



# Telstar

ROXBURY TENANTS OF HARVARD PUBLICATION

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen T. Gately



Story/Craft Time



RTH Block Festival  
(see page 3)



National Night Out  
see page 6

RTH YOUTH COUNCIL

see page 5

**ROXBURY TENANTS OF  
HARVARD  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

11 New Whitney Street  
Boston, MA 02115

The RTH community is characterized by principles and practices which acknowledge that diversity encompasses all races, gender, color, religion, ethnic origin, lifestyles, physical/mental ability, age, economic status and cultural differences. We strive to be open and accepting to all people.

We welcome and celebrate the broad dimensions of diversity which make up our community. Every day we strive to create an environment of inclusion of people of many diverse backgrounds. We recognize and appreciate the intrinsic value of all people within our community as reflected in our program offerings and wide variety of special events. This became very evident to me as we celebrated at our Music on the Plaza; a multicultural event commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington “I Have A Dream” speech by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. It was a very uplifting event that spoke to all of us regardless of our experiences and personal struggles dealing with prejudices.

Together, as a neighborhood, I felt we found a renewed energy and direction in the voices of our community that expect RTH to remain significant, relevant and viable. We, as an organization, continue to be committed to fulfilling our mission through practices of inclusion and strive to ensure that the rich gifts of diversity are reflected, respected, and celebrated.

Many people today still yearn for equality, opportunity, and fair treatment. I am proud to be the executive director for a place with people that care about the big important questions.... What is your Dream? Does the ordinary person, day to day, have what they need to succeed? How do we give opportunity to everybody so if they work they hard can make it? What issues would get you to march?

*continued on page 2*



Music on the Plaza commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington  
Carol Menton, Tom Cornu, Beverly Moss, Karen Gately, Dr. Mel King,  
Michelle Yarde, Margaret King, Jacqueline Boston (see page 4)

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF



**Stephanie Ellis**

My name is Stephanie Ellis, and I am writing to introduce myself as the new After School and Summer Enrichment Program Director at RTH. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to join the RTH community, and I look forward to getting to know you and your children in the coming months!

I am a former Substitute teacher in Weymouth Public Schools and Braintree Public Schools. In addition, I bring to my new RTH position ten years of experience directing after school programs for elementary school students in Boston. I graduated in August 2010 with a B.A. in Psychology, and I am working to complete my Master's degree in Guidance Counseling. I took classes in Mandarin and look forward to practicing and speaking the language.

My overall SACC experience comes from the YMCA of Greater Boston, primarily from serving as the director of the Wang YMCA of Chinatown's School-Age Child Care (SACC) and summer Camp Program. Under my leadership the camp program grew by 25%, from 80 campers per week to over 100 children per week. Both the camp and SACC programs experienced significant improvements in staff development and training, curriculum development and implementation, and overall improved organization and satisfaction through my leadership.

I am excited to work with our RTH team of after school staff and volunteers to develop new exciting learning opportunities for your children, and I look forward to speaking with all of you in the near future about your goals and suggestions for the program.

Please feel free to stop by for a tour or to find out how you might get involved as a volunteer.

*message from Executive Director*

*continued from page 1*

We all have a duty to make sure the world keeps dreaming...for better things and a better world for all.

Please consider joining your neighbor at one of our many upcoming programs or events. Also let us know if you have any suggestions for new program offerings. The RTH program staff is committed to offering the best possible experience.

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 make this an even better community!

Special thanks to Dr. Mel King and Tom Cornu and the Boston Community Choir. Congratulations to our residents, staff and volunteers: Cyrus Alexander, Waipor (Richard) Cheng, Donghui (Sophia) Deng, Marie-Claire Dumornay, Roxanne Haecker, Sara Harris, Rebecca Hill, Edgar Howe, Helen Hui, Beverly Moss, Ian Struthers, and Susan Wladkowski for helping to coordinate this wonderful event commemorating the March on Washington.



