Jeanne Blasberg, Beacon Hill resident and author of “The Nine.”

Hill author explores underbelly of a prep school life in ‘The Nine’

By Dan Murphy

In her second novel “The Nine,” Beacon Hill resident Jeanne Blasberg unearths the underbelly of a New England prep school and its longstanding pattern of sexual misconduct, as well as the fallout it ultimately creates for the family of one student who refuses to idly sit back and remain quiet about it.

Hannah Webber, a “helicopter mother” who struggled with fertility issues, has made great sacrifices to send Sam, her gifted son, to an elite boarding school, where he uncovers a longstanding tradition of sexual misconduct he simply cannot ignore, despite knowing that divulging a deviant secret society on campus known as “The Nine” could well come at the detriment of his own family.

“It has a lot of timely themes and touches on privilege, both individual and institutional; access to [social] class; and betrayal,” Blasberg said of the novel that took her six years to write. “I also really wanted to write a modern campus novel that wasn’t only a coming-of-age story for young people, but also included what whole family was going through as they were sending their child away....and in my case, that's from a maternal point of view.”

Much of the impetus for the novel admittedly came from the real-life angst Blasberg felt as she was sending her own child off to prep school at a time when the news was filled with reports suggesting that sexual misconduct had been endemic in these institutions.

“As my own kids were going off into the world, stories were coming out in the news about sexual misconduct and the [subsequent] cover-ups at New England boarding schools,” she said.

Blasberg also drew inspiration for the novel from reading the narrative of Hannah in “The Book of Samuel” while studying Bible text at Temple Israel of Boston.

In this narrative, Hannah overcomes fertility issues to give birth to Samuel after going to the temple at the Shiloh sanctuary where she prayed for a son and in turn vowed to give him back to the service of God. Eli the High Priest, who was sitting on a chair near the doorpost at the time, believed she was drunk and questioned her. But despite this seeming slight, Hannah raised and weaned Samuel before returning him to temple and turning him over to Eli, along with a traditional sacrifice. Eli subsequently announced another blessing on Hannah, and she went on to conceive three more sons and two daughters, making six children in all.

“The novel is a part of the 4.8-acre mixed-use Bulfinch Crossing development transforming the center of Downtown Boston. Ascending 480 feet, the residential tower will become a new fixture in the Boston skyline, offering 360-degree panoramic views of the Boston Harbor, North End, the Financial District, Back Bay, and the Charles River. The new luxury destination will be comprised of 368 apartment units and 35 for-sale condominiums.

Since breaking ground on the demolition of the Government Center Garage in 2017, numerous construction crews and teams have been at work on the first residential tower at Bulfinch Crossing. Those workers and their hours of labor were honored and celebrated at today's event.

“From demolition and excavation to today’s topping off, the work of the construction team on this project has been a true feat,” said Jeffrey J. Kanne, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Real Estate Advisors. “As a company that manages investments on behalf of hundreds of thousands of union members, we’re proud of the quality work that all of these men and women have put in over the last two years to build this new fixture in the Boston skyline.”

In anticipation of the upcoming $2.8-million restoration of the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common, the Friends of the Public Garden and other stakeholders in the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial Restoration Partnership are presenting two free screenings of “Glory” – the 1989 Academy Award-winning film that tells the story of the first black regiment recruited from the North to fight for the Union Army in the Civil War - on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Boston Common parade ground; and on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bright Screening Room at Emerson College.

Directed by Edward Zwick, “Glory” stars Matthew Broderick as Col. Robert Gould Shaw, the regiment’s commanding officer, and Denzel Washington, Cary Elwes and Morgan Freeman as fictionalized, composite members of the 54th Massachusetts infantry. The film was nominated for five Academy Awards and won three, including Best Supporting Actor for Washington.

On May 28, 1863, the 1,007 black soldiers and 37 white soldiers from the 54th gathered on the Boston Common before marching down Beacon Street past well-wishers, including anti-slavery advocates William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips and Frederick Douglass. That evening, the 54th boarded a steamship to South Carolina, and six days later, they landed in Hilton Head, S.C., where Harriet Tubman, a leading (GLORY, Pg. 1)
The circle in a square medallion in the last clue is on the Lawrence House at 10 North Grove St. A proposal for a new building calls for the removal of this and other buildings from this area of the MGH campus sometime in 2020.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

**Real Estate Transfers**

**BUYER 1**

**BACK BAY**

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**BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE**

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**WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN**

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**FRESH AND LOCAL**

The Urban Kitchen

by Penny & Ed Cherubino

September is a time when many people move into Boston. For some it will be their first experience with an urban kitchen. If you are fortunate enough to have a large kitchen and pantry, you may not have storage and space issues, but you will almost certainly have some lifestyle changes to make.

