



Muslim Teacher Doxed, Harassed Online

Among untold number in state subjected to false claims of antisemitism

By Ava Belchez

Throughout the past 13 months, claims of antisemitism have erupted locally and nationwide leading to high profile civil rights complaints, congressional outrage and news reports claiming a crisis of hate. But a parallel story of discrimination has gone largely hidden from public view: The stories of Muslim and Arab Americans and others who have had their careers and livelihoods thrown into jeopardy by baseless and defamatory claims of antisemitism.

Sampan is sharing the story of one such person, a math teacher in a highly affluent and liberal public school district in Massachusetts. The grade school educator was harassed online and had her photo and name made public in online posts. People even demanded she be fired from her job.

The teacher, Jenna Laib, who was approached by Sampan for an interview after learning about her story, declined to have her school district's name and town printed to protect her privacy and the school district. She provided documentation to support most of her claims and the posts made about her online were reviewed to verify her story.

It all started when Laib spoke at a conference in Canada for teachers several months ago. After the presentation, the teacher's name and reputation would be smeared for what she believed

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Charles Yu 'Breaks Out' of Past Roles in 'Interior Chinatown'

Text and photos by Harmony Witte

Writer Charles Yu has seen his career transform from law, to book author and now to television. That latter shift will be further proven when "Interior Chinatown" – his award-winning book – airs on Hulu and Disney Plus on Nov. 19.

Produced by Taika Waititi, with a pilot that is also directed by Waititi, the edgy, fast-paced show tackles weighty themes of race, class, and immigration with a sense of humor that left the audience at the recent screening at the Boston Asian American Film Festival, laughing throughout the episode. The tagline of the show on

the promotional materials encourages viewers to "Break out of your role."

Yu, who has written two books and released short story collections, recently pivoted his career to show-runner.

Sampan recently sat down with Yu and had a conversation about his *Continues on Page 4*

'Amnesty' Offered to State Tax Payers, but Some Say More Help Is Needed

By Esther Wang

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue is offering taxpayers a little breather through Dec. 30: The tax amnesty program will waive penalties for certain eligible taxpayers as long as they pay the tax and interest owed before the end of the year. In order to enter the program, the taxpayer will have to submit an Amnesty Request, pay the total amount owed, and submit all required returns by December 31, 2024. Those who have received prior amnesty relief, are in active bankruptcy, or otherwise involved with tax-related criminal investigation or prosecution, are ineligible for this program.

Both the government and taxpayers benefit from such a program: the

government will be able to increase its tax collections, the taxpayers to clear out owed taxes and accruing penalties and interest. Many Massachusetts residents already struggle with the state's high living costs—in fact, many people name taxes, cost of housing, and cost of healthcare as the top reasons why they chose to leave Massachusetts. Tax amnesty will help relieve the financial burden that residents are under; in the long term, such policies may even slow the flow of people leaving the state and the fall of tax revenue.

"It is good for (the state government) to do this," said Luz Arevalo, an attorney at the Greater Boston Legal Services, a firm that provides free legal assistance to low-income Boston

residents. However, as someone who has seen many of her clients struggle with their taxes, Arevalo believes the state should do much more. She and her colleagues are pushing for a bill — an Act Providing for Settlement in Tax Liability — that they feel will bring more benefits to Massachusetts' low-income taxpayers.

The bill proposes to implement reforms on Massachusetts' existing Offer in Compromise (OIC) program, which Arevalo describes as a sort of "personalized amnesty." Under this program, the DOR considers a taxpayer's individual circumstances; when it believes it unlikely the taxpayer will be able to pay the full tax amount, the DOR settles

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Many in Boston Area Express Unease Over Election Results

By Ryan C. Lundgren

After former U.S. Pres. Donald Trump secured enough votes for a second term as president, defeating Vice Pres. Kamala Harris, many in the Greater Boston area and Chinatown showed strong emotions about the results. Massachusetts voted heavily for Harris, as she won over 60% of the vote in the state, so it's no surprise many were upset with the results. Immigration was a center of the Trump campaign, and his rhetoric was widely described as racist and xenophobic, and had some immigrant communities on edge after pledges to carry out a mass deportation.

But government officials, community leaders and some residents in Greater Boston offered a sense of unease mixed with hope and unity. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, told Bostonians that the election was "never going to change what we're doing here in the City of Boston."

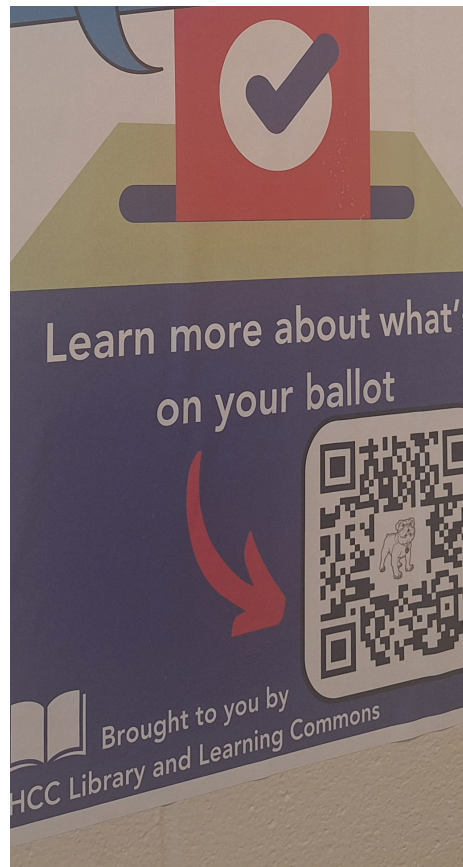
Mayor Wu did not respond to a press inquiry before press time early on Wednesday afternoon.

Gov. Maura Healy, at a press conference covered by the Boston Globe, said that "many people in Massachusetts and across the country ... are very unhappy and ... are having a hard time and are not pleased with the results," and she said that many in Massachusetts "are worried about their future. This is a moment to honor those concerns, and it's also a moment for resolve."

