TERRIFIC TALES: Celebrating Carole Remick

BY JOANNA LIN

As young journalists of the New England High School Journalism Collaborative walk through the halls of Regis College, Carole Remick’s tagline — “You’re terrific!” — rings out.

Addressing gaps in journalism and education were prominent themes in her life. A first-generation college student in the mid-1900s, she worked extensively to create opportunities for under-resourced students within public education.

After graduating from Regis College in 1954, Remick taught English at high schools in Massachusetts, including Peabody where she graduated high school, and New York before becoming a professor at UMass Boston. She later received a master’s degree from Boston College.

Remick never was a journalist, but she understood its power. After attending a journalism conference, Remick was inspired to create a journalism program of her own in 1987. However, there was no initial funding.

“Carole probably never met a challenge that she didn’t say could be overcome,” said Theresa Mortimer, a colleague of Remick at UMass Boston. After applying for grants and using her connections, Remick was able to establish NEHSJC. She worked over the course of a school year to develop an itin-

CELEBRATING CAROLE REMICK
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Boston’s Eastie Farm: A model for sustainable urban agriculture

BY DARREN SETO

The urban heat island — which occurs when a city encounters warmer temperatures than surrounding rural areas — heightens with climate change. “When we have urban farms that provide green open spaces, that mitigates the urban island heat effect in the city,” he said.

In response, the farm planted trees surrounding the greenhouse — which sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

“Not only will the greenhouse emit no carbon, but Eastie Farm manager Alex Graora and director Kannan Thiruvengadam assist Massachusetts state representative Adrian Madaro and state senator Lydia Edwards plant a pawpaw tree.

BOSTON’S EASTIE FARM
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Jumping over hurdles

BY RURI DUFFY

In honor of Title IX’s 50 years of progress on gender equity, the Colonial Athletic Association has recognized a group of women for their impact on college athletics. Among them is Northeastern University’s Tramaine Shaw.

Approaching her 14th season of coaching, Shaw has earned the CAA’s award for Men’s Track and Field coach of the year three of the last four years, along with three records from her time running at Northeastern.

She admits the success she’s had in a male-dominated field is far from universal.

The lack of female recognition in sports was addressed legislatively in 1972 by Title IX’s efforts to promote equity in educational and athletic programs. Yet the problem still remains at the forefront of athletes’ lives, starting at a young age.

“All young boys who do sport go into it with the idea that, ‘Hey, turn on the TV, that could be me one day,’” Shaw says. “But that’s not the same
Concord’s Answer to Hyperlocal News

BY BRIAN HUANG

A group of concerned residents in Concord, MA. are starting a free, hyperlocal weekly paper, both in print and online, to keep people in the town informed and engaged.

The decision was made after the town’s longtime local paper was merged with a nearby town’s paper.

Members of the nonprofit group behind this new venture, The Concord Bridge, said they want to create a more trusting relationship between news sources and readers, allowing a tighter community and significant civic engagement.

“We intend to be hyperlocal,” said Alice Kaufman, president of the group.

Concord Bridge plans to move forward with the newspaper after raising money from investors and securing advertising. According to Virginia McIntyre, a group member, the newspapers will start being delivered in September or October. The online newspaper will roll out simultaneously, but will be more robust with regular updates, she said.

According to the Concord Bridge website, $1.15 million was needed to launch the project and cover costs for printing, mailing, annual expenses and delivering papers to all of the town’s 8,700 households for three years.

The group, which sent out a survey to Concord residents to determine what news is most important to them, said it will be selective in the topics that the newspaper and website cover. Planning to “start small and expand,” the news organization will focus on coverage of local government, the school committee, and the police department, and hopes to eventually include sports.

The Concord Bridge members contacted The Carlisle Mosquito, another local nonprofit news organization, for information on how to start a similar project and also received financial assistance from the Mosquito.

The Concord Bridge project was important because the longtime Concord paper, the Journal, merged with the Lincoln Journal in 2019 and started covering both towns, group members said.

Kate Stout, a member of the group, said she was “urged by Concord residents to start a local paper.” Stout helped start a newspaper on Nantucket in 1986.

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The Concord Bridge was named for the many bridges in Massachusetts, specifically the Old North Bridge, a vital location in the American Revolution, group members said.

BOSTON’S EASTIE FARM

continued from page 1

it will also absorb carbon from the atmosphere. That is the type of development you want,” Thiruvengadam said.