When we sold our suburban home and moved into our Boston pied-à-terre full time, we went from a very large eat-in kitchen in a single family home to a tiny kitchen in a large condo building. We had to both downsize and change the ways we approached buying, storing, and making food.

**Pest Control**

Pest control is a fact of life in cities. While you can’t control what your neighbors do, you can make your own food storage rodent-proof by using glass and metal containers for your pantry items.

We’ve solved two food storage issues by lining a hallway wall with shelves that we filled with glass jars of staples, spices, cereals, and snacks. This ensures the items are not attracting mice and frees up space in our kitchen cupboards for canned goods and cooking gear.

Pet food should also be stored in rodent-proof containers. Leaving pet food and treats accessible is not a good idea in an urban home. Litter boxes should be cleaned out each evening since rodents are more active in the overnight hours.

You can schedule a peremptory consultation with an exterminator and have them seal around pipes, scout out other access points, and make specific recommendations for your home. Your building may already have a company under contract to do this work and might be able to provide this service as a part of that contract. Check with your management team.

**Every Last Crumb**

Urban living also means cleaning up after your sloppy eaters both two foot and four foot. We had one dog who loved to hide her dog biscuits under sofa cushions. We learned to check her hiding spots daily to be sure we didn’t have that little terrier telling us we had a mouse in the house.

After each cooking session and after eating, we sweep all the counters and the floor to be sure nothing is left behind. Get into the habit of scanning your rooms before retiring for the evening to be sure no one has left food out.

**Shopping More Often**

We don’t have a car, so we shop almost every day. Even if you do have a car, you might want to do fewer large grocery shopping trips if they mean carrying load-after-load from the nearest parking space and up flights of stairs.

Once you choose your routine to many smaller shopping trips, you’ll find you may be spending less money and you will certainly waste less food. Daily shopping means you pick up what you need for the next day or so.

It makes you more likely to check what you have on hand, so you don’t have to carry more than you need. In doing that, you can plan to use up what’s already in your refrigerator and buy only what you need to fill out upcoming meals.

You may also find yourself shopping at more small local businesses, farmers markets, and having food delivered via local services. All of this is good for our community and will also help you become a welcome part of your new neighborhood.

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

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**BULLFINCH TOWER (from pg. 1)**

The top steel beam gets raised into place last week on Bulfinch Crossing Tower.

The tower’s location is in the heart of Boston’s coveted network of open spaces, regional highways and transportation options, and historic neighborhoods. It features spectacular views, premier amenities, and grand communal spaces.

“The topping off brings the first Bulfinch Crossing residential tower another step closer to completion,” said Thomas N. O’Brien, Founding Partner and Managing Director, The HYM Investment Group. “Soon, Bulfinch Crossing residents will be able to take advantage of this building’s unparalleled amenities, views and location. We’re grateful for the hard work of all of the people at every step of this design and construction process who are bringing this building to life.”

The building is set to begin pre-sales and leasing in January 2020 and will open in Spring 2020.

National Real Estate Advisors is an investment manager specializing in build-to-core, developing and owning large-scale, urban commercial and multifamily projects for its institutional client accounts. National constructs investment portfolios of modern property assets—apartment, office, mixed-use, industrial, data center and hotel—with design features, technological enhancements, and amenities that can drive high tenant demand and create value for investors. National is an independently operated subsidiary of the National Electrical Benefit Fund, a substantial pension trust with a significant amount of assets that are managed by National on a discretionary basis.

The HYM Investment Group, LLC is a Boston-based real estate company focused on the acquisition, development and management of complicated urban mixed-use projects. HYM is currently leading the development of more than 18 million square feet of mixed-use development in Greater Boston, including the following notable and complex projects: Bulfinch Crossing (including the 1-million-square-foot office tower known as One Congress), Boston Landing, NorthPoint and Suffolk Downs.

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**GARY DRUG**

For over 75 years, Gary Drug has been serving the residents of Beacon Hill, the West End and the Back Bay.

