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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Sonsie celebrates 30 years on Newbury Street

By Dan Murphy

A longtime fixture on Newbury Street known for its eclectic international menu and welcoming outdoor patio, Sonsie is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 8.

The restaurant at 327 Newbury St. boasts a European lounge, replete with deep leather chairs and sofas and a downstairs Wine Room, which features a walk-in, temperature-controlled, glass wine cellar. Its distinct French doors open up to an outdoor patio in season, making it one of the prime spots on Newbury Street to enjoy al dente dining, with offerings from the brick oven, along with Sonsie's signature martinis, among other libations.

Ahead of the milestone anniversary, Patrick Lyons, owner of the Lyons Group, which owns and operates Sonsie, along with 20 other restaurants, including several other Back Bay estab-

(SONSIE *Pg. 3*)

CITY CELEBRATES 82ND ANNUAL LIGHTING OF COMMON HOLIDAY TREE

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston and representatives from the Boston Parks Department on Thursday, Nov. 30, for the 82nd annual lighting of the Boston Common holiday tree – a 45-foot white spruce. Each year, a tree is delivered to the city from Nova Scotia as a token of appreciation for Boston's help after two military ships collided in Halifax Harbor in 1917, resulting in an explosion that killed approximately 2,000.

REPEAL NIGHT AT THE GIBSON HOUSE

Jessica Sciullo with Gibson House Board Members Sam Duncan and Susan Ashbrook shown during a prohibition-themed fundraiser party at the Gibson House on Dec. 1. See more photos on Page 5.

Boston icon, Tom Kershaw, turns 85

By Dan Murphy

A true Boston icon, Tom Kershaw, the venerable Beacon Hill businessman and philanthropist, as well as longtime owner of Hampshire House whose basement pub inspired the classic sitcom, 'Cheers,' turned 85 on Friday, Dec. 1.

In 1969, Kershaw, then a 30-year-old recent graduate of Harvard Business School, said he "did some psychological testing on what his career path might be," and "the results came back: hospitality, hospitality, hospitality." He initially considered going to work for one of the major hotel chains in the city until a colleague from the Junior Chamber of Commerce suggested to Kershaw that he go into business for himself instead. Later that same year, Kershaw, together with fellow Harvard Business School grad Jack Vesey, assumed ownership of the Hampshire House and took over its existing cocktail lounge, dining room, function room and 12 hotel rooms before beginning to look for ways to improve the property.

They had a bar custom-built in England, which was shipped back to the U.S. and installed in its current location in the basement of the Hampshire House, and the Bull & Finch Pub opened on Dec. 1, 1969 – Kershaw's 31st birthday.

(In 1972, Kershaw and Vesey opened The Landing on Marblehead Harbor, and Kershaw subsequently traded his interest in The Landing with Vesey for his interest in the Hampshire House.)

In 1981, the creative team behind the TV series "Taxi," and which also included director and

(KERSHAW *Pg. 9*)

EDITORIAL

PEARL HARBOR WAS 82 YEARS AGO BUT HAS LESSONS FOR US TODAY

It was 82 years ago this week that the nation of Japan launched its attack on the United States at the Pearl Harbor Naval base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Japan. Germany and Italy, allies of Japan who collectively were known as the Axis, then declared war on the U.S., setting the stage for World War II, the most destructive war in world history.

A total of 407,316 American soldiers made the Supreme Sacrifice (in addition to more than 10,000 members of the Merchant Marine) and another 671,278 were wounded in battlefronts stretching from Africa to the European continent to the jungle islands of the Pacific over the next three and one-half years before the German and Japanese war machines finally were subdued.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed most of the rest of the world in the aftermath of the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. By the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. Americans had no appetite for re-engaging in another conflict just 23 years removed from the memories of World War I that still were fresh in our nation's psyche. But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand. Although the United State had re-instituted the draft some months prior to Pearl Harbor and had ramped up our military production capabilities, the suddenness of the Japanese sneak attack still came as a shock to every American.

Americans realized that thanks to the capabilities of modern armaments such as Japanese aircraft carriers and German U-boats, even the continental United States was not insulated from an attack by a foreign enemy. Citizens on the West Coast braced for a Japanese invasion in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and curfews were instituted on the Eastern Seaboard.

Thanks to the countless number of documentaries and movies over the past 25 years that have told the stories of the brave Americans who fought in WWII, we are fortunate to have a living history of the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation.

In 1941, the Axis of Evil was formed by Germany under Hitler, Italy under Mussolini, and Japan under Tojo. Eighty-two years later, we similarly are facing a new Axis of Evil: Putin in Russia, Xi in China, and Ayatollah Khameini in Iran (including its terrorist proxies of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis), who are threatening the peace and security of democracies and freedom-loving people everywhere.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free. We always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life. That is a lesson that is as true today as it was in 1941.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Thursday evening, December 7, and will culminate on Friday, December 15.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes. Needless to say, in the aftermath of the events of October 7, as well as the appalling subsequent increase in anti-semitic incidents in America and around the world, Hanukkah this year will have special meaning for Jews the world over.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season and we join them in solidarity against anti-semitism in all its forms.

GUEST OP-ED

Exclusive interview with Charlie on the MBTA

(A take-off on the Kingston Trio's 1959 classic song, 'Charlie on the MTA')

By Alison Barnet

AB: Let me tell you the story of a man named Charlie who recently returned to Boston and took a ride on—not the MTA— but the MBTA. What brings you back to Boston, Charlie? I thought you would never return!

