

‘Cracking’ the Code

Boston Researcher Jing-Ke Weng Aims to Use Plant Science, AI to Unlock Mystery of Peanut Allergies

By Esther Wang

The peanut allergy is one of the most common food allergies in the world, and yet there is still much that we don’t understand about it. This puzzle is precisely what researcher Jing-Ke Weng, a professor of chemistry and bioengineering at Northeastern University, is aiming to solve. In an interview with the *Sampan*, Weng revealed more about his research on peanut allergies—what pushed him to pursue this particular subject, the work he’s hoping to achieve, and his research’s potential implications for the wider field of plant chemistry and the human body.

Current science has discovered that peanuts, which are actually legumes, contain certain storage proteins — used for storing nutrients but possibly also as a defense against predators — that has been shown to elicit immune system responses from some people. Oddly, however, though peanuts are



SHELL GAME: Northeastern University researcher Jing-Ke Weng at his office last week. Weng is working on science of nut allergies. Photo by Adam Smith/www.errorc1301.com

widely consumed, “only a small fraction of the population develops allergic reactions,” Weng explained. “This disparity raises critical questions about the underlying immunological differ-

ences between allergic and non-allergic individuals. Moreover, the prevalence of peanut allergies has escalated in recent decades, particularly in highly industrialized countries.”

A number of factors could be the explanation, including changes in diet, hygiene, pollutant exposure.

It’s “a rich landscape for scientific
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How Students Abroad View U.S. Under Trump’s Visa Crackdowns

By Darren Liu

The second administration of U.S. Pres. Donald Trump has begun cracking down on immigration, abruptly shortening temporary protective status for Haitians and others fleeing violence, and is now trying to deport a well-known Palestinian rights activist at Columbia University — with threats to cancel visas of many more. How is this news shaping the views of students and graduates around the world who have helped fund America’s colleges and universities in Boston and beyond through tuition? Our *Sampan* reporter based in Hong Kong found out by interviewing a number of people who either recently returned from the

U.S. or are considering studying here. Some students only wanted their first names used or to remain anonymous.

Shawn (Last name withheld), Northwestern University graduate, living in Hong Kong, age 25:

Despite American foreign policy that emphasizes isolationism and a growing proclivity toward anti-immigration, I think it’s important to consider the different effects these policies have on different types of immigrants or foreigners. For international students living in America the effects will not be as adverse compared to expat workers because, first, the overall university and academic climate is very

left-leaning in a lot of places and are often against current federal policies, which makes universities a comparatively safer space and, second, students have less lobbying power than workers, and there is, as a result, less of a narrative or push against international students “taking university spots” as opposed to taking jobs, which makes international students less of a target, so it doesn’t affect my opinion of the U.S. as much. I would be interested in a cost-benefit analysis to see how valuable an American university education is compared to the possible discrimination internationals might face in their future.

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Nobuko Miyamoto Takes Fight for Rights to Boston Stage

By Harmony Witte

Activist legend Nobuko Miyamoto came to Boston for the ArtsEmerson screening of the documentary about her — “Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement” — and the timing could not have been more appropriate.

Amid the anniversary of Executive Order 9066 — which led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II — and just before immigration authorities began coming after pro-Palestinian

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Opinion

This War on Immigrants and Minorities Is Personal

By Milourdes Augustin

I was 8 years old when I came to the U.S. with my family from Haiti. When I was 16 years old, my parents bought a house on the South Shore. Weeks later, my siblings and I found fliers left on our lawn from the KKK, which was recruiting people to join a planned rally. When we arrived at school, some of our classmates brought in the same fliers, which were left on their lawns, too. The summer of my junior year, a group of my friends and I were spat on and called the n-word by a group of skinheads – one with a tattoo of the swastika – as we were walking near our home.

So, is it really a surprise where we are now, in America?

I had hopes of a post-racist U.S. when Pres. Barack Obama was elected years ago. But Trump later shattered the facade of a brighter future for my son. And now, in Trump's second term as president, the pieces feel too many and too sharp to pick up.

Where do we begin?

I'm at once reminded of the 1916 film, "Birth of a Nation," and of how more than a century later, white supremacists seem to be back in style. I'm also reminded of how the racism was always there, lurking in plain sight, as I saw over and over as a child.

"Of course, racism plays an important role in what the fabric of America is today. Whether you are aware of it or not, your skin color and your accent – these things can determine whether or not you are able to get a job. And now the challenge is even

greater given the dangerous rhetoric. It's so sad because people are just trying to survive in a system that often feels like it is fighting against them," Dr. Gerald Gabeau, told me, as I was putting together this column. Dr. Gabeau is a fellow Haitian American, executive director of the Immigrant Family Services Institute, and immigration activist.

She is also concerned about Trump's anti-immigrant policies, his attacks on Constitutional rights like birthright citizenship, and ongoing rhetoric against Haitians and others.

"People are feeling very nervous, they are scared," she told me. "There has been widespread fear and uncertainty among immigrant communities especially with a wave of executive orders fueling anxiety about their future in the United States. The rapid policy changes, coupled with ongoing unrest in many immigrants' home countries, have left many feeling panicked."

The most recent assault was the administration's slashing of the period of security offered to Haitian immigrants who were previously granted Temporary Protected Status. Cutting short TPS will upend the lives of many who fled to the U.S. seeking safety for their families amid Haiti's current chaos and violence. For many, TPS was a literal life-saver.

I see the effects of this administration's policies first-hand. I teach a class at the Asian American Civic Association, publisher of the *Sampan*, to help non-English speakers learn interview skills. It is part of our Haitian Clinic (our organization's attempt

to help new immigrants navigate the employment system). We have seen a decrease in attendees since Trump pushed his crackdown on immigrants and shortening of TPS. Even people in the U.S. with official status are worried.

"The concern is heightened by inconsistent messaging from Washington, which often leaves people confused about their legal standing. For example, those with Temporary Protected Status are here legally," said Dr. Gabeau, "but when the administration talks about revoking TPS, it creates panic. Many feel they could be deported at any time. As a result, many individuals are avoiding work, school, and public places, fearing they could be targeted in an ICE raid."

Immigrants are the backbone of this country. They – especially the enslaved people of early America – have long carried the weight of the economy, so others could prosper. Now immigrants and other minorities are targeted. Further, I believe Trump misled voters. He not only is targeting undocumented immigrants accused of committing crimes, but many other immigrants, documented or not, even those who campaigned for him. Venezuelan immigrants, according to reports from sources like NPR, say they feel double-crossed by the Trump administration's move to end legal protections for hundreds of thousands of people who fled to the United States for refuge from political persecution and dictatorships.

What can we do now, as all feels hopeless?

We can support one another by educating ourselves and others on the history of this country and stand up

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against those who seek to repeat the wrongs of their forefathers. It's either that, or turn back the clock and erase more than a century of fragile progress.

Editorial: Oppose Bill to Stop China Student Visas

In the apparent race toward making xenophobia official U.S. policy, a small group of Republican lawmakers is cheering a bill that would bar Chinese international students from the U.S.

Congressman Riley M. Moore of West Virginia, who in a press release calls his bill "groundbreaking," promises the proposal would stop the issuance of student visas to Chinese nationals. The bill's name is juvenile sounding – "The Stop Chinese Communist Prying

by Vindicating Intellectual Safeguards in Academia Act" and its primary intent, we believe, is plainly xenophobic.

"Every year we allow nearly 300,000 Chinese nationals to come to the U.S. on student visas. We've literally invited the CCP to spy on our military, steal our intellectual property, and threaten national security," says Moore.

The effort is likely to fail, despite that five House lawmakers have joined Rep. Moore in the effort. But, then again,

Congress has proved morally compromised on other issues – especially in its failure to reign in both Pres. Donald Trump and Joe Biden before him on stopping the funding of what many believe to be a genocide in Gaza. And with Congress currently allowing itself to act as an extension of the Executive branch, this bill should be taken seriously.