Wheelchair Sales and Rentals
Complete Suntan Lotion Department

Caswell-Massey
Women’s And Men’s Bath Products

Walkers Canes & Tips
Neulibizers
Compression Hose
Raised Toilet Seats
Sitz Bath
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Copy & Fax Service • Neighborhood Delivery Service

We accept most prescription drug plans
Let Gary Drug Be Your Neighborhood Pharmacy
59 Charles Street • Phone 617-227-0023 • Fax 617-227-2879
THE REAL AMERICAN CARNAGE

Whenever a mass shooting occurs -- which is to say, fairly regularly somewhere in America these days -- investigators scour for clues as to the “motive” of the gunman.

Often, as was the case in El Paso two weeks ago, the shooter espouses some sort of political ideology, whether it be homegrown white nationalism or foreign-based anti-Americanism.

On occasion, individuals with mental illness are the perpetrators.

But just as often, as was the case in the country music shooting in Las Vegas two years ago, there is no discernible motive, other than that the shooter simply is unhappy and frustrated with his lot in life.

That appears to have been the situation with this past weekend’s shooting spree in Texas by a 36-year-old man who was fired from his job and who was described by his neighbor as a loner.

In short, the shooter fit a certain profile -- a young, white male with no money, no wife or girlfriend, no children, and no prospects.

However, each and every one of these shootings, regardless of the perpetrator’s motive, have two things in common: Innocent Americans are being shot while going about their daily lives and the shooter had military-style weaponry that allowed him to kill and maim dozens of Americans with a single pull of the trigger.

About 13,000 innocent Americans are slaughtered by guns every year in this country. (There also are about 26,000 suicides by guns each year).

To put that 13,000 figure into perspective, that is almost twice the number of American soldiers who have been killed in the entirety of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cumulatively over the past 15 years, 7000 American soldiers lost their lives in our Mideast wars, while 200,000 innocent Americans have been killed by gunfire right here in America. In addition to those who died, more than one million Americans have been shot and wounded in the past 15 years.

When President Trump used the term, “American Carnage,” in his Inaugural Address, it was not entirely clear what he was referring to.

However, given that more Americans are shot, killed, and maimed by guns every year on their home soil than anywhere else in the world, our American Carnage is indeed, very real.

WHEN WILL IT BE OUR TURN?

Hurricane Dorian, the fifth Category 5 hurricane to hit the U.S. in the past four years, has captivated many of us for the past week as we watched the latest forecasts to see where it would strike the American mainland.

The increasing intensity of tropical storms has been predicted for decades by those who have studied the effects of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels that is heating up the planet.

Superstorm Sandy was an example of the catastrophic effects that can occur when a huge storm strikes our heavily-populated urban areas in the northeast. The Boston area was largely spared from Sandy’s wrath (though we did have extended power outages), but we have to face the reality that given the acceleration of the effects of climate change and rising sea levels, it will be our turn, sooner rather than later, for a catastrophic weather event to visit us with devastating force.

An unlikely ally in fight to reduce Greenhouse Gas

By David A. Ridenour

Environmentalists have an unlikely new ally in the fight to reduce emissions: The oil and gas industry.

Over the past few years, several major firms have spent millions of dollars on high-tech equipment designed to limit carbon emissions. A new report from the Environmental Partnership, an association of top energy firms, shows these efforts are bearing fruit.

The report chronicles the partnership’s first year of existence. It launched in late 2017 with just 26 members -- but has since grown to 65, including more than half of the top U.S. natural gas producers.

The group concentrates on reducing emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming. Without proper monitoring and maintenance, the drills, pipelines, and other equipment used in energy operations can leak methane into the atmosphere.

When the partnership first announced its methane campaign, some environmentalists dismissed it as a PR stunt. But its achievements have proven very real.

Consider the partnership’s efforts to identify and fix leaky rigs. Over the past year, the partnership conducted more than 150,000 leak surveys at 78,000 production sites. Investigators found a leak rate of just 0.16 percent, significantly less than official EPA estimates. And the majority of the leaks were repaired within 60 days. Fixing a leak could cut a production site’s emissions by up to 40 percent.

The partnership also monitored wells. During natural gas extraction, a liquid mixture often builds up in wells and has to be manually removed. Without proper care, the removal process can release methane. To prevent this, member companies monitored 132,000 cases of liquid unloading to ensure firms maintained best practices and minimized emissions.