But Thiruvengadam acknowledged the challenges of building a greenhouse in the city.

“The city has additional factors that complicate things. With any drilling, the city and state health regulators want to know what you are bringing up,” he explained. “They have to know the process to approve it.”

Still, Thiruvengadam emphasizes that sustainable urban agriculture is important for the future.

“If we are going to have a sustainable world in the future, ventures like Eastie Farm have to stay and continue to operate, and inspire other people,” Thiruvengadam said.

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Reaching Across the Aisle

BY MACKENZIE COYNE

Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina debated the oil crisis, taxes, socialism, guns and former President Donald Trump at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in June.

But the chief goal of their exchange wasn’t aimed at highlighting their differences; it was to shine a light on working together.

“We’re trying to create a common ground for the Senate Project,” Sue Heilman, interim executive director at Kennedy Institute, said.

Democrats and Republicans are trying to create a common ground for the Senate Project, which hopes to bring about political compromise in the Senate.

The Senate Project is focused on bipartisan debate and topics not often talked about between the two sides. It hopes to continue Kennedy’s legacy of getting opposing sides to come together to debate important issues.

“The idea of the Senate Project is to have a series of debates like the one on June 13,” Heilman said. “They would be every few months over the course of the next year.”

Like the Sanders-Graham meeting, which took place in the Kennedy Institute’s replica of the Senate chamber in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, the debates will feature two U.S. senators from opposing parties.

The Bipartisan Policy Center plans to host another debate in July at George Washington University. The Orrin G. Hatch Foundation in Utah will host another debate this fall.

The goal of the Senate Project is to be a revolving cycle, coming back to Edward M. Kennedy Institute to host a fourth debate. The plan is to have at least seven to eight debates across the span of a year.
While our title, The Deadline, began as a simple joke, it adopted a meaning that runs deeper than an approaching print date. Although the word deadline may have a negative connotation, it can also invoke feelings of urgency and can apply to issues around the world. Deadlines exist to remind us that time is precious and to act before it is too late.

From environmental dilemmas to newsroom declines, each article highlights an ongoing issue amplified by the pandemic. We want not only to acknowledge these inequalities, but to recognize those working against them and the individuals they affect.

Like the issues we cover, the pandemic has impacted each of our lives in distinct ways. However, as we unite in the Regis computer lab making each other laugh and conversing about recent Supreme Court decisions, it is clear that NEHSJC has been an opportunity to discover our shared values.

Not only are we building friendships, but we are also establishing professional relationships that will aid us in our future endeavors. The connections we fostered here are a stark reminder that collaboration is key to progress.

A Precious Time

W
BY SOPHIA MIRABAL

To combat student food insecurity — described as a nationwide epidemic by advocates — Swipe Out Hunger collaborates with colleges across the country to develop sustainable food security programs and lead advocacy efforts.

What began in 2010 has since reached 450 campuses in all 50 states, with nearly 5 million served meals to date, according to Swipe Out Hunger’s 2022 Impact Report.

Rachel Sumekh, the organization’s founder and former CEO, had “no idea” Swipe Out Hunger would grow beyond her UCLA campus. And as the numbers grew, the more obvious the problem became.

“The chase to get more campuses was really just to validate the issue and the need for universities to respond to it,” Sumekh said during a Zoom interview Tuesday.

Sumekh said her decision to fight food insecurity was, in part, motivated by a frustration with her own unproductive college meal plan. That, and the lack of discourse on food insecurity. It seemed as though this was an issue that went unrecognized. So for Sumekh, this was a much broader endeavor.

“Not only will I be helping to feed those students that we reach, but I’ll be elevating an issue that no one was talking about at the time,” she explained.

Why conversations on college hunger seem so infrequent is a question of culture, according to Swipe Out Hunger program manager Shelley Mann.

“We’ve almost turned it into a hazing or a rite of passage instead of, you know, addressing it as a problem,” Mann said, referencing the “hungry college student” as a popular trope, used to justify food insecurity in those seeking a higher education.

But why college students? Sumekh explained that hungry Americans and hungry college students are often the same individuals — an overlap that goes unnoticed.

“College students are Americans, and many Americans are college students,” Sumekh said, and therefore, these individuals may be disproportionately unaddressed.