She called for the state to come together and unite in the face of uncertainty. "We see so much anger and division across the country, but I know Massachusetts is a place and will be a place where we care about each other and we look after one another" she said, while also making clear that the commonwealth is "a place where we will always stand up for people's rights and freedoms, where women will have control over their own health care decisions, and where every person is respected, valued, and heard, whoever you are, wherever you were born, whoever you love."

Immigrant community leaders echoed similar sentiments. In a statement to Sampan, Elizabeth Sweet, the executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, noted a sense of anxiety with the election results, but vowed to keep up the "fight against xenophobic policies and rhetoric."

"This election cycle has left immi-



grants who call America home, as well as hopeful immigrants in need of safe harbor, in a state of fear," said Sweet. "Policies such as carrying out mass deportations, revoking humanitarian parole programs, and ending Temporary Protective Status are unjust and un-American. MIRA will not stand by quietly while our immigrant communities are under attack. We will tirelessly work to protect our immigrant population, and their right to due process here in Massachusetts and across the country."

Another organization which serves the Asian American community, the Asian American Resource Workshop, offered a similarly determined voice in the wake of Trump's reelection.

"AARW is enraged but not shocked with the results of an impending second Trump administration. Under Trump's first administration, we experienced an uptick of detentions and deportations of Southeast Asian refugees across the nation," Kevin Lam, co-director of the organization, told Sampan in a statement.

"As we go into a second Trump administration in the next year, we expect more intense ICE enforcement and violence coming down onto our communities, but AARW will continue to build our grassroots organizing power, and do what is necessary to keep our communities safe from mass detentions and

deportations."

Lam described Trump as authoritarian.

"Trump's mass deportation plan is nothing short of fascism. AARW will not shy away from adversity, and instead, will seize this moment to organize a broad, multi-racial coalition to put forward demands for what we know our communities need to feel safe. 2025 will be the 50th year anniversary of the end of the War in Southeast Asia, and AARW is moving forward grounded and centered in our demands and calls for an end to all detentions and deportations, and to not allow the U.S. and federal government to absolve themselves of their responsibility in creating the conditions for the mass deportations of refugee and immigrant communities."

Nicole Eigbrett, the other co-director of the organization, implored people to stick together ahead of what's to come: "In such a devastating political moment, we are urging our communities to lean into solidarity and unity, rather than fear and isolation. We know that immigrants and refugees will be targeted in new authoritarian ways, so we need people to commit to showing up for each other now. Start building relationships with your neighbors, join or support an organization like AARW if you're not already part of one, and create the alternative systems of mutual aid and care that will sustain our survival - especially when we can no longer rely on policies to protect us."

Some Boston area residents expressed similar concerns.

"As a member of the queer community, it's terrifying," Aiden Nguyen, 28, told the Sampan. Originally from Vietnam and living in the U.S. since 2014, Nguyen is a graduate social work student at Boston College. He said that he doesn't feel connected to the Vietnamese community here because he is gay. While homosexuality isn't a crime in Vietnam, same-sex marriage is not recognized in the country.

"Take care of yourself and make sure that if you can help anyone, do that," he said, although he expressed concern about the availability of social services going forward and encouraged people to be personally involved in their community. He also said that he hopes Bostonians can help people in "other states that maybe voted differently." He said "we should help them first and foremost because they're the most at risk."

"I was actually not surprised Trump

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 www.sampan.org
 87 TYLER STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02111
 TEL: (617) 426-9492 x 206
 FAX: (617) 482-2316
 ads@sampan.org
 editor@sampan.org

Chinese Editor
 DongDong Yang

English Editors
 Adam Smith (consulting editor)
 Christopher John Stephens

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CORRECTION: A story in the last issue of Sampan misspelled the name of Angie Liou, of the Asian Community Development Corp.

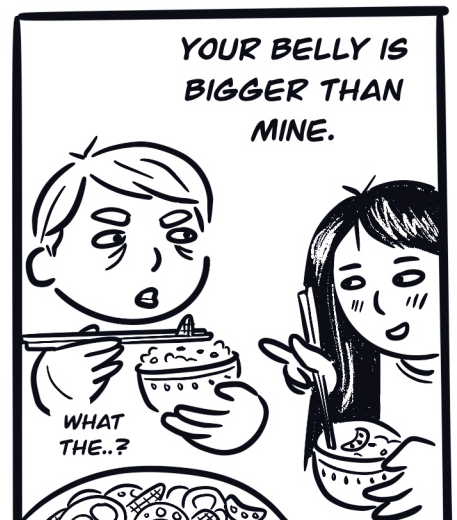
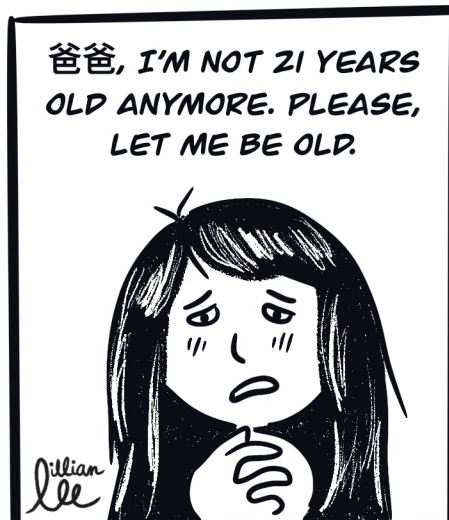
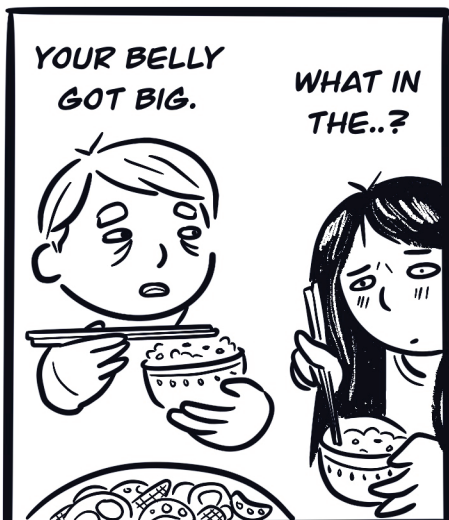
won," said Milourdes 'Mimi' Augustin, 37, who was born in Haiti but moved to the United States when she was 8 and is a U.S. citizen. Augustin, who occasionally contributed to the Sampan, expressed disgust over the Trump campaign's characterization of Haitians.

