



# TELSTAR

ROXBURY TENANTS OF HARVARD PUBLICATION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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NUMBER 2



**RTH civic engagement starts young! She can't wait to vote!**  
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Yourself and Your Family  
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**Roxbury Tenants of Harvard**  
Executive Office  
11 New Whitney Street  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear RTH Residents,

Why are COMMUNITY and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT important?

Community is important because it allows people to interact with each other, share experiences, develop values and relationships and work toward a common goal. It is an understanding that we are stronger together and weaker if divided. It is what allows us to be good neighbors who care and look out for one another despite our differences - our age, sex, ethnicity, culture, primary language, or our varying perspectives.

Civic Engagement refers to the ways in which residents participate in the life of our community in order to improve conditions for themselves and others or to help shape the community's future. Civic engagement can take many forms — from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue or work with others in the community to solve a problem, help implement a program, or plan an event or celebration.

Sometimes these two very powerful concepts can get mixed up and cause conflict, hard feelings and, yes, even turn neighbor against neighbor. It is good to know that RTH can and will continue to be a place that understands the importance of sharing different opinions and viewpoints but keeps the focus on our mission of improving the quality of life for all RTH residents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the RTH residents who ran for the Board of Directors, including those who did not win a seat this year. Your courage and willingness to 'put yourself out there' is appreciated and reminds us all of our community responsibility – our obligations as individuals to our community – which include caring, respect, cooperation, service, responsibility, and participation.

Also, I would like to welcome the 2015 RTH Board of Directors: Carol Menton, President, Carmen Rosado, Vice President, Izrail Tselnik, Treasurer, Danielle Cunningham, Clerk, Jacqueline 'Jacquie' Boston, Donghui 'Sophia' Deng, Irma Diaz, Rebecca Hill, Zhen Bao 'Pauline' Lin, Kyle Wu, Li Fu Yu.

For those who did not participate this year, we hope you will become engaged, learn more about RTH and what makes us so unique among community organizations. I encourage you to consider joining one of our newly formed standing committees or volunteering in one of our programs or events. Interested? Watch for flyers announcing dates and times of introductory meetings or speak to any of the RTH Board members to find out more details on how you can get involved.

When thinking about the RTH Community and the importance of Civic Engagement throughout our history I am reminded of Margaret Mead's quote, "**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.**" RTH has a rich, interesting history that is little known to many in the RTH community. To truly appreciate living in RTH, it is worth learning about our struggles and perseverance as a community to overcome long odds to survive and become one of the

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## NEW STAFF



**Jason Zhan**

### **Resident Services Coordinator**

Hello everybody! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jason Zhan, and I am excited to join the Resident Services Department as a Resident Services Coordinator.

I was born and grew up in China. I speak Cantonese, Mandarin and a few other Chinese dialects. I went to college in Guangzhou (Canton) and worked there for six years before coming to the US to attend graduate school. Since then I have worked in the field of social services. First I worked as a case manager for a home care agency in San Francisco. Then I was an elder protective service worker in Boston. Before joining RTH, I was a Resident Services Coordinator for seven years. Since I started here several weeks ago, I have received a lot of help and support from various offices and quite a number of residents, and I appreciate that!

My office is at 2 New Whitney, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and my phone number is 617-232-4306 ext. 302. I can also be reached at [jzhan@roxburytenants.org](mailto:jzhan@roxburytenants.org).

See you around!

If you are interested in participating in the One Hen program during the school year, please contact Jen Lewis in the RTHCC Youth Center at 617-232-4306 ext. 207 or email her at [jlewis@roxburytenants.org](mailto:jlewis@roxburytenants.org)

[www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org)

## RESIDENT IN THE NEWS



**Juan Castillo-Then**

Not too long ago RTH resident, Juan Castillo-Then, won a contest that showed his skills and proved him to be worthy to DJ at the Electric Elements Festival in Wasaga Beach, Canada. Although he grew up loving the art of film production and photography, deep down he has an artistic calling for electronic

music. On stage he goes by the name AndThenJuan but don't get too confused - he's not your typical club DJ who will play top 40s! He has a knack for experimenting and testing out different genres of electronic music from moombahton, trap, future house and progressive. He hopes he can take it up a step and show more people in Boston what he is made of at bigger venues like the House of Blues or Royale, but until then, whenever the opportunity comes he will play small venues or events in the area. If you want to keep up with what he is up to with his music, you can follow him on Facebook at [Facebook.com/djandthenjuan](https://www.facebook.com/djandthenjuan) or Twitter @AndThenJuan."

## ONE HEN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMPERS ROCK THE CHICKEN & RICE GUYS FOOD TRUCK AT RTH!



One Hen, Inc. believes that young people can change the world...and so do we! RTH hosted a one week intensive camp this August where campers learned about lending and borrowing money for business start-up activities, developed and sold their own products, visited local businesses, explored the missions of local non-profits, and donated some of their profits to a charity they selected as a group- Boston's Children's Hospital.