**Carol Menton**

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Carol Menton and I am the new President of the RTH Board of Directors. I have served on the RTH Board for the past 6 years, and I am also the chairperson of the Community Events Committee.

I moved to Mission Hill from Brookline in 1979 with my mom and dad and we became residents of RTH in Restoration Housing on Fenwood Road. In 1983 I moved into the co-op now known as ONRA where I have lived for the past 30 years.

In the early 80's, I began working at the RTH Children's Center. After the Children's Center, I became an RTH Assistant Youth Director and the Youth Director. I eventually went to work for the Town of Brookline.

In 1992 my Dad passed away and my Mom moved back to Brookline. I thought I would follow, but as you can see that did not happen. I realized that this was my home and that I had made many friends here and as a bonus had gained a great family.



*Dancing to the music at the Block Festival (see page 3)*

## ANNUAL BLOCK FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

Laura Adams, Community Events Coordinator



Joe O'Farrell, Project Manager (Brigham and Women's Hospital), Karen Gately, RTH Executive Director, Carol Menton, RTH Board President, Vincent McDermott, Vice President of Finance & Real Estate (Brigham and Women's Hospital)

On Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of residents came out to enjoy this year's RTH Hawaiian themed Block Festival. Community events members and volunteers wore colorful t-shirts, leis, and grass skirts. Each guest was greeted with a Hawaiian lei. This is the biggest community event of the year. Several residents told me this was the best festival ever.

Tex's BBQ catered the event, which was generously donated by Brigham and Women's Hospital, live entertainment was provided by the band "Hipshot" who energized the crowd with their music throughout the day, flea market tables lined New Whitney Street, and

there were many activities for the children to choose from.

Many residents displayed incredible talent in the RTH Idol contest. Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners, **Ciara Andrade, Ta'Kerria Sherrod-Greene, and Jayda Haygood**, (*The Cutie Pies Dance Troupe*), 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners, **Mario Maltos and Jordan Randolph**, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner **Jianna Stalling**.

RTH would like to thank the RTH Block Festival committee, RTH Staff members, Brigham and Women's Hospital, T.G. O'Connor, Trinity Management, and Securitas for contributing to make this year's festival a huge success. We couldn't have done it without you!



Donghui 'Sophia' Deng and Beverly Moss at the annual RTH Block Festival

### SECOND TIME AROUND FAMILY NURTURING

Cherie Milton, Resident Services

Resident Services is proud to announce that RTH has been awarded a second FNP grant! The first round was a great success and concluded with a graduation ceremony where each participant was awarded a certificate for growth and accomplishments.

We are very proud of all the families that participated. The facilitators did a wonderful job working with the families. Special thanks to Marta Franklin, Roxanne Heacker, and Cherie Milton for writing the grant that made this program a reality.

Please contact Cherie Milton with any question you may have at 617-232-0204.

*RTH families and Bamidele Dancers and Drummers celebrate Community at this-season's first Family Night Owls gathering.*

*Family Night Owls meet the last Friday of every month. Join other RTH families for supper and entertainment. Call Roxanne Haecker 617-232-0955 for further information*



## MARCH ON WASHINGTON CELEBRATION

Beverly Moss, Technology Director



*The Boston Community Choir*

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

Fifty years ago, on August 28, 1963, one of many American protests led by Dr. Martin Luther King, became the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Many Americans girded for turmoil, bedlam and chaos. Many predicted that it would be “impossible” for Negroes to petition in large numbers without civil disorder. The Kennedy Administration deployed over 4,000 riot troops near downtown Washington, with 15,000 paratroopers on alert, liquor sales were banned for the first time since prohibition, local hospitals canceled elective surgery to save beds, and two major league baseball games were postponed. Thousands of people, of all ages, arrived in Washington via buses, cars, trains and planes, singing Negro spirituals and gospel hymns. It is estimated that a quarter of a million people, many who were white, marched peacefully from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial.