What’s left to learn in the conversation on student food insecurity? Asked what she thought people should talk more about, Sumekh replied, “That food insecurity is a symptom of poverty. … People don’t just end up going through their lives and then suddenly they’re hungry.”

Recently Sumekh has made the choice to step down as executive director of Swipe Out Hunger. Of course, she will still remain involved in the nonprofit, primarily by helping ease the transition of power. But what else is in store for the Forbes-recognized businesswoman? Whether she will continue her efforts to eliminate student hunger or branch off in new directions, the answer is unclear: “I am taking a few months off to answer that question. I don’t know yet.”
Students pick up their food from the “DISH & Dash” lockers.

Bunker Hill Community College Battles Food Insecurity

BY CHRISTOPHER CATUBIG

A food pantry at Bunker Hill Community College was the first in the nation to institute a refrigerated locker system to make it easier for students to pick up their food.

The popular system had 177 pick-ups from the “DISH & Dash” lockers as of May of this year.

According to a recent study by the Greater Boston Food Bank, 32 percent of Massachusetts adults struggle with food insecurity. In an attempt to combat this, Molly Hansen, coordinator of Bunker Hill Community College’s DISH Food Pantry, helps support students and faculty who are in need of assistance.

“A lot of people know that food insecurity is an issue for college students, but that hasn’t always been the case,” said Hansen.

“Back in 2013, 2014, people didn’t even think of college students when you think about hunger,” she said. “The thought is ‘if you have enough money to go to school, then, of course, you have enough money to feed yourself.’”

The majority of students at Bunker Hill Community College qualify as food insecure. According to the 2022 DISH Food Pantry Yearly Report, the average student is low-income, around 27 years old, maintains a full-time job, and has children.

“Sometimes life just puts really unfair barriers in front of people, and they’re not able to do it. And so, if I, and if the food pantry can help with one of those issues, then that’s amazing. That’s what I want to take off of their minds,” Hansen said.

Throughout the last six months, DISH has experienced exciting milestones, such as the launch of DISH & Dash Lockers—the first initiative of its kind at a college/university.

Since the beginning of the spring 2022 semester, 15,000 pounds of supplies have been donated, and over 23,000 pounds of supplies have been distributed. Roughly 80-90 percent of supplies have been provided by the Greater Food Bank of Boston.

According to a survey done this spring, those who utilize DISH are satisfied with the food pantry. Students who responded to the survey said that the sign-up process was easy and that they were “extremely” likely to recommend DISH to another student or faculty member. DISH users also rated the courtesy and friendliness of the staff and delivery drivers as “excellent.”

The thing Hansen wants people to know the most “...is college students do struggle with food insecurity. Their population needs to be served in a way that fits them the best.”

Street Smarts

BY ESON TANG

Americans are currently dealing with extreme issues including transportation and climate change and one non-profit organization in Boston is taking on those problems head-on.

Livable Streets Alliance not only addresses those problems, but they also take on issues of gender inequities and focus on low income communities of color. Programs provided by the non-profit organization are Transit, Emerald Network, Go Boston 2030, Vision Zero, and Great Neighborhoods.

With Vision Zero, a program focused on road safety, the organization is working in efforts “to reduce the number of serious crashes and fatalities on our streets to zero,” according to Stacy Thompson, executive director of Livable Streets.

Thompson said the most unique aspect of the organization is its “ability to reach out” to communities in public settings and build coalitions. Vision Zero is one example of that. The Transit is Essential is another such example.

To Thompson, making sure the MBTA is run safely is essential because she commutes on a daily basis.

With commuting in mind, Thompson created the Greenways as part of the Emerald Network program for easier and “safer commutes” around the city, while making an effort to reduce the severe effects created by climate change. The Emerald Network envisions 200 miles of greenways.

With Emerald Network, “biowales” are vegetated channels implemented to prevent floodings. Part of the organization’s work includes attaining travel-time information and also experiences on Boston streets based on genders.

In addition, Livable Streets links the elderly population with teens around Boston. These connections are a benefit to both populations, according to Thompson.

Its Street Ambassador’s program helps under-resourced communities, including Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville. The ambassadors survey Bostonians of their needs, with the goal of getting community members back on their feet.