Charlie: Well, I'm here to visit my sister who still lives in Chelsea and my cousin in Rox-ber-ry. The family's so spread out I've done nothing but ride forever 'neath the streets of Boston since I got here. I even changed for Jamaica Plain—by mistake.

AB: Poor Charlie, you've been through a lot in your couple of days here. What's your opinion of the MBTA?

Charlie: You know, these are tragic and fateful days—far from that conductor back in the Sixties telling me "One more nickel," and I couldn't get off that train. You've got long-overdue track work, service suspensions, ceilings caving in, and all those slow zones. Riding the T is not comfortable at all. I almost got hit with a guy's backpack, and the people on both sides of me were driving me crazy yakking loudly on their cell phones. Too bad it's illegal to touch the driver! My opinion is that the MBTA's fate is still unlearned!

AB: So I want to know what you think of our CharlieCard? You must be flattered.

Charlie: Flattered?! You've got to be kidding! You know how they show me holding on to my hat with my left hand, my tie flying, and holding that green thing up with my right? Well, that green thing isn't a ticket; it's a folder of legal documents. I'm suing! Not only did they defame me, using my good name in vain, they completely missed the point. The old Charlie was a victim, a symbol of protest, not some goofy Forties suit type! My name's all over the danged place but it just makes me feel like shouting: Get poor Charlie off the MBTA!

AB: I wonder if you've been on any MBTA buses since you've been here.

Charlie: &*(^#@! One day, I waited half an hour for the so-called #1 bus. They ought to call it the Minus 1. When it finally came, it was packed to the gills, and I couldn't even get close to a window to hold on to my hat and wave my pretend pass. You know how my wife used to hand me a sandwich through an open window? Well, today, even if the windows could open, she'd have to shove it past two dozen riders as the bus goes rumblin' through. It's a scandal how the people, even us elderly, have to pay and pay—and then can't even get on!

AB: So, Charlie, any other MBTA thoughts?

Charlie: I decided the heck with buses, I'll take the train. Well, one night my grandson was due in at the airport, and I wanted to be there to meet him, so I studied the new subway map and figured the best way was to take what they call the Silver Line. So what comes along? A bus! I'm on this bus that calls itself a line and we're nowhere near the airport, and the plane is due to land! Now all night long, he's crying, "What will become of me?"

AB: Oh, Charlie, will you ever return?

Charlie: Will I ever return? No, I'll never return.

AB: Any last words for Boston?

Charlie: I'll see ya in court!

Alison Barnet is a longtime South End resident and author of five books on the neighborhood's history.

THE BOSTON SUN
PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY (STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)
MARKETING DIR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)
REPORTER: DAN MURPHY, DMRPH4@GMAIL.COM
ART DIR: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT

News in Brief

EVENING OF STORIES AND POETRY OF HOMELESSNESS COMING DEC. 6 TO COPLEY BPL

'Out Here 7: An evening with the Black Seed Writers,' featuring poetry and stories of homelessness and transition from the streets of Boston, takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. in the Rabb Auditorium at the Copley Square Branch of the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston St.

The event is free and open to the public.

YOUNG FRIENDS WINTER PARTY SET FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 8 AT 8 PARK ST.

The Young Friends of the Public Garden will hold its Young Friends Winter Party on Friday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.at 8 Park St., fifth floor.

Enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres overlooking the holiday lights in the #threeparks. Gather with friends, meet new ones, and spread festive cheer at this annual celebration benefiting our continued care and maintenance of the Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

It's holiday time, so come dressed to dazzle; no sneakers, jeans, or athletic attire will be permitted inside the venue.

Ticket cost $95 each and include two drink tickets and passed hors d'oeuvres. VIP tickets include four drink tickets, passed hors d'oeuvres, and two raffle tickets.

Visit https://friendsofthepublicgarden.org/2023/11/07/winter-party/ to purchase tickets and for more information on the event.

'STORY TIME WITH LIBRARIAN MARGARET COMING TO USES

Story Time with Librarian Margaret will take place on Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. at United South End Settlements, located at 48 Rutland St.

The program, which is presented in partnership with USES, welcomes babies to preschoolers and their caregivers to join in for stories, songs, dance, art, and play time (with *arts and crafts to follow for ages 2 years old and up) and is designed to draw children to love books, and to encourage interactive play with each other.

For more information, visit www.bpl.org.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE UNDERWAY IN THE FENWAY

The Boston Public Health Commission, in partnership with the Fenway Community Center, is holding a Winter Clothing drive.

The drop-off location is the Fenway Community Center at 1282 Boylston St. (enter off Jersey Street), and drop-off times includes on Mondays and Tuesdays through Dec. 19 from noon to 4 p.m.; on Thursdays from Nov. 30 to Dec. 21 from noon to 7 p.m.; and on Saturdays from Dec. 2-16 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Please bring your new or clean, gently worn clothing and shoes, and new warn winter clothing is particularly appreciated. New undergarments and socks will also be accepted.

For more information, email hello@fenwaycommunitycenter.org or visit www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

BOOK CLUB SET TO MEET DEC. 12 AT FOMU

The Scoop: Book Club -the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library's new book club – will meet on Dec. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. at FoMu Ice Cream at 655 Tremont St. (Purchases are encouraged but not required.)

