to the 2011 study "Overcoming Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening Among Asian American Women," Asian American women are far less likely to undergo Pap smears when compared with the general U.S. population. But even more specifically, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese women have higher rates of cervical cancer, compared to other



DR. CHIE

Asian populations such as Japanese or Filipino women. Studies conducted show that 33% of Vietnamese American women in the eastern U.S. have never had a Pap smear; 40% of Korean American women in California; and 28% of Chinese American women in the eastern U.S. These statistics are partly due to technical barriers to screening, such as lack of health insurance or language difficulties. However, psychosocial and cultural factors undoubtedly also play a great part.

Researchers say the new self-collection testing method marks an important step of improvement, but it remains to be seen if a true difference will be made in how the medical community addresses female reproductive health.

"For those who fear pelvic exams, that fear should not prevent them from coming in for gynecology care. Pelvic exams may be recommended to help with screening and evaluation, but it will never be required without a patient's consent," said Dr. Chie. She added, "Our practice will continue to educate our patients and communities on the importance of making time for preventative health care and wellness visits, which includes cervical cancer screening. However, screening alone does not prevent or cure cervical cancer or precancerous conditions. We need to ensure patients have access to trusted medical care to discuss and understand their results."

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GUEST COLUMN: Getting the Right Care is Key to Treating Parkinson's. For Asians, That's a Problem

By Catherine Chung

"My mother started to have these horrible nightmares," says Anne, an Asian American woman in Greater Boston. "She would wake up in the middle of the night multiple times ... in a panic."

Anne assumed these 'night terrors' were a normal part of her mother's aging, but then she noticed her mother started to fall a lot more over the next few years, which she took as a sign of something more serious.

"Even after multiple visits to the primary care provider, we couldn't figure out what was going on until much later when we learned that she had Parkinson's," said Anne. "Looking back, my mom probably had Parkinson's for many years before the falls."

Ben is also an Asian American living in Greater Boston, and for him, the effects of Parkinson's disease also began slowly.

"I started to get these hand tremors, which made it hard to do day-to-day things like brushing my teeth. When I went to the doctor, they said I might have Parkinson's, but they won't know until they run multiple tests. After taking some medicine, my tremors improved, and I could walk better. The neurologist came back and said I had Parkinson's. The diagnosis process was very long, and it was all so confusing because Parkinson's doesn't have a gold standard for diagnosis like other diseases."

Anne and Ben are composites based on interviews with people who developed Parkinson's or provide care for loved ones. The responses are part of an ongoing study conducted by Tufts University and Asian Women for Health, which we'll discuss further below.

But first, what is Parkinson's disease, or PD?

The disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that gets worse over time. It affects what are known as dopamine-producing neurons in the brain and impairs parts of the body controlled by nerves. No cure has been found for the disease, but a common treatment, Levodopa, can increase dopamine levels to help different parts of the brain talk to one another and reduce symptoms. Another treatment is "Deep Brain Stimulation," or DBS surgery, which can help correct neural signals. A wire is surgically implanted inside the brain to fix the signals. The treatment and care for the disease mainly depend on managing many medications, actively monitoring the progression of symptoms, and exercising.

However, those from different cultural backgrounds or who speak English as a second language can face many barriers to accessing care.

Most hospitals have translation services, but the availability of in-person translators or the quality of the digital translations varies. There's also a cultural aspect for many Asian Americans that works against the services and care the patients receive. Many people may

want to keep the diagnosis within the close family members and are hesitant to bring up issues or side effects. Some neurologists we interviewed say that they see a pattern within Asian American patients who want to be perceived as "good patients." They don't want to upset the doctor and may think that the changes or side effects are things that they can deal with on their own.

Furthermore, Asian Americans are often underrepresented in clinical research for Parkinson's. Nearly one million people in the U.S. are living with Parkinson's disease, but Asian Americans have largely been excluded from PD research. To our knowledge, at Tufts University and Asian Women for Health, no studies to date have examined barriers to PD care, specifically among Asian Americans. In a 2016 systematic review examining racial disparities in PD diagnosis, treatment, and access to care, only five of 12 studies included Asian Americans, and only one study in 2014 included enough Asian Americans to examine the subgroup separately from other racial subgroups.

Tufts University and Asian Women for Health want to change that. Launched in 2022, our collaboration is conducting a two-year study called "ACCESS-PD," which stands for Advancing Comprehensive Care & Enhancing Service Standards in Parkinson's Disease among Asian Americans. Funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the study aims to determine the cultural and systemic barriers that Asian Americans face in accessing care and participating in research studies for Parkinson's disease.

The study is recruiting family care partners for its national online survey, which will examine the experiences of providing care and seeking diagnosis and treatment. To be eligible, the care partner or family member must be of Asian descent.

The study is open to family members who care for an individual with Parkinson's. This could include a spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, or cousin. Participants must be at least 18 years old, and we ask only one family member to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous and confidential and available in English, Vietnamese, and Chinese-Traditional and Simplified. After verification, we offer a \$25 e-gift card.