But, she said, "we survived four years of Trump, (so we can survive four more). ... I don't think Trump is going to do this mass deportation operations because it is going to cost billions of dollars."

She does, however, worry about immigration "raids and family separation."

empty bamboo girl 竹升女

by Lillian Lee



Chinatown Celebrates Double-9th

Nearly 100 people gathered on Oct. 26 in Chinatown to celebrate Double-Ninth Festival — an event debuting as part of the City of Boston's Un-monument series. The festival honored Chinatown's heritage and collective resilience through art and togetherness.

Observed on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, the Double-Ninth Festival is celebrated in some East Asian cultures and dedicated to honoring elders and promoting good health. This year's event embraced the spirit of Double-Ninth festival with "The Thousand Bloom," an art installation of 1,000 naturally-dyed silk chrysanthemums bundled in bouquets of nine by artist Anita Yip.

-Sampan staff



99: Chinatown's Double-Ninth festival.

Photo by Mel Taing

How a Local Teacher's Math Graph Was Falsely Called an Attempt to 'Erase Israel'

Continued from page 1

would be an innocuous presentation on data literacy and graphs that included the state of Palestine. During her demonstration, she briefly showed a graph that included data from 12 Arab-majority locations in Africa and the Middle East: Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Libya, Yemen, Kuwait, Sudan, and Algeria. It showed what percentage of people from those places agreed with a woman being head of state, based on data by the Arab Barometer, a nonpartisan research network.

She gave little thought about the presentation until she discovered someone at the conference complained to the organization that sponsored her talk. The person questioned her intent of using a graph that included Palestine, but not Israel.

"From there, people made the assumption that I was excluding Israel, even though it was a sampling from (Arab majority nations) and it happened to include samples from people in the West Bank, in Palestine . . . It was a critical literacy thing," Laib said. "We had looked previously at a different graph that had some Western nations, and I was positioning it as, 'What do you notice about these countries and how do you think the shape of the graph would change if we included data from other places in the world?'"

Within a short time, false accusations that she purposely tried to wipe Israel from existence exploded online. A large online activist group posted her photo, full name,

job title, and school district on its Twitter, or X, page, claiming she "erased Israel from the Middle East and replaced it with Palestine."

Soon, she said, dozens of hateful messages began to flood her work and personal email inboxes, her blog, and her social media accounts, including Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Her X account, typically used for answering math questions, was bombarded with more than 100 comments calling her antisemitic and calling for her to be terminated from her job.

"People were saying, 'You erased Israel off the map,' and I'm like, 'There was no map. I didn't erase Israeli data.' It all was just so ludicrous," she told the Sampan.

Then, she said, calls for her to be fired were sent to the administration at her school.

The teacher said she had, in fact, long avoided the topic of Palestine at school, because she didn't feel she could talk about it openly.

"I work in a place that's pretty liberal, where we're able to talk about race and gender and capitalism. I've always felt really secure in that," she said. But "I knew that talking about Palestine was actually not a safe topic."

Her intent when showing the graph at the conference, Laib said, was to show how the shape of the data changes when different places are surveyed.

"I feel like it would have been really problematic to have Israel listed as an Arab-majority state," she said. "It's like 20 percent Arab," she noted, so to have included Israel in the graph of Arab states, she said, would have appeared to be an "era-

sure of the Jewish majority."

But that rationale did not stop the rapid spread of false claims of antisemitism. The accusations spread further online and became more personal.

"They were posting lots of information about my family, spouse and children," she said. "That's when it got more scary for me, I think, and started to feel much more targeted."

"It was so baffling, like 'Why do you hate me this much?'," she said of the person who first complained about her presentation. "I don't understand."

What happened to the teacher has happened to others as well, locally. The Sampan and other local media reported earlier this year of a photo exhibit in Newton during which a Palestinian American spoke and was shouted down, and called a "rapist" and "terrorist" and the entire exhibit, exploring the Nakba of 1948, was called antisemitic by an overwhelming group of protesters. In addition, the Sampan has learned of a campaign by a group of parents in a Greater Boston area school district who had contacted parents about supposed instance of antisemitism that in some cases simply included a teacher showing support for Palestine or making similar expressions.

"I had a lot of sadness that this is how people react over something so small, something that is so deeply and truly innocent," she said, while being interviewed at a mosque in Boston. She asked to be interviewed at that location, feeling it was a "safe" place to discuss her ordeal.

The teacher is a convert to Islam, saying her father's side was Ashkenazi Jewish and her mother's, Catholic. After exploring other religions, she said the Muslim faith connected with her the most.

She started teaching about 20 years ago, and as a math specialist, she teaches grades K-8 and occasionally speaks at events, like the conference for teachers.

"I really just love it," she said. "There's something about being in classrooms and to hear from students and reflect on their learning that I just really love."

Laib said some families at the school disparaged her over the graph presentation, but that that doesn't change the care she has for the children she works with.

She said neither she nor the district at which she teaches seemed to anticipate what would happen to her after the presentation, so they were slow to act in response. But, she eventually received support from the administration.

The school weeks later sent a district-wide email after the incident, calling Laib's harassment "offensive" and based on a "false" premises, and that the school district "will not tolerate harassment in any form."

The school also affirmed its support for Laib.

"I think it was very jarring, not just for me, but for my district," she said. "That they didn't anticipate this, that I didn't anticipate this."

-Sampan staff contributed to this story.

Author Charles Yu Talks About His Work on ‘Interior Chinatown,’ His Start as a Lawyer

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work. He explained that as showrunner he participates in the writer's room for “Interior Chinatown” where scripts were written. He was there every day for filming, and during post-production he was able to “oversee the process of finalizing the cuts and laying in the music, and doing the color, and visual effects.” He noted that as showrunner that he was involved with “basically, all of it.”

Yu had previously worked in the writer's room on shows such as “Westworld,” “Legion,” and 2023's “American Born Chinese.”

When asked how he ended up as showrunner, Yu responded: “I think because I wrote the book and because I think I had been in enough roles that I guess Hulu entrusted me with the responsibility.”