The partnership also upgraded “pneumatic controllers,” the mechanical devices used to control gas temperature and pressure during extraction. Member companies fixed or replaced 3,000 “high bleed” controllers, which release relatively large amounts of methane. Thirty-eight companies stopped using them entirely. Replacing high-bleed controllers can trim emissions by 60 percent, according to the EPA.

This progress shouldn’t come as a surprise. It fits within the broader story of America’s natural gas renaissance.

The advent of sophisticated extraction techniques like fracking and horizontal drilling has made America the world’s top producer of natural gas. Yet even as production hits record heights, methane emissions have plummeted, thanks to companies’ investments in environmentally-friendly equipment and practices.

In the Appalachia basin stretching from Alabama to New York, production jumped nearly 400 percent, while methane emissions plummeted 70 percent between 2011 and 2017. In the Eagle Ford basin in Texas, production jumped 130 percent, while emissions fell 65 percent. And in the Permian basin, which runs through western Texas and southeastern New Mexico, production increased 100 percent while emissions fell 39 percent.

Energy firms have also helped slash emissions by enabling power plants to switch from dirty coal to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas. Thanks to this transition, electricity-related emissions recently hit a 25-year low.

Green activists aren’t the only ones reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As the Environmental Partnership’s new report shows, oil and gas firms are doing their part.

David A. Ridenour is president of The National Center for Public Policy Research. This piece originally ran in Washington Examiner.
Officials to offer residents free daffodil bulbs for plantings on public ways

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has announced that the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will distribute over 20,000 daffodil bulbs for planting on public ways citywide. The effort is part of the “Boston Blooms with Daffodils” beautification initiative. The plantings will take place in approved locations along the City’s public ways on the weekends of Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Groups with approved planting locations will be contacted by the Parks Department and given bulb pick-up instructions and dates. Individuals, civic associations, church groups, sports leagues, scout troops, open space advocates, and parks friends are just some examples of the volunteers the Parks Department seeks to help in the “Boston Blooms with Daffodils” effort. Last year over 100 community groups planted the bulbs distributed by the City.

Anyone interested in assisting with planting can fill out a form online at www.boston.gov/boston-blooms. Groups and individuals are asked to use their own tools. The application deadline is Sept. 20. For more information on “Boston Blooms with Daffodils,” please call the Parks Department at (617) 961-3013.
Glory (from pg. 1)

abolitionist who escaped slavery to become the most celebrated "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, served them breakfast. The 54th went on to fight in Charleston, S.C., in the Battle of Grimball's Landing on July 16, 1863, and the fateful Second Battle of Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863.

When the 54th and other Union regiments waged a frontal assault against Fort Wagner, they found themselves overwhelmingly outnumbered and outnumbered by Confederate soldiers. Shaw was fatally shot in the chest as he made his way over the fortress wall while 20 more of the 600 charging soldiers from the 54th were also killed, another 125 injured and 102 more reported missing (and presumed dead).

Former State Rep. Byron Rushing, who will introduce the film on the Common and take part in a discussion following the Emerson College screening, said restoration of the bas-relief memorial created by venerable American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens in 1897 is long overdue. (The monument, which took Saint-Gaudens 14 years to complete, is seen in the ending credit scenes of "Glory.")

"The main reason this is happening is because the National Parks Service and the Friends of the Public Garden realized what had shape the memorial, especially its foundation, is in, and they have raised a lot of money to get the restoration work done," Rushing said. (The Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial Restoration Partnership also includes the City of Boston and the Museum of African American History.) Rushing suggested viewing "Glory" as be a good way for visitors to the Common to brace themselves for the six- to eight-month period when the memorial's bronze centerpiece will be removed from its home inside the Common on the corner of Beacon and Park streets to undergo an off-site facelift.

"The most important part of this movie is it took the story of the 54th nationally, and some people heard about something they likely wouldn't have otherwise," Rushing said. "You couldn't go to the State House without seeing [the memorial], so white people in Massachusetts pretty much already knew the story…but this was probably first time that white people outside of Massachusetts heard about this."

Rushing, who credits the film with renewing interest in the Civil War among historians and the general public, speculates that "Glory" is not without its flaws.

"The biggest mistake in the film is a dramatic scene during basic training when a soldier leaves because none of them have been given boots," Rushing said. "He goes out and steal some boots, and is chastised for going AWOL upon his return. This was just completely made up…or a misunderstanding by the writer because the soldiers were fully equipped."