Through the ACCESS-PD study, we are working to close the knowledge gap that we believe can delay Asian Americans from getting a proper diagnosis and culturally appropriate treatment. We are also working to increase Asian American representation in clinical research, which could lead to better care and treatment of the disease. The insights and findings from the ACCESS-PD research will inform the creation of the "Toolkits," which will help increase PD literacy among Asian Americans, helping them better identify

symptoms of Parkinson's and motivate them to receive healthcare. The Toolkits will be explicitly catered to patients, care partners, and clinical providers so that Asian Americans can receive culturally appropriate care and resources. ACCESS-PD seeks to be the first step towards understanding barriers to access to care and enhancing service standards for Asian Americans with PD.

For more information about how to be included in this study, please check out asianwomenforhealth.org/accessPD.

Chung is the senior program manager at Asian Women for Health, and leads the Parkinson's research program partnered with Tufts University. Asian Women for Health is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing health equity for Asian Women and people from diverse, underrepresented backgrounds through community engagement, education, and representation. (The studies cited here can be found at <https://doi.org/10.4236/apd.2016.54011> and <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10823-014-9233-x>).



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- 清洁铸件





**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

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 Bid Express 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 Bid Express at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. Z99CN01R, Re-advertising of Replacement of Fire Alarm and Suppression Systems at Albany Bus Garage 421 Albany St, Boston, MA 02118 (CLASS 5-ELECTRICAL, \$3,000,000) PROJECT VALUE - \$5,915,692 can be submitted at until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on October 3rd, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The work consists of the replacement of the existing Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System with a new Sprinkler System and new Fire Alarm System. All work will be performed in accordance with NFPA 13 and 780 CMR Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems.

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. While there is no DBE goal associated with this contract, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

https://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

September 4, 2024

Weight-Loss Drugs Changing the Shape of America, But Not ‘Silver Bullet,’ Says Doc

By Jeff Millman

If you have watched any daytime television or YouTube videos over the past few years, you have no doubt seen advertisements for medications like Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro. The ads are ubiquitous, and so are the medications – 5 million Americans were prescribed semaglutide (the major ingredient in many of these medications) in 2023, a 40-fold increase from the past five years. Researchers for JPMorgan estimate that by 2030, nearly 10% of the U.S. population may be taking weight-loss drugs. Headlines often refer to the obesity “epidemic”, but with the prevalence of these medications, are we finally approaching a solution to a problem that has seemed intractable?

Perhaps. But caution is needed, say some experts. Dr. Na Shen, an endocrinologist at UCLA Health, says that weight-loss medications “are not the silver bullets we hoped they’d be, especially for the patient populations most at need.”

Dr. Shen notes that holistic treatments, not just pharmaceuticals, are necessary to combat the obesity epidemic. “For a lot of people, even those on new life-changing weight-loss medications like Ozempic and Wegovy, it takes a combination of intensive lifestyle intervention, anti-obesity medications and even surgical interventions to optimally treat obesity.”

Just how bad is the problem of obe-

sity? Fifty years ago, around 15% of U.S. adults were considered obese. Today that number is 42%. Obesity is a specific term referring to a high body mass index; a person is overweight, but not obese, if their BMI is between 25 and 30. Around 30% of Americans are overweight, meaning that a startling three quarters of the United States adult population are at an unhealthy weight. Years of public health campaigns have made little impact on rising obesity rates. Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign, perhaps the most well-known of these public health initiatives, sought to reduce childhood obesity in the U.S. to 5%, but today, nearly 20% of U.S. children are obese.

Yet the rate of increase in BMI appears, for the first time, to be slowing, or even leveling off, in the United States. This trend comes as, or as a result of, medications that aid weight loss are more available and accessible than ever. Semaglutide, the main medication being prescribed, was approved for medical use in the United States in 2017. Initially a diabetes-management medication, semaglutide is now also prescribed as a long-term weight-management medication. Hollywood stars and social media influencers have sung its praises. Oprah Winfrey left the board of WeightWatchers after revealing that she was using a weight-loss medication, telling media that she no longer believed the kinds of methods advocated for by programs like WeightWatchers



DR. SHEN

were sufficient to lose weight.

Semaglutide works in a few ways – it decreases blood sugar levels, lowers appetite, and slows down digestion in the stomach. It can be administered through an injection or taken orally, and is sold under the brand names Ozempic, Wegovy, and Rybelsus. The drug tirzepatide is another popular medication that works in similar ways to semaglutide and is also prescribed for both type 2 diabetes and weight loss; it is sold under the brand names Mounjaro and Zepbound and according to some studies may be superior to semaglutide for obesity reduction.

Semaglutide is still the most prescribed of the two – indeed, it is the 48th most prescribed medication in the United States.

The way we view obesity is slowly changing as a result of these medications. Now that semaglutide and tirzepatide are specifically prescribed for weight loss in addition to diabetes, it is easier for people to see obesity as a medical condition in need of pharmaceutical intervention, rather than, say, a problem of will-power.