The organization describes itself as “anti-racist” and works to anchor communities of color in need. But Livable Streets Alliance recognizes that there will always be a need for some communities and the organization will be responsive and “willing to evolve.”
Christina McCabe
Christina, 18, is a recent graduate of Woburn High School and is gearing up to report on important issues that she feels need better press coverage. An award-winning writer for the school yearbook and as a local reporter for the Woburn Daily Times, she will continue her education at Northeastern University this fall. Eventually, she hopes to become a household name as a broadcast journalist, using her voice to challenge the status quo. Outside of journalism, Christina is an avid fan of ABC news anchor David Muir, Brazilian food, and iced tea. **BY JOANNA LIN**

Chris Catubig
Chris, 19, recently graduated from the Josiah Quincy School in the Chinatown section of Boston. He received the Yawkey Scholarship and will be attending Emerson College in the fall and major in journalism. He loves sports and enjoys watching both Celtics and Patriots games. He also enjoys playing basketball and spending time with his two dogs, Buddy and Micky. In his free time, Chris likes to listen to J. Cole, Ruel, and Steve Lacy. Chris hopes one day to travel to the Philippines, the birthplace of his father. **BY KJ WOMACK**

Brian Huang
Brian, 15, is entering his sophomore year at Boston Latin School. Driven originally by his love of reading, he later discovered a passion for journalism and a knack for sharing stories. Brian enjoys a wide variety of interests, from classical mythology to baking. His favorite is conducting authentic interviews with new people. Brian’s love for interpersonal work has led to volunteer work with programs including his school’s recycling club and community non-profits. This summer he will be working as a camp counselor with young local students. Brian hopes to become an English teacher. **BY RURI DUFFY**

Darren Seto
Darren, 17, will be a senior at Boston Latin School in the fall. He currently serves as the copy editor of the school newspaper, The Argo. Darren is also the president of his school’s premedical society and the captain of the science team. In journalism, Darren enjoys hearing what others have to say and gaining more knowledge about the issues around him. In addition to his interests in science and medicine, Darren plays the cello. He hopes to pursue a career in journalism and medicine in the future. **BY SOPHIA RUBALCABA**

Caitlin Donovan
Caitlin, 16, is a rising senior at Boston Latin School. There, she is a staff writer for her school newspaper, The Argo. She joined the paper sophomore year at a friend’s recommendation and discovered her interest in journalism. Caitlin is also a tutor and does manuscript editing at a nonprofit. Outside school, you may find her practicing archery and participating in tournaments. She wants to major in English or political science in college, with plans of going into law. Caitlin is also open to exploring a career as a manuscript editor. **BY IRENE DENG**

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Irene Deng
Irene, 17, is an incoming senior at the Boston Latin School. She gained an interest in journalism after joining her school’s newspaper, The Argo, when she was in the seventh grade. Since then, she’s risen from staff writer to head editor of the Arts and Entertainment section. In her free time, she plays the piano, tutors peers in English and math, and participates in her school’s chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). In college, she plans to major in economics. **BY KATHRYN CRAIG**

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Ruri Duffy
Ruri, 17, is a rising senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She is the arts and entertainment editor at her school newspaper, The Register Forum. She is also involved with the French Club and the track and field team. Ruri also plays the guitar. In her free time, she enjoys reading mystery novels, watching Gilmore Girls, and cooking with her sister. Ruri also loves to travel. She currently plans on pursuing a career in either writing or politics.

By Caitlin Donovan

Sophia Rubalcaba
Sophia, 16, is a rising junior at Millis High School. At MHS, she participates with the tennis and chess teams, the writing club, and her school newspaper, The Mohawk Post. While she focuses on sports, she prefers creative writing — primarily poetry — and spends much of her free time reading and making art. Sophia's passion for journalism stems from a dedication for social change, as she believes the profession highlights obstacles in a given community and works to educate the general public. She expects to major or minor in journalism in college and considers it a prospective career.

By Sophia Mirabal

Joanna Lin
Joanna, 16, is a rising junior at Boston Latin School. She is currently in her fourth year as head news editor of her school's newspaper, The Argo. Joanna also contributes as a layout editor for Catapulta, the school's science magazine. She mentors younger students at Youth Cities, a non-profit organization prioritizing entrepreneurship. In her free time, she likes to dance to hip hop, draw digital art, and both watch and play basketball. Joanna wants to learn more about socioeconomics and how they affect affordability in neighborhoods, so she can dive deeper into the context of situations.