November's book is "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich, and December's book will be "Five Tuesdays in Winter" by Lily King. Pick up a copy of November's book every Thursday in October at United South End Settlements or for December's book, every Thursday morning in November at USES, or send an email to schedule a pickup appointment. The eBook is also available on Hoopla Digital (with no waitlist).

To register, email southend@bpl.org.

DEC. 13 LECTURE AT ATHENAEUM LOOKS AT BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT

In conjunction with its "Developing Boston: Berenice Abbott

(News Briefs *Pg. 4)*

Sonsie *(from pg. 1)*

lishments, including Back Bay Social, Bar Moxy, and Summer Shack, reflected on Sonsie's enduring success.

"I think it is a consistent offering of popularly priced food and beverage that fits the needs of the local neighborhood," said Lyons via email.

Patrick Lyons, owner of the Lyons Group.

Sonsie has also stayed largely consistent with what made the restaurant so appealing to patrons in the first place while making occasional updates and revisions to the menu to meet the public's changing tastes.

"It has pretty much stayed the same in that it still serves the needs of the local community, but small adjustments have been put into place that recognize shifts and the whims and the desires of people, such as vegan and gluten free options," said Lyons.

Meanwhile, Sonsie is now facing more competition than it did upon opening in late 1993 as numerous new restaurants have opened in the Back Bay and citywide since then.

"When we opened Sonsie, there may have been a dozen similar restaurants in the city," said Lyons. "Today, with the explosion of construction and buildings, every new project has at least one and sometimes two or three restaurant spaces for lease. That means that there has been an exponential increase in the number of restaurants creating a much more competitive environment and a dearth of quality employees to staff all the new restaurants. Additionally, going out for dinner has become one of America's favorite pastimes and the home kitchen seems to be going the way of high button shoes so I don't see any stopping in the insanity of a new restaurant on every street corner."

Asked to speculate on the future of the restaurant industry, Lyons said: "I think the cost of entry into the restaurant industry is going thru the roof. Greedy landlords, equipment, and food costs are all making it very difficult to make it work. That means that you are going to see the national chains who can afford to burn the money and the quality, local operators will survive. We are lucky to have the same landlord, Sam Perry, who has stuck with us rather than sold out to a soulless national corporate entity and that is what has been able to give the consistency and continuity to our guests."

As he reflects on his past 30 years in business while looking ahead to the next chapter for the Lyons Group, Patrick Lyons said, "We have certainly grown. We employ a great many people in the city of Boston from the service side to middle management to executive management. We have had an environment where our loyal employees who have started as servers and bussers and they have moved up the food chains and are now middle management and beyond. We have expanded outside of Massachusetts over the past 30 years and that trend will likely continue."

To commemorate its 30th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 8, Sonsie will offer a special menu featuring classic menu offerings, as well as a "celebratory surprise."

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.sonsieboston.com.

COURTESY OF SONSIE.

Sonsie restaurant at 327 Newbury St.

Bangkok Bento seeking beer-and-wine-license

By Dan Murphy

A representative for Bangkok Bento Thai Kitchen and Sushi at 272 Newbury St. was on hand for the monthly meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee, which took place virtually on Monday, Dec. 4, to discuss the restaurant's proposal to secure to a beer-and-wine license for the premises.

The applicant, Wikanda Wiwitted, said she and her husband opened the Newbury Street restaurant in March. Its current hours of operation are 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., seven days a week, she said, while patrons dining in currently accounts for about 90 percent of the restaurant's business, with takeout orders comprising the remaining 10 percent of sales.

When Conrad Armstrong, LBU Committee chair, informed Wiwitted that she would need to provide a closing time on the business's application with the city for its beer-and-wine license, she said that the restaurant currently has a 10:30 p.m. closing time but has been closing an hour earlier because business has typically been waning in the later hours. Wiwitted indicated that if it's granted a beer-and-wine license, the restaurant might seek a later closing time on weekend nights.

Armstrong also informed Wiwitted that NABB would ask that the restaurant's small outdoor patio close no later than 10 p.m.; Wiwitted replied that would be "no problem at all."

Regarding trash removal, Wiwitted said trash is stored in a large, locked dumpster in the rear of the restaurant, which is removed from the premises every other day by a trash company.

Wiwitted said she and her husband also own another restaurant in Quincy, which was granted a beer-and-wine license last year.

Armstrong told Wiwitted that he would inform her of NABB's determination on her application via email by the end of next week.

D. MURPHY PHOTO

Bangkok Bento Thai Kitchen and Sushi at 272 Newbury St.

South Ender Gene Bolinger appointed to Boston Parks and Recreation Commission

Special to Sun

South End resident Gene Bolinger joined the Boston Parks and Recreation Commission = a seven-person review body appointed by the Mayor and created by a legislative act and a vote of the people of Boston in 1875 - on Oct. 20.

The Commission oversees the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and has authority over the properties in its inventory. The Commission also reviews projects that are within 100 feet of a park or parkway. The Commission typically meets on the last Monday of the month.

"I am honored to have been named to the Boston Parks and Recreation Commission," Bolinger said in a press release at the time of the announcement. "To my core, I believe that public parks are essential. Having spent my professional career as a landscape architect, working to improve public parks and open space assets in Boston and elsewhere, I now have a chance to contribute in a new way."

COURTESY OF CITY OF BOSTON

South Ender Gene Bolinger.