It’s also worth noting that as with many health conditions, obesity also impacts certain populations disproportionately, points out Dr. Shen.

Obesity prevalence is highest among Black and Latino adults, people living in rural communities, and low-income communities, and these are also the populations that may struggle with access to healthcare, including access to medications like semaglutide. And the medications themselves are mixed blessings. They can cause gastrointestinal distress among other unpleasant side effects, and perhaps most notably, people who lose weight with these drugs typically have to stay on them indefinitely, as they generally gain the weight they lost back very quickly if they stop taking them. We don’t know everything about the long-term impacts of semaglutide, nor about the effects of long-term use of semaglutide, so more research will be necessary. It is too early to declare that semaglutide heralds the end of obesity in America.

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APPLICATIONS may be obtained at the Ipswich Housing Authority at 1 Agawam Village, Ipswich. If you would like to have an application mailed to you, or if you have any questions please call our office at (978) 356-2860. You can also access the application on our website at <https://www.ipswichhousingauthority.com>. If you are a person with a disability, you have the right to request a reasonable accommodation. Applications for people with disabilities will be mailed or sent electronically upon request made to the IHA and submission of such applications by mail or electronically will be allowed as noted above. Failure to apply for this waitlist will have no effect on current selections for any other IHA wait list. Translation services provided upon request.

Applications will be ranked on the wait list by date and time of application and in accordance with established preference categories.

Additional Applications available at
<https://www.ipswichhousingauthority.com>
For Information call (978) 356-2860



Affordable Housing Lottery

Hanover Stoneham
95 Maple Street
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YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



<https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/HanoverStoneham>

Affordable Unit Rents

Five Studios at \$2,133, Twenty-Three 1BRs at \$2,427, Ten 2BRs at \$2,718, Two 3BRs at \$3,010
Rent does not include the cost of utilities. Tenants will pay for gas (which is used for heat and hot water), electric (which is used for cooking, electricity), water, and sewer. One parking space is included in the rent. Pets are permitted, subject to restrictions. Rents subject to change in future years.

Hanover Stoneham is a brand-new development located in Stoneham. There will be a total of 270 rental units within the building, including 40 affordable apartments which will be leased to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. All units feature in-unit laundry, and the building is serviced by three elevators. Apartment interiors feature sleek living options and modern home finishes. Residents can enjoy an unlimited list of community amenities that will keep you and your family entertained, like a state-of-the-art fitness center with the latest fitness equipment and technology or a Wi-Fi enabled clubhouse for all your work-from-home needs. Units are expected to be ready in December 2024.

Maximum Household Income Limits

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people)
\$130,250 (4 people), \$140,700 (5 people) \$151,100 (6 people)

Public Info Session: September 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/join) or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Application Deadline: October 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications must be delivered, or postmarked, by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Lottery: November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/join) or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Hanover Stoneham on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1, then 0, and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:

<https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/HanoverStoneham>



Why ‘Forever Chemicals’ Don’t Have to Stick Around ... Forever

By Aurora Hao

Rain jackets, shampoo, meat, and cookware might wear out and go away, but they might never leave you. Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are integrated into almost every aspect of daily life. Given their strong carbon-fluorine chemical bonds, PFAS take an extremely long time to break down, lingering in the environment and the human body, and thus coined “Forever Chemicals.” These persisting forever chemicals can be found in water and soil, especially near waste sites as they enter the environment through production or waste streams.

Although their water-repellent properties make PFAS a commonly used component in nonstick and waterproof coatings on many products we use everyday, forever chemicals pose a health risk to those exposed. The United States Environmental Protection Agency says risks associated with the chemicals include those to infant development as well hormonal interference and weakening of the body’s immune system. Long-term exposure increases the likelihood of harmful health effects. With the widespread production and use of forever chemicals, PFAS was found in the blood of 97% of Americans by 2015, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The pervasive use of PFAS in manufacturing enables the chemicals to seep into the soil, water, and air, causing greater exposure through PFAS-contaminated products. Water quality has been an area of major concern, prompting the Biden-Harris Administration and EPA to limit PFAS exposure in drinking water to reduce associated risks. A \$1 billion investment as part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda aims to protect communities by securing clean water for people across the country, the EPA said in April.

In addition to this funding, the EPA announced the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NP-DWR) for six PFAS. This regulation sets a national drinking water standard by requiring public water systems to monitor the PFAS levels, while also providing the public with relevant information affecting drinking water beginning in 2027. In 2029, public water systems are obliged to take action and notify the public if PFAS levels exceed the maximum contaminant levels. By carrying out plans to combat PFAS pollution, public water systems will reduce exposure to PFAS in drinking water.

“I think current policies are moving in the right direction, but are still not entirely mitigating PFAS exposure,” Dr. Stephanie Eick, an environmental and reproductive epidemiologist and assistant professor at Emory



FOREVER CHEMICALS: Nonstick pans often contain forever chemicals.
Photo by Adam Smith

University’s Rollins School of Public Health, told Sampan. “For example, EPA (establishing) legally enforceable levels for six PFAS in drinking water ... is a great first step and definitely moving in the right direction, but I think there can still be other PFAS that are harmful to health and have been detected in drinking water, particularly those that were phased in as industry phased out perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate.”