“It is such an important part of this medium to get to see all of it, which I think is an important part of the training pipeline that the Writers Guild has fought for, which is if you get to see it get shot and even maybe get edited, you understand better at the front end how to write it. It all kind of feeds into itself. And, in fact, you're continuing to write through production, that is a big part of it. I guess they were crazy enough to let me run the show, literally.”

He spoke about how the role challenges his confidence.

“It's playing its own kind of role; I'm here pretending I know what I'm doing, and I'm probably not fooling anyone. They know I haven't done it. But I have to pretend that I have conviction, which I do have conviction creatively on some level. But when every choice starts to get questioned, or when there's just a genuine choice, you don't know which one's right -- that's the really scary part. That's where the magic happens. It doesn't always turn out into the right decision. Sometimes you go, ‘Oh, we did it wrong. We're gonna go back and fix it or fix it in post.’ But that's what makes it exciting.”

Yu says his ideas came painfully and slowly while writing the book. It took six or seven years for him to write “Interior Chinatown,” because of several false starts. He ended up throwing away two versions of the book, meaning hundreds of pages, before settling on a structure that worked. “Interior Chinatown” is unique because the book uses the narrative structure of the screenplay format to tell the story of the protagonist, Willis Wu.

“I really wanted to tell this story this way, because I felt like it unlocked a lot of things for me personally. And I also hoped it would resonate kind of from this Asian American perspective of like, ‘What does it feel like to be marginalized, to be not part of the main story or to feel that way anyway?’ And so, to me, that kind of metaphor carried through enough that it felt like this is definitely worth writing a novel about.”

Yu worked on the pilot during the first

year and a half of the Covid pandemic.

“As sad as everything was, it was a good time to throw myself into work, in a way, and of course then watch. That was a year of many attacks on Asian Americans. And so I think it just felt particularly resonant to be trying to tell this story and thinking about how to tell the story through this lens. ... The challenge there was, How do you translate something that works one way,” he said, referring to the book versus the audio book.

“I feel like on the page it's one thing, but you can carry it in your head as an audio book or a book-book. But up there, (on screen) you have to literalize things in a way that you don't. So that was really hard.”

In 2020, Yu wrote an essay in which he said that when he was growing up, he never saw himself represented on television, and said that he hopes “Interior Chinatown” will help create that very opportunity now for others.

“There are many more projects now that do seem to feature Asian American or Pacific Islander performers and, or people behind the camera. There's many more that are in executive roles or in other roles that, that kind of are roles that allow people to empower other people to tell those stories. So, I think hopefully there's not like only this show to put that pressure on. But I do think because of the subject matter, it feels hopefully uniquely positioned in a way to be like part of a conversation. And what I really hope it shows is that these characters are full dimensional people. I think to me the best way into people's hearts is through a story. And that, that's how you kind of humanize people, is you just show them, living their lives and being who they are. And rather than any specific sort of message or thematic, sort of abstract theme, I hope people just are entertained and feel like this story makes them feel something. Maybe laugh a little bit.”

Yu's transition from lawyer, to writer, to showrunner came about slowly. Yu attended law school to provide financial security for his family and minored in creative writing. He wrote short stories in his spare time and eventually published a few books. He started seeing some interest from Hollywood for the rights to his work. Eventually, he got a few meetings with producers and executives and got hired onto a show. That's when he switched out of law, keeping his license current for several years in case the television gig didn't pan out. His job as the showrunner happened through that exposure to Hollywood and working his way up the ladder. Yu described it as “a huge opportunity and very scary.”

Yu addressed aspiring writers and said “I hate to sound like a ‘Successories’ poster, but I also feel like, drop the aspiring label, like if you're writing, you're writing. I'm not writing most of the time, I don't feel like a writer a lot of days. But besides the obvious, read



SHOW TIME: Charles Yu's ‘Interior Chinatown’ streams on Hulu this month. Photo by Harmony Witte

a lot, put the time in, I think it's that to me, I started out writing some really sort of strange, very idiosyncratic personal things that I didn't think anybody would want. And at first nobody wanted them. But what I learned sort of through trial and error and through just a lot of rejection was that it worked best when I stayed true to my voice. And that when I was trying to dilute it or be something

I wasn't, people could tell, or they just didn't want it as much. And it's sort of like the most raw or the bits that feel like they're coming from a real place are often scary and often like the things that I'm like, ‘that's not even writing. That's just. I don't know what that is.’ Those seem to break through in ways, including this book, honestly. “

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Volunteer Annie Lee Honored at ABCD Boston's Heroes Gala

The Asian American Civic Association, publisher of the Sampan, nominated volunteer Annie Lee as a Community Hero at the Action Community Development Corporation of Boston's Annual Gala this year. Every year ABCD honors individuals who have served their communities. The AACA nominated Lee for her leadership as a founding member of the Voyagers, AACA's youth services center.

Lee, pictured second to left at top right, came to the AACA as a participant of a coding program offered by the nonprofit group that's based in Boston's Chinatown. Then she decided to use resources offered by AACA, such as career development and career counseling. She said that as she learned more about AACA, she was asked by the executive director, Mary Chin, to join a youth-focused group and help start the Voyagers Center. Chin describes Lee as a budding leader. "She offers great ideas and produces excellent results."

"I do enjoy giving back to the community," said Lee. "It's empowering to help people. Being a volunteer gives me purpose." She added that she is "grateful to AACA. They have changed my life for the better. I am happy to be a part of it."

The Voyagers Center aims to serve

people age 30 and under in the metro Boston region. The center provides a plethora of services including career counseling, training and workshops, financial counseling, financial aid, mental health counselors, and assistance in securing benefits and other services. - *Milourdes Augustin*



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City of Boston Planning Department
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING
NOV 19
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY - 101 TREMONT STREET
 Register: bit.ly/48ldU7P
 Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
 Meeting ID: 160 408 4684

PROJECT PROPONENT:
 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION: The Planning Department is hosting a virtual joint Task Force and Public Meeting for the proposed Suffolk University 101 Tremont Street project in Downtown. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Institutional Master Plan (IMP) Amendment that was filed and its potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions/comments from the Task Force and public.