A Massachusetts native, Bolinger and his wife Sharon reside in the South End, and their two adult daughters are also Boston residents. Gene joined the Massachusetts-based environmental engineering firm Weston & Sampson in 1999 as the first landscape architect and estab-

(Bolinger *Pg. 5)*

News in Brief

Continued from Page 3

and Irene Shwachman Photograph A Changing City" exhibit running now through Dec. 30 in the Calderwood Gallery, the Boston Athenaeum at 10½ Beacon St. will offer "Photographic Coordinates: The Geographies of Abbott and Shwachman's Boston," set for Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m.

At this time, Garrett Dash Nelson, president and head curator of the Leventhal Map and Education Center at the Boston Public Library, will examine both how the sites captured by these photographers did (and did not) cover the various 'spatialities' of midcentury Boston and share historic map collections, which put this moment of urban change into its geographic context.

To register for and to learn more about the lecture, visit https://community.bostonathenaeum.org/s/events?event=a2K8a-0000077kVG.

The Athenaeum welcomes people of all abilities; email events@bostonathenaeum.org with any questions.

Visit bostonatheneum.com for more information.

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 17

Gibson House Museum at 137 Beacon St. will offer its annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come see the Gibson House decorated in all its finery, and experience 19th-century Christmas. Light seasonal refreshments will be served, and select rooms will be open for viewing. The event is free to attend, and no reservation is necessary.

WARD 4 DEMS TO HOLD HOLIDAY PARTY ON DEC. 19 AT KINGS BACK BAY

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will be hosting its annual holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at Kings Back Bay at 10 Scotia St.

There will be ample food, a cash bar, and a Bring Your Own Dessert (BYOD) competition. Donations will also be collected at this time for Boston Public Library's spice drive.

BPL seeking feedback on South End Branch design

The Boston Public Library needs your input on the South End Branch Library design process.

What would you like to see in a new building? Provide your branch improvement feedback by visiting bpl.org/south-end-project/ or email the Boston Public Library's Director of Neighborhood Services Priscilla Foley at pfoley@bpl.org.

CAROLING AND FIRST CHURCH OF BOSTON ON DEC. 16

On December 16 at 7:00pm, Director of Music Gigi Mitchell-Velasco leads the First Church Boston Choral Ensemble in a program featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. Other works by Whitacre, Lauridsen as well as carols from across the globe sung in Ukranian, Scottish Gaelic and Latin. Special guests include harpist Hyunjung Choi, cellist Eleanor Blake, and organist Heinrich Christensen. Free and open to the public.

Donations are welcome to benefit the Music Program of First Church Boston. Come for the beautiful music and stay for a carol sing, hot cider and cider donuts!

REPEAL NIGHT PROHIBITION-THEMED FUNDRAISER AT THE GIBSON HOUSE

A copy of a portrait of Almira Hammond, sister of Catherine Hammond Gibson who built Gibson House. The portrait has been acquired by the Gibson House and conservation efforts are ongoing to prepare it for display there.

Allison Martin and Christopher Amoroso.

Christopher Amoroso is served an old-school cocktail by bartender Alexander Albregts.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

Prohibition was ended 100 years ago in December 5th 1933. The Gibson House wanted to celebrate this anniversary with a party to help raise funds for its conservation and operational activities. Guests came dressed in historical garb and enjoyed the ambiance and atmosphere of the Victorian Era home, much maintained in its original state.

In the basement, Bartender Kitty served impressive libations.

In the basement, attendees enjoyed classic cocktails to celebrate alcohol's return 100 years ago.

Matt Driscoll and Ashley Howard.

Shown above, guests take in the Victorian charm and ambience of the Gibson House.

Shown right, some of the many Victorian era items on display at Gibson House.

Robert Demick speaks on the importance of maintaining the Gibson House.

Rose Kassim, Stacy Okada, and Kerry Miles pose in front of the Music Room.

BOLINGER *(from pg. 4)*

lished a vibrant landscape architecture practice. He helped the firm grow various business lines, and led, at times, the transportation, architecture, and municipal facilities practices in addition to landscape architecture.

For 38 years, Bolinger worked to improve public parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, athletic fields, and civic spaces through the capital planning and construction process. This included approximately 150 projects in the Boston Parks and Recreation system since 1984, the first being the reconstruction of the first pedestrian path on Boston Common, Railroad Mall, and the recently completed Master Plan for Boston Common. Bolinger retired from professional practice as a registered landscape architect in July 2022.

"We are pleased to welcome Gene Bolinger as an Associate Commissioner," Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said upon his appointment to the Commission in a press release. "Gene's history of participation in the protection, enhancement, and expansion of Boston's amazing park and open space system aligns with our goals to help provide safe, compelling, equitable and essential park and recreation facilities to all residents of our great city."

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TURNING ON THE COMMONWEALTH AVE MALL HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok, Chief of Environment Rev Mariama White Hammond, Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone, Mayor Michelle Wu, and Friends Of The Public Garden President Liz Vizza flip the switch to light up the Commonwealth Ave Mall.

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks Department again joined the Friends of the Public Garden and the all-volunteer Committee to Light the Commonwealth Avenue Mall on Thursday, Nov. 30, to flip the switch on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall holiday lights between Arlington Street and Kenmore Square.

Meanwhile, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Charlesgate Alliance are bringing green lights again to the Charlesgate Park block of the Mall.

Alex Biega and Xander.