Locally, all the communities served by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) are below the state and federal maximum standards of PFAS in drinking water, said Jennifer Pederson, executive director at MWRA. Boston’s source of drinking water comes from MWRA’s Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, which show PFAS levels too low to be quantified. MWRA continues to conduct monthly water quality tests, maintaining a low contaminant level to meet state and federal requirements.

Pederson added, “Probably more of a concern in that area is older homes which may have lead service lines.” Older homes, typically those built before 1940, can be a source of lead exposure, a chemical also known to be difficult to biodegrade and contribute to water contamination.

In an effort to encourage a lead-free community, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) started offering private lead service line replacement at no cost to property owners in August of 2023.

“Boston’s ahead of the curve. The community as a whole is set to have an inventory by October 16,” noted Pederson. EPA had introduced a requirement for this inventory in the Revised Lead and Copper Rule set in 2021.

Although the effects of PFAS on water quality are drawing attention

since the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP) requires public water systems to test all new sources of drinking water, contamination can also come from oil-resistant food packaging.

“PFAS are more widespread, [and there is] a lack of addressing around other areas of exposure, such as food packing, treated clothing, treated carpet,” Pederson emphasized.

In February, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released a press announcement, noting that “grease-proofing materials containing PFAS are no longer being sold for use in food packaging in the U.S... [eliminating] the major source of dietary exposure to PFAS from food packaging.”

PFAS in pesticide formulations and containers can also put farm workers at a higher risk of contamination. In a recent study from July, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) had found PFAS in 14 percent of all U.S. pesticide active ingredients. Forms of pest control, whether applied to crops or used in pet flea treatments and insect-killing sprays at homes, PFAS find ways to transport across surfaces, accumulating in the environment that can eventually cross the skin barrier and travel to the bloodstream.

Disposal of cleaning chemicals, waste, and many other household products serve as a direct link between PFAS in houses to sewage systems. At sewage treatment plants, PFAS are not broken down and can remain in fertilizers sold to farmers.

The effects of forever chemicals can be especially harmful to poorer communities, increasing health risks on those without proper filtration and resources.

“I think socioeconomic factors influence who is most exposed to PFAS,” Dr. Eick pointed out, noting drinking

water is particularly a problem. “Additionally, some of my research has also shown that those who experience stress and are of lower socioeconomic status are more susceptible to health problems associated with PFAS exposure compared to those who experience fewer stressors.”

Scientists around the world have been developing innovative methods to successfully break down PFAS, finding ways to effectively break chemical bonds.

A scientific method tested by scientists at Ritsumeikan University in Japan focused on breaking down PFAS under more efficient temperature conditions.

The test exposed a solution consisting of PFAS chemicals to LED lights, removing fluorine ions from the carbon-fluorine bonds that make up PFAS, which can be recovered and reused. The tests were met with 100% and 81% success rates when using two different types of PFAS—perfluorooctanesulfonate and Nafion respectively. This method was successfully conducted under 38 °C conditions, a noticeable difference from the usual required temperature of 500 °C to break the bonds.

Another method conducted by researchers at the University of Bath used 3D printing to create monoliths and remove PFAS from water. So far, the testing has achieved a 75% success rate in PFAS removal.

A convenient solution to remove microplastics in drinking water at home is as simple as boiling water. Researchers from Guangzhou Medical University and Jinan University in China found that boiling water can remove up to 90 percent of nanoplastics and microplastics. This quick filtration practice is an effective strategy to decontaminate drinking water in households.

Exposure to forever chemicals puts everyone at risk. National and local governments are continuing to refine policies targeting PFAS reduction. Community organizations, such as PFAS Hub and PFAS-Reach, have been compiling relevant information and support resources for the public.

“I think advocacy is very important. Community organizations and local governments can play a really important role in advocating for policy changes and stricter regulations that could help mitigate PFAS exposure in sources such as drinking water,” Dr. Eick said, “I also think these types of organizations can also help to inform vulnerable populations about the health effects of PFAS and provide them with information on actions they could take to help reduce their PFAS exposures (e.g., through eating less processed foods, eating less red meat, cooking with cast iron or stainless steel as opposed to non-stick pans).”

Job Corner

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Boston

- **Position: Programs Coordinator, FT**

Experience working at or studying in a related field, including nonprofit programming or event management.

Must have a valid driver's license and ability to drive Conservancy vehicles in downtown

Boston to move event supplies.

Bilingual skills are a plus, especially in Chinese

languages given our programs in the Chinatown neighborhood.

Please [email the following to careers@RoseKennedyGreenway.org](mailto:email_the_following_to_careers@RoseKennedyGreenway.org)

with "Programs

Coordinator" in the subject line.