The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a City of Boston resident. Interpreting services are available to communicate information at these meetings at no additional cost to you. If you require translation services, please contact the following: (scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov) (617-918-4271). Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days before the meeting date.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本次会议的内容，您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务，请通过以下方式进行联系(scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov) (617-918-4271) 会议定于 2024 年 11 月 19 日 (2024/11/19)，请在会议前5天内申请口译服务。

Mail to: **Scott Greenhalgh**
 Planning Department
 One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
 Boston, MA 02201
 Phone: 617.918.4271
 Email: scott.greenhalgh@boston.gov

Website: bit.ly/suffolk-university-imp
 Close of Public Comment Period: 12/27/2024

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans) | Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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Information For Applicants and Housing Advocates

IHA Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)

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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

Jade
 202 Mill Road
 Everett, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

Affordable Rent Amounts
 Five (5) Studios @ \$2,126, Eight (8) 1 Bedrooms @ \$2,443
 Three (3) 2 Bedrooms @ \$2,737, One (1) 3 Bedroom @ \$3,031

*Rents subject to change in future years. Tenants will pay the cost of utilities (electric heat, gas cooking, electric hot water, electricity, water/sewer). Pets are permitted subject to restrictions. One complimentary parking space is available for residents.

Jade is a brand-new development located in Everett. There will be seventeen (17) affordable apartments within the community that will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Units will be offered in a variety of sizes and feature modern finishes. Community amenities include a fitness center and yoga studio, co-working spaces, a music room, and a pet spa. The property features two courtyards with an outdoor pool, putting green, fire pits, and a grilling area. Nearby Route 1 and public transportation provide easy access to the surrounding community and downtown Boston. The first units are expected to be ready for occupancy in late February 2025.

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 Informational Session: December 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom
 Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595



Application Deadline: January 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm
 Applications must be completed online, delivered, or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days.

Lottery: January 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom
 Go to zoom.com/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 **Jade** 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 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/Jade>



BIT MOVES: Dancer Cassie Wang merges computer technology with art. Photo courtesy of Olivia Moon Photography/Boston Center for the Arts.

Artist Cassie Wang Finds Even Rhythm by Mixing Dance With Computer Tech

By Yuchen Hong

When it comes to dance, Cassie Wang, a resident artist at the Boston Center for the Arts, doesn't shy away from taking a scientific approach.

Wang's work, in fact, blends dance, digital art and technology to explore big themes like identity, nostalgia and longing.

Born in Kansas and now based in Boston, Wang started her artistic journey at an early age when her mother enrolled her in ballet classes. Though ballet became a significant part of her life, it was contemporary dance that captured her true passion during high school, she said.

"I wasn't sure at first if it was the dancing or just the friends I made,"

Wang said, reflecting on her early days. "But by high school, I realized dance was something I truly wanted to pursue."

Wang expanded her artistic practice to include various forms of visual arts, including oil painting, ceramics, and sculpture, alongside music. Her undergraduate studies, where she majored in computer science and minored in dance, shaped her unique approach to choreography, as she found inspiration in both the logical thinking required in coding and the fluidity of dance.

Her current project at the BCA, which was first shown in May, explores the themes of longing and memory, drawing heavily on Wang's personal experiences of growing up in the Mid-

west. The choreography is influenced by the music of the indie band Big Thief, whose nostalgic sound mirrors the emotional depth of Wang's work. "Longing is like the negative space in dance," Wang explained. "It's the gaps in our identity, the things we desire but don't yet have."

Wang has also incorporated technology into her artistic process. She uses machine learning algorithms to generate abstract, dream-like images based on text, which serve as a visual representation of memory and longing. "There's something fascinating about how AI can take text and morph it into something almost otherworldly," Wang said. "It's like watching memories become distorted the more you try to

hold onto them." This innovative use of AI in her dance practice allows Wang to further blur the lines between human experience and digital expression.

As Wang continues to refine her craft, she remains focused on creating work that is both deeply personal and universally relatable. Her residency at the BCA has given her the platform to explore these ideas further, while fostering connections with the local dance community.

Wang's residency will culminate in a final performance at the BCA next year, where she plans to continue exploring the balance between technology and the raw, physical nature of dance. The show is set to take place in early May.



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- 4 person: \$130,250
- 5 person: \$140,700
- 6 person: \$151,100

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**Public Information Meeting via
Zoom.com**

6:30pm, November 20, 2024
 Meeting ID: 826 0278 1276
 Passcode: 997160

Application Deadline
 December 18, 2024

Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon request.

For Info and Application Availability:

Pick Up: Duxbury Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office, Public Library
Phone: (978) 456-8388/FAX: 978-456-8986
TTY/TTD: 711, when asked 978-456-8388
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.mcohousingservices.com



‘Imagine Yourself in My Place’: Palestinian Poet to Group at MIT

**Text and photos by
Harmony Witte**

Perhaps Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha’s most threatening weapon against Israel in its relentless and devastating bombardment of Gaza is his pen.

But that very pen could also be what puts him in the most peril.

“I think the fact that I’m a poet and a writer, I should be killed maybe sooner than others,” said Abu Toha to a packed audience late last month near Boston.

This was one of several powerful moments during Abu Toha’s talk on Oct. 30 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about his experiences during what is largely believed to be an ongoing genocide in Gaza over the last year, before fleeing with his family to Cairo and later to the United States. Abu Toha’s newest book of poetry, “Forest of Noise,” was just released, following his earlier book, “Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear,” which won several awards including the Derek Walcott Prize and the Palestine Book Award.

Abu Toha is known in Palestine for his poetry and for building the only English-language library, the Edward Said Library, which has since been destroyed amid the relentless bombing of Gaza. He recently won the Flora Lewis Award by the Overseas Press Club of America for best commentary in any medium on international news for essays that he wrote for the New Yorker about how dire the situation is in Gaza.

But throughout Abu Toha has been beaten, abducted, separated from family and lost many relatives and friends to Israeli forces.