But despite the film's groundbreaking portrayal of black soldiers during the Civil War and its rousing battle scenes, Rushing readily admits "Glory" is not without its flaws.

"Another inexplicable piece is that thousands of escaped slaves were going to Union lines [to join in battle], but no black civilians are represented in the film," Rushing said, adding that between 80,00 and 100,00 black men fought on the Union side by the time the Civil War ended in 1865.

"Another inexplicable piece is that thousands of escaped slaves were going to Union lines [to join in battle], but no black civilians are represented in the film," Rushing added, saying that between 80,00 and 100,00 black men fought on the Union side by the time the Civil War ended in 1865.

And despite the 54th's noteworthy bravery, Tubman in Hilton Head, no black women have speaking parts in the film while Rushing said, "Robert Shaw gets too much play."

Still, as Rushing points out, though, the film wasn't just a documentary but rather a historic drama, which was written by Kevin Jarre, a white Hollywood screenwriter, and based solely on two texts: "One Gallant Rush."

(Continued on Next Page)
COMING NEXT WEEK...

Look for the full story on the relocation of Myrtle at the Turtle at the Myrtle Street Playground in next week’s edition.

Peter Burchard’s 1965 account of 54th, and “Lay this Laurel,” Lincoln Kirstein’s 1973 book dedicated to the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial itself.

Martin Blatt, professor of the practice and director of the public history program at Northeastern University who will participate in the discussion with Rushing after the screening of “Glory” at Emerson College, agrees with Rushing’s assessment of it as a landmark film, albeit a flawed one.

“Glory” also laid the groundwork for a 1997 celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the monument, including a large public ceremony, a symposium and the largest gathering of black Civil War reenactors at that time, and helped pave the way for “Hope and Glory: Essays on the Legacy of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment,” the 2001 book Blatt edited with Thomas Brown and Donald Yacovone, said Blatt, who also serves alongside Rushing as a member of the Shaw 54th Memorial Restoration Committee.

Likewise, Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends group, said, “Glory’ is a wonderful, important film that tells the story of the 54th Regiment, but some things are probably dated.”

And while the film is now 30 years old, Vizza said the story of the 54th remains relevant today at such a racially divisive time in the nation’s history.

“What we have learned is that ‘Glory’ is an incredible film that tells the story of the 54th Regiment, but some things are probably dated.”

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“This is a wonderful opportunity for people who don’t know the story of the 54th to hear about it…and it gives us an opportunity to help that monument speak. I think this movie is a great vehicle for this.”

Visit friendsofthepublicgarden.org for more information.

Come meet and greet activist and District 8 City Council candidate

Hélène Vincent

Thursday, September 12, 2019 from 6:30 PM – 8 PM
The West End Museum
150 Staniford St, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

The Boston Arts Festival
September 7 & 8
11 am to 6 pm
FREE
Christopher Columbus Park
rain or shine • family friendly
Local Fine Artists, Artisans, and Musicians
www.TheBostonArtsFestival.com

The Boston Local Music Festival
September 28 & 29
11 am to 6 pm
FREE
City Hall Plaza
rain or shine
30+ Boston bands
Beer Garden, Food Trucks
Artists and Crafters
www.BostonLocalMusicFestival.com
MEXICAN MUSICAL SHOW
The Boch Center and AEG present Banda El Recodo and Mariachi Vargas de Tecatitlan for the 200 Anos Musica de Mexicana Tour, appearing at the Boch Center Wang Theatre, 230 Tremont St., Boston, Saturday, August 31, at 8 p.m.
Tickets start at $43. bochcenter.org, 800-982-ARTS, and Ticketmaster.
X BONNIE WOODS
Atlantic Works presents “Map Fragments,” the solo exhibition of X Bonnie Woods’ paintings on folded paper, now through September 29, Opening reception is Sunday, Sept. 8, 4-7 p.m.; Third Thursday’s party and artist’s talk is Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m. Gallery hours, Friday-Saturday, 206 p.m. or by appointment, 30 Border St., third floor, East Boston.
ITALIAN FEAST OF SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN
The East Cambridge, three-day family festival takes place Sept. 7-9, at Warren and Porter streets, featuring founders of the hit band Chicago, The Coasters, Sweet Sensation, Shannon and Debbie Deb, and food festival, parades, amusement rides, meatball and cannoli eating contests, “Monsters Inc.”, “Star Wars” film characters, carnival games, street performers, cooking demonstrations and live entertainment all weekend. A special healing service is held Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m. Local favorite performers delight, and the food fest offers treats from several area restaurants and food services. A Feast Mass is celebrated At St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cambridge St., Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
LAST NIGHT AT BOWL-MOR LANCES
Two great ladies of Boston area stages ignite the world premiere of Greater Boston Stage Company Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes’ comedy, “Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes,” September 5-29, 395 Main St., Stoneham. Multi-award winner/Lynn native Paula Plum and Rockport’s own award-winning superstar, Nancy E. Carroll, headline,$47-$57; seniors, $42-$55; students with valid ID, $20; Thrifty Thursday, Sept. 5, at the door, $15; 781-279-2200, greaterbostonstage.org. Group discounts, 781-587-7907, bryan@greaterbostonstage.org.