By Brian Huang

Kathryn Craig
Kathryn, 18, is a recent graduate of Manchester Central High School in Manchester, New Hampshire and will be attending Babson College this fall. She is a former editor and writer for her school newspaper, The Little Green, which she started writing for in her freshman year. Kathryn is also a member of a club called Student Led Ethical Discussions (SLED) and DECA, a club for students interested in business. Kathryn also enjoys journaling and watching video essays. In the future, she hopes to go into business consulting.

By Mackenzie Coyne

KJ Womack
KJ, 17, is a rising senior at Boston Latin School. At BLS, she is a guidance assistant and a former member of the “BLS Step Squad.” This fall, she is considering running for class secretary as well as joining the student newspaper, The Argo. KJ also volunteers for the production staff at her local church, where she does recording and streaming services. KJ values the impact of journalism, because it allows her to use her love for writing to change the world around her. She wants to further pursue her passion by becoming a journalist, writer, or teacher.

By Eson Tang

Mackenzie Coyne
Mackenzie, 16, is a sophomore at the Academy of the Pacific Rim in Boston. Her interest in journalism was sparked when she took a class covering the topic during middle school. Mackenzie is in the process of creating a school newspaper for the Academy. She is the secretary and social media coordinator for her school’s theater club. Mackenzie is also a part of the NHS (National Chinese Honor Society). Mackenzie is passionate about women’s rights and wants to shine more light on the topic.

By Skye Coakley

Sophia Mirabal
Sophia, 17, is a rising senior at Lowell High School. She is editor for her school’s newspaper, The LHS Review, and she oversees its day-to-day operations. Sophia has found a love for editing and creative writing as a result. In the future, Sophia hopes to study journalism at college — Georgetown is the dream — and afterward pursue a career that involves traveling. In her free time, Sophia enjoys reading, especially literature and creative works.

By Christina McCabe

Skye Coakley
Skye, 18, is a graduate of English High School in Boston. She'll be enrolling at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology later this fall. Skye sees herself creating websites for small businesses in the future. In the past year, she has worked as an ambassador for the Mayor's Youth Council. Skye has also taken dual-enrollment classes at Benjamin Franklin, where she will complete her associate's degree next year in multimedia. Skye also loves digital art, painting, and reading.

By Chris Catubig

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By Sophia Mirabal
Tangle-d Up in Politics

BY CAITLIN DONOVAN

In a divisive political climate, it’s hard to find news that presents both sides. In an effort to combat confirmation biases, Isaac Saul created Tangle, a political newsletter that presents multiple perspectives.

Tangle, founded in 2020, is a non-partisan newsletter that informs readers about hot-button issues. Each issue includes the left’s opinion, the right’s opinion and Saul’s personal take. With 30,000-plus readers, it was recognized by Forbes in 2020 for outstanding entrepreneurship.

Tangle is currently centered around national politics, but Saul is open to expanding its jurisdiction to swing states, other English-speaking countries or even sports.

Saul’s justification for perpetuating the two-party split is the fact that most Americans are already familiar with the schism.

“A lot of people use information we present to make informed decisions about how they’re going to cast their ballots and what political parties they’re going to support,” Saul said.

Saul, a former editor for A Plus and a freelance reporter, was raised in a liberal household in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He described himself as “politically incongruent.”

In a recent article about Drag Queen Story Hour, an organization that sponsors drag queens to read stories to children, Saul wrote about the left’s advocacy for early LGBTQ+ exposure and the right’s wish to protect children’s innocence.

Saul’s take is that drag queens reading in public spaces is not the same as provocative drag shows. On the flipside, not wanting to expose a child to any sexually suggestive content is a reasonable parental concern.

Tangle’s primary goal is to break readers out of their information bubble. According to Pew Research Center, 23 percent of Americans prefer to consume media that fit their personal views. When faced with a different perspective, readers struggle to grasp the validity of the other side’s argument.

“If I was writing something in the Huffington Post, no real conservative was going to take the time to read it, let alone consider the argument I was making,” Saul said.

Saul includes reader feedback in every newsletter in an effort to remain transparent. He also adds clarifications and statistical corrections. There have been 59 corrections since the start of Tangle.

Monday-to-Thursday newsletters are free, but Friday is restricted to those who pay a $50 annual subscription. Tangle’s sole funding is subscriptions, as Tangle does not have ads or investors.

When asked about Tangle’s long-term goals, Saul said, “I want a level-headed, better-informed and less-divided voting population in American society.”