That event is now remembered as one of the most important symbols of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. In the early 1960s, segregation, or the separation of people by race, was accepted in many parts of the U.S., particularly the South. Black people and white people could not attend the same schools, sit next to each other on buses, or even use the same water fountains. Businesses often refused to hire people based solely on the color of their skin.

The purpose of this march was to focus attention on President Kennedy’s Civil Rights Bill which would ban racial discrimination in public facilities, increase protection for African American voting rights, provide protection for demonstrators against police brutality, a public-works program to provide jobs, an increase in the minimum wage, and strengthen the federal government’s ability to enforce desegregation of public schools.

RTH celebrated this momentous occasion with Music on the Plaza which featured comments from Dr. Mel King and Tom Cornu, who participated in the 1963 march, performances by our resident poet and songstress, Barbara Clerke, and the Phoenix Towards the Sun Singing and Dancing Group. The celebration ended with a hand-clapping, foot stomping, inspiring concert of gospel music performed by the Boston Community Choir.



*RTH resident, Barbara Clerke performs at the March on Washington Celebration*



*March on Washington Celebration*



*Enjoying the RTH Ice Cream Social  
Levinson Plaza*

Don't forget to

# VOTE

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

## RESIDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Beverly Moss, Technology Director



Mission Hill artist Marilyn Jan Casey is a modern spiritual expressionist. Marilyn has been a resident of RTH for 13 years. She

worked for a year in the RTH After School Program doing art projects. "I decided that I needed more education to help the children in my community."

Marilyn is a member of the Mission Hill Artists Collective (MHAC) which focuses on providing opportunities for artists to display their work in the community.

Although she suffered a spinal cord injury, it didn't stop Casey from earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2008 and earning 14 honors from the school. While there she also won the George Nick Award and the Black Hall Achievement Award from Bridgewater College. Some of her art her has been displayed in multiple solo exhibitions in Boston and with other artists.

"I valued life more after my injury because I could've been gone," Casey said. "I was grateful to God for saving my life so I decided to share the gift God gave me." Casey's art "Modern Spiritual Expressions" is currently being exhibited at Sparr's (at the corner of Huntington and Longwood Avenues). Just recently her art was on display at the Parker Hill Branch Library in Mission Hill, where a large crowd of her friends and neighbors gathered last month for her artist's reception. Casey describes her work as "filled with love," and said she hopes

*continued on page 6*

## YOUTH BUILDING COMMUNITY

Edgar Howe, Youth Director



The Youth Building Communities program run by the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard's Youth Department enrolled 15 youth for a summer experience of job readiness, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, community development, volunteering, and fun field trips. The program is designed for youth who have out grown summer camp and are too young to work a summer job. The youth were provided a combination of learning opportunities in job readiness skills and community development through a volunteer experience at the Jewish Memorial Rehabilitation Center with a weekly stipend of twenty dollars. The youth also completed two Junior Achievement curriculums in Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship and six Artful Adventure workshops at the Museum of Fine Arts to learn how art and design fit into the world of work. Lastly, the youth were taken on several fun filled field trips to Laser Quest to play laser tag, the IMAX theatre to see GO Bots, Metro Rock for rock climbing, the Kroc Center to splash around their indoor aquatics center, and Fire & Ice for a tasty lunch. All our youth had a blast on the field trips, and the learning opportunities have prepared them to seek summer jobs in the future.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

The Roxbury Tenants of Harvard's youth council completed three initiatives this past spring and summer. The recycling initiative, which began in 2012, finally came to completion this past July with the help of the facilities department. The youth council members for the past year promoted recycling to the residents in the townhouses, and recorded the names of those interested in receiving a big blue bin. The facilities department agreed to purchase the bins and stencil street addresses on the bins for residents. When the bins arrived youth council members delivered them to the townhouses for a total of 100.

The youth council collaborated with the senior department for an intergenerational game night on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The game night was well attended and the intent was to bring youth and senior residents together to socialize playing board games.