We are so proud of our RTH students who are growing to be more globally aware and conscientious in managing money and making socially beneficial life choices. Good job, guys, hope to see you in the school year program!

Thank you to all the mentors and businesses who gave their time and shared their expertise. A special thank you to the Chicken and Rice Guys for "hiring" our campers for an afternoon to serve up delicious food from their food truck right here at RTH for free. Thank you for showing us how it *can* be done!

## RTH YOUTH COUNCIL

*Jen Lewis, Director of Youth Programs*



**Kerry and Akeem**



**Kaman and Anthony**

The RTH Youth Council is a group of RTH youth who are dedicated to providing youth voice and input on youth programs and events in the neighborhood. They meet weekly and plan events and activities to engage youth. To get involved, youth should write a one-page essay on why they want to be a part of the Youth Council and what they would bring to the group. This should be submitted to Akeem or Yazmine in the Teen Center. For more information, please call the Teen Center at 617.232.4306 x206.

### Youth Working at RTH!

Since March 2015, the youth department has been working hard to assist our youth residents obtain summer employment with many partners, such as Brigham and Women's Summer Science Academy and Project TEACH, Brigham and Women's Summer Youth Program, ABCD, and the City of Boston's Department of Youth Engagement and Employment (DYEE). The youth mentioned below who are working for ABCD and DYEE are working in many departments of RTH. Youth were required to register on-line, fill out and turn in large packets of paperwork, interview and get chosen for their positions! Here's who's working and where!

Brigham and Women's Summer Science Academy:

*Omayma Dalal, Anthony Zeng, Iman Mohamud*

Brigham and Women's Project TEACH: *Kaman Hau, Serena Fok, and Eric Chen*

Brigham and Women's Summer Youth Program: *Ayub Ahmed*

ABCD: *Dimitrious Hurley, Wesley Ortega, Mikel McGee, Jasmny Medina, Jepherson Castillo, Devin Brittle*

DYEE: *Javon Freeman, Armany Medina, Keon Jones, Taysha Villalona, Miguel Moreta, Carlos Dablah, Jahvon Bailey Myers*

### RTH Youth Council Retreat

During the weekend of May 30th and 31st, the Youth Council journeyed off to their first overnight retreat in Becket, Massachusetts. The members of Youth Council, Kerry Robinson, Kayla Bostick, Kaman Hau, Jessica Fok, Serena Fok, Malcolm Osazuwa, Anthony Zeng, Omayma Dala, and Karina McKenna were hosted by the Berkshire Retreat Center. There at the center, the Youth Council participated in a number of team-building activities such as high-ropes, archery, and canoeing that strengthened their leadership skills and bridged them closer together as a community of leaders.

Do you have an idea for an article or story for the newsletter that you think will be of interest? Please submit the article to Beverly Moss at [bmoss@roxburytenants.org](mailto:bmoss@roxburytenants.org). Please note that articles submitted may be edited for content or space considerations at the editor's discretion

### MHYC's Showcase of the Stars!



**Julia Chu, Raquel Navarro, Karina McKenna**

On June 4th, 2015, the RTH Youth Department celebrated our wonderful youth at the Mission Hill Youth Collaborative's annual Showcase of the Stars!

Youth from Mission Hill organizations (Mission Safe, Tobin Community Center, Sociedad Latina, and RTH) were chosen to receive awards and four of our young people received awards for their leadership in our community: Nairobi Logo-Romero, Brian Bazile, Julia Chu and Kaman Hau were award recipients. Karina McKenna was one of four youth MC's for the event and performed as well! Raquel Navarro also performed with Sociedad Latina's Music Clubhouse. It was a beautiful event and a good time was had by all!

## BOSTON TO CHICAGO!

*Ken Yanofsky, Health and Wellness Director*

RTH Community Center members participated in a fun and exciting challenge over the last couple of months called “**Boston to Chicago**”! The field consisted of seven teams with 8-10 residents on each team ranging in age from 13-88. Each team had an RTHCC staff team leader: Deb, Heather, Saacha, Chavi, Tanyshia, Jana, George and Jen.

Each time a team member would take a group exercise class or work out on a cardio machine for at least 30 minutes, they would receive a sticker. The sticker would be placed next to their name on the big board. Everyone often checked to see how their team was doing. Each sticker represented 3 miles and the first team who collectively reached 996 miles, the distance from Boston to Chicago, won the competition and was treated to a team dinner!

Team Saacha was the winning team crossing the virtual finish line! Team Heather came in second place, and Team

Jana picked up third place.

The winning team members are: Saacha, Jen Lewis, Helen Li, Azemina Cviko, Novis Castillo, Chan Yin, Kam Fai, Sam Nayberg, Yu Fang Yu and Trizia Mallari.

Listed below are team MVP’s (Most Valuable Participants) who led their respective team in number of workouts and would have been a welcome addition on any team:

Pui Rui, Helen Li, Elaine Adams, Lourdes Galarza, Marilyn Casey, Maureen Adams, and Ayub Ahmed

The 68 participants seemed to be quite motivated as they exercised a total of 1,572 times for an average of 23 workouts per person!