Despite all that he has witnessed, however, Abu Toha has not given up hope. He wants to rebuild the library someday, saying “rebuilding the library is not only about bringing books from the outside world into Gaza, but it’s also about creating a safe place for the children and adults to come to this library. Rebuilding the library is not only about

the books and the shelves and the tables and the chairs or the computer lab — it’s also about creating a safe place for these people who would come and use the books and use this space. And I hope that I will find the children and adults in Gaza who would believe in the importance of the library, that I will rebuild.”

Middle East historian and MIT lecturer, Pouya Alimagham, moderated the event, starting by asking Abu Toha if he was specifically targeted because he is a writer and is perceived as a threat, or does he have a degree of protection because of his fame?

Abu Toha’s response was lengthy as he described his abduction following the destruction of his home. His home was bombed and destroyed two weeks after he and his family evacuated. He mused, “if we decided to be in the house the night of the bombardment, I wouldn’t be here talking to you.” Shortly after fleeing with his wife and three children to the northern part of Gaza where they tried to make their way to the Rafah border crossing in Southern Gaza, Abu Toha describes being abducted along with 200 other men by Israeli forces at a checkpoint. He described the chaos of not knowing whether his family was safe, while his family simultaneously did not know if he was safe. He described being blindfolded, handcuffed, beaten, and insulted before being placed on a military truck. He didn’t know where he was being taken. During that time, Israel was bombing places that were once thought to be off limits, such as schools with shelters so no place felt safe.

“I didn’t know while I was abducted that my wife and kids were still breathing. And they themselves did not know whether I was breathing,” he said.

Having published stories in the New Yorker and the New York Times and winning literary awards, he said, did give him a voice that he could share with the world. This helped the word spread about his captivity. Abu Toha says he was targeted simply for being Palestinian.

“You are targeted in the first place because you are a Palestinian who stayed in his house.”

Abu Toha went on to describe the targeting of doctors, journalists, and other Gazans, and to say, “I understand this as a targeting of doctors and poets and artists and people who try to help their societies. So everyone is a target. Not because I’m a poet.”

But, he said, because he’s a poet and a writer, he probably should have been killed sooner than the others.

Alimagham also asked Abu Toha’s views on how Israel claims it’s bombing targets where Hamas is active: “Because I think most of us here now know that this was never about security. This is a war of annihilation.”

In response, Abu Toha pointed out that Israel says it’s carrying out “precise airstrikes on military targets,” but it’s actually bombing of entire neighborhoods, several houses or apartment buildings at a time. He spoke of his wife’s uncle, whose house was bombed just four days before the poetry, event leaving 32 people dead. A staggering 22 of the people were all from the same family.

During the course of the evening, Abu Toha mentioned scores of people that he was somehow connected to who have died in Gaza from bombs or snipers or because of a lack of access to medical care or food. It was hard to keep track of all the death, yet Abu Toha keeps a firm grasp on the names and stories of those who have perished. He does so with a grim determination not to let people be forgotten.

He described being in a refugee camp with his mother and family when a bombing happened. “The bombing wiped out a complete neighborhood. What does it mean, complete? It means that more than 50 or 70 houses were wiped out in the refugee camp.”

Many of these homes, he said, were not concrete buildings, but small rooms built 70 or 60 years ago, roofed by tin sheets.

“So just imagine you are dropping a 2,000-pound bomb on a room that doesn’t have a concrete ceiling. I went there and I have pictures. I’m not sharing any of these, but I saw, I took pictures of the neighborhood. The houses were in craters themselves. The houses were in the craters. It was a big hole. And when you ask Israel, ‘Oh, we were targeting a Hamas by bombing 50 houses.’”

“This is not a war, this is a genocide,” he said. “I mean, I understand the war as something that’s carried out, you know, between armies. There are targets, there are civilian areas. You can’t bomb this place because you said it’s a humanitarian area. I don’t understand how this continues to happen.”

Alimagham asked Abu Toha what he would say to the students who risked their academic futures facing expulsion and arrest by participating in the encampments last year on college campuses in solidarity with the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the students faced ridicule and hostility from the media, President Biden, even Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Abu Toha responded by thanking the protesters and reminded the audience that many people in Gaza do not have access to the news right now because of their lack of electricity and internet. He said that he hopes one day when this genocide has ended, the people who are children now trapped in rubble will see the stories about a group of students at MIT who challenged authority.

“Even if they lose their place in the university, even if they lose their awards, even if a writer loses his job at university or at the magazine, you will win. And hopefully they will survive to see that you took it on yourself to stand for them. Because if you continue to stand, they will try and stand. And if you keep running with them, they will not stop to run and find their own future.”

“You should have enough humanity,” he said, “to imagine yourself in my place.”

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Ability to navigate a fast-paced, highly collaborative, and often stressful work environment. Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

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Comfortable with a diverse population of older adults in residential setting; previous

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Fluency in English ,Russian, Chinese, and Spanish preferred

Salary: \$21.63-24.04/hr

Apply at: <https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/>

Position: Maintenance Mechanic I, Brighton

Two years of hands-on experience with post-secondary technical training preferred

Knowledge of building trades, mechanics, and building maintenance

Hoisting License preferred

Fluent in English

Valid Massachusetts driver's license required,

Salary: \$22-23/hr

Apply at: <https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/>

Position: Office Administrator, FT

Bachelor's degree

Notary public or ability to obtain notary commission

1 to 3 years of experience in an office setting preferred

Proficiency in using office software and database management

Salary: \$26.44-30.05/hr

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Position: Salesforce Fundraising Database Manager, FT

Three years of Salesforce database management experience in a non-profit fundraising department.

Comfortable with Google Work-

space. Experience with iWave or other wealth identification software is a plus.

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Position:Senior Property Manager , FT

Preferred qualifications include: experience managing affordable housing with Low Income

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Five years of experience managing a housing community or a similar role and/or responsibilities.

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Boston Medical Center, MA

Position: Patient Care Technician-

36 Hrs FT

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

Education at the high school level or above is required.

Minimum of 1 year experience with large quantity of food preparation.

Experience utilizing standardized recipes in large institutional setting preferred.

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

Position: General Cleaner, 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 understands the policies and procedures of the hospital.

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Bachelor's Degree required.