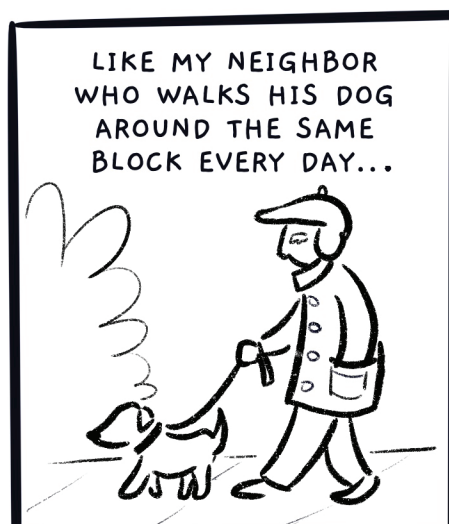
We are at a loss for words, however, on this bill. What can we say, "Bring

back the America of 1882 again?" "Stop academic progress in its tracks?" "Make America fall behind again?"

What we can say is the world is a big place and these 300,000 students have other options. They might just decide they don't want to study here, and they don't want some guy from West Virginia deciding that they are all potential "spies." The loser then? U.S. universities, colleges, companies and communities.

EMPTY BAMBOO GIRL 竹升女

by Lillian Lee



Free Speech in Focus

Before Khalil and Countless Others, There Was Fred Dube

Stony Brook Prof. Abena Asare Explains Years of Silencing Speech Over Palestine

By Adam Smith

“The fear and silencing on college campuses today is not arbitrary or new,” wrote Abena Ampofoa Asare, an associate professor of Modern African Affairs at Stony Brook University, in an essay titled, “The Silencing of Fred Dube,” published last year in the *Boston Review*.

This might be a surprise for those who are just now realizing the relationship between censorship and speaking out for Palestine, after seeing the news of immigration officials detaining Columbia University Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil. Others might have learned of the double-standard of silencing speech about Palestine from earlier events, like MIT’s “banning” of doctoral student Prahlad Iyengar over his essay and other pro-Palestinian activities a few months ago, or from the crackdown of silent protesters at Harvard just before that, or from the arrests at campus encampments all over the nation at this time last year.

But Asare lets us know these events were not unprecedented and that they in fact were rehearsed decades ago at U.S. colleges and universities.

“It is a policy passed down from generation to generation; it is rigorously and virulently inculcated, dangerous both because of whom it harms and what it buries,” she wrote in her essay.

Before the most recent bombardment of Gaza that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, she notes, and before even the existence of Hamas, and long before groups like the Canary Mission began doxing students and scholars, “there was Fred Dube.”

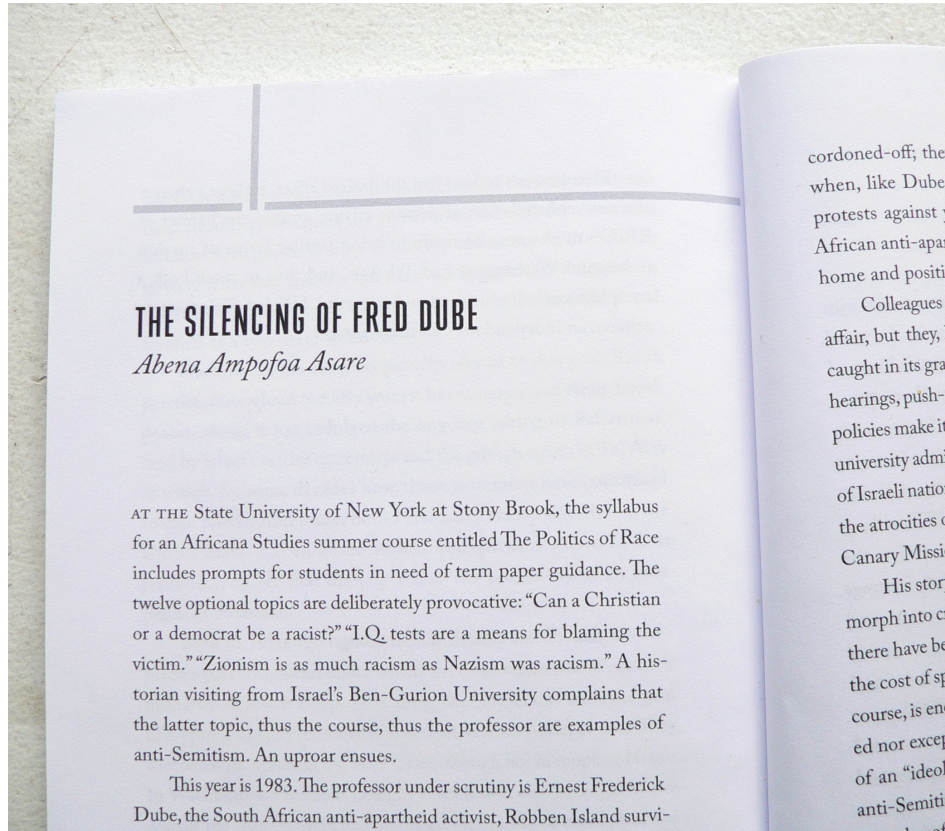
In her compelling essay, Asare tells the tragic story of how Ernest Frederick Dube – a former South African anti-apartheid activist – would in the early 1980s see his entire life unravel after a visiting historian from Israel discovered a line that Dube was using to prod critical thought from his students. The line – “Zionism is as much racism as Nazism was racism” – was among many other provocative prompts, explains Asare, but would be singled out and used as ammunition to shoot down his career.

Now, in another essay just published in *Radical Teacher*, Asare explores the usage of DEI on campuses and the further silencing of voices of Palestinian solidarity, when she writes about “DEI in a Time of Genocide or Re-Calling June Jordan’s Years at Stony Brook.”

Both of Asare’s writings give a historical and critical look at the “Palestine exception” to censorship that helps explain why we’re here today, as Khalil is locked up for committing no crime and as executive orders and bills in Congress try to limit speech critical of Israeli government policies and the political ideology of Zionism.

As Asare told the *Sampan* this week: “Keeping things under wraps only allows this status quo to persist.”

We spoke with Asare by email and video chat about her work. The following has been lightly edited for length and clarity.



FRED DUBE: Above, seen in a 1981 UN meeting.

Sampan: In your most recent essay, you explore this idea of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs becoming a sort of “trap.” You even recall this scene in which last year you were meeting over a video conference about the university’s DEI mission with job applicants, while just outside, nine students demonstrating for Palestinian human rights were arrested. Then you write, “The DEI office proffers platitudes about civility and community while shadowing students at rallies, events, and lectures, flanked by university police”.... Could you explain this idea of the DEI trap?



ASARE

Asare: The DEI framework in higher education administration – specifically the creation and elevation of DEI officers ... after George Floyd’s murder in 2020 – created a sense, a false sense, that the United States had arrived at national consensus about the harm that histories of racial violence, sexism, misogyny, homophobia and economic exploitation, and so forth, had caused,

and about the need for redress. In fact no such consensus existed. This was apparent even before the current 2025 backlash in which we see DEI being gleefully attacked by our current administration and being swiftly abandoned by the universities and other institutions that supposedly “got it.”

But even before this, the limitations of the corporate DEI model that flourished in universities was clear. Black women specifically (along with many others) have been speaking and writing about the cognitive dissonance of these DEI roles, of being “set up” to function as an optical or rhetorical laundering of the university’s social justice mission, while actually lacking the power to pursue structural transformation. Some of the chapters in my 2024 book, *When Will the Joy Come: Black Women in the Ivory Tower* (UMass Press), speak about being in these DEI roles where the contradiction between the university’s noisy embrace of DEI and its unwillingness to do the work of confronting histories of racism and mi-

sogyny become apparent.

With this said, Palestine completely snatches the veil from universities’ supposed embrace of DEI, because Palestinian scholars and students are never embraced by the university. They are not touted as the type of diversity the university plasters on its brochures. The work of Palestinian scholars is not treated equitably, in fact there are traditions of scholars who have been kicked out of their posts, doxed, and forced out of universities simply for telling the truth about conditions in Palestine-Israel. Palestine and Palestinian studies is not part of what U.S. universities rush to include in their curricula or speaker series. Can you credibly value diversity, equity, or inclusion and yet accept that one part of our human population be rhetorically (and then physically) erased?

Sampan: In both of your recent essays, you show that what we’re seeing play out now – since Oct. 7, 2023 – is built on decades of silencing people, especially Black and Palestinian intellectuals, but others as well, who dare to question Israel, humanize Palestinians, or speak critically of Zionism. You explore how professor and poet June Jordan paid a high price for speaking for Palestinian human rights in the 1980s. Do you think a possible silver lining to what’s happened over the past year and a half is that this silencing has been brought out to the greater public?