Congratulations to all participants!

## CELEBRATING YOUR SERVICE! STAFF AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POOL PARTY



On a warm July 24th, RTH Board members, volunteers and staff gathered at the Mary T. Clifford pool in order to enjoy some music, share great food with friends, neighbors and coworkers, and receive a hearty “Thank You!” from RTH.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cherie Milton, Resident Service Coordinator

The Health and Safety committee “private efforts” in educating the RTH community about the effects of tobacco on health have become critically important. The link between tobacco and disease is clear, as are the dangers of second-hand smoke and chewing tobacco. Young people need to hear that message early and often. Avoiding tobacco is one of the best things you can do for your health; it substantially cuts your risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke, respiratory illness, and many other diseases. The RTH Health and Safety Committee is proud to announce that our first Anti-Smoking Poster Contest was a big hit! We had 35 entries from four age categories participate in the contest and 205 residents came to view the posters on display.

### Up In Smoke

*Anti-Smoking Campaign*

**Before you try your first cigarette,  
take 5 minutes to read this...**



*Ken Yanofsky, Director of Health and Wellness*

**Your eyes...** Nicotine from cigarettes restricts the production of a chemical necessary for you to be able to see at night. Also, smoking increases your risk of developing cataracts and macular degeneration. Both can lead to blindness.

**Your face...** Smoking can cause your skin to be dry and lose elasticity, leading to wrinkles, stretch marks and a dull, grayish skin tone. By early 30's wrinkles can begin to appear around your mouth and eyes earning the name “smoker's face”.

**Your ears...** Smoking reduces the oxygen supply to the cochlea, a snail shaped organ in the inner ear. This may result in permanent damage to the cochlea and mild to moderate hearing loss.

**Your mouth...** Smokers have more cavities, mouth ulcers, mouth sores and gum disease. Smoking can lead to cancer of the mouth and throat.

**Sticky blood...** Smoking makes your blood sticky and thick, making it harder on your heart to circulate it, making it more likely to clot and block blood flow to your heart, brain, and legs increasing your risk of heart attack and stroke.

**Your lungs...** Smoking destroys air sacs in your lungs that can never grow back. When enough of these air sacs are destroyed, emphysema develops which results in severe shortness of breath and can lead to death. Smoking is directly related to lung cancer which is one of the most deadly types of cancer.

*excerpt from “18 Ways Smoking Affects Your Health”, Smokefree.gov*

**Your wallet...** If you smoke 10 cigarettes per day, it costs you around \$105 per month. Double that amount for a pack a day! A whole family could join the RTH Community Center for only \$8.33 per month. Which one do you think is a healthier decision?

*excerpt from “10 Reasons to Quit Smoking: Cost, Smell, Wrinkles and More”, WebMD.com*

**Save the Date**

**RTH Fall Health Fair**

**Saturday, September 26, 2015 at the RTHCC from 12 noon - 3 p.m.**



*Ela Sari*



*Sharon and Xing Zhou*



*Karen Gately, Yankee Rosado,  
Stephanie Ellis*

## RTH POT LUCK DINNER

*Scott Amaral, Director of Resident Services*



Stevie Rosario and Scott Amaral drawing raffle ticket winners!



Xiu Fang Cheng



Rebecca Hill and Dorothy Hurley

Once again we held our annual Pot Luck Dinner, which was held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at the RTHCC. We were blessed to have many residents bring an abundance of food for all that attended. It was a great time to sample food from many cultures including Chinese, Russian, Italian, Spanish and Caribbean, as well as many American dishes.

The Pot Luck dinner is always a great opportunity to get together with neighbors old and new and to also make some new friends. I would like to thank all the residents that brought a dish to share to this great social event and hope you got to make a new friend or to catch up with your neighbor. I would also like to thank everyone on the pot luck committee that put in the long hours to make this a great event.

## FAMILY NURTURING PROGRAM

*Cheri Milton, Resident Services Coordinator*



Michelle Gomez



Sue Parker, Director of Family Nurturing Center, Boston



Gianna Stallings

Family Nurturing Programs are designed for parents and children together to build their nurturing skills and understanding of healthy development, appropriate expectations, and discipline with dignity. Parents meet in a parent group, and children meet in their own age-specific groups, with everyone gathering for a meal and family nurturing time which included games, songs, and other fun activities.

Particular focus is placed on learning to own and find words to express feelings and to control anger. Parents and children are asked to create family rules, develop communication skills, and support one another in this effort and also spend more time having fun together.

## NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY

*Laura Adams, Senior Program Coordinator*



“If You Keep Moving... You’ll Keep Improving!”

In collaboration with the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) and AARP, the City of Boston’s Commission on Affairs of the Elderly invited 200 older Bostonians to celebrate National Senior Health and Fitness Day with a workout in Christopher Columbus Park and short Harbor Walk. 25 of those seniors were from the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard. The common goal for this day: to help keep older Americans healthy and fit.