Minimum of four years of progressively more responsible experience in healthcare planning, project management and/or facilities engineering.

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13460

Taxpayers Get Short Break With State's Amnesty Program

Continued from page 1

for a lesser amount in the best interest of the state. Compared to tax amnesty, the OIC program forgives more than just penalties, is more flexible, and on the whole provides significantly more relief for the taxpayer. There is just one problem: Massachusetts rarely accepts OIC offers.

One client tried to help out with his girlfriend's restaurant, Arevalo said, but didn't know he was responsible for filing the trustee tax that accompanied each meal they sold. Over time, the tax amount he owed built up, eventually resulting in over \$15,000 with steep penalties. Arevalo and her colleagues filed an offer on his behalf, but was refused without appeal.

Another client, an immigrant from Central America who couldn't find other jobs because of the language barrier, sold hot dogs in Boston. The hot dog stand barely kept him afloat, but he didn't know he had to file a sales tax and racked up steep penalties, as well. An offer for him was likewise refused, because the program doesn't accept those who are self-employed.

A third client, a 73-year-old former boxer, was two years late in filing taxes because of a contentious divorce. He owed the DOR \$30,000 dollars, with more than half being accrued interest and penalties. Similarly, his offer was rejected.

"The DOR only accepted six offers in 2023," said Arevalo. "The DOR Program is not transparent. They discourage it. They fear people knocking on their door to forgive this and that." But, Arevalo argued, there is much more opportunity for the state to benefit from a better regulated and implemented OIC program. The new bill looks at the federal OIC program, run by the Internal Revenue Service, as a model from which Massachusetts' OIC program can learn.

There are a couple key points to the IRS Offer in Compromise's success, Arevalo explained. First and arguably most important, the IRS program does

not set a minimum payment amount. No offer from a taxpayer is rejected simply because the amount is too low. In contrast, the DOR program has a minimum of \$5,000, and the offer must be at least 50% of the full tax amount owed. In Arevalo's view, this is a monumental barrier for struggling taxpayers. Many are not able to pay the 5,000 minimum, and as a result, the DOR rejects their offer. The new bill amends this, modeling the DOR program after the IRS to implement no minimum.

A second key difference is the flexibility between the two programs. Arevalo believed the DOR's program is too rigid, considering only likelihood of collectibility in making its offers. The bill proposes to add more adjustability by implementing two new types of offers based on liability and effective tax administration—like the IRS—thereby allowing greater accommodation for individual circumstances, public policy, and equity. For example, a taxpayer might be able to pay off the full amount owed only if they sell off equipment essential to their economic livelihood. Under effective tax administration, the amended DOR model would not require the taxpayer to do so, judging such an action as an obstacle to equity.

Other key aspects include amending the DOR model to adopt the national standards of the IRS in reviewing financial information (such as for food, housing, and other necessities) so that taxpayers won't have to struggle through the complicated process of providing documentation, and in creating clearer and more interactive guidelines. Lastly, the bill proposes that the DOR program mandate a 3-year tax compliance as a requirement for all accepted offers—similar to the IRS' 5-year compliance.

This would render Massachusetts' OIC program more beneficial to all parties involved, Arevalo maintained. Such changes would help low-income taxpayers and mitigate some of the huge disadvantages immigrants face in the tax system—as many fall within the poverty bracket, encounter great difficulties in finding employment, and

send most of their income back home to families outside of the U.S. As a previous editorial from the Sampan explores, the taxes immigrants pay comprise a good chunk of government tax revenue. Not to mention, their taxes are funneled into programs such as Medicare and Social Security that they themselves are not privy to.

The government would see increased tax revenues and be able to reduce the administrative costs of monitoring and reviewing the delinquent tax accounts. In the long run, as a result of the compliance requirement, there would also be less such accounts.

Such an outcome, however, remains uncertain as the bill stalls in the House

Committee on Ways and Means, as it has since March of this year. They're studying it, Arevalo explained, on whether the proposed changes would cost or bring money to the state. For Arevalo and her colleagues, it is obviously the latter, and they hope the state will come to that conclusion too.

"While we are glad for those taxpayers who will be able to sleep better after taking advantage of the upcoming amnesty," wrote Arevalo and her colleague Angela Divaris in an editorial, "we would like to see more residents helped going forward by improving the Offer in Final Settlement program. That would be a long-term win-win for both taxpayers and the Commonwealth."

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Events Calendar

The Christopher Columbus Park Trellis Lighting

Date: Monday, November 25 ·
Time: 5 PM
Address: Christopher Columbus Park,
100 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02110
To learn more about this event: <https://www.foccp.org/events/2024-annual-holiday-trellis-lighting>
Intro: Get into the holiday season by enjoying the annual Christopher Columbus Park Trellis Lighting, where 50,000 blue lights will illuminate Boston's historic waterfront.
Price: free admission

Live Music Sundays

Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024
Time: 2 PM
Address: **Samuel Adams Boston Brewery**, 30 Germania St Boston, MA 02130
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/red-out-boston-ft-spragga-benz-friends-tickets-1015762130877?>
Intro: enjoy originals and covers by local Boston musicians.
Price: free admission

Comedy Night at The Elephant and Castle

Date: November 8-November 10
Time: 9 am - 6 pm
Address: **Elephant & Castle**, 161 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02110
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-at-the-elephant-and-castle-tickets>
Intro: Come and laugh with the funniest comedians working in New England
Price: \$ 10

Statistically Funny Comedy Showcase

Date: Sunday, November 10
Time: 12 PM-4 PM
Address: **Garrison House**, 6 Harvard Square Brookline, MA 02445
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/statistically-funny-comedy-showcase-tickets-1017571452607?>
Intro: Enjoy 1 h30 event which features the best and brightest comedians that Boston (and beyond) can offer
Price: free

AFROBEATS VS KONPA- Guests- DJ STAKZ & FLYGERIAN

Date: Sunday, November 10 ·
Time: 10 pm - 2 am
Address: **The Grand Boston**, 58 Seaport Boulevard #300 Boston, MA 02210
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/afrobeats-vs-konpa-guests-dj-stakz-flygerian-the-grand-sun-nov-10th>
Intro: Come to dance to some of the best Afrobeats & Konpa vibes
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

Roberto Lugo visiting artist lecture.