AROUND THE CITY

Welcome Back Neighbors

Grab your coffee, your glasses, and your Beacon Hill Times...

You may be surprised to learn that newspaper advertising results are better today than they have been in a long time...
Lower your stress level by sitting down and taking some time to catch up on your neighborhood news

Running All Month
Thursday 9/12 9/19 9/26
¼ Pg - $350 || Sq. 2x4 3.9”x4” - $250 Color Ad

Deadline Friday, Sept. 6th
Call us at 781-485-0588 x101 or email Deb@TheBostonSun.com

Please join us in our Welcome Back pages, and offer your neighbors a Discount or just a reminder that you are in the neighborhood.
Walsh announces events planned for September as Recovery Month

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced a series of events marking September as Recovery Month, a national observance that aims to combat the social stigma around addiction, celebrate recovery, and promote overall awareness. The effects of the opioid epidemic can be felt in every neighborhood in our City, across the Commonwealth, and all over the country," said Mayor Walsh. "Addiction is a serious disease but with support and treatment, we know people can recover and get their lives back on track. This month is dedicated to everyone who has been impacted by substance use disorder, and to the care providers who support people throughout their recovery."

The City’s Recovery Month programming began this week with a voluntary overdose prevention and naloxone training hosted by the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) for City employees, following an announcement that Boston will have opioid overdose reversal kits in municipal buildings. The kits contain the overdose reversal medication naloxone (Narcan), clear instructions for its use, and other medical supplies to assist individuals who experience an overdose.

The training kicked off a series of events throughout Boston aimed at starting community conversations about the effects of the opioid crisis. It is also a time to shine a spotlight on the treatment and services offered here in the City of Boston that make recovery a reality for individuals and families.

Every day of the year, we are committed to helping people access the care they need for substance use," said Jennifer Tracey, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services. “Recovery Month gives us an opportunity to honor those in recovery, and the providers, first responders, and community members that support them and provide hope to those still struggling with substance use.”

Recovery Month lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and the message that recovery in all its forms is possible,” said MOAR Executive Director Maryanne Frangules. “Recovery Month spreads the word that addiction recovery is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, people do recover!”

In 2018, 181 Boston residents lost their lives to a drug overdose. Tomorrow, Saturday, August 31, 2019, City Hall will be lit purple, the recognized color for drug overdose awareness, to remember the lives lost and to honor all those impacted by overdoses.

Events during Recovery Month are free and open to all to attend, and include:

• Sept. 9, at 3 p.m.: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training at 774 Albany Street. Participants learn about the importance of calling 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose, how to perform rescue breathing and administer nasal Narcan, and treatment options for opioid users.

• Sept. 16, at 9 a.m.: MOAR and Friends 29th Annual Recovery Month Celebration at City Hall Plaza. Recovery advocates, community leaders, and legislators will come together to rally at City Hall Plaza and march to Faneuil Hall.

• Sept. 17, at 6 p.m.: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training at 774 Albany Street. Participants learn about the importance of calling 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose, how to perform rescue breathing and administer nasal Narcan, and treatment options for opioid users.

• Sept. 21, at 5 p.m.: Recovery Month Interfaith Service at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. This service will remember and celebrate recovery leaders in our community, and commemorate National Recovery Month.

Walsh, who has been in recovery for more than 20 years, has made expanding access to recovery services in Boston a priority. In his first term, he created the Office of Recovery Services to study substance use in Boston and lead the city’s strategy around substance use disorder, addiction and recovery. This is the first municipal recovery office in the nation.