Asare: I do not see silver linings in the tragedies that we are living through that are destroying lives and families. There is no silver lining to genocide. If some of us are gaining more clarity that our American universities have been silencing and erasing Palestinian and Black and anti-imperialist thinkers and activists for decades, because we are now seeing it in our own time and context, I think this clarity is necessary and helpful.

Sampan: I was struck by the story of Dube, and, honestly, nearly cried while reading your essay – how this man’s life could be torn into pieces for essentially trying to spur his students to think critically. What was the process like for you to write this essay...?

Asare: Thank you for your kind words about reading the Dube essay. I do not take your empathy or your tears for granted; thank you for engaging with this work. I approached the legacy of Fred Dube at Stony Brook primarily as a professor in Africana Studies, where Dube had taught. Pieces of the story of Fred Dube’s experience at Stony Brook had been told to me by elder professors when I was a new professor in the department. This was clearly a wound that hadn’t been adequately addressed. After October 7th, 2023 when I saw the inability of colleagues throughout my university to talk credibly, empatheti-

Continues next page

Free Speech in Focus

Decades After Dube, Silencing Continues

Continued From Page 3

cally, or rigorously about what was going on in Palestine and Israel, I remembered the story of Fred Dube and knew that this wound, still open and weeping, could have something to do with it, and I went looking to sharpen my own understanding of where I was and what I was facing. Because Fred Dube's experience is part of my department's institutional heritage, and is our collective and shared history, I am glad to have been able to share a piece of it in ways that resonate. I'm thankful to the Dube family for sharing some of this story with me. However, there is a lot more to Fred Dube's story than the piece that I offered in the *Boston Review* essay.

Sampan: ... Many people have been silent on Palestine and, as you know, many universities and colleges have not only been silent but have crushed dissent. What do you feel will ultimately be the cost of the staying silent?

Asare: I hope all of us living in this country continue to speak out about Palestine. I think we need to speak out in our neighborhoods, in our houses of worship, in our schools and our classrooms, in our bedrooms, to our children, and in the public squares. I hope people of good will begin to take up more space, use their voice, their art, their smile, their anger, their confusion, their fear, to take up public space and mount obstacles to justifications of genocide and dehumanization everywhere in the world. And Palestine is so crucial, because it is connected to violence and

terror in Congo, in Haiti, in Sudan... in every location where precious human life is made to be cheap, we need to speak up and advocate for better. There is no safety in staying silent in matters of basic decency and human rights. This is definitely a season where the Audre Lorde poem "A Litany for Survival" is required reading.

Sampan: Do you feel like we are at a turning point now, and, if so, do you have hope freedom of speech and freedom of expression -- and academic freedom -- will prevail? Why?

Asare: I am not sure about turning points -- perhaps it is my historian's training to avoid such framings, but I do absolutely have hope. Most days I wake up with hope, and even when I do not, I quickly see reason to be hopeful. First of all, I know that cynicism and fatalism do not serve me, often keeps us paralyzed and short circuits our creativity. Second of all, I find hope in my community, in the people I love, and organize with, and teach, and learn from. It is important to connect with people who are engaged and awake and alive, in these times. Third, I find hope in my ancestry and faith. There are many in our lineages (I am West African) that have gone through crushing times and survived, or else I would not be here. I believe deeply in playing my role to the best of my ability, for as long as I'm here, and knowing that this is enough for one lifetime.

Palestinian writer Mahmoud Darwish has a quote about hope and Palestinians... he says something like "we suffer from an incurable malady of hope....

hope that our children will go safely to their schools. Hope that a pregnant woman will give birth to a living baby at the hospital and not a dead child in front of a military checkpoint; hope that our poets will see the beauty of the color red in roses rather than in blood..."

This is the hope I have, one which exists in the storm and terror, not apart from it.

Sampan: Were you nervous about writing these essays -- worried that your career could be endangered?

Asare: I am nervous about most things I write; I'm always nervous about getting the story right, and doing justice to the

ideas and history. But I did not choose to be a Black Studies/ Africana Studies scholar expecting praise and accolades, and the greatest danger for me would be to not tell the truth about what I'm seeing and thinking about. I am incredibly honored to be at Stony Brook Africana Studies. We are one of the oldest Black Studies programs/departments in the nation. I believe that our department's local institutional history is a global resource, and I will continue to tell our stories.

Asare's website is at abenaasare.net/ and both essays referenced here are available at bostonreview.net/articles/the-fred-dube-affair/ and at radicalteacher.library.pitt.edu/ojs/radicalteacher/article/view/1324/909.

波士顿重建局 ("BRA")
经营名称为波士顿规划与发展局 ("BPDA")

资格要求
Chain Forge 的历史外壳保护与稳定
Corey Harris; 617-918-6229;
Corey.Harris@boston.gov

波士顿重建局 (BRA) 经营名称为波士顿规划与发展局 (BPDA), 其首席采购官欣然发布此份资格申请, 题为 "Chain Forge 的历史外壳保护与稳定" (RFQ)。RFQ 是根据 M.G.L. 第 7C 章第 44-58 条 (可能修订) 发布的。此 RFQ 包括此项目的要求, 将于 **2025 年 3 月 24 日上午 9:00** 在 BPDA 采购门户网站上以 **数字印刷形式** 免费提供给所有感兴趣的受访者下载, 网址为 www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement。对此 RFQ 的所有回复必须在 **2025 年 4 月 17 日中午 12:00** 之前返回至: Teresa Polhemus, Secretary, Boston Redevelopment Authority c/o Real Estate Administration, One City Hall Square, Room 900A/Reception, Boston MA 02210. Teresa Polhemus, 首席采购官

Affordable Housing Lottery

Forty Centre Street
40 Centre Street, Brookline, MA
YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

Affordable Rent Amounts

Two Studios - \$2,280; Four 1BR - \$2,442; Three 2BRs - \$2,931, One 3BR - \$3,386

*Rents are subject to change in future years. Utilities (heating, cooking, hot water, water/sewer) are included in the rent. Limited parking spaces are available on a first-come, first served basis to all residents for a \$325 monthly fee.

Forty Centre Street is a new 40 unit luxury rental property located in the heart of Brookline's vibrant Coolidge Corner. The building will feature Studio, 1BR, 2BR, and 3BR apartments, and amenities such as a workout center, an outdoor deck for congregating on nice days, and an indoor bike rack. The property is conveniently located to Coolidge Corner's many offerings such as Trader Joes, the T, blue bikes, hospitals, renowned restaurants, shopping, and much more. Ten (10) of these units will be made available to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income ("AMI"). Affordable units provide thoughtful layouts and high-end finishes. Units are expected to be ready in June 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 Info Session

April 16, 2025 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

May 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm Completed Applications must be completed online or delivered by this date.

Lottery

May 28, 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 **Forty Centre Street** on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information, Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 to 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/FortyCentreStreet>



St. Louis Schoolhouse, Fall River, MA Affordable Housing Lottery

Four 1BR 80% AMI Condos for \$188,508 (condo fee: \$247/mo.)
Five 1BR 100% AMI Condos for \$233,213 (condo fee: \$329/mo.)
Five 2BR 80% AMI Condos for \$212,075 (condo fee: \$278/mo.)
Four 2BR 100% AMI Condos for \$262,520 (condo fee: \$369/mo.)

This is a lottery for the eighteen (18) affordable 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units located within St. Louis Schoolhouse, a renovation of an existing school building in Fall River. Nine (9) of these units will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI), and Nine (9) of these units will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 100% of area median income (AMI). Affordable homes are expected to be ready starting in the Summer of 2025. Units will feature LED recessed lighting with smart wi-fi light switches, mini split AC units, on demand hot water system, a video doorbell system, high end counter tops, contemporary cabinet design, in unit washer and dryer appliances, floating vanities, and more. The community will feature bike storage, security camera system, a mail and storage room, trash chute system, conference room and co-working space, elevator, an elevated outdoor balcony for common use, and 18 parking spaces.

# of Household Members	80% Maximum Income Limit	100% Maximum Income Limit
1	\$62,950	\$78,680
2	\$71,950	\$89,920
3	\$80,950	\$101,160
4	\$89,900	\$112,400

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$150,000. Qualified retirement accounts are exempted.