The final initiative the youth council participated in was the Climb America Challenge. Nine youth members committed themselves to train for the Climb America Challenge by climbing the stairs in the Levenson building once a week. All in preparation for the Brigham and Women's Climbathon held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 100 Summer Street in downtown Boston.

## RTH CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Laura Adams, Community Events Coordinator

National Night Out is an annual national event, designed to strengthen communities by encouraging neighborhood residents to engage in stronger relationships with each other.

This year RTH staff, RTH board members, and residents worked with Trinity Management and Securitas Security Services to create a fun and informative National Night out community event on Tuesday, August 6th. This year's NNO theme was "Bike Safety". Residents watched a slide show which included safety tips to use while riding a bike. There was a question and answer game led by Sal DeMarco, Director of Security, and the winners won gift certificates.

Residents made their own ice cream sundaes and their creations put smiles

*Resident in the Spotlight*

the people will feel that love as they view her work. The exhibit covered more than a decade of work and featured 24 colorful paintings and black, white and gray drawings inspired by Casey's family and Black History.

"I don't think we have enough art work covering Black History. When I was going to college they sent me to the museum but I didn't see any black art work there, so I decided to focus my talent on Black art work.

My dream is to have a fashion show with RTH because I believe that it will get the whole community involved. I believe volunteerism is very important to the growth and stability of a community."

on all their faces !

Sal DeMarco and his team designed an obstacle course for the bike rodeo where the kids had to demonstrate the safe bike riding skills they had learned. The winner received a Nintendo 3DS and a video game!

There was a neighborhood walk led by Stella Wong and Yin Sim Chan, two of our RTH Walk leaders, around the RTH properties. "I enjoyed the walk tremendously. Next year, I hope to have a neighborhood parade.

Many thanks to the RTH Community Events Committee, RTH resident volunteers, Trinity Management Company, Securitas, and to everyone who made this wonderful event possible by donating their time, energy and/or money for supplies and prizes.

*continued from page 5*

## FREE CLASSES

Helen Hui, Education Specialist

### ESOL Classes

Do you want to learn English to help advance employment opportunities, career potential and enable you to provide better quality life?

**Beginner Class:** Mondays & Fridays  
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Workplace Class:** Tuesdays and  
Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Advanced Class:** Fridays  
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Saturdays 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Levinson Multipurpose Room, 835 Huntington Ave. (rear)

### Citizenship Class

The U.S Citizenship test does not have to be complicated and stressful. RTH provides citizenship classes to make it easy to understand and you will be prepared to pass the new U.S Citizenship Test and Interview!

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
2 New Whitney Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

If you are interested in enrolling in either class, please contact Helen Hui at 617-232-0400 or visit her at the Parks Community Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

Intro to Computers  
Computer Basics  
offered in English, Chinese, &  
Spanish

Library Computer Center  
25 Mission Park Drive  
call 617-738-8220  
for more information



*Phoenix Sun Rising Singing and Dancing Group performed during the 50th Anniversary of the March on Wasington celebration*

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM (ISEE)

The Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE), the most advanced admission test available for independent schools, is used throughout the U.S., internationally, and for the City of Boston's Exam Schools. Thousands of students seek entry to Boston's three exam schools each year - only approximately four hundred will be invited to attend in any given year. The RTH ISEE Test Prep Class has prepared 22 students so far, 13 have been accepted to Boston's exam schools!



## TECH GOES HOME AT RTH

The goals of this program is to help adults acquire 21st century technology skills, to empower residents to advocate for themselves and their communities, and to help individuals to take advantage of the internet to live, learn, earn, work, and play in the city of Boston.

The program helps families gain access to the skills, hardware, and broadband (Internet) needed for 21st century success. It involves 20 hours of free computer training. The classes include topics such as how to find a job online, how to secure a professional email, and how to find online family resources. The program also helps those who are eligible to get *low-cost* Internet access via [www.connectingboston.org](http://www.connectingboston.org). At the end of the 20 hours, participants have the option of purchasing a brand new netbook for \$50. Register Today!