The City has taken a comprehensive approach to tackle the opioid epidemic. The City serves people in all stages of the continuum of care, from providing harm reduction services to ensure people can maintain health in various aspects of their lives, to connecting people with beds at treatment programs, to offering outpatient care and long-term peer support.

The City of Boston is planning an innovative and holistic recovery campus on Long Island that will expand essential recovery services for the region, fill gaps in the continuum of care and utilize the natural environment to provide a healing space. The City has contracted with Gensler and Ascension Recovery Services to identify the types of services, resources and treatment options that would be best suited for the island and create a master plan for the recovery campus. The draft design for the Long Island bridge was completed earlier this year.

Continuing these efforts, the City of Boston filed a complaint in Suffolk Superior Court against 13 opioid manufacturers, four distributors, and one local doctor that have contributed to the local opioid epidemic through misleading marketing and reckless dissemination of opioids that has led to the deaths of more than 832 Boston residents since 2014. As part of the litigation, the City is seeking to recover both past and future damages and injunctive relief.
Talk on the aging brain
Beacon Hill Village, in partnership with the Boston Public Library, is kicking off its Living Well Ending Well Series with “The Aging Brain: When is it Time to Worry?” with Fadi Ramadan, MD in the Commonwealth Salon at the Copley Branch of the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., on Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Forgotten your keys, glasses, meds—again? Is this just part of aging or something else? Dr. Fadi Ramadan, a geriatrician at Tufts Medical Center, will talk with us about the important differences between the typical memory changes that come with age and those related to dementia; how to recognize symptoms of dementia; and how dementia is diagnosed. He will also suggest steps to reduce the risks of dementia or to slow it down.

The talk is free and open to the public. Registration is required, and can be completed online at beaconhillvillage.org or by calling 617-723-9713.

Summer activities at the Myrtle Street Playground

The Friends of the Myrtle Street Playground and Summer Horizons present summer programming on Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. at the playground, including Rainforest Reptile on Sept. 5; and a Back to School Pizza Party on Sept. 12.

The Friends group also brings “Bubbles & Chalk” to the playground on Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

If you are interested in volunteering at a summer event, e-mail: myrtletreestplayground@gmail.com.

Friends of the West End Branch meet Sept. 5

The Friends of the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library’s monthly meeting will be held on the first Thursday of the month, including Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. at the library, 131 Cambridge St.

All are welcome to attend at this time, when the group will discuss City of Boston funding for a “needs assessment” study for West End library and the Friends group’s committee opportunities, as well as its upcoming Annual Meeting. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers of all ages. For more information, contact RobininBoston@gmail.com.

Boston Arts Festival returns Sept. 7-8

The 17th annual Boston Arts Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7-8, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Christopher Columbus Park.

Now run by the organizers of the Beacon Hill Art Walk and Artists Crossing Gallery, this event, which is expected to attract more than 50,000 visitors, is designed to showcase the visual and performing arts in Boston, and will launch Boston’s Arts Open Studios season featuring more than 70 juried local visual artists, craftspeople, and local musicians performing on the Waterfront Stage throughout the day.

Visit thebostonartsfestival.com for more information.

Beacon Hill Seminars Fall Kickoff event

Beacon Hill Seminars Fall Semester Kickoff takes place on Monday, Sept. 9, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at Moseley Hall at the Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St.

At this time, group leaders will provide brief introductions to their fall courses, which span a range of topics including history, poetry, religion, music, science and more.

Refreshments will be generously provided by the Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro. For more information, visit beconhillseminars.org.

Free screenings of movie ‘Glory’

The Friends and the Shaw 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first black regiment recruited from the North to fight for the Union Army, and their heroism in the American Civil War.

Former State Rep. Byron Rushing will introduce the film on the Common while a discussion follows as he examines the role of design in shaping the appearance of American furniture. In the process, we will discover the English connections to many of the grandest American pieces.

Tickets are $20 general admission; $15 for Nichols House Museum and New England Historic Genealogical Society members; and $10 for students. Call 617-227-6993 to reserve tickets.

Also, the Nichols House Museum, located at 55 Mount Vernon St., is open for tours on the hour Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the month of August. The museum will be closed in September and October due to the implementation of a new climate-control system and reopen in November.