Public Info Session

April, 28th, 2025 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

May 20th, 2025 at 2:00 pm

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

Lottery

June 3rd, 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

For lottery information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please visit: www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 x2 and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave., Needham, MA 02494. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



Profile in Activism

Miyamoto Called a 'First' in Asian American Arts & Activism Movement

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protesters, Nobuko Miyamoto graced the stage and enraptured the audience by performing a set of four of her protest songs and sharing some of her story and choreography with the sold out crowd at the Bright Family Screening Room inside the Paramount Center on Feb. 22.

"We were thinking about what films and other things we could do to recognize the anniversary of the Executive Order 9066 ... as a way of making sure these things don't happen again," Susan Chinsen, the founding director of Boston Asian American Film Festival, told the *Sampan* recently. Chinsen, who is also an ArtsEmerson Creative Producer, said the screening and appearance made sense "in these times." She added that finding a way to stay strong and use art as activism was also important, as Miyamoto does.

"We were just really fortunate. We were like, 'Oh, could we just ask if maybe she might be available to come?' We were extremely surprised and ecstatic that she was available and was able to join us."

The Boston Asian American Film Festival is co-presented by the Asian American Resource Workshop and ArtsEmerson, as well as in collaboration with the Asian Community Fund. The festival featured "Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement" last year and it won the Audience Choice Award.

"You have this legend in front of you," Chinsen said of Miyamoto. "One of sort of the first in terms of the Asian American art and activist movement. ... The scope and the breadth of the types of messages and who she collaborated with and worked with from Lakota Indigenous communities to both her work — I mean, it sort of exemplified her work with the Black Power Movement and also singing in Spanish and it felt very much like, 'Yeah, we're a part of a community. This struggle that some of us feel like we may be going through right now as a challenge is not new, and that it's been happening for, you know, a long time now, and this is just why we have to continue to unify.'"

The PBS Art Bound documentary was co-directed by Tadashi Nakamura and Quyên Nguyen-Le and features rare archival footage. It presents interviews with Miyamoto as well as people in Miyamoto's life such as Dan Kwong, associate director of Great Leap; Buddhist Reverend Masao Kodani; Quetzal Flores, a musician and organizer; and Arlan Huang, an artist and activist.

The film starts with footage of Miyamoto and Chris Iijima performing on a late-night show in the 1970s and being introduced by John Lennon, who introduces them as "Chris and Joanna." Miyamoto starts by saying, "Usually people know very little about Asians, this is a song about our movement, about our people's plight in America" before



TAKING STAGE: Nobuko Miyamoto in Boston Feb. 22.

Courtesy photo.

launching into a performance of "We Are the Children."

With poignant lyrics such as "We are the children of the migrant worker. We are the offspring of the concentration camp, sons and daughters of the railroad builder, who leave their stamp on America" it is a powerful song that plays throughout the documentary.

During the documentary, activist Kathy Mosaoka describes Miyamoto "an activist in her own right. She's expressing the activism and values through her art."

Miyamoto is shown sifting through a box of memorabilia that includes a record of "We Are the Children." She begins reminiscing about the process of making the recording and explains that her mother collected these materials. Miyamoto reminisced about being called "Jo Jo" as a child and how her mom would make her costumes. She told of putting on her father's records when she was four and dancing in what she described as a "spectacle." Miyamoto said, "I felt not alone when I danced."

Miyamoto spoke of dancing in big Hollywood films as a teen and young woman including "The King and I" and the film version of "West Side Story." She said, "When you talk about rigor, I was dancing with the best of the best."

The film then goes back in history to Miyamoto's childhood, showing pictures of Miyamoto as a small child interspersed with footage of newsreels of signs going up about curfews after the Pearl Harbor attack and footage of the Japanese internment camps. Miyamoto's family was sent to the Santa Anita Racetrack to an incarceration camp a few months after the Pearl Harbor attack. Miyamoto talked of remembering the "dirtiness and the dustiness and the smell. It was windy and we had to sleep in a horse stall." The family was held there for several months. Eventually, her family was sent to Montana so her father could harvest sugar beets. "Being uprooted like this was a defining thing for a child," Miyamoto remembered, "Just feeling rootless, homeless, not having friends that you have grown up with or family that you see all the time. Even though I had no words for it at the time, a child could feel it."

Miyamoto also spoke of working in Hollywood and on Broadway as a young adult and about the racism that she faced on the production of "Flower Drum Song," which she dropped out of after a year. From there, Miyamoto was given the opportunity to sing at a nightclub in Seattle. That's where she first encoun-

tered young Vietnam War protesters.

She met a director who was making a film about the Black Panthers and enlisted Miyamoto's help. "That thrust me into the middle of the Black Panther Party and creating a voice for change for Black Americans."

Soon, someone invited her to a meeting of Asian Americans for Action where she met Chris Iijima. "That was the beginning of my life in the Asian American movement."

Miyamoto and Iijima began to write and perform songs together at protests and gatherings. "We sang this song and it was this moment of light. We saw the power of the music. That we wanted to use that power." Eventually they got a call from Yoko Ono asking them to perform on the late-night show.

The film follows Miyamoto as she and her band perform at concerts and rallies. It details the time when Miyamoto gave birth to her son, Kamau, "It was a defining moment of who I was to become. His father was killed 10 weeks after he was born."

She spoke of not having time to grieve because she had an infant to care for.

"It stays with you, and it motivates you too. Because I won't stop. I won't stop."

How Students Around the World View the U.S. Under Trump Admin.

Continued From Page 1

(Name withheld) Current high school student, living in Korea, age 18:

The Trump administration's policies have made me more cautious about studying in the U.S., but they have not deterred me from pursuing my education there. While concerns about visa restrictions and shifting immigration policies exist, I would still like to believe that the U.S. is a top destination for academic and professional growth. American universities offer unparalleled opportunities, and I believe that the long-term benefits of studying in the U.S. outweigh the uncertainties caused by political fluctuations. I remain hopeful that international students will continue to be valued for the diversity and perspectives they bring to U.S. campuses.

Justin Kondozi, High school student, Togo, age 19:

I am increasingly concerned about the recent rumors and policies from the Trump administration regarding the potential removal of scholarships for international students. As a child growing up in Togo, where educational resources and job opportunities are limited, pursuing my studies in the U.S. has always been a dream. My goal is to acquire knowledge and skills to help develop my country upon my return. However, the fear of deportation and obstacles in applying for scholarships make me hesitant. I have considered alternatives like Canada, but tuition costs are prohibitive, and scholarships are scarce. Balancing the need for a quality education against these challenges feels like an overwhelming dilemma.

Aadi Avlani, High school student of Indian descent, living in Hong Kong, age 17:

I've always envisioned myself living in the United States, whether for university, work, or eventually settling down. Surprisingly, the current Trump administration feels more like an opportunity than a drawback to me. While Trump as a person may not be everyone's favorite, he managed to win the majority in the most recent election, and I'm intrigued to understand why that happened. I'd love to explore the factors behind the significant shift toward right-wing ideologies in the U.S. and what's driving this change, and the best way to do that is just to be within that area. What excites me most is the unconventional approach Trump brings to politics. My curiosity has grown since the election, drawing me even more toward the U.S. and away from other countries like the U.K. For me,

the political climate in the U.S. right now makes it a much more appealing place.

(Name withheld), High school student, Pakistan, age 18:

Although Trump has implemented many radical policies and shifts, I have always looked toward the U.S. as the ideal country for higher education. Both my siblings currently reside in the U.S., therefore it is also more convenient for me to study there. I would also like to work in the U.S. in the future, therefore getting a U.S. education seems to make more sense. However, I have received some offers and scholarships from countries like the U.K. and Canada, which is immensely cheaper than a U.S. education. Cost is quite a large factor in my education, so I will likely wait and see what offers I will get in the U.S. and what their financial aid packages look like. Nevertheless, Trump's administration does not play too large a role in my decision.

Miguel Vasquez, High school student, ethnically El Salvadorian, living in Hong Kong, age 17:

As a 17-year-old living in Hong Kong with Salvadoran nationality, the process of applying to universities in the U.S. feels both exciting and uncertain. As someone who has lived in the U.S. for nine years because of my dad's diplomatic work, I've developed a fond appreciation of the opportunities and diversity the U.S. offers. However, I have only lived in the U.S. under the Obama and Biden administration, hence the current administration's policies and rhetoric make me somewhat nervous, especially regarding visas and discrimination towards the Latinx community (which fortunately I have never faced before). Although the U.S. is still my first option, I am looking at other possibilities like Spain and the U.K., where I am not only closer to my parents, but also where immigration policies appear to be more secure. What I ultimately want is to study in a place where I can feel safe and supported with no interruption to my education, and I hope the U.S. will be able to provide me with that.