Date: Monday, November 18
Time: 5 PM – 7 PM
Address: Harvard Ed Portal, 224 Western Avenue Allston, MA 02134
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/roberto-lugo-visiting-artist-lecture-registration-1037928541207?aff=>
Intro: Join the Office for the Arts at Harvard and the Harvard Ed Portal for a lecture by Roberto Lugo: artist, ceramicist, social activist, poet, and educator
Price: Free

Interpreting the 2024 Elections

Date: Tuesday, November 12
Time: 7 pm- 8:30pm
Address: **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum**, Columbia Point Boston, MA 02125
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interpreting-the-2024-elections-tickets-1060003582249?aff=>
Intro: Join the JFK Presidential Library and Museum for an insightful look into the impact and significance of this pivotal election year with Margery Eagan, co-host of GBH's "Boston Public Radio" and Heather Cox Richardson, Boston College professor of history.
Price: Free admission.

Open Sing with Anthony Trecek-King

Date: Saturday, November 16
Time: 10 AM – 11:30 AM
Address: **Church of Our Saviour**, 25 Monmouth Street Brookline, MA 02446
Intro: Don't miss a unique chance to sing diverse music led by a renowned conductor.
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

Groove Theory R&B Day Party

Date: Sunday, November 17 ·
Time: 5 - 10 pm
Address: **Grace By Nia**, 60 Seaport Boulevard #325 Boston, MA 02210
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/groove-theory-rb-day-party-tickets-1037575826227?aff=>
Intro: Come party in the Seaport to R&B vibes all day long.
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

YPSO and JRO Fall Concert

Date: Sunday, November 17 · 3 pm
Time: 3 pm - 5 pm
Address: **Tsai Performance Center**, 685 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ypso-and-jro-fall-concert-tickets-954253526987?aff=>
Intro: Enjoy an inspiring evening of music showcasing young, talented musicians with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras.
Price: \$20

SHABBAT ACROSS EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Date: Sunday, November 17 ·
Time: 6 - 7:15 pm
Address: **Congregation Kehillath Israel**, 384 Harvard Street Brookline, MA 02446
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shabbat-across-early-modern-europe-baroque-jewish-music-tickets>
Intro: This concert offered by the Longy Viol Consort explores the rich growth of Jewish musical culture throughout continental Europe in the Baroque era.
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

José Nogueras: Boricua Donde Quiera

Date: Thursday, November 14 · 7 - 8:30 pm
Time: 7 - 8:30 pm
Address: Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Avenue Boston, MA 02120
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jose-nogueras-boric->

ua-donde-quiera-tickets

Intro: Kicking off the Navidad Season with José Nogueras, one of Puerto Rico's most versatile songwriters and singers.
Price: \$25

Gardner, MA - Little Mania Midget Wrestling Federation @ Eagles

Date: Saturday, November 16 · 8 - 10 pm EST. Doors at 5:30 pm
Time: 8 - 10 pm, Doors at 5:30 pm
Address: Fraternal Order of Eagles, 71 City Hall Avenue Gardner, MA 01440
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardner-ma-little-mania-midget-wrestling-federation-eagles-ticket>
Intro: Get ready for the biggest little wrestling event of the year! The Midget-Wrestling * All Stars are coming to town
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

Detention 8 PM: Standup Comedy Show

Date: Friday and Saturday, November 8 and November 9
Time: 8 pm
Address: Goofs, 432 McGrath Highway Somerville, MA 02143
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/detention-8pm-standup-comedy-show-and-4-drinks-tickets-30898>
Intro: Get ready to laugh every weekend with New England's funniest standup comedy show in a brand new comedy club in Somerville with delicious food and our \$4 Drink Menu
Price: Varies based on ticket type.

Friday, Nov 8 Mark Riley @ Giggles

Comedy Club

Date: Friday, November 8 ·
Time: 8:30 - 10 pm
Address: 517 Broadway Saugus, MA 01906
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-nov-8-mark-riley-giggles-comedy-club-prince-restaurant>
Intro: Enjoy a night full of laughs with Mark Riley live at Giggles Comedy Club inside Prince Restaurant
Price: Varies based on ticket type

Coffee & Conversation

Date: Friday, November 15
Time: 4 - 5:30 pm EST
Address: 808 Commonwealth Avenue Brookline, MA 02446
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coffee-conversation-tickets-1008783537717?aff=ebdssbcity>
Intro: Show up at BU's «Coffee & Conversation» for a relaxed gathering to connect, share ideas, and enjoy a cup of coffee with friendly faces!
Price: Varies based on ticket type

Reflection, By Cambridge Symphony Orchestra

Date: Friday, November 15 ·
Time: 8 - 10 pm
Address: 35 Wilder Street Lowell, MA 01854
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cambridge-symphony-orchestra-presents-reflection-tickets>
Intro: Experience the beauty and depth of Reflection with the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra—an evening of music that resonates with heart and soul.
Price: Free

Affordable Housing Lottery

Larkwood

643 Church Street
Raynham, MA

One (1) 2BR Condo for \$250,750
Seven (7) 3BR Condos for \$278,500

Larkwood is a new development located at 643 Church Street in Raynham, MA. This community will eventually consist of thirty-five (35) income restricted units. This is a lottery for the first eight (8) income-restricted units within Phase 1 at Larkwood. The income-restricted units will come in a variety of home styles, offering either 2-bedroom or 3-bedroom options. These 8 units will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The condominiums are expected to be ready starting in the Winter of 2024/2025, and will continue to be built over the next several months. The income-restricted homes provide ample square footage, feature 2 or 2.5 baths, and include parking.

Public Info Session: November 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

Application Deadline: December 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered by this date.

Lottery: January 2, 2025 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

Go to zoom.com/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 Larkwood 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) 782-6900x2 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. Tradução livre disponível.



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- 能源专家可以免费安装节能产品并提供防寒保暖服务，例如 75-100% 折扣的认可绝缘材料和免费的空气密封。
- 您还可以获得有关符合条件的节能设备和电器的回扣和奖励的信息。

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