Seniors participated in low-impact, non-competitive exercises which included stretching, dancing and walking - all designed to increase strength and flexibility. I am excited that RTH Seniors took an active part in the Senior Health & Fitness Day event. It is so significant to understand the importance of exercise and nutrition for ongoing health and illness-prevention. A healthy diet can boost energy and immunity, and regular exercise is necessary to retain bone mass and lower the risk of fractures and to build muscle strength and reduce the risk of falls.

I would like to encourage all older adults to take advantage of the many health and fitness programs offered at RTH. As the theme says “If you keep moving .....You’ll keep improving.”

## ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (ILS) MERIT AWARD

*Roxanne Haecker*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IRENE



*Irene Randolph*

Irene celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Benjamin Healthcare Center surrounded by several friends from RTH. Mrs. Randolph lived in the Neville Building for many years and was a well-known figure to RTH children who dared to pick the flowers, pull on tree limbs, or toss litter about. Those children are grown now and several are working at RTH and are proud of the beautiful grounds.

**Health and Safety Meeting**

2nd Wednesday of every month  
Parks Community Room  
6:30 p.m.

Next meeting: October 14

The Illuminating Engineering Society (ILS) , founded in 1906, seeks to improve the light environment by bringing together those with lighting knowledge and by translating that knowledge into actions that benefit the public.

The Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Community Center won a 2015 ILS Merit Award for the design of the translucent light well by Enrique Rojas.

## OLD NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC. (ONRA)

The Old Neighborhood Residents Association, Inc., the former RTH Cooperative, has been in existence since the 1980's. The current 2014-2015 ONRA Board members are: Rita Arroyo(President), Jose Arroyo (Vice President), Elaine Adams(Treasurer), Lydia Polanco (Clerk), Joseph Melanson (Co-Clerk), Mary Burns, Seth Burns, Valerie Walker, John Clune, Michelle Yard, and Mark Coyle. The Board meets monthly to discuss RTH Community Housing property issues and general concerns that can affect the residents living in the property, as well as health & safety matters within the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard community.

The RTH Community Housing (RTHCH) property consists of 67 residential units (23 buildings) located on Francis Street, St. Albans Road, and Fenwood Road. In addition to RTHCH, the Old Neighborhood comprises of Restoration Housing (RHC); RTH Community Apartments (FFH) (Francis, Fenwood, Huntington); 777-779 Huntington Avenue. Houses currently standing in the old neighborhood were built in late1800's - early 1900's, known as the Victorian Era. Some famous people who lived in this historical area are Arthur Fiedler, Musician and Conductor for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, who resided on Fenwood Road as a young person. He attended Boston Latin School. His father, Emmanuel Fiedler, was a property owner of 35 & 36 Fenwood. Babe Ruth, the famous baseball player, rented a room at 35 Fenwood.

We would like to recognize tenants, activists, Harvard students, Robert and Theresa Parks, RTH Founders; and the rest of the Mission Hill community, to name a few, who tirelessly fought Harvard back in the 60's to keep families living in the property without being evicted. First and second generations residents are still residing in the old neighborhood and there are others who are no longer with us, but their spirits live on in the community. This group of concerned citizens stood up to save residential housing in the area and participated in the development of the land where the Mission Park complex now stands.

Presently, RTH Community Housing property manager, Tim Flynn, manages the property since November 2014 under Wingate Management Company. Tim works closely with ONRA residents that participate in the various committees designated by the ONRA Board of Directors. These committees are: Capital Improvement, Maintenance & Participation, Membership-Tenant Selection, Grievance, and Personnel, where ONRA residents are eligible to join.

The Old Neighborhood Residents Association Annual Meeting takes place in November.

RTH community residents interested in learning more about the ONRA community can contact the ONRA Board by dropping a note to the RTH Community Housing Office at 1 Fenwood Road.

Contributors: L Polanco, M Burns, C Torres, J Melanson

### See Something - Say Something....

Everyone plays a big role in keeping our neighborhood safe. If you see something that shouldn't be there - say something! If you see a person(s) behavior that does not seem right, report it. Call Securitas at 617-731-6972 and/or 911. You can also use the RTH anonymous tip line at 617-232-0436.

[www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org)

## RESTORATION HOUSING REHAB UPDATE

*Amy Lawton, Property Manager*

This project continues to move forward and we are getting excited as we get closer to the start of this much anticipated work; in the Fall of 2015. There was a Community Meeting held on June 25<sup>th</sup> to update residents and other interested people in the community with the status of the work. At this meeting we were happy to announce and introduce NEI as the General Contractor for this project and Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU) as the company who will assist residents with their needs during this rehab. We were also able to show residents samples of floor and cabinetry and pictures of the new laundry room.

The Community Meetings, surveys, and informal communication with the residents has been a very important part of this process. The information received from this input and feedback has driven several changes in the scope of work to ensure that resident's concerns were addressed as best as we were able.

One of these changes is that for the first time at RTH residents that are eligible for a new kitchen and bathroom will be offered the choice of two different cabinet finishes! A picture of the finishes along with a form to make selections will be mailed out to residents shortly.