Each file name should begin with the applicant's last name. With a one-page cover letter, one-page resume, 3 references

Salary Range: \$50,000 - \$52,000

Boston Medical Center, MA

- **Position: Patient Care Technician, 32 hours every other weekend**

A high school diploma or GED certificate

Certification in basic life support (BLS), including CPR certification (must be current or obtained within 30 days of employment)

Basic math and computer proficiency

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

Contact: [Caroline Cafer](mailto:Caroline.Cafer@bmc.org), 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

- **Position: Cook, Food & Services (40Hrs Rotating, Day/ Evening/ Night)**

Education at the high school level or above is required.

ServSafe certification is highly desired.

Minimum of 1-year experience with a large quantity of food preparation

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

Contact: [Caroline Cafer](mailto:Caroline.Cafer@bmc.org), 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- **Position: Media and Communications Specialist, FT, Everett**

Applicants must have at least three 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: 67,349.36 - 97,344.26 Yearly

Apply at: <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/>

- **Position: Claims Analyst I, FT**

Minimum of six months of customer service experience

Salary: 55,120.00 - 55,120.00 Year-

ly

Apply at: <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/>

Boston Public School

- **Position: Field Coordinator Food & Nutrition Services, FT**

Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with a major in one or more of the following areas: Food and Nutrition, Dietetics, Institutional Food Service or Hospitality Management, or a related area

Food safety and sanitation certificate required.

Must possess a valid driver's license and have daily availability of an automobile for travel to assigned schools.

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

- **Position: Science Materials Maintenance Technician, FT**

High School Diploma or G.E.D. Experience working collaboratively on a team and strong interpersonal skills

Physical requirements: sitting, standing, lifting, and/or walking a considerable portion of each workday.

City of Boston Residency is required.

Salary: \$79,228.00

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

- **Position: School-Based Social Worker, FT**

Master's Degree in Social Work, Counseling

Licensed Social Worker (LCSW or LICSW) or Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC); or eligible for a Social Worker license (LCSW or LICSW) or Mental Health Counselor license (LMHC).

Minimum of 3 years of effective professional experience in an urban setting similar to Boston Public Schools providing clinical services.

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

- **Position: Cafeteria Manager 12, Boston Day-Evening Academy, FT**

High school diploma or GED required

Must be Food Safety certified (ServSafe)

Passing grade on Manager's Proficiency Exam (administered by FNS)

City of Boston Residency is required.

Salary: \$19.5 per hour

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

Battery Wharf Hotel, Boston Wa-

terfront

- **Position: Line Cook, FT**

Hold a current Food Handler Card. 3 years of cooking experience is preferred. Broiler cooking is preferred.

Salary: \$ 28.20 hourly

Please apply online at: www.batterywharfhotel.com

- **Position: Kitchen Supervisor Junior Sous Chef, FT**

Hold a current Food Handler Card. One to two years required in a supervisory role in a kitchen environment.

Must have basic knowledge of food and beverage preparations, service standards, guest relations, and etiquette.

Salary: \$30 hourly

Please apply online at: www.batterywharfhotel.com

- **Position: Housekeeping Supervisor, FT**

.High School Diploma; college degree in Hospitality and Hotel Management preferred.

A minimum of six months of supervisory experience or one year of comparable Housekeeping experience is acceptable

Salary: \$30 hourly

Please apply online at: www.batterywharfhotel.com

- **Position: Front Office Manager, FT**

High school diploma preferred

Salary based on experience

Please apply online at: www.batterywharfhotel.com

The Boston Foundation

- **Position: Data Engagement Intern, Asian Community Fund, FT, Hybrid**

High school completion, or equivalent experience; and

Experience conducting academic research, or equivalent experience.

Salary: \$25/hour

To Apply: <https://www.tbf.org/who-we-are/careers>

ABCD-Boston, MA

- **Position: Accounts Payable Processor, FT Downtown**

A minimum of a high school diploma/GED or equivalent with one to three years

of accounts payable experience required

Working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications

Note: This is a temporary position for three months with the potential for an extension

Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>

Contact: [Lavette Sealls](mailto:Lavette.Sealls@bostonabcd.org), lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org

- **Position: Assistant Director - Customer Success, FT**

A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in administration, communications, or social sciences

or related field and 5 to 10 years of work experience in customer service operations

or a similar role is required.

Previous supervisory and leadership experience is required.

Salary: \$109,054 - \$115,697 / year

Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>

Contact: [Lavette Sealls](mailto:Lavette.Sealls@bostonabcd.org), lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org

City of Cambridge, MA

- **Position: Administrative Assistant, FT**

One to two years of experience in an administrative professional role; 2 to 3 years preferred.

High school diploma or equivalent required. An associate degree or coursework beyond the high school level is preferred.

Salary: \$26.27 – \$36.27 hourly

<https://phe.tbe.taleo.net/phe02/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=CAMBRIDGEMA&cws=37&rid=1009>

- **Position: Afterschool Head Teacher, FT**

Applicants must be 21 years of age or older

Minimum of a bachelor's degree or associate degree with 9 months of supervised work experience with children, or a bachelor's in early education with 6 months supervised work experience with children, or a high school diploma and 12 months of supervised work experience with children.