Callista (last name withheld), University student, Norway, age 20:

It makes me not want to study in the U.S. Trump is quite unpredictable and I have not seen it as a safe environment through social media. It has also stopped me from wanting to pursue a job there. I have considered other options like U.K., which I see as equally good and Australia, but I was already considering this due to other drawbacks of the U.S. system.

Affordable Housing Lottery Waterstone

769 State Road, Dartmouth, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

Affordable Rent Amounts

Thirty-Six (36) 2 Bedrooms @ \$1,583/month

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

Waterstone is a brand-new rental apartment community located in a campus-like setting in Dartmouth that will eventually consist of 288 units nestled amongst 60 acres of majestic woodlands. Once fully built, there will be 72 affordable units within this community. All affordable apartments will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. This lottery includes the thirty-six (36) 2BR affordable units coming online in Phase I of this development. Additional 2BR and 3BR units will be made available through a future lottery. The 36 units in Phase I will be located in two story buildings containing sixteen units per building.

Maximum Household Income Limits

\$61,350 (1 person), \$70,100 (2 people), \$78,850 (3 people), \$87,600 (4 people)

Public Informational Session: April 17, 2025 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: May 12, 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: May 29, 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 **Waterstone** 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/Waterstone>



AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY

HOME OWNERSHIP

Highland at Vale Woburn, MA

Ten (10) Affordable One, Two, & Three Bedroom Homes

Sale Price Monthly Condo Fee

ONE BEDROOM:	\$265,600	\$185
TWO BEDROOMS:	\$299,300	\$204
THREE BEDROOMS:	\$336,100	\$198

Income Limits-Max. Income/HHS:

1 PERSON - \$91,200 (80%)	4 PERSONS - \$130,250 (80%)
2 PERSONS - \$104,200 (80%)	5 PERSONS - \$140,700 (80%)
3 PERSONS - \$117,250 (80%)	6 PERSONS - \$151,100 (80%)

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE INCOME & ASSET ELIGIBLE & A FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER (ASSET LIMIT OF \$75,000)

Public Information Meeting Via Zoom.com

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and provide the following, when prompted:
Meeting ID: 824 6130 9804 Passcode: 692982

Application Deadline:

Postmarked on or before April 15, 2025

Lottery Via Zoom.com

3:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2025

Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and provide the following, when prompted:
Meeting ID: 845 2958 4877 Passcode: 972114

APPLICATIONS AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS MUST BE MAILED TO:

MCO Housing Services, P.O. Box 372, Harvard, MA 01451
PHONE: 978-456-8388

Overnight/Drop Off: 206 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

APPLICATIONS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE

PUBLIC LIBRARY OR WOBURN CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

ONLINE AT: www.mcohousingservices.com

OR BY REQUEST AT: 978-456-8388 or lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

CALL MCO HOUSING SERVICES AT ABOVE NUMBER WITH QUESTIONS
DEVELOPED BY PULTE HOMES OF NEW ENGLAND, LLC
MARKETED BY MCO Housing Services



Congress Should Tackle Health, Food Costs, Asians Tell Pollsters

The growing costs of healthcare, grocery bills and housing are top concerns for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults – and they want Congress to address all three.

That was a key takeaway from a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll of Congressional priorities for Asian and Pacific Islander adults. According to the survey published earlier this month, the price of health care was the top issue for nearly 8 out of 10 people who identify as AAPI. Food inflation came in second (for nearly three in 10 people) and housing third (more than six out of 10). About 4 in 10 adults who identify as AAPI listed aging and long-term care as the top issues they want Congress to prioritize, tying with childcare, higher education, and gas.

The survey was conducted amid the mid-March federal budget battle.

As the Trump administration has made headlines for moves to fire huge numbers of federal employees and cut funding for educational and health programs, most AAPI adults believe the government is spending too little on these policy areas. AAPI adults

told pollsters they feel not enough is going to education and healthcare, especially. Addressing homelessness, environmental problems, childcare and crime were also top priorities.

Only about 12% of AAPI survey respondents were concerned that too little is being spent on the military with slightly more than half saying defense spending is too high.

“The data show that amid economic uncertainty, AAPI adults—like much of the U.S. public—are focused on basic necessities,” Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The AP-NORC Center, said in a statement. “Healthcare, food, and housing costs remain at the forefront of their concerns, reinforcing the importance of economic stability, which has consistently emerged as a major issue for AAPI communities.”

Other findings from the poll include:

- The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative headed by Tesla honcho Elon Musk is unpopular with the vast majority of AAPI adults. Only a little more than one in 10 support slashing federal agencies; About 23% of the general popula-

tion, however, supports Musk’s and Trump’s plans in this area.

- At least 6 in 10 AAPI adults, however, see corruption, inefficiency, and “red tape” as major problems in federal government.

- A little less than a third of AAPI adults want local police to always cooperate with federal immigration authorities on deportations. That’s compared with 42% of the general population. More than half of AAPI adults, however, said some cooperation is warranted.

- About four in 10 AAPI adults see a need to boost security at the U.S.-Mexico border and about a three in 10 have the same view of the necessity of deporting undocumented immigrants. A third of AAPI adults think expanding guest worker programs is also a pressing issue and only two in 10 consider “allowing refugees to enter the United States to escape violence” a high priority.

- Around than three-quarters of AAPI adults hold pharmaceutical companies and private health insurers as responsible for the high costs of care in the U.S.

- Adam Smith

Boston to hold 11th Citizenship Day Workshop on April 12th

The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Advancement will host on April 12 the 11th annual Citizenship Day workshop at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. This is New England’s largest one-day, free immigration workshop. The event will help people complete citizenship applications and fee waivers. The event is organized in collaboration with Project Citizenship.

“Boston continues to uplift and support its immigrant communities with programs like Citizenship Day for eligible green card holders,” according to the organizers of the event.

The event comes at a time of high-profile deportations and immigrant detentions carried out by the second administration of Donald Trump, including cases of green card holders getting detained and those with H1-B visas denied entry into the U.S. despite court orders declaring their ability to return here.

Boston Scientist Trying to Crack Mystery of Nut Allergies

Continued From Page 1

exploration,” Weng said. “Advancements in this field hold significant promise for developing effective interventions, such as immunotherapies or dietary guidelines, to mitigate allergic reactions.”

For Weng, age 43, his interest in studying the complexities of peanut allergy stems from his curiosity with plant biochemistry and human health. “I became increasingly intrigued by how plant-derived compounds interact with animals and, ultimately, with the human body,” Weng said.

Why is it that certain proteins in plants present health risks to some individuals, while others are completely unscathed? “This curiosity drives my research endeavors in this field,” he said.

Weng and his collaborator Dr. Seth Rakoff-Nahoum from the Boston Children’s Hospital, were recently awarded a Pew Innovation Fund grant for their work. Both researchers were previously Pew Scholars, and were also investigators with the Food Allergy Science Initiative. The two had collaborated on several related projects. Their respective expertise in plant chemistry and the human micro-biome resulted in an interdisciplinary proposal that “aligned well with the Pew Innovation Fund’s mission to support pioneering biomedical research,” he told the *Sampan*.

“Moving forward, we aim to map the journey of peanut proteins through the human digestive system to pinpoint where and how they interact with im-

mune cells to trigger allergic reactions. Insights from this research could pave the way for new therapeutic interventions or preventive measures against peanut allergies,” Weng said.

Artificial intelligence has also been a game-changer for Weng’s work, not just on peanut allergy research, but on plant chemodiversity—asking what mechanisms lead plants to develop a wide variety of chemical compounds—as well.

“(AI) enhances our ability to predict and design novel biosynthetic routes, accelerating the development of plant-inspired therapeutics. This interdisciplinary approach holds promise for creating innovative treatments for various human diseases,” Weng said.

In addition, Weng also serves as the director of the newly-established Institute for Plant-Human Interface (IPHI) at Northeastern University. “The mission of IPHI is to deepen our understanding of plant biology and the plant-human interactions that significantly influence human health and sustainability on Earth,” Weng explained.

“Our efforts are focused on decoding the unexplored interactions between plant molecules and the human body, aiming to uncover previously unknown disease mechanisms and identify new therapeutic modalities inspired by plant chemistry. Through this work, we aspire to bridge the gap between plant science and human health, fostering the development of novel, plant-inspired treatments for various diseases.”