### Don't Miss Out

Receive Announcements by Email

RTH residents may receive event flyers and community info by email. Subscribe on the RTH website homepage:

[www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org)

If you have feedback about our website contact Beverly Moss, Technology Director at 617-232-4306 ext. 601 or [bmoss@roxburytenants.org](mailto:bmoss@roxburytenants.org)



Dear Resident .....continued from page 1

best places in Boston to live, work and play. Starting this Fall look for information sessions about our RTH history. Come meet your neighbor and learn about the RTH mystique.

Here at RTH, we believe that making the community a better place is just as important as building a house. We support residents with the resources they need to be good neighbors and members of a greater community. We believe civic engagement is not just a feel-good element of community life or a kind expression of citizenship, but rather an effective way to build social capital and valuable skills that can facilitate upward mobility. It is this strong sense of community and caring about our neighbor that is really at the heart of RTH.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you enjoy your “RTH experience” even more. Feel free to contact me anytime with your questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to working with you. **Together, we can increase the sense of community and civic engagement to make RTH an even better neighborhood.**

Sincerely,

Karen T. Gately

RTH Executive Director

617-232-4306

kgately@roxburytenants.org



## SENIOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH JOSH ZAKIM



*City Councilor Josh Zakim and  
Theresa Parks*

Seniors playing Bingo on Monday, April 30th were very “lucky”. They had an opportunity to speak with Councilor Josh Zakim when he visited them in the Senior Drop-In Center. He also brought an ice-cream treat for them.

### Playground Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Jen Lewis at 617-232-4306 ext. 207 or email her at [jlewis@roxburytenants.org](mailto:jlewis@roxburytenants.org)



## ENGLISH FOR THE WORKPLACE CLASS

The English for the Workplace Class is part of the ESOL program at Roxbury Tenants of Harvard. Students of all language backgrounds are welcome and should have an intermediate level of proficiency in English. The goal of the class is to improve the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills of the students in the class to the point that they are able to be successfully employed in an English-speaking environment. To do this, we have to begin with the instructional level of the present students. At present, we have a group of students of varying levels of proficiency. Several different language

groups are represented in the group. The class is appropriate for students of any language background and all are welcome. The lessons include instruction in the basic language modes of speaking, listening, reading and writing with a good percentage of the thematic content concentrating on skills for the workplace. These include - but are not limited to - social exchanges in the workplace, team work, levels of discourse (formal vs. informal speech), email and many other topics. Vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs introduced in the class are both general and specific to situations en-

countered in the workplace.

In the reading area, cognitive academic skills are emphasized. Cultural information that will help students to participate more fully and successfully in the workplace is included in the class curriculum. **English for the Workplace class meets** Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. Interested students should contact Roxanne Haecker, Director of Community Education and Workforce Development, 617-232-0400 ext 504 or email her at [rhaecker@roxburytenants.org](mailto:rhaecker@roxburytenants.org) to register.

## END OF YEAR COMPUTER CLASSES



*Front-row: Li Nu Zhang, Yim Kei Chow, Pou Ieng Chan, Julie Trenh*

*Back-row: Beverly Moss( Instructor), Chan Yin Wan, Hui Yu Zhang, Cherie Milton,*

*Jacqui Boston, Yan Hua Zhu, Ban Zhou, Xing Zhou (Instructor), Rebecca Hill, Nan Zhang*

Congratulations to the Computer Basics class for completing 8 months of training. Students attend a weekly one-hour class in which they learn to identify the parts of the computer, how to use the mouse and keyboard, and set up and use an email account.

The students have been a joy to work with and continue to challenge themselves with new technologies and ideas for learning. Certificates of Completion were presented to each of the students at an end-of-the-year celebration. Special thanks to Jacqui Boston and Rebecca Hill (RTH Board Members), and Cherie Milton, (Resident Services) for their encouraging and congratulatory remarks.



## New England Affordable Housing Management Association Poster Contest

*Robin MacDonald-Foley*



*Photo taken on the Roof Deck of the Flynn Building*

[www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org)

Congratulations to Marilyn Casey and Nakeisha Loften for their winning entries in the Disabled Category of the 2015 New England Afford-

able Housing Management Association (NEAHMA) Art Poster Contest. The NEAHMA contest theme this year was titled: "Our Hands Are United: Reach Out and Be a Good Neighbor". We are proud of all the amazing posters created by our talented group of artists in the Senior Arts Crafts Program.