Salary: \$26.40-\$30.90 per hour

<https://phe.tbe.taleo.net/phe02/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=CAMBRIDGEMA&cws=37&rid=991>

South Cove Community Health Center

- **Position: Social Service Assistant (FT) Boston/ Malden**

Apply at Email: Careers@scchc.org

- **Position: Member Service (FT), Malden**

Apply at Email: Careers@scchc.org

- **Position: Medical Report Clerck, Boston**

Apply at Email: Careers@scchc.org

MIT, Boston, MA

- **Position: Associate Director, Stewardship and Donor Relations, FT Hybrid**

Bachelor's degree; at least two years of events planning or project/program management experience.

Apply at: <https://careers.peopleclick.com/careerscp/>

- **Position: Graduate Alumni Giving Officer, Annual Giving, FT Hybrid**

Bachelor's degree; five years' annual giving experience, including soliciting closing gifts, preferably in nonprofit fundraising environments;

Experience working with and managing volunteers; excellent analytical, interpersonal, listening, and written and verbal communication skills.

Apply at: <https://careers.peopleclick.com/careerscp/>

Events Calendar

- **Yue-Sai Kan Book Talk at Boston University**

The Pardee School of Global Studies is hosting Yue-Sai Kan for a talk on her recent book, *The Most Famous Woman in China*.

Date: Monday, September 16

Time: 5:30 – 7:30pm

Location: Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave, Boston
Contact: ashlieb@bu.edu

- **Assembly Row Riverfest**

The event includes live, local music, free family-friendly activities, and concludes with fireworks over the Mystic River.

Date: Saturday, Sep 14, 11am

-8:30pm

Address: Assembly Row- 355 Artisan Way, Somerville

More: <https://assemblyrow.com/event/riverfest/>

- **Festival Viva Mexico Boston 2024**

The cultural program will include folk dances by 5 live bands, mariachis, singers and DJs. We will also have a Beer Island and a parade will be held to kick off the celebration.

Date: Saturday, Sep 14, 1 - 8pm

Location: Cultural Center Veronica Robles : 282 Meridian st, East Boston
More: <https://lnk.bio/vroccbostonMX>

- **One Day Only Fest 2024**

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's premier young professional platform for next-generation leaders - we are hosting our One Day Only Fest as their opening event for their Fierce Urgency of Now Festival.

Time: Saturday, Sep 14, 2-8pm
Location: Dewey Square Park on The Greenway: 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston

More: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-only-odo-fest-presented-by-kickback-boston-tickets-999646127477?aff=oddtcreator>

- **Teacher Appreciation Month at LEGO Discovery Center Boston**

This September, teachers get free entry PLUS 50% off for their friends and family - up to six (6) guests. Children 2 and under are still free!

Time: Every day, September 3rd -30th , 10am - 5pm

Location: LEGO Discovery Center Boston: 598 Assembly Row, Somerville

More: www.legodiscoverycenter.com

- **Saturday at the Movie - MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO**

This event is FREE! Max capacity for the space is 50 people. You can RSVP to reserve your spot. All children must be accompanied by an adult - this is not a drop off event.

Time: Saturday, Sep 21; 10 - 11:30 am

Where: Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library - The Loring Greenough House, 30 South Street, Jamaica Plain More: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/my-neighbor-totoro-friday-night-at-the-movies-tickets-883031199087>

- **5th Annual Salem Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival**

46+ of New England's most popular food trucks will dish out fan favorites while 25+ national, regional, and local craft beers will be available to wash it all down.

Time: Saturday, Sep 21 & Sunday, Sep 22; 11am - 6pm

Location: Salem Common : North Washington Square, Salem

More: <https://facebook.com/FTFoAmerica/>

- **South Boston Street Festival**

With over 100 small businesses, artists, and nonprofits setting up booths, there'll be something for everyone!

Time: Saturday, Sep 21, 11am - 4pm

Location: East Broadway, I and L streets, Boston

More: <https://www.sbndc.org/street-fest>

- **Access MBA in-person event**

Learn how the right MBA program can help you change careers and access new opportunities.

Time: Saturday, Sep 21; 10:15am-2:45pm

Location: The Bostonian Boston, 26 North Str. Boston

More: <https://www.accessmba.com/>

- **Water Fountains on The Greenway**

From our North End canals to the Chinatown stream, come explore The Greenway!

Time: Everyday, 9am - 11pm

Location: Rose Kennedy Greenway: 185 Kneeland St, Boston

More: <https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/>

Hena Zuberi: Islamophobia in Media Causes Trauma to Families While Shaping Anti-Muslim Policy in U.S.

Continued from Page 1

“This is not just by chance,” argued Zuberi about what she called anti-Muslim media bias, noting that readers have to “understand the power of words.”