Boston musician Richie Hudson from the band Sunset Studios emerges as Kris Kringke, and wanted to make use of the podium..

City Of Boston Chief of Environment Rev Mariama White Hammond speaks.

City Of Boston Park Commissioner. Our parks are better place when they are filled and activated (with lights).

Ashley Bilson and Matt Neslusan.

Friends Of Public Garden menbers Leslie and Alastair Adam with Massachusetts State Rep Jay Livingstone (center).

Friends Of The Public Garden President Liz Vizza, Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and NABB Chair Martyn Roetter.

TURNING ON THE COMMONWEALTH AVE MALL HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Cole came out to the Comm. Ave. Mall for the illumination.

Luke Pashoian, Kevin Phan, and Katie Amorosino from The Newbury Boston Hotel provided complimentary cocoa and cookies.

The audience looks around and enjoms the illuminated Commonwealth Ave Mall.

Gabby and son Ben Schlichtmann.

Lynne Kortenhaus, Dana Brown, and Suzanne Wenz with Newbury Boston Hotel, who provided complimentary cocoa and cookies for the event.

Katie Fielda and JP Christenson.

Mayor of Boston Michelle Wu speaks.

KAJI ASO STUDIO

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Art * Music * Poetry

ONLINE PROGRAM:

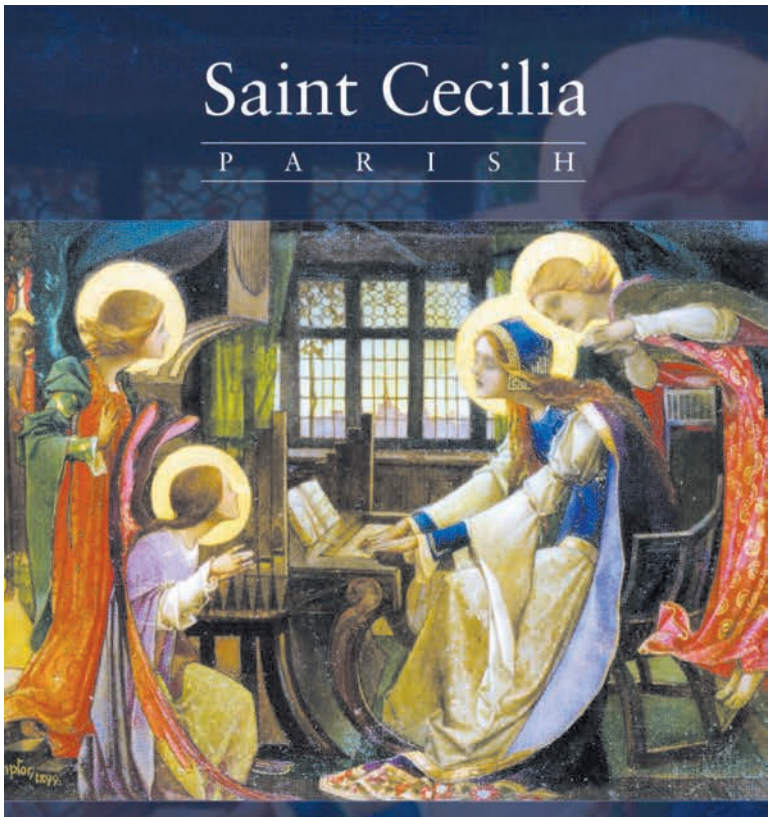
Sunday December 10th at 7pm

SEE LINK at www.kajiasostudio.com

Mass Cultural Council · Boston Cultural Council · Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

Saint Cecilia

PARISH



Join Us on the Third Sunday of Advent for

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 17 • 4:00 P.M.

In this service of Scripture and song, lessons from Sacred Scripture are interspersed with Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music, joyfully proclaiming the story of God's love shown forth in Christ.

This service will be livestreamed.
A light reception will follow.

18 Belvidere Street | Boston
617-536-4548 | www.stceciliaboston.org

TURNING ON THE COMMONWEALTH AVE MALL HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Nicole Fraga, Flory and Nicole Hernandez, and Yanitza Viera.

The Commonwealth Ave Mall gained some extra lusture with its holiday lighting.

Michael Maler and Diane Gipson.

A group of Northeastern University students came to witness the illumination.

Rongan Cai and Matthew Dwyer.

Sgt Hodari Keels on Remington, Sgt Emma Papargiris on Otis, and Park Ranger Grayson Lohonyay on Mystic.

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KERSHAW *(from pg. 1)*

producer Jim Burrows, whose father, Abe Burrows, had been a scriptwriter for "Duffy's Tavern," a situation comedy set in a neighborhood bar and broadcast on American radio from 1941 to 1951, was looking for a new project.

Through a stroke of luck, the team discovered the Bull & Finch Pub, which became the inspiration for their next sitcom project, 'Cheers.'

'Cheers' premiered on NBC on Sept. 20, 1982, but it wasn't a success in the ratings until then-Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil made a cameo in an episode the following February. "Everyone tuned in…and it made the news both locally and nationally," Kershaw told this reporter in 2019 as Hampshire House was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

In August of 1983, Kershaw traveled to Hollywood to attend a filming of an episode, where he negotiated the rights to sell 'Cheers' T-shirts from behind the bar at the Bull & Finch.

With the show's continued success in the ratings, the bartenders were soon selling more T-shirts than drinks, so Kershaw was compelled to open an on-site gift store to vend 'Cheers' gear. The merchandising business expanded to boutiques, stores and kiosks throughout the city, and at one time, Kershaw held the national rights to sell 'Cheers' merchandise.