*Back-row:  
Robin MacDonald-Foley  
(Arts and Crafts Instructor)  
Laura Adams (Senior Programs Coordinator);*

*Front row:  
Marilyn Casey (2nd place),  
Nakeisha Loften (3rd place),  
Jeannette Mourino (Property Manager, Trinity Management)*

Free First Aid/CPR/AED Training

*Earn your certification*

Residents and Volunteers

Sign up early as seats fill up quickly

December 17, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

March 14, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

June 6, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Classes held at the RTHCC

Additional trainings in Community Hands-only CPR will be scheduled throughout the year

Contact Ken Yanofksy, Health and Wellness Director at 617-232-4306 ext.203

Cover Letter & Resume Workshop

Monday and Tuesday

October 26 and 27

Betty Powers Library

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. & 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Residents can come to either session

## VICTORY DAY CELEBRATION

*Yelena Piliavsky, Resident Service Specialist*



***Israil Tselnik, Karen Gately, Bentsion Mankovskiy, Yelena Piliavsky***

In Russian and European tradition, May 9th marks the end of the Second World War – Victory Day - which commemorates the capture and surrender of Nazi Germany in Europe. It was first inaugurated in the Soviet Union following the signing of the surrender document in Berlin late on the evening on May 8, 1945. By Moscow time, the signing happened after midnight (on May 9th), but in European and American time zones it was still May 8, which is when Victory Day is celebrated. This year marks 70 years since the end of a six-year blood-

bath, known in the Soviet Union as the Great Patriotic War, whose horrors many residents still remember. Many grew up in the Nazi-occupied territories, in today's Russia and Ukraine. Many lost loved ones and others lost entire families. Five RTH residents are veterans of the War and this year two of them, Bentsion Mankovskiy, who served in the Marines for two years, and Eleonora Stolnik, who was a nurse for 3 years during the war, took part in this year's event. For Russians this is a day of remembrance and of mourning, but it is also a day when we celebrate



***Eleonora Stolnik***

the joy of life without war.

This year's event was held in the new spacious RTH Community Center. We enjoyed an hour of musical performances by Alexander Prochorov (a professional opera singer from Russia) and Lucky Ten. Lucky Ten, part of the Commonwealth Brookline Lyric Theater, performs all across the USA. in Russian and English. The musical performances were followed by desert and wine. The event was full of poignancy and joy; the atmosphere was festive, welcoming, and friendly and open to all RTH residents.



***Anna Shmulevich and Ludmila Dinova***



***Zinovi Khait and Riva Ostrovskaya***



***Klara Amitan***

## BWH - NEIGHBORHOOD HIRING AND COMMUNITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

*Roxanne Haecker, Director of Community Education & Workforce Development*

Many RTH residents would like to work at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Some have applied for positions online and never heard back, others have visited BWH's neighborhood employment office at 741 Huntington Avenue and come away still unclear about what services were supposed to be offered there. Many haven't gotten as far as visiting the employment office or applying for a job; they are wondering what career education or training they should get to prepare for a job at the hospital.

Karen Gately, RTH Executive Director, and Roxanne Haecker, RTH Director of Community Education & Workforce Development, met recently with a BWH Workforce Development-Human Resources team that included Ellen Gilmore, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Liz De Moura, Community Partnership Manager, and Julia di Bonaventura, Workforce Development Specialist, to discuss how BWH and RTH can work together more closely to increase the number of neighborhood residents who are employed at BWH.

Etai Bilinki and Geoff Vercauteran- BWH workforce development team members and familiar faces to many young RTH residents who worked at BWH through the summer jobs program- are no longer with BWH, but BWH has affirmed its commitment to neighborhood hiring and to working with us to develop a well-qualified and prepared community workforce. They have hired two new team members, Liz De Moura and Julia Di Bonaventura, who will be working with us to prepare for and secure good jobs with career paths at BWH.



Liz De Moura is the Community Partnership Manager in Workforce Development at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Liz oversees program offerings, including youth and community initiatives.

Liz is a Boston resident who grew up in Jamaica Plain. Liz started working at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in 2000 as a Unit Coordinator in the Newborn ICU. Once she obtained her college degree, Liz moved into the Human Resources Department at BWH, where she worked as an HR Assistant in Workforce Development. Since then Liz has held various positions in HR, including HR Coordinator, HR Representative, and HR Business Partner. Throughout her positions within HR, Liz has supported employee and youth development, which included creating the Teen Advisory Council for youth participating in the Youth Summer Program to facilitating workshops on professionalism, teamwork and job readiness skills.



Julia di Bonaventura, Workforce Development Specialist, supports the hospital's various workforce development initiatives. In addition to supporting programming for youth and incumbent workers, Julia also serves as a resource for local community residents interested in connecting to BWH.

Julia joins Brigham & Women's Hospital from the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC). While at the Boston PIC, Julia served for two years as a Career Specialist at Charlestown High School where she worked with students on career awareness and job readiness programming, ultimately connecting young people to community-based and private sector employment opportunities. As part of her role as Career Specialist, Julia provided individual career counseling services as well as career development workshops for groups. She is excited to support residents of Roxbury Tenants of Harvard in their pursuit of employment opportunities at BWH.

Interested in learning about employment opportunities at Brigham & Women's Hospital?

Meet with us at BWH Workforce Development!