CRACKING THE MYSTERY: Northeastern University researcher Jing-Ke Weng. Weng is working on science of nut allergies.

Photo by Adam Smith/www.errorc1301.com

Job Corner

ABCD-Boston, MA

Position: Field Project Manager - Boston, FT, Hybrid

A minimum of a high school diploma/ GED or equivalent is required. A minimum of one year of experience in conducting energy audits is required. Strong knowledge of Massachusetts building codes is required.

Experience with the Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Program is highly preferred.

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

Position: Center Director - Full Time, Dorchester

A minimum of three years of professional leadership/management and supervisory experience, preferably in a Head Start setting, and a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or human services management or a related field.

Salary: \$88,670 / year

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

Position: Project Coordinator, FT, Hybrid Downtown Boston

A Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and up to 12 months of experience is required.

Experience in project management or nonprofit program management is helpful.

Experience with Microsoft Access and Excel or at least a high degree of comfort with databases and spreadsheets required.

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

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Position: Communications Officer

BA bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, journalism, English, or other field relevant to the assigned area is required; master's degree is preferred.

Minimum five years of related work experience creating and managing strategically focused communications campaigns and content (for both internal/employee-focused and external audiences) for online, social, and traditional media. Preference for significant relevant work experience (8-12+ years) with strong networks and contacts. Foundation or nonprofit experience preferred.

Fluency in Spanish is required. Haitian Creole is a plus.

Salary: \$124,300 - \$170,900 yearly

Maloney Properties

Position: Assistant Property Manager, FT Boston

Previous experience with affordable housing programs, including Section 8, MRVP, and/or LIHTC, is required. Certifications such as the COS and C3P are preferred.

Bilingual English/Cantonese would be a plus.

To apply: <https://recruit.hirebridge.com/v3/>

WinnCompanies

Position: Regional Compliance Coordinator, FT Boston, Hybrid

High school diploma or GED equivalent.

1-3 years of related work experience.

LIHTC and HUD experience.

Affordable housing experience.

Fair Housing Certification.

To apply: <https://jobs.lever.co/winnco/>

WinnCompanies

Position: Maintenance Supervisor II, FT Boston,

High school diploma or GED equivalent.

3-5 years of relevant work experience.

1-3 years of supervisory experience.

Strong knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and HVAC.

To apply: <https://jobs.lever.co/winnco/>

UmUMass Amherst

Position: Associate Dean of Students,

To apply: <https://careers.umass.edu/amherst/en-us/job/>

Master's Degree in a related field including but not limited to higher education, student affairs, public policy, counseling, or education.

Seven (7) years of progressive experience providing services to students at a residential college or university which includes significant and direct experience in crisis response and management, in coordinating programs and services to meet student's basic needs.

Position: Triage Counselor - FT, Brockton, MA

Bachelor's degree OR Associate's degree and one (1) year of professional work experience OR more than three (3) years of demonstrated, proven ability and experience in Workforce Development, Human Resources, or Counseling.

Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Knowledge of workforce development and employment counseling techniques.

To apply: <https://careers.umass.edu/amherst/en-us/job/>

7 News WHDH

Position: PT reporter, Boston

3-5 years of television reporting experience in medium or large markets required

Looking for a solid journalist, aggressive reporter, excellent writer, and person who is outstanding in live shots.

To apply: <https://wvhdh.com/>

Position: - Producer, Full Time

Candidate must be detail-focused and able to multi-task

Candidate must excel at handling last-minute changes and be able to communicate effectively to deliver important information to the control room crew, anchors, and reporters

To apply: <https://wvhdh.com/>

Boston Medical Center, MA

Position: Inpatient Registered Dietitian, 20 hrs per week

Bachelor's degree required in Nutrition or related discipline (e.g. Public Health

Nutrition, Dietetics/Nutrition Education, Exercise Physiology, Food and Nutrition, Food Safety, Food Science, Food Service System Management, Hospitality Management, Medical Nutrition Therapy/Human Nutrition, Nutrition Biochemistry/Metabolism, Nutrition Science, Sports Nutrition) Must be registered by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics or the ability to be registered before starting.

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

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

Position: Medication Access Coordinator, FT

HS Diploma or G.E.D. required

Must be registered as a Pharmacy Technician with the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy or have a Massachusetts Pharmacy Intern License. Technicians must have current active National Certification verified by PTCB or ExCPT.

Must have 4-5 years of pharmacy experience

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

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

Position: Facilities Manager, FT Boston

Bachelor's degree in Facilities Engineering or related field.

At least seven (7) years experience in a technical and managerial position with increased responsibility.

Extensive management skills to direct staff and contractors for mechanical equipment design, installation, and repair.

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

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

Position: Program Coordinator, Medical Education, FT

A master's degree or a bachelor's degree plus 3 years of progressive responsibility is preferred but not required.

Candidates should be proficient in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Demonstrated project management expertise. Excellent writing, analytic, documentation, organizational, and presentation skills.

Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Position: Data Strategy and Client Insights Manager

A degree or similar relevant experience

in Information Systems, Computer Science, Statistics, Epidemiology, Health Care Analytics, Public Health with an Analytics concentration, or a related field.

5 or more years of experience using statistical software packages (e.g., R, SAS, SQL) to analyze large data sets, including ICD-9/ICD-10 coded data and health care claims (e.g., APCD, Medicare Fee-for-Service, MarketScan Market Clarity).

Salary: \$100,000-\$113,000 Yearly
Apply at: <https://www.chiamass.gov/join-our-team>

Position: Tax Examiner III, FT, Chelsea

Applicants must have at least three years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, professional experience in accounting, auditing, or tax examining work, or any equivalent combination of the required experience and substitutions which can be found on the website.

Salary: 72,386.86 - 105,347.84 Yearly

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

Position: Electrical Engineer I, FT Boston

Applicants must have at least two years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, technical or professional experience in electrical engineering work, or any equivalent combination of the required experience and substitutions which can be found on the website.

Salary: 72,393.04 - 100,743.15 Yearly

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

Boston Public School

Position: Cafeteria Manager, FT

High school diploma or GED required
Must be Food Safety certified (ServSafe)

Salary: \$21.01

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

Contact Info: hiringprocess@bostonpublicschools.org

Position: Senior Project Manager-Interior Spaces, FT

Bachelor's Degree required

5+ years experience in a project management role. Mastery of Microsoft Office suite (Excel, PowerPoint, Word). Experience with project management templates or relevant software preferred

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

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Affordable Homeownership Ipswich, MA

25 Pleasant Street, Ipswich, MA 01938

New Construction - Affordable Condo offered via lottery

One 3 BR unit \$327,400

Applications accepted through Thursday, April 17, 2025, 1PM

Information Session: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 6 PM, VIA ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82301171866>

Lottery: Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 12:00PM, VIA ZOOM

Application and Lottery Information:

JenP@rhsohousing.org

<https://sudbury.ma.us/housingtrust/>

Sudbury Housing Trust, Lottery Agent

Sudbury Housing Trust, c/o RHHSO, 37 Knox Trail, Acton, MA 01720

978-287-1091

Income Limit 80% of AMI and Asset Limits
Use and Resale Restrictions Apply



Arts



Exhibit Shows How One Man's Trash Is Another Man's ... Art

Text and photo by Harmony Witte

“Waste Scenes” at the Mills Gallery is a powerful artistic exploration of the stories of ... trash.

More specifically, the exhibit tells the stories of how in our society and economic system, objects that once held value – a desk, a video, a machine – become junk, discarded to a massive pile and then crushed and dissembled beyond recognition.

The exhibit, by artists Maia Chao and Fred Schmidt-Arenales, is made up of prints, wall drawings, even a pile of junk on the floor. But the show is mainly told through a two-channel video installation. The projection screen and the old CRT television that sit on the floor next to it face a lone bench in the middle of the gallery featuring edited videos that loop on repeat for the viewer. The television often features a mishmash of corporate training videos and commercials, while the larger screen features commentary on the content with video such as an opera singer wandering through the dump, a choir singing a benediction, and skits where two actors struggle to communicate with each other while their speech decomposes.

Sampan sat down with Chao and Schmidt-Arenales to discuss the show and their collaboration, which is the result of their time at the Recycled Artist in Residency program in Philadelphia. Schmidt-Arenales is currently living in St. John's, Newfoundland in Canada and Chao lives in Philadelphia.