‘A Concert of Captivating Vocal Gems’

The Boston Symphony Orchestra and most recently with the Boston Lyric Opera. He is currently the music director at the Church on the Hill. Hadley, a Haverhill native, sang the role of The Teacher in the world-premiere reading of the Elena Ruehr opera, “Crafting the Bons”; performed at MIT; and performed with Cranberry Coast Concerts, alto solos in Mozart’s “Requiem” and the finale of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. She is also named Dolores in the original musical “Always Remember” by Marilyn Morales and continues to sing with Labyrinth Choir, Cappella Clausura, Joyful Noise, Church On The Hill, and Temple Emanuel.

They will perform “What Can We Poor Females Do?” by Henry Purcell; “So Pretty” by Leonard Bernstein; “Johanna” by Stephen Sondheim; “None But The Lonely Heart” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky; “Habenera” by Georges Bizet; “Who Could Ask For Anything More?” a medley by George and Ira Gershwin; “Alto’s Lament” by Zina Goldrich; and more. This is a benefit concert, and tickets are $10. There will be a reception to follow with treats for all.

For more information and tickets, call 617-523-4575 or visit http://churchonthehillboston.org.

Children’s programs at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., offers “Music with Megan” on Fridays from Sept. 20 to Nov. 8 (no class Oct. 4) at 10:30 a.m. Preschoolers join Megan to play rhythm instruments, sing, and move to all kinds of music. This program is ideal for children birth to age 5 with caregivers. Families will be admitted on a first come, first-served basis the day of the program, but other groups can’t be accommodated.

Also, the library offers Sherry Eskin’s Toddler Time on Wednesdays, Sept. 18 to Nov. 6 (no class Oct. 9) at 10:30 a.m. Toddlers and their families join Sherry Eskin to develop appropriate songs, stories, and lots of movement. This program is intended for individuals.
The Nichols House Museum welcomes volunteers to join the museum as tour guides.

Guides provide vital support to the museum by leading high-quality tours to diverse audiences and communities. Hours are flexible, and orientation and training throughout the month of March are required. Guides receive complimentary admission to the museum and all museum-programming events. There are also regular opportunities for complimentary, behind-the-scenes tours to other local museums and cultural organizations. Applicants should be interested in history, architecture, and decorative arts, and enjoy interacting with visitors of all ages. Tour guides typically commit to half or full-day shifts.

To apply, complete the application form available on the museum’s homepage, www.nicholshousemuseum.org.

**BSNJ Community Children’s Chorus**

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children’s Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in the third through seventh grades.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in an outstanding program.

The group meets at 140 Bowdoin St. on Saturday mornings. Tuition is free for any child with a Greater Boston-area address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To register, contact Carlton Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit www.churchonthehillboston.org (click on “music.”) BSNJ/The Church On The Hill sponsors this initiative, but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

**MGH seeking volunteers**

The Massachusetts General Hospital Volunteer Department is seeking volunteers to help families connect with loved ones after surgery. Candidates must have the ability to walk extensively, and to push a person in a wheelchair. Shifts are available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 2 to 6 p.m. Contact Kim Northrup at 617-724-1826 for more information.

**‘Coloring for Adults’ at the West End Branch Library**

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents “Color Your World: Coloring for Adults” on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. At this time, the library will supply coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons, or bring your own supplies if you prefer. Feel free to drop in during these hours. Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

**Spanish/English Language Exchange**

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents the Spanish/English Language Exchange/Intercambio de Idiomas en Ingles y Espanol on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. At this time, English speakers can practice Spanish and Spanish speakers can practice English in this informal conversation class. Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

**BSNJ Community Children’s Chorus**

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children’s Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in Grades 3 to 7.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in a well organized program.

The rehearsals take place at 140 Bowdoin St. on Tuesday afternoons. Tuition is free for any child with a Boston address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To sign up, please contact Mr. Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit www.churchonthehillboston.org (click on “music”).

The Church on the Hill sponsors this initiative but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

**ESL conversation group resumes meeting at West End Branch Library**

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., welcomes the English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation group every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Come and practice your English language skills with other new-comers and a facilitator.
Since 1946, Community Boating has helped enable “Sailing For All” providing Boston area residents low-cost lessons and boat rentals to sail on our city’s iconic Charles River. The Summer Dock Party was a social mixer to help raise money for Community Boating’s efforts and to provide a wonderful way for its members to celebrate the ending of the summer season. At first, the overcast sky gave concern, but the clouds broke and the sun gave a stunning and fitting show for all to enjoy.