Reasons to meet with BWH Workforce Development:

- Learn about employment opportunities at BWH
- Go through a pre-screening for positions at BWH
- Check on the status of existing applications
- Access support around career advancement

If interested, schedule an appointment with

**Julia di Bonaventura-WFD Specialist.**

**Office hours by appointment:**

Wednesday 11:00AM-1:00PM

Thursday 2:00PM-4:00PM

To make an appointment, email us at [bwhwfd@partners.org](mailto:bwhwfd@partners.org), call 857-307-3738, or stop by our office at 741 Huntington Ave.



### Celebrating Earth Day

Earth Day is a Birthday! Just like a birthday is a special day to celebrate a person, Earth Day is a special day that celebrates the Earth. Earth Day began on April 22, 1970, and has been an important day ever since. It's a day to reflect on our planet, our environment, and what we can do to help keep them healthy.

RTH After School children support the formation and continuation of this special day. And this makes sense! Children have the most important stake in keeping our planet healthy. We celebrated at the Farrington Farms Nature Linc and did some outside activities to promote our planet.



# Celebrating Earth Day

*Stephanie Ellis, After School Program and Summer Enrichment Director*

During Earth Day on April 22, 2015, the After School Program children went on a field trip to Farrington Nature Linc in Lincoln, MA. They explored nature by hiking through the woods, climbing the rocks, and watching the fish. They enjoyed themselves while learning about the natural world.



## JEREMIAH PROGRAM

*Emilia Diamant, Executive Director, Boston,  
Jeremiah Program-Endicott*

The Jeremiah Program is thrilled to be working in partnership with RTH to provide empowerment classes and life skills coaching to residents. Our course, which began on July 9th, is one of the hallmarks of what we do. Jeremiah, based in Minneapolis, is committed to transforming single-parent families two generations at a time. With eleven participants to start, we are looking forward to a summer of Empowerment, taught by our wonderful professor Nicole Bingham. The empowerment course helps participants identify goals, obstacles to their goals, and gives them a supportive community to help process the challenges of their daily lives. Empowerment is one of the hallmarks of the Jeremiah Program approach, which focuses on preparing determined single mothers to succeed in the workforce, ready their children to succeed in school, and reduce generational dependence on public assistance.

In Boston, Jeremiah is in close partnership with Endicott College's Boston campus. Jeremiah-Endicott is working together to help single parents succeed in college by providing tutoring, financial counseling, life skills coaching, and community building activities. Endicott understands the unique challenges facing parents in college, and works with students to help make graduation real.

As we grow and explore the prospects of what it means to be a non-profit supporting single parents in Boston, Jeremiah is looking for highly motivated applicants who want to go to college and change their families long-term path towards one of prosperity and financial independence. After our first class this summer, we anticipate another round of Empowerment here at RTH beginning in January 2016. Our Executive Director, Emilia Diamant, will be at the Block Party and other community events over the coming weeks, so please introduce yourself to her and learn more about the program if you think you might be interested in what we do.

Working with Roxanne, Cherie, Karen, and the entire RTH crew has been a joy so far, and Jeremiah-Endicott Boston cannot wait to continue the partnership, and see it grow.

*If you would like to know more about the Jeremiah Program here at RTH and what it could mean for you and your family, please contact either Roxanne Haecker at 617-232-4306 ext 504 or rhaecker@roxburytenants.org or Cherie Milton at 617-232-4306 ext 500 or cmilton@roxburytenants.org.*

## RTH ANNUAL MEETING Election 2015

Since 1969, when Roxbury Tenants of Harvard (RTH) was born out of a grass roots struggle for survival against institutional expansion and the displacement of working class Mission Hill residents, RTH has been resident-controlled. For over 40 years, RTH-our non-profit organization-has been governed by community residents elected by their neighbors to serve on the RTH Board of Directors. We've created a safe and diverse neighborhood noted for strong community participation, numerous services, and a high quality of life that is envied by many less fortunate communities.

RTH residents gather each year in June for an annual meeting to review the previous year's successes and challenges, to get updated on the organization's financial position, and to elect members to the RTH Board of Directors. This year's turnout was exciting with 334 voting tags issued, 307 ballots counted. It was gratifying to see so many young residents participating for the first time, as well as so many voters from all parts of the RTH neighborhood- ONRA, FFH, and Restoration Housing- in addition to Mission Park. This is how democracy- government by the people- works!

### The 2015 Vote Totals *\*newly elected\**

Jacquie Boston *	161 votes
Danielle Cunningham*	146 votes
Rebecca Hill *	143 votes
Irma Diaz *	139 votes
Kyle Wu *	139 votes
Sophia Deng *	137 votes
Jennifer Diaz	133 votes
John Jack Anderson	117 votes
Billy Sullivan	116 votes
Theresa Naranjo	102 votes
Stephen Clune	76 votes
Jouse Perez	44 votes

Thank you to Jennifer Diaz, Jack Anderson, Bill Sullivan, Theresa Naranjo, Steve Clune, and Jouse Perez for spirited runs and for your commitment to the RTH community. You are community leaders, too, and we applaud your

*continued on backpage*

## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Roxanne Haecker

An important part of the RTH mission is the economic advancement of its resident members. We have resources available to help you reach your goals of learning English, finishing high school, going to college, training for a job with good wages and benefits and a career path, building assets, buying a home, creating a strong foundation for your family to prosper.