The two met in Philadelphia between in the early 2020s – just as the Covid pandemic was taking over the world – and went on art studio visits together before deciding to collaborate. They came up with their project just before getting accepted into the open call at the recycling facility.

Once at what they call “The Dump,” Chao spoke of being struck “by how intense of an experience it was to physically be in the space where we’re seeing waste accumulate, but we’re seeing a lot of intact material become kind of destroyed and stripped of its value and meaning. I found it to be a very melancholy, sad, kind of existential place and I definitely didn’t grow accustomed to being there.”

Being at the dump was such an overwhelming experience, said Schmidt-Arenales, that he even had dreams about sorting trash.

“Hot, and sticky, and dusty, and dirty, and loud, and dangerous” is how he described the dump.

Schmidt-Arenales was in theater before turning to the visual arts and Chao originally went to school for cultural anthropology.

“I felt some somewhat confined by the methods of social science and got interested increasingly in socially engaged art,” said Chao. “I then studied more 3D-based methods like sculpture....”

Both her parents are artists, and at first she rebelled against following their paths, but eventually did so.

Schmidt-Arenales said his approach

to art is to choose a site or situation – often one nearby – where people are involved in some type of struggle. Chao said she enjoys collaborating with other artists on projects, including a project she just did with a children’s choir in Washington, D.C. last fall.

After their time in the residency at the Recycled Artist in Residency program, they worked with independent curator Laurel V. McLaughlin to put together “Waste Scenes” and submitted it to an open call at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Schmidt-Arenales said they found a lot of the equipment they used while at the dump – including an old VHS player. The exhibit, in fact, is made up of the materials that were found in the recycling center’s waste stream: self-help books, infomercials, workout videos, marketing workshops, sports montages, managerial manuals, motivational speeches, and employee handbooks.

The work is both at the Boston Center for the Art’s Mills Gallery and simultaneously at the Oregon Contemporary.

“It feels very special to be able to show the work at different venues,” said Chao, “to have built out the film installation into an exhibition and to be able to share that with a wider audience beyond.... I’ve never shown a work in multiple places and never had the opportunity to build a project into an exhibition. So, that was an exciting opportunity.”

Schmidt-Arenales explained that in the finished work, “You can see traces

of what we brought, what interests and curiosities and methods we brought to it. And then also the beauty of collaboration is it kind of creates this whole sum. The sum is greater than its parts. Like a whole new organism.”

The artists said they were particularly fascinated with the processes of decomposition – how a whole, finished object turns back into raw materials.

“We were watching an intact desk get crushed into a crushed desk, and then eventually become pieces of wood, and eventually become chips of wood,” said Chao. “And we were just constantly witnessing this process of breakdown and a kind of semiotic experience of ‘When is the thing no longer a thing?’ Or, like, ‘When is a desk no longer a desk? When is it just, like, wood or material?’ And so, we got interested in that and got interested in thinking about analog ways we might translate or use the prompt of decomposition in relation to performance and song and speech. And so, we started to experiment with our collaborators. We were working with actors and singers and opera singers in my choir. And we started to experiment with ‘How can a song be made to fall apart?’ ‘How can speech and words be made to fall apart?’ We were often using scripts and found material from the waste stream. We would pull pluck books and binders and papers out of the trash and then read them and start to dream up ways they could be spoken or sung using methods of decomposition.”

Health

Dangerous Chemicals Said to Lurk Inside Black Plastics Used in Toys, Utensils, Trays

By Darren Liu

A shocking research study published in Chemosphere late last year revealed a public danger hidden in plain sight: toxic chemicals are present in most if not all black plastics, including fast-food containers, kitchen utensils, children's toys, and more.

That study's findings have made headlines recently again — after its authors issued a correction that they say does not change their initial concerns about the risk to people who use the plastics.

The research comes at a time when health concerns over unsafe consumer products are high. For example, we've seen many headlines about PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances), a synthetic material known as the "forever chemical," in non-stick cookware, contaminated drinking water, and other common items. PFAS are called forever chemicals because they are "nearly indestructible" and "toxic at extremely low levels", according to the Natural Resource Defense Council.

Researchers behind the Chemosphere paper say that people should consider their total exposure to these types of chemicals — in the case of black plastics, that's types of fire retardant chemicals — when assessing their potential harm.

"A number of the flame retardants we found in the products are persistent, bioaccumulative toxics, or PBTs, chemicals that don't break down quickly and build up in our bodies and the food chain," said the researchers, recently.

The recent correction was related to a number in the study that was believed to indicate a safe level of exposure, but was misstated. The researchers say their work is still relevant and the conclusions still valid.

Experts are now urging consumers to conduct thorough evaluation of purchased products for not only consumption, but general use, as many toys and other products use black plastics, PFAS, or other contaminated materials.

Bromine is one major concern with

black plastics. This is a flame retardant product associated with "causing cancer, endocrine and thyroid issues, fetal and child development and neurobehavioral function and reproductive and immune system toxicity," which is unsuitable for consumption in any quantity. However, it was "found in 70% of (black plastic) samples tested, at levels ranging from five to 1,200 times greater than the European Union's limit" for exposure, according to CNN.

Harm does not only come from consumption. Studies have also shown that chemicals can escape from products into dust and air inside our homes, travel through wastewater, and pollute homes, water, the food supply, and eventually enter the human body. This means having black plastics around can already pose a health risk.

Black plastic makes up only about 0.06% of the international plastic market, but about 15% of America's plastic waste, according to the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

So why are these toxic substances even found in black plastics? Megan Liu, the lead author of the study for Toxic-Free Future states, "The plastics used to make the consumer products were contaminated with flame retardants due to mistakes in the recycling of electronic waste."

These electronics use black plastic to reduce the risk of catching fire or other hazards, a common feature in most electronics containing displays.

In most cases, black plastics do not even get recycled, due to the difficulty to detect such in recycling centers, explaining the high amounts of black plastic waste.

Current recycling and sorting centers mostly use near-infrared cameras, detecting the amount of light reflected off of the plastics. These plastics are then placed on the near-infrared spectrum, determining the type of plastic. Black plastics, however, do not reflect any light and are therefore not detectable. Changing our sorting centers entirely to detect black plastic would be challeng-

ing as many sorting facilities do not even have expensive equipment such as near-infrared cameras.

Black plastic is still used commonly because it is durable, cheap, aesthetically pleasing, and most significantly, the accepted standard for plastic packaging. Changing the standard for the type of plastic being used will take significant amounts of time, therefore it is important to protect yourself by following certain measures provided by Megan Liu:

- "Replace your plastic kitchen utensils with stainless steel options or choose plastic-free items to help reduce your overall exposure to harmful additives and plastic."
- "Some manufacturers also have

strong policies about removing retardants from their products, so you can also be a careful shopper."

- "Dusting, mopping, and vacuuming regularly will remove dust that is likely contaminated with plastics and other worrisome chemicals in addition to flame retardants"

- "Frequent hand washing and proper ventilation can help as well."

To combat this issue as a society, legislation in some areas has already restricted flame retardants; for example, New York does not allow organohalogen flame retardants in many electronic products containing displays, such as mobile phones, computers, televisions, and gaming consoles.



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Book Review

Facing the Scars That Never Heal in Lu Xinhua's Novel, 'Wu Lou'

By Christopher John Stephens

Writer Lu Xinhua was just 24-years old in 1978 when he published his breakthrough short story, "The Scar." Written while a freshman at Fudan University, "The Scar" examined the traumatic legacy of the Cultural Revolution and the decisive, imperious rule of the Gang of Four. In the wake of Mao's death, China found itself at a crossroads. There was the Beijing Spring, the New Enlightenment, and "Scar Literature" was at the vanguard of what came to be known as a second "Hundred Flowers Movement." The suffering of intellectuals and their families would never be avenged, but literature could go far towards achieving some sort of reconciliation.

In roughly 8,000 words, "The Scar" told the story of Xiaohua, returning home during Chinese New Year 1978. It had been nine years since she'd severed ties with her mother, who had been accused of being a "traitor to the revolution." The alleged sins of the mother were visited upon the daughter, and Xiaohua was deprived of her Red Guard membership and treated with disdain. While there was obvious love from mother to daughter, for Xiaohua there

was "no room for sympathy."