"It was a fabulous business back then," Kershaw recalled in 2019. "It's still very nice, but not like it once was."

After earning 28 Primetime Emmy Awards from a record 117 nominations, the 275th and final episode of "Cheers" aired on May 20, 1993, and to mark the occasion, Jay Leno brought "The Tonight Show" to the Bull & Finch for only the third remote filming in its history.

City Councilor Ed Flynn and Tom Kershaw.

Tom Kershaw (center) is seen with Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden (left); and Henry Lee, a founding member and president emeritus of the Friends group.

Meanwhile, Kershaw opened a Cheers replica bar in Faneuil Hall Marketplace in 1983; 75 Chestnut right behind the Hampshire House in 1997; and 75 on Liberty Wharf in 2012. Hampshire House, Cheers, 75 on Chestnut, and 75 on Liberty Wharf are Kershaw's active business interests today.

But before "Cheers" ever hit the air, Kershaw and Hampshire House were already well known throughout the neighborhood for their philanthropy.

Kershaw's own charity, Cheers for Children, began as Globe Santa in 1980, after two Bull & Finch bartenders – the aforementioned Doyle and John Grasso – read a story in The Boston Globe about two underprivileged boys trying to raise money to purchase holiday gifts for their needy siblings. This inspired the bartenders to hold an auction at the Bull & Finch that raised $570 for the newspaper's gift fund for needy children and paved the way for Cheers for Children, which has since gone to donate more than $2 million to children's charities.

Since 1995, Kershaw has also sponsored the annual 'Garlands and Greens' event at the Hampshire House to help the Beacon Hill Civic Association raise the money needed to decorate the neighborhood's nearly 1,100 gaslamps for the holiday season. He now hosts a pancake breakfast at Hampshire House for those who help "undecorate" the lampposts as well. Kershaw also served on the BHCA board of directors for one term and has supported the group in countless ways over the years.

Patricia Tully, executive director of the Beacon Hill Civic Association, extoled Kershaw for everything he's done for the organization and for the neighborhood.

"There are so many different ways he supports what we do, and he just never says, 'no'," Tully said of Kershaw in a video produced for Kershaw's 85th birthday celebration, which took place on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Hampshire House. "He's just a wonderful man."

In 2003, Kershaw was selected as one of three individuals to receive the BHCA's annual Beacon Award that year in acknowledgment of his "significant and sustained contribution" to the community.

Kershaw also assumed the mantle of the Charles Street Merchants Association in the early '80s, which he rechristened the 'Beacon Hill Business Association' to be more inclusive of all businesses in the neighborhood.

In 1982, then-Mayor Kevin White asked Kershaw to undertake a study of Charles Street, which informed White's decision to repave the street. And When Charles Street reopened two days later, the direction of traffic had been reversed,. So as the well-worn expression now goes: "Thomas Kershaw turned traffic around on Charles Street."

"All in all, it has been a good thing for Beacon Hill and made it into a little village in the middle of the city," Kershaw said earlier this week of the decision to permanently modify the flow of traffic on Charles Street.

Jack Gurnon, the owner of Charles Street Supply who was among those in attendance at Kershaw's 85th birthday celebration, said in a statement: "Tom is one of the most valued and treasured icons of not only Beacon Hill, but also the whole city of Boston and Massachusetts. His generosity of not only his time and talents, but the kindness and openness of being such a gracious host at the Hampshire House for all occasions is legendary. We should all strive to be more like Tom Kershaw."

Kershaw was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Beacon Hill Business Association and remains Chairman Emeritus of the organization.

Additionally, Kershaw visited Aspen, Colo., circa 1993, on a skiing trip, and after seeing an outdoor skating rink there, he was inspired to bring the concept back to Boston. He successfully pitched the idea to then-Mayor Thomas Menino as a year-round facility, and using capital funds, the city, opened the Frog Pond Skating Rink on the Boston Common in January of 1997. Besides skating in the winter, the facility also serves as a spray pool in the summer and a reflecting pool in the spring and fall. Kershaw operated and maintained the rink for its first 14 years, installing a skate rental amenity, new restrooms, a snack bar and garage for the Zamboni. At Kershaw's suggestion, the Boston Common Frog Pond Carousel also opened nearby on the Common.

Among the many noteworthy individuals who offered Kershaw well wishes during the video produced for his 85th birthday was Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, who said Kershaw "represents Beantown better than anyone I know."

In a statement, Rep. Jay Livingstone, who was in attendance for Kershaw's 85th birthday celebration, said: "I appreciate Tom for his dedication and lead-

(KERSHAW *Pg. 10*)

Tom Kershaw (center) is seen with Liz Vizza, president of the Friends of the Public Garden (left) and Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president and executive director of the Back Bay Association, at Kershaw's 85th birthday celebration on Nov. 29 at the Hampshire House.

Tom Kershaw (far right) is seen at his 85th birthday celebration on Nov. 29 at the Hampshire House, with, left to right: Dan Donohue, president of the Saunders Group; Gary Saunders, chairman of the Saunders Group; and Rep. Jay Livingstone.

Fresh & Local

Pie for Breakfast

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

"A Yankee is someone who eats pie for breakfast." That's an old New England saying popularized by Robert Frost and used as a punchline by E.B. White. That would make many Americans "Yankees" on the day after Thanksgiving. We bet a few of you had a bit of pie with or for breakfast on Thanksgiving weekend.