Spatial Justice

BY SOPHIA RUBALCABA

If Frederick Law Olmsted were alive today he might be scratching his head over the meaning of spatial justice. But he might be proud to see the impact he made towards uniting communities.

Olmsted Now is Greater Boston’s celebration of the birth of Olmsted 200 years ago. A national effort, called Olmsted200, builds on his legacy through community events around the country.

Declan Battles, marketing and communications coordinator of the Emerald Necklace, works with Olmsted Now.

“Instead of just focusing on the Olmsted guy from 200 years ago, who was great, without whom we wouldn’t have these wonderful parks and ideals, we also want to focus on the needs of today’s issues of environmental justice and spatial justice,” Battles said.

Growing up in New Hampshire, Battles was already impassioned about nature. As he graduated from college, he was hired at the conservatory. Olmsted Now educated him on the life of the father of public parks.

“Outdoor places like the parks were some of the few places where people could really go out and experience some semblance of society,” said Battles.

Besides in-person celebrations, the organization also has monthly Zoom calls where people can discuss issues related to their public parks.

None of these events could be done without Olmsted’s work throughout the 19th Century. Besides being a conservationist, Olmsted was a journalist in his earlier life. He was also avidly anti-slavery, something radical for the time.

Olmsted’s most famous work is Central Park. He also designed the Emerald Necklace in Boston. The Emerald Necklace is a collection of parks stretching across Boston that breaks up urban sprawl.

While Olmsted200 stretches across America, Boston has a special meaning in Olmsted’s life. He lived in Brookline and it was in Massachusetts where he got his inspiration for the construction of parks.
Art on the Move

BY SOPHIA RUBALCABA

At a time of hardship due to a pandemic, culture can be left behind. In Boston’s Chinatown, however, public artist Crystal Bi has helped to raise morale.

Bi began creating “Chinatown Story Cart” in 2019, and it lasted for three years. The project was created to help youth learn about their own cultural heritage, as Bi had done before them when she would visit Chinatown with her family.

Chinatown’s history has been rooted in hardship. Bi was moved by the destruction of the Tyler Street Branch Library and the creation of I-93 in the 50’s. This event threatened Chinatown’s existence, as a lot of the population were forced to move. Bringing that history to the forefront of her project was very important for her.

They began workshops just as Covid began circulating. These workshops were designed to let the students create artistic stories by having them interview family, friends, and neighbors. Not only did they collect stories of pandemic life, but also portions of their heritage.

Originally, the project was supposed to last a year. Over that time, Bil created mail-in story kits, which residents used to fully connect through the generations in their household by sharing memories and making art.

Bi partnered with the Asian Community Development Corporation (CDC) which supported her financially along with three other grants. The Asian CDC helped out with the logistics.

The “Our Chinatown” mural was finished during the summer of 2020 and soon after was torn down to build a hotel.

“Even though all the workshops were online, the students designed and decided what kind of stories they wrote,” Bi said.

Even as it does not physically stand anymore, the sentiment of carrying on cultural history was seen by Chinatown through these students’ dedication, she said.

Chinatown Story Cart ended in 2021, after an invitation was extended to all residents of Chinatown for a culminating potluck event. The youth of the workshops presented their art to the community and could take pride in being aware of their cultural environment.

Curtain rises on live theater after pandemic

BY CHRISTINA MCCABE

Following a pandemic, musical theater has had to change its ways of operating to continue with productions.

The COVID-19 pandemic shifted the way a traditional theater puts on a performance and has completely changed what is normal in the industry. Theaters never imagined putting on a performance via Zoom, but it is now common post-pandemic.

While some productions have returned to in-person performances, there is still a feeling of uncertainty among the actors, singers and staff involved in these productions.

Stephanie Mann, an actress and singer with the North End Music & Performing Arts Center in Boston, has felt the effects of the pandemic on the theater industry firsthand.

“The biggest challenge is keeping people healthy. There’s fear, especially as the mandates are being lifted,” said Mann.

Mann has been performing in musical theater for almost 32 years. When everything went remote due to the pandemic, she had to find new ways to continue her passion of singing opera in a non-performing environment. With the theater being shut down, she found herself auditioning for and performing in online productions.

The downside of returning to the stage for a live audience is the toll it takes on those performing. Everyone involved in the NEMPAC productions is required to be fully vaccinated and boosted, as well as masked during rehearsals.