**ESOL-** English is the lingua franca of the business world and English language proficiency is a prerequisite for many training programs and jobs. You will make more money if you are able to speak and write English! We have beginning, intermediate, and English for the Workplace evening classes here at RTH. Do you need daytime classes? Let us know. If we have sufficient enrollment, we will schedule a class during the day.

**Hi-Set** (formerly called GED). We have practice tests in English and Spanish to help you determine your readiness to take the Hi-Set tests. Have you been out of school of a while and now you're afraid that you've forgotten things? Don't worry, all testing is private and confidential and we meet you where you are and work from there. Not ready to take the tests? We can refer you to a nearby class or help you prepare with a tutor. You can prepare for and test in each subject area separately and at your pace. Upon successful completion of your high school equivalency, you will be eligible for many training programs, Pell Grants, and the RTH/BWH Believe and Achieve Scholarship.

**RTH/BWH Believe and Achieve Scholarship-** ready or college or a job training program? This scholarship awards up to \$4,000 to RTH residents attending post-secondary

schooling or pursuing job training. Applications are available on the RTH website, [www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org), at the Betty Powers Library & Computer Center, and at the Resident Services offices at 2 New Whitney Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the Duggan Building lobby.

**Job training-** By adopting a sector approach to workforce development and working with existing program such as JVS, Training Inc., Asian CDC, and others who all have successful track records and employer/business partnerships, we plan to focus on three areas- medical and allied health, financial/banking/administrative assisting, maintenance & facilities/construction- helping RTH residents gain skills and training for sectors where there are actually jobs.

Sector Focus on health related jobs training include Home Health Aides, Certified Patient Assistants, Unit Coordinators, Medical Billing Clerks, and MASCO Call Center Operators.

Sector Focus on Financial and Banking services include Banking administrative assistants, clerks and office coordinators.

Sector Focus on Construction and facilities & maintenance includes training for entry level construction positions, building facilities and maintenance positions and an opportunity for training as an electrician.

Residents are not limited to these choices! We are happy to assist you to gain access to training in other areas.

**Asset building-** What are assets? Income, good credit, a bank account, education, a job with a career path, home ownership, social capital- these are all assets. RTH is offering

financial literacy classes and workshops to help you learn to Save for a Goal, to find out what your credit score is and repair your credit if necessary (Did you know that many employers now check your credit score as part of their hiring process?), to deal with CORI issues, and to set up bank accounts. We also have **Homebuyers 101** classes on site that can help qualify you for a low interest mortgage and to receive funding from RTH and from the City of Boston to purchase an affordable home. Our **Match Savings Club** enables you to save money for the down-payment and closing costs for your home purchase. If you are an RTH resident who buys in the new Mosaic on the Riverway building, RTH will match 2 to 1 up to \$1800. You save \$1800, RTH matches that with \$3600. Want to buy outside RTH? RTH will match 1 to 1- you save \$1800. RTH matches with \$1800 contribution.

**Social capital** as an asset is often overlooked or not counted as such, but it is important and can make a big difference in helping to reach your goals. Links, shared values and understandings between family, friends, and community that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so to work together, to support each other- that is social capital. No one really ever makes it all on their own. Yes, they've worked hard, but they've also had support. We have many opportunities to build social capital here at RTH- family nurturing programs, social events, wellness and exercise classes, committees, community meetings, and the everyday opportunity of "doing unto others as you would have done to you." Let's help each other to strengthen our community so we all have a better future.

example of civic engagement!

The continued success of our rare and wonderful, resident-controlled organization depends upon the participation of educated, civic-minded residents who know RTH's history and understand how our non-profit organization works through its By-Laws. The By-Laws Sub-Committee has been working over the past year to update the By-Laws. When the proposed changes are complete and reviewed by the Board and our attorney, they will be shared with the entire community for review before they are voted on.

We need community leaders who believe that RTH residents themselves know best what programs and services we need and want for our children, our seniors, our families, ourselves. We need community leaders and Board members who believe that RTH residents know best what values we hold and what kind of neighborhood and community we want to be. We need the confidence in our ability to govern RTH that comes through knowledge and education!

Please join the Community Dialogues that are coming this fall, join committees, and come to community meetings to find out what is happening and to express your views.

Every RTH resident has a seat at the table and we need you!



## GREATER BOSTON SENIOR GAMES: BOWLING

*Laura Adams, Senior Programs Director*



*Ana Colon, Laura Adams, William Sullivan, Joani Reed, Jacqueline Crenshaw, and John Clune*

The RTH Senior Department is proud to announce that our residents brought home 10 medals from the Greater Boston Senior Bowling Games held on Friday, May 15th at Boston Bowl. If any senior is interested in joining our Bowling program, please call Laura Adams at (617) 232-4306 ext. 700.

Bowling is a great workout!

### RTH Board of Directors

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