History of Pie for Breakfast

Writing for the Library of Congress, Jennifer Harbster noted, "The A-Z of Food and Drink (2002) suggests that the word pie (pye) first appeared in English in the early fourteenth century, and by the middle of the century, it became commonplace. In 1378, Richard II issued an ordinance controlling pie prices in London." At this time, many pies were encased in a non-edible crust called a coffin, a word that initially just meant casing.

Many people who settled in New England came from Old England, which was then and is now a pie culture. This area of the country has been called the "pie belt."

What is a Pie?

Wikipedia says, "A pie is a baked dish which is usually made of a pastry dough casing that contains a filling of various sweet or savoury ingredients." That definition is broad enough to allow us to indulge in many pie versions for breakfast, including crostatas, flans, pizzas, calzones, or Jamaican Patties.

Looking at a recent list of the most popular pies in the United Kingdom, we found many pie forms. We agree! Our love for pies goes beyond what most people think of as pie.

Holdovers from earlier times are items like the Cornish Pasty, which today has Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status. This handheld pie can only be made in Cornwall, and ingredients are limited to beef, potato, rutabaga, onion, salt, and pepper. Other handheld traditions include pork, meat, and mince pies. And even sausage rolls would make excellent breakfast items.

Open-faced custard pies are also high on the UK favorites list. We haven't had an open-faced cheese and onion pie, a British comfort food classic. However, we love eggy pies like Quiche Lorraine for breakfast.

Potato-topped pies, popular in the UK and here, include Shepherd and Cottage pies, often made from leftovers. The Brits have taken that one step beyond with their fish pies made from a selection of the best fish they can find at the market, a creamy sauce, and a blanket of golden mashed potatoes. If there were leftovers from that one, it would be gobbled up for breakfast.

This was breakfast for one of us the day after Thanksgiving!

Our Pie Traditions

Another special occasion when we might have pie for breakfast is the day after our birthdays. When she was a youngster, a neighbor baked a lemon meringue pie for Penny for her birthday every year. In honor of this delightful baker, we often seek out lemon meringue when her birthday arrives.

Last year, Penny presented Ed with a blueberry pie for his birthday instead of a cake. It was such a hit that we've added that to our pie traditions.

Penny's Great Aunt used to add a French Canadian Tourtière to any holiday meal. This tradition has slipped off our menus in the last few years, but now we may make them purely for their breakfast appeal.

The final pie-for-breakfast confession that many of you may have to make is scoffing down a slice of leftover pizza pie on your way out the door the morning after a gathering of friends. Come on, admit it. You've done it!

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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Kershaw *(from pg. 9)*

ership, and for providing hospitality in Beacon Hill, Boston and throughout our Commonwealth. He has had a profound positive impact on our community, and I was so happy to celebrate his birthday with him."

Also in attendance at Kershaw's birthday celebration was City Councilor Ed Flynn, who said in a statement: "Tom Kershaw is an exceptional friend to the City of Boston. He truly believes in the city and has always generously supported Boston and so many worthy organizations. Tom has provided invaluable leadership and inspiration in Boston's tourism, hospitality, and trade industries. We are proud to call him a loyal friend and true son of the city."

Likewise, Jim Brett, president of New England Council, said, "I wish someday the city would create a position, ambassador at large. Tom Kershaw would be my candidate. His impact has been enormous. Tom is an extraordinary business leader but more importantly, he's a really extraordinary human being."

Despite all the accolades bestowed upon him, Kershaw, a committed member of the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America who received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and was the first inductee into the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame, said he considers himself first and foremost "a grown-up Eagle Scout."

"I took the lessons I learned in Scouting seriously and am pleased to be in a position where I can help in a variety of ways," said Kershaw. "I like making things happen and leading people to a successful conclusion in whatever projects they set out to do."

Real Estate Transfers

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There are no Real Estate Transfers available. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Nichols House Museum presents musical events during annual Holiday House Tour