Keeping everyone on staff healthy in a musical is extremely difficult for theater companies but is necessary for the production. Organizations like NEMPAC do not cast understudies for their shows. This has resulted many times in a show being postponed due to a number of performers quarantining.

Despite the hardships endured, there have been upsides to producing a musical post-pandemic.

Mann recalls the joy of returning to the stage to see her castmates and co-workers, especially in their most recent production of “Into the Woods.”

“I’ve been trying to do ‘Into the Woods’ for over 20 years. Now, I finally got to do a show I’ve been trying to do for half my life,” said Mann.

Even though the industry is forever changed, NEMPAC will continue its in-person productions.
Stories of workplaces shutting down because of COVID-19 are everywhere. However, CIC Health went against that trend.

The health clinic is a subsidiary of Cambridge Information Center, a company that provides workspaces for business startups, started in the midst of COVID-19.

CIC Heath was launched with the goal of making COVID-19 testing more available by bringing physicians, labs, and software companies together to help its community. Rachel Wilson, president, explained how the pandemic shifted the demand for in-person workspaces in favor of healthcare products.

“In the early days of the pandemic, people weren’t feeling very comfortable coming into the physical environment. And so as the CIC CEO, Tim Rowe did a really amazing job of looking at our policies and procedures.”

She said he asked questions like, “How do we make sure physical distancing is happening in our buildings? How do we make sure things are being disinfected? Maybe we can start testing for COVID at work for both our own employees as well as our clients who are using our spaces.”

Yet, as vaccines and testing have become more attainable, questions arise as to what businesses such as CIC Health will do in a post-COVID world.

Wilson said that the business has already been confronted with these changes. Much of the demand for testing comes from schools, but with summer vacation there’s been a decrease in traction. This has provided an opportunity to put the goals of the business into broader context.

“What we really want to be focused on is how do we connect people into the existing health care infrastructure, and be supportive of those who haven’t really been engaged in health care,” she said.

With that mindset, Wilson explained that CIC Health decided to stay open to help ensure health care equity beyond vaccines and testing.

“How about every time someone comes in to get tested, we ask if you’ve been vaccinated, and if you’ve not been vaccinated, let’s vaccinate you. And oh, by the way, do you have a primary care physician? And if not, let’s get you connected to a primary care physician,” she said.

CIC Health is currently in the process of talking to stakeholders like government officials and healthcare systems to make this innovation happen while also utilizing the business structure that they’ve already built.
Reporting Power

BY KJ WOMACK

Tiana Woodard is striving to bring fresh ideas to reporting on Black news and more-diverse neighborhoods at The Boston Globe as the first reporter the newspaper has hosted as part of Report for America.

Report for America is a national service organization of The GroundTruth Project, a nonprofit that has deployed hundreds of reporters to improve local news coverage in dozens of countries and report on “under-covered issues and communities,” according to The GroundTruth Project website.

Some of Woodard’s recent stories include the abandonment of a Taco Bell that was proposed for Mattapan because of community outrage and Nubian Square’s Juneteenth block party.

“There aren’t that many people who look like me,” Woodard said, referring to Black journalists in newsrooms.

Woodard, 23, like other Report for America core members, received training before being embedded in a newsroom. Woodard said she values being on the Report for America grid because it gives her “access to a second network of mentors, resources, and support.”

Woodard, who grew up in Texas, made the decision to choose The Globe after she learned more about Boston and the newspaper. “Black neighborhood coverage is something unique to [The Globe].”

The GroundTruth Project, on its website, states it aims to build a “more engaged community with a new generation of Black journalists.”

Woodard said most reports about the Black community “regard violence” and that when more positive stories are reported, it’s only “when it aligns with the [news organization’s] agenda.”

In her second year working as a reporter, Woodard said: “This support system is vital.” She added that the Report for America fellowship can last for three years and is now looking toward future options.

“The main thing that I’ve learned through the Globe,” Woodard said, “is that my work is important and makes a difference.”

Tiana Woodward

ICA Boston: A Center for Community

BY IRENE DENG

Throughout the pandemic, ICA Boston managed to serve the community and bring audiences together to appreciate art even when its doors were closed to visitors.

In 2020, the ICA experienced two closures. The first was in March, followed by a short-lived reopening in July. It was closed again in December, and doors remained that way until March 2021.