Classes begin **November 5, 2013**

Tuesday and Thursday

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information call Beverly Moss at 617-738-8220 or email her at [bmoss@roxburytenants.org](mailto:bmoss@roxburytenants.org).

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



### TAKE BACK THE KITCHEN

This program was conducted by the Haley House and introduced our young people to the power of cooking from scratch and making other healthy life-style decisions.



## RTH AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

**Stephanie Ellis, AfterSchool Program and Summer Enrichment Program Director**

The After School Program offers a safe and supportive learning environment for children to work on their homework, participate in enrichment activities, and grow and develop with friends in their own community! Some of the activities include reading, computer classes, art projects, and much more.

Priority is given to RTH residents. Children must be enrolled in K2-5th grade to participate. Open enrollment. First come, first serve!

**Cost:** Based on income or childcare vouchers accepted.

**Place:** 835 Huntington Avenue

Levinson Building

**Time:** 2:00 – 6:00 pm Monday- Friday

Please call Stephanie Ellis, After School Program Director 617-232-9222 or email her at [sellis@roxburytenants.org](mailto:sellis@roxburytenants.org).



**SENIOR DROP-IN**

Monday- Friday  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Flynn House 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
805 Huntington Avenue

Stop by and enjoy a cup  
of coffee with your neigh-  
bors, and enjoy some lively  
conversation

For more information call  
617-566-4025

**LUNCH FOR \$1.00**

Enjoy lunch at the Brigham  
& Women's Cafeteria on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Each coupon is worth \$7.00.  
Coupons are available the  
last week of the preceding  
month. Call Theresa Parks at  
617-739-7433 or Laura  
Adams at 617-566-4025

**TUTORS AVAILABLE**

visit the Homework Center  
Parks Community Bldg.  
Monday - Friday  
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

After School Program	617-232-9222
Community Building	617-232-0400
Community Events	617-566-4025
Facilities Department	617-566-1534
Flynn Kitchen	617-739-7433
Flynn 7th Floor	617-734-2334
Library/Computer Center	617-738-8220
Mission Park Garage	617-732-6334
ONRA Management	617-232-1399
Resident Services	617-232-0204
RTH Executive Office	617-232-4306
S-C Management	617-232-5910
Security	617-731-6972
Trinity Management	617-566-0707
Youth Department	617-232-0400

**TAXI COUPONS**

On sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday  
of every month (10:30  
a.m.). Purchase \$10 worth  
of tickets for \$5.00.

For more information call  
Theresa Parks at 617-739-  
7433 or Laura Adams at  
617-566-4025

**BEGINNER BALLROOM  
DANCE CLASS**

Every Sunday,  
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Parks Community Bldg.  
2 New Whitney Street

**BINGO**

Join your neighbors every  
Tuesday & Thursday  
at 2 p.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> floor Flynn House

**TRANSLATION**

Cantonese - Russian

Spanish

Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Flynn Kitchen

805 Huntington Avenue

**CHINESE FOLK DANCE CLASS**

designed for ages 5 years and  
older.

Sundays 10 a.m. - 11:30  
a.m.

Parks Community Bldg.  
2 New Whitney Street.

**FREE**

**STORY/CRAFT TIME**

ages 3-6

Saturdays 12:30 p.m. - 1:30  
p.m.

Explore new books, create a  
fun craft related to the book  
to take home home and  
enjoy a

Library/Computer Center  
25 Mission Park Drive

**HEALTH AND SAFETY  
MEETINGS**

held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of  
every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Parks Community Building  
2 New Whitney Street**

The next two meetings are

November 13, 2013

December 11, 2013

All residents are encouraged  
to attend!

Do you have an idea or  
suggestion for an article for  
the newsletter?  
Contact Beverly Moss at  
617-738-8220

**DANCE WITH LATICIA**

Children ages 6 - 12

Sundays, 12 p.m. - 1:30  
p.m.

Parks Community Bldg.  
2 New Whitney St

**NEW! FREE!**

**ROXBURY TENANTS OF  
HARVARD**

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