There's an innocence to the tragic way "The Scar" unfolds and concludes, a tone that both reflects the writer's youth and sets the tone for Scar literature in general. It's certainly about trauma and oppression, but the practitioners are not necessarily virulent anti-Communists. Their belief that the Party will rectify past mistakes and rule a post-Mao China with love and mercy might be both idealistic and naive, but it's a beautiful way to allow the cold facts of a dark period in 20th century Chinese history to have some grace.

In his 2024 novel *Wu Lou*, writer Lu Xinhua tells the story of a young woman (Tutu) discovering her fiancée (a Khmer Rouge officer) dead beneath a Buddha statue at the temple where she lives. It's the early 1970s in Cambodia. She is an orphan who was taken in by the temple's Master Buddhist Monk (Wu Lou), a man she considers her brother. Her fiancée, with whom she shared a deeper, physical relationship (resulting in a child) is both a clear representation of carnal desire and a ticket out of her situation. She's young, not yet 20, and she needs more than Wu Lou is willing to provide.

At its surface, obviously, Wu Lou

is set up as a classic love triangle. An innocent young woman is swept up by her allegiance to a monk who would not consummate their relationship. The total consequences of the Khmer Rouge's bloody reign was yet to be fully understood before Tutu's fiancée's death, but the discerning reader understands the full darkness of that history. To fall as part of a love triangle on the eve of his Army's bloody reign was arguably a preferable ending.

The story then moves from this Cambodian temple in the 1970s to the Commerce Casino in Las Vegas. It's nearly half a century later and our narrator Terry, who will take us the rest of the way, reflects on his life. He's a casino dealer now, but in 1968 he was a fifteen year old educated youth sent to the countryside to be re-educated by peasant farmers:

"I felt more exhilarated than peasants... I also felt profoundly secure... Now I could do what I wished on my own land..."

Terry and his wife are the narrators, but the focus of *Wu Lou* is the mysterious character named Miller. Terry, a writer himself, describes Miller like so: "His open-hearted laughter was identical to that of the Maitrya Buddha."

Miller, as fate would have it, turns out to be Wu Lou, who disappeared from the temple in the wake of the Khmer Rouge officer's death. Xinhua could be accused of laying it on a little thick when he has Terry tell us about Miller "I suddenly remembered seeing a halo over his head once, so I started squinting and opening my eyes wide to search for it. Unfortunately, I did not see it again." On the other hand, the generous reader who enters this text with an open heart understands it's a story about refuge and exile. Wu Lou had to escape the Cambodian temple after the man's death. It follows that any story based on the precepts of Buddhism will allow for a sort of reincarnation in another land after a death at a temple.

It's not by coincidence that a big setting for much of this novel is a Las Vegas casino. Both Terry and Miller gravitated there as a way to stand in opposition to another Buddhist precept: non-attachment. A casino exists only to encourage attachment to money, dependence on accumulating material possessions. When Terry realized "...the essence of freedom... lies in the ease and detachment of one's heart," he bid farewell to the casino but not to the mystery of Miller.

It's matters of the heart that serve as the driving force of *Wu Lou*. Tutu, real estate agent for Terry and his wife, hears about Miller and concludes he is in fact Wu Lou. He is the spiritual brother with whom she has been trying to reconnect for years and fate had them together at the same time in Las Vegas, that most un-Buddhist of cities. Tutu is intent on

connecting with him again, and though she speaks of the conflicting forces of "good karma, bad karma, sinful karma," she wants a resolution to their story.

The middle third of this novel takes us back to Cambodia in the 1970s, on the eve and beginning of the Khmer Rouge's reign, and it's palpably evocative. The Khmer Rouge officer, named Wu Huaiyu, would meet his death at the feet of the Buddha statue in the temple where he found and befriended Tutu. Wu Lou, despite being in the jungle, learns from temple visitors that the Khmer Rouge eradicated at least a quarter of Cambodia's 8 million people. Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot is referred to as "Brother Number One" and makes an appearance. The mood is dark and getting darker.

In the final third of this novel, we're back in Las Vegas. Tutu is looking forward to reuniting with Wu Lou, and Terry compares Tutu's initial reactions in the moments before the reunion to Marina Abramović's 2010 exhibition "The Artist Is Present," in which Abramović sat in a chair for a total of 700 hours while museum-goers came to take turns sitting across from her. They imposed their own feelings on Abramović while she sat stone-faced. When a former lover comes to sit across from her, he becomes emotional and she quickly follows suit but no words are shared. The main thoughts are clear: "You don't have to say anything. I understand." Terry wonders if all the people of contemporary China will find themselves reuniting with ancient emperors, the Boxers in the late Qing Dynasty, the Red Guards of the Cultural Revolution, Confucius, and more.

For all the characters in *Wu Lou*, "the world is inherently chaotic." Tutu and Wu Lou get their reunion, but there's a tragic ending that harkens back to the structure of "The Scar." It's almost as if writer Lu Xinhua is saying that there is no such thing as a "happy ending." It isn't that his characters don't deserve happiness but rather that true peace or nirvana will always be out of reach. Instead, Terry finds himself reflecting on the essence of Wu Lou beyond his corporeal form:

"...If he were... a geometric shape, he would be a circle... a physical state... an iron begonia... If represented by the marks he left behind, he would be a crane... If portrayed by his demeanor, he would be ever-smiling..."

Wu Lou as a novel takes on various shapes and forms. It's a traditional love triangle, with a celibate monk, an innocent sixteen year old orphan girl, and the Khmer Rouge officer determined to save her from her purity. It's a circular reflection on birth, spiritual death, and renewal in another form, and it's an infinity symbol in which we live to search for reunification only to have it slip away from our grasp at the last moment.

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Events Calendar

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Date: Friday, March 28
Time: 11 am-3:30pm
Address: Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston
Get help with eligibility & applications. Sign up for your clinic appointment by calling 617-635-4366. For more information, visit boston.gov/prop-tax-clinics

Gallery Hours:
Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursdays | 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
The exhibition will run from March 20 to June 20, 2025. Visitors are invited to stop by during gallery hours or connect with artists and community members during a series of public programs. Exhibit materials will be presented in English and Traditional Chinese. For more information visit: <https://www.paoartscenter.org/>
Price: Free, RSVP - \$10 suggested donation

Laura Macias - Dia de los Niños

Date: Friday, April 4, 2025
Time: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Address: Charlestown Branch of the Boston Library, 179 Main St Charlestown, MA 02129
Event Link: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6797cfb18fc0a3280017b441>
Stories and folk tales from around the world will be told in English and Spanish. Includes puppets, songs, and movements for children ages 3-5 years old.
Price: free

Laura Macias - Dia de los Niños

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Time: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Address: Chinatown Branch of the Boston Public Library 2 Boylston Street
Event Link: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6797cfb18fc0a3280017b441>
Stories and folk tales from around the world will be told in English and Spanish. Includes puppets, songs, and movements for children ages 3-5 years old.

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Date: Every Friday
Time: 12:30-4:30 pm
Address: Chinatown Branch of the Boston Public Library 2 Boylston Street
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To get more information: mhoward@bpl.org
This event is open to all ages. Children under the age of 12 must have an adult present at the library.
Price: Free

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Price: Free, RSVP

In concert: Mark Kroll, harpsichord, Carol Lieberman, baroque violin

Date: Saturday, March 22
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Address: Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation, 154 Moody Street Waltham, MA 02453
Event Link: <https://www.charlesrivermuseum.org/events-list/2025/3/22/in-concert-mark-kroll-harpsichord>
Experience an enchanting evening of Baroque music with Mark Kroll (harpsichord) and Carol Lieberman (baroque violin) in concert at the Charles River Museum.
Price: Free, RSVP

Karen Russell at the Cambridge Public Library

Date: Monday, March 24
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Address: Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway Cambridge, MA 02138
Event Link: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/cambridgepubliclibrary/calendar/2025/03/24/>
Harvard Book Store and the Cambridge Public Library welcome Karen Russell—award-winning author of six books of fiction, including the New York Times bestsellers *Swamplandia!* and *Vampires in the Lemon Grove*—for a discussion of her new novel *The Antidote*.
Price: Free, RSVP

Boston Public Market FiberFest 2025

Date: Sunday, March 23
Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Address: Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street Boston, MA 02108
Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-public-market-fiberfest-2025-tickets-1218371204069?aff>
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Date: Saturday, March 22
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