During its closures, the museum remained connected with its audiences by offering virtual options. Its team held artist talks over Zoom, organized movie screening events, and streamed artistic collaborations.

Colette Randall, chief marketing and communications officer, explained, “At the forefront of our mind has always been the question: How do we continue to serve our audiences?”

The ICA’s service manifested in other ways. Its education department helped implement the idea of art kits, which contained artist-created activities for families. These were free, and according to the museum’s website, 6,900 of them were distributed across the city.

In 2020 and a portion of 2021, the ICA Watershed in East Boston was a critical food distribution site. Now that the ICA is fully back in-person, Randall said that visitors could “experience the excitement of art and the excitement of building community through art” in ways previously inaccessible.

Exhibitions are available again, with recent ones including Napoleon Jones-Henderson: I Am As I Am–A Man and Raúl de Nieves: The Treasure House of Memory.

Past immersive installations such as Yayoi Kusama’s LOVE IS CALLING were popular for their otherworldly experience, Randall said. The exhibition’s success demonstrates that after many months of staying at home, visitors yearn for art that is particularly stimulating.

The art museum, aside from hosting various events and galleries, is located on the waterfront. During the ICA’s Harborwalk Sounds, students from Berklee College of Music entertain listeners without charge. Visitors can sit outside and enjoy the evening, music performances, and city landscape.

Not only is the ICA a place for witnessing creativity, but it is also a site for creating. The Bank of America Art Lab is open on Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.

Randall said that the ICA forges community: together, people make and discuss art, tour galleries, enjoy live music, and participate in other activities.

“To see art be the vehicle for these conversations and these interactions; that’s the most rewarding thing,” she said.
To enjoy art, a visitor doesn’t always have to travel inside a museum. While the pandemic was raging, museums were closing their doors. But luckily for art enthusiasts, there were outdoor exhibits to enjoy in Boston and beyond.

One such exhibit in Brookline is “The Ground We Walk,” the 23rd annual exhibit created by Studios Without Walls, a collaborative group of sculptors and conceptual artists who produce exhibitions of art in outdoor and public settings.

Bette Ann Libby collaborated with multiple other artists to create the outdoor exhibit at the Riverway Park. It features self-guided tours and an art treasure hunt.

In addition to Libby, artists like Stacy Latt, Linda Hoffman, Rebecca McGee Tuck, and many more were involved. There are 16 pieces in the collection, and despite little correlation in their design, they all have the same original prompt.

Libby has been working in the industry for over 30 years, experimenting with several mediums such as pottery, paintings, and mosques. She said she started dabbling in art in college and did all kinds of art. Later she moved to Samoa and worked with a potter there.

Libby’s piece was created alongside one done by Janet Kawada called Message in a Bottle.

“You’ll notice the boat is made out of screening, which wouldn’t float,” Libby said. “So when thinking about immigration and migration . . . the potential is there, if you had a message in a bottle, would somebody find it?”

Janet Kawada, left, and Bette Ann Libby

CELEBRATING CAROLE REMICK
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One cultural experience Remick always provided NEHSJC participants was a Boston Pops performance. In one often-told story, her car broke down the day she planned to pick up Boston Pops tickets. She rushed to find an alternate way to get the tickets, asking Mortimer for a ride.

“She expected you to understand how important there was nothing — nothing — more important than to make sure that the students were going to Symphony Hall,” Mortimer said. “You didn’t say no to Carole.”

Remick was constantly thinking about the next opportunity she could provide a student — often, those opportunities changed lives.

The year after Corey Allen attended NEHSJC, Remick connected him with an editor at The Boston Globe. Allen worked for the paper’s Sports section for eight years.

“[Her life has] given me a blueprint for how to be the best possible person that I can be, which is really to fight for people to get a chance,” Allen said.

Similarly, Boston Latin Academy teacher Ryan Korzeniowski says he tries to emulate Remick when teaching.

“She would go in to see how you were doing, and the end result would be that you get help without realizing it. In a way, you would be the driving force behind it, instead of someone who’s telling you to do so.”

Remick died in 2011. Her advocacy for underrepresented students lives on through the people she’s impacted.

“I went to Carole’s funeral — that church was filled to capacity,” Mortimer recalled. “I looked at that church, and I was amazed. I had never been in a church with so many people. I mean, they were young, they were old, they were diverse. It was terrific!”