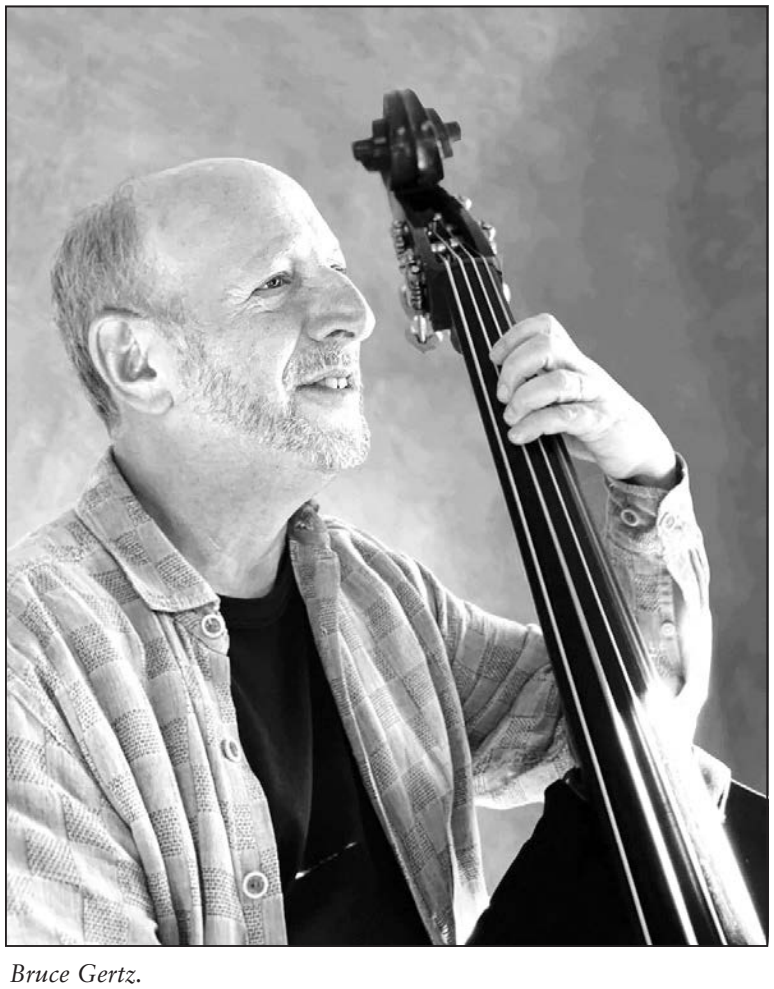
Special to the Sun

For the second year, the Nichols House Museum will present a performance by acclaimed musicians as part of the annual Beacon Hill Holiday House Tour festivities.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, pianist Joe Mulholland will perform at the King's Chapel Parish House at 64 Beacon St. during the reception for Nichols House Museum's Holiday House Tour. Well-known locally as a soloist and ensemble instrumentalist, Mulholland has released five critically acclaimed albums. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, he is a professor at Berklee College of Music. From 3 to 4 p.m., he will play holiday music and American songbook standards on the Parish House's Mason and Hamlin piano. At the turn of the 20th Century, Boston-based Mason and Hamlin's instruments were favored by performing artists around the world for their purity of tone. Following these upbeat selections, Mulholland will perform Bach Preludes, excerpts from Meditations by composer John Kramer, jazz standards, and original compositions from his recent solo release.

COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM

Joe Mulholland.



Bruce Gertz.

Mulholland will be joined by renowned bassist Bruce Gertz, a veteran professor at Berklee, who has toured nationally and internationally. Their performance, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Parish House chapel, offers an opportunity for a moment of serenity amidst the bustle of the holiday season. This musical event is included with tickets to the Holiday House Tour.

Music often filled the Nichols House. In 1902, Metropolitan Opera star Louise (Beatty) Homer performed in the parlor for an overflow crowd of select friends. The family's piano was also enjoyed during less grand gatherings. Arthur Nichols, who studied piano in Vienna while a medical student, often played for his daughters, and later his grandchildren. Both Arthur and his youngest daughter, Margaret, were talented bell ringers, known for their church-bell change-ringing and handbell-playing. In their honor, the Back Bay Ringers will perform at the Eggnog Pre-Party on Wednesday, Dec. 6. Caroling was another Nichols family's favorite, and one of the Beacon Hill holiday traditions they most enjoyed. Holiday House Tour guests can experience the fun on Sunday, Dec. 10, when the Olde Towne Carolers will grace the streets of Beacon Hill with strolling performances during the Tour. Holiday House Tour guests will also be treated to music played on an 1823 Tomkison English Square piano at the William Hickling Prescott House.

For more information about the Holiday House Tour, and to purchase tickets, visit the Nichols House Museum website at https://www.nicholshousemuseum.org/events/holiday-house-tour-2023/, or call 617-227-6993

Attention to Detail

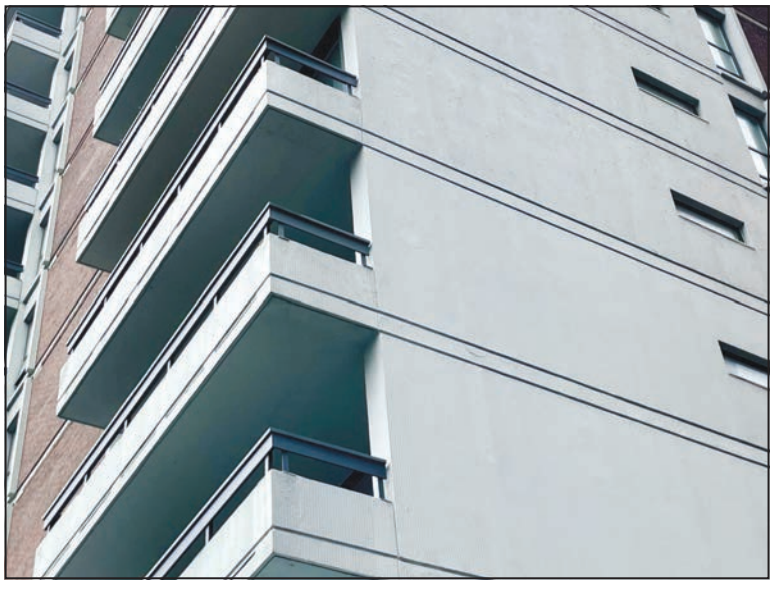
PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The bow window in the last clue is on the Saint Botolph Club at 199 Commonwealth Avenue, built circa 1890. It has been the home of the social club since 1972. The club's history says, "After many years of being only a gentleman's club the St. Botolph Club opened its doors to ladies as equal and honored members in 1988."

You'll find the next clue in the Fenway.
Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Property Spotlight!

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