The media relations offices of the *BBC* and *New York Times* did not respond to emails requesting comment for this story. The *BBC* acknowledged receipt of the request and the *Times* did through an automated response.

Zuberi said her group, Justice for All, monitored 2,700 television stations for five days from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 and heard the words “Israel” and “hostage” mentioned 302,471 times and “Palestinian” mentioned 9,428 times.

“The message was ignore Palestinian lives,” she said. “You can not ignore that there is a consistent narrative that is put out and shared over and over again to justify this genocide.”

Zuberi, who is editor in chief of Muslimmatters.org, had previously worked as a television news reporter and producer for CNBC Asia and World Television News, according to her profile. She was also a reporter for *Muslim Link* newspaper in Washington, D.C. But now much of her focus is on campaigning against the genocide of the Rohingya, the treatment of the Uighur people by China and the increasingly repressed Muslims in India, as well as the tens of thousands of Palestinians killed, maimed and made

‘When they start talking about Palestinian lives, the voices suddenly become detached and very passive.’

homeless in Gaza and the West Bank.

Taking aim at big, mainstream publications such as the *Times*, *BBC*, *CNN* and other outlets, Zuberi argued that small and independent publications fail to have the reach and influence of major news outlets.

“The little ones don’t have the budget to have hundreds of thousands of dollars to spread their articles,” she said.

Several smaller online publications such as *The Intercept* and *The Grayzone*, as well as the Qatar-funded media giant *Al Jazeera*, have also been critical of coverage in the *Times* and elsewhere for their coverage of Palestine. And advocacy groups have also expressed similar concerns to Zuberi’s. In a post written by the Muslim Public Affairs Council earlier this week, the group’s president Salam Al-Marayati voiced dismay over Islamophobia in online and popular media.

“The media’s coverage of the Gaza conflict often fails to distinguish between groups like Hamas and the American Muslim community. This allows for dangerous misconceptions

to thrive, framing Muslims as perpetual aggressors,” wrote Al-Marayati.

In her workshop in Roxbury, Zuberi went further, and drew parallels to coverage of Palestinian deaths to earlier coverage in mainstream English-language press of the genocide of the majority Muslim Rohingya people.

“At the end of the day,” she said to a small audience of mostly Muslim women and men, “each of you and your children are impacted.”

Only one reporter was in attendance.

Zuberi also made the case that various governments, including those of Israel, the U.S. and India, and other activist and political groups, help shape an Islamophobic narrative in popular media, by providing easy access to interviews and other material that support their views including, she said, framing the war on Gaza as simply a conflict between religious groups. At the same time, she said, the press, which she contends portrays Muslims and Muslim-majority groups in an overwhelmingly negative light, not only exacerbates Islamophobia, but also helps shape U.S. policy and law. She noted an effort in Congress – bill H. R. 6408 – that would give the secretary of the Treasury the power to take away the nonprofit status of organizations it decided were “terrorist supporting,” though some rights groups point out the label can be loosely and unfairly

applied to Islamic organizations and Palestinian causes, or to those opposing Israel.

“How many of use grew up under the shadow of 9/11 and the Patriot Act?” she said, referring to legislation passed after the World Trade Center terror attacks in 2001 that many legal activists argue infringed on civil liberties.

“Media impacts policy,” Zuberi said.

But it can also shape the way people feel about themselves, especially children, she said, when asked about Islamophobia in the media by a *Sampan* reporter during a break outside the workshop. *Sampan* recently wrote about a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showing the negative effects of anti-immigrant political speech on Latino families.

“I have four kids ... and I can speak from personal experience that we really don’t watch mainstream media in our house, not because we don’t want to, but because of the incessant portrayal of Muslims and of Islam in a manner that we don’t identify with. ... The impact that that has on our children – one of my daughters went and became a therapist. ... That’s her job, because there are so many traumatized children in our community.”

She said that Muslim families in America and elsewhere “consistently have to fight for their humanity and to prove that they are human, too.”

Art to Pay Respects to Vietnamese Diaspora

Continued from Page 1

“The Dorchester community has been very supportive. Community members will attend our events and provide valuable feedback toward the memorial.”

Tran told Sampan that she focuses on building and strengthening partnerships within the community and advocates for the needs and wants of her team, as well as working on community fundraising efforts.

“We are all driven by our passion and love for giving back to our Vietnamese culture and heritage. Today, the team is made up of five wonderful, talented, and inspiring individuals.”

“Being a part of this team has truly been an honor and heartwarming to say the least. The team and I have similarities and differences

that collectively make us so unique. Personally, as a daughter of two Vietnamese refugees, having a memorial dedicated to paying homage to families and our community that has been impacted by the Vietnam war will strengthen, coalesce, and continue to bridge the inter-generational gap between our community.”

Lead artist Ngoc-Tran Vu is in charge of the creation and designing of the memorial. The public art in part aims to “reclaim narratives” from a Vietnamese diaspora perspective, said Tran, and “the project seeks to foster ongoing engagement, address loss and grief, and bridge generational gaps.”

The 1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial is a part of the 1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Commemoration Initiative, which is an independent project, fiscally sponsored by



Boston Little Saigon Inc.

To learn more, go to <https://give-butter.com/1975VietMemorial> or

<https://www.tranvuarts.com/1975viethealing> or email the team at 1975viethealing@gmail.com.

公告：住房抽签

1-室 老年人 (62 岁以上) 经济适用公寓

- 预申请从 2024 年 7 月 25 日起可在 SwiftsLanding.com 上在线获取 (每个家庭应提交一份预申请)。如果您需要邮寄预申请, 请尽快与我们联系。
- Swifts Landing 将举行两次住房抽签 (家庭公寓 + 62 岁以上老人限龄公寓)。请在预申请的最后一页注明您希望参加哪次抽签。如果家庭所有成员年龄都在 62 岁或以上, 您可以选择参加两次抽签。虚拟信息会议于 8 月 1 日上午 10 点举行。该会议的录音链接可在 SwiftsLanding.com 上找到。
- 8 月 15 日上午 10 点在位于以下地址的 Wareham 多服务中心已经举办一场面对面的信息会议 48 Marion Rd, Wareham, MA 02571.
- 预电子申请必须通过美国邮政寄回, 地址为: **Swifts Landing, PO BOX 56033, Philadelphia, PA 19130**
- 预申请必须在 2024 年 9 月 24 日之前寄出, 才能参加抽签。
- 抽奖将于 10/4/24 在 Facebook Live (脸书) 上进行。现场抽奖链接将在 SwiftsLanding.com 上提供。无需亲自参加抽奖。
- 抽签结束后, 完整的申请和面试流程将立即开始, 所有符合条件的申请人将被编入他们的抽签选择栏。
- Swifts Landing Senior 有以下收入限制:
(自 2024 年 7 月起生效, 如有变更, 恕不另行通知)

公寓	家庭大小	符合条件的家庭收入范围	地区平均收入	月租
1 室	1 人	\$25,590 - \$34,260	30%	\$853
	2 人	\$25,590 - \$39,180		
	1 人	\$53,130 - \$68,520	60%	\$1,771
	2 人	\$53,130 - \$78,360		

更多详情: SwiftsLanding.com
邮箱: SwiftsLanding@penrose.com
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公告：住房抽签

1-, 2-, & 3 室卧室经济型公寓

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- Swifts Landing 将举行两次住房抽签 (家庭公寓 + 62 岁以上老人限龄公寓)。请在预申请的最后一页注明您想参加哪次抽签。如果家庭所有成员年龄都在 62 岁或以上, 您可以选择参加两次抽签。
- 8 月 1 日上午 10 点举行了一次虚拟信息会议。该会议的录音链接可在 SwiftsLanding.com 上找到。
- 8 月 15 日上午 10 点在位于 48 Marion Rd, Wareham, MA 02571 的 Wareham 多服务中心已经举办一场面对面的信息会议。
- 预申请必须通过美国邮政寄回, 地址为: **Swifts Landing, PO BOX 56033, Philadelphia, PA 19130**
- 预申请必须在 2024 年 9 月 24 日之前寄出, 才可参加抽签。
- 抽奖将于 10/4/24 在 Facebook Live 上进行。现场抽奖链接将在 SwiftsLanding.com 上提供。无需亲自参加抽奖。
- 抽签结束后, 完整的申请和面试流程将立即开始, 所有符合条件的申请人将被编入他们的抽签选择栏。
- Swifts Landing Family 有以下收入限制:
(2024 年 7 月生效, 如有变更, 恕不另行通知)

Unit Size	Household Size	Qualifying Household Income Range	% AMI	Monthly Rent
1 Bedroom 一居室	1 person	\$29,246 - \$34,260	30%	\$853
	2 people	\$29,246 - \$39,180		
	1 person	\$60,720 - \$68,520	60%	\$1,771
	2 people	\$60,720 - \$78,360		
2 Bedroom 两居室	2 people	\$34,937 - \$39,180	30%	\$1,019
	3 people	\$34,937 - \$44,070		
	4 people	\$34,937 - \$48,960		
	2 people	\$72,720 - \$78,360		
	3 people	\$72,720 - \$88,140	60%	\$2,121
	4 people	\$72,720 - \$97,920		
	2 people	\$89,143 - \$156,720		
	3 people	\$89,143 - \$176,280		
3 Bedroom 三居室	4 people	\$89,143 - \$195,840	120%	\$2,600
	3 people	\$40,183 - \$44,070		
	4 people	\$40,183 - \$48,960		
	5 people	\$40,183 - \$52,890		
	6 people	\$40,183 - \$56,820	30%	\$1,172
	3 people	\$83,829 - \$88,140		
	4 people	\$83,829 - \$97,920		
	5 people	\$83,829 - \$105,780		
3 Bedroom 三居室	6 people	\$83,829 - \$113,640	60%	\$2,445
	6 people	\$83,829 - \$113,640		



更多详情:
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致电: 774.773.6188 | 分机: 711
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