



# TELSTAR

HOLIDAY ISSUE, 2006

ROXBURY TENANTS OF HARVARD PUBLICATION

**Need Money for School?**

see page 7

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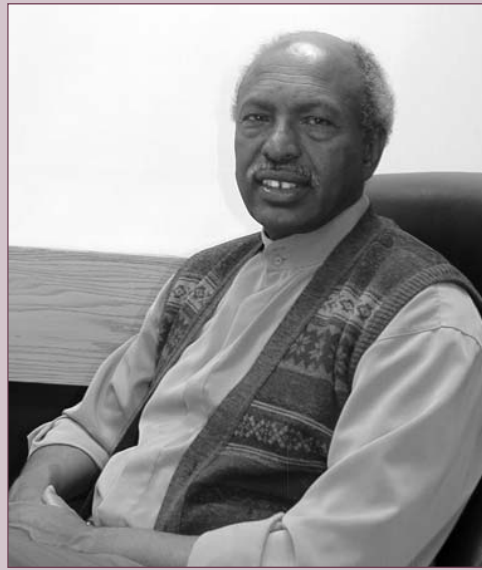
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## GREETINGS



Girma Belay  
*Executive Director*

I hope you had a very good Thanksgiving holiday and are getting ready for a wonderful winter holiday season.

Since our successful annual meeting we have been working hard on many fronts. We are in the process of refinancing Restoration Housing and 777-779 Huntington Ave. These are buildings located at Francis Street and Fenwood Road. As soon as the refinancing is completed we will begin the rehabilitation work immediately.

Since Melinda Weeks left RTH Anne Vinick has become the Director of Program Development. Anne is in charge of all of the various programs we have so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call her. I would like to particularly encourage those parents whose children are enrolled in the *RTH Child Care Center, After School Program, Library/Computer Center, and*

*Teen Programs* to get involved and assist us to further improve the programs.

The negotiations between RTH and Extell Development Company to redevelop the former Massachusetts Mental Health Center are underway. Extell, which is the master developer, is in the process of refiling the master plan for the redevelopment of the Mass. Mental Health Center. Extell is also negotiating with BWH (Brigham and Women Hospital) and DCAM (Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance) who have an interest in the redevelopment of the site.

I look forward to providing you with periodic updates in the coming year. In the meantime, my door is always open for your comments and questions.

## COMMUNITY LIASIONS

During the month of August, the RTH Resident Community Liaisons completed a community-wide survey. This survey asked residents questions about health and the health of the community, jobs and career goals, technology and RTH programs. To thank those who submitted surveys, residents were offered a \$10 gift card to Stop and Shop or Best Buy. We thank all of you who participated!

The Resident Community Liaisons worked tirelessly to survey as many people as possible. They held meetings, set up tables and roamed RTH properties looking for residents to survey. They surveyed residents over the telephone *continued on Page 4*

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Visit our website at  
[www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org)

Girma Belay  
*Executive Director*  
Executive Offices  
11 New Whitney Street  
Boston, MA 02115

## RESIDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by Anne Vinick



Annie Fok

Annie Fok has lived at RTH for five years and she speaks four languages! She has become a true leader in our community and we want to highlight her efforts.

Annie has been very busy over the last year and a half. Recently after becoming a mother, Annie began her community work as a Resident

Community Liaison. She performed outreach to the Chinese residents and helped them to complete the **RTH Survey**.

Last year, Annie also began providing a **translation and interpretation service** for all residents who speak Cantonese, Mandarin and/or Taisanese. She is available every Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Flynn House Kitchen. All RTH residents are welcome to use this service. Residents come see her for help translating mails, with maintenance issues, health insurance issues and more.

In addition, Annie has organized the new **Joy Luck Club**, on every fourth Monday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Flynn House Kitchen. This is a time for residents to meet and gather together, eat Chinese treats and play games like chess and mahjong. It is also a time when residents can learn about other activities at RTH with the help of Annie as translator. Between 25-30 residents have attended this social event each month.

I visited the Joy Luck Club on November 27<sup>th</sup>. When I arrived, Annie was greeting everyone with her son on her hip. She smiled wide as she walked around the room inviting guests to eat and drink. She was even waving residents in as they peered in from outside of the Flynn Kitchen door.

Annie spoke to the group in Cantonese, welcoming them and giving them information about upcoming programs. I asked Annie what she has learned since she started working in the community. “[These residents] have lived here for ten years or longer and they have never had these meetings before. People always want to come to a party or an event but they are afraid that they won’t understand. They are embarrassed.” She added, “A lot of people live alone. They are so happy to have these meetings. People stop me on the street all the time to ask me when the next meeting is.”

Annie told me that through her work here, she has learned

to speak in front of groups of people, a task which she had never done before. She said that it took her a while to get used to it but now she feels comfortable. Annie has met many residents whom she did not know before her leadership role here.

Annie, we want to thank you for your work as a dedicated community activist in the RTH neighborhood. We appreciate your dedication, hard work, and compassion.

## RTH AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The RTH After School Program has been awarded a *Harvard After School Initiative (HASI) Enrichment Grant* in the amount of **\$10,000!!!!** The HASI Enrichment Grant is designed to provide urban students, served through HASI alumni after school programs, with high- quality enrichment opportunities. We are doing this by collaborating with community organizations that provide specialized enrichment programming to children.

The RTH After School Program staff chose to work with the Boston Children’s Museum, Design It! program. This Program is made up of a series of workshops based on design engineering activities.

*Design It!* activities help strengthen the kinds of skills children need to succeed in the classroom and in life. It focuses on problem solving, teamwork, social skill development, and oral literacy by providing children with extended projects that require critical thinking, creativity, collaborative work, and sharing ideas with each other.

The first project the children had was *Balls and Tracks*. They created racetracks with different shapes such as loops and ski jumps using pipe insulation and marbles. The children were faced with a lot of challenges but their ability to work in teams made their outcomes very successful.

幸运欢乐俱乐会

中国人的联谊会

每月的第四个星期一， 中午 1: 00---下午 4: 00

地点: 805 Huntington Ave. Flynn 厨房

- 玩麻将
- 看电影
- 吃茶点
- 结识新朋友

欢迎所有人参加!

## SENIOR NEWS

### Arts & Crafts

Wednesday mornings  
10:00 a.m. to noon

### Bingo

Tuesdays  
starting at 1:00 p.m.

### Movie Night

Wednesday night movies  
at the Flynn Kitchen at 7:00 p.m.  
(geared to senior audience)

### The Walking Club

Thursdays  
at 10:00 a.m.

Meet in the Flynn Kitchen.

### Chat Meetings

Opportunity to gather together,  
discuss current events, etc.,  
may have guest speakers, presenters,  
and performers on subjects of  
interest to the group.

### Chit Chat Meeting

English language  
Chat Meeting  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month  
from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Russian Tea Room

Russian language  
Chat Meeting  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Spanish Chat Meeting

Spanish language  
Chat Meeting  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00

### Joy Luck Club

Chinese language  
Chat Meeting  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month  
from 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.

## Join the Aqua Therapy class

**Class starts 1/26/07.**

Class is limited to 10.

**Time:** Fridays 11:15 p.m. -12 noon  
at the Boston YMCA.

This is a special class for those with joint or mobility challenges, improve range of motion in joints, increase flexibility and improve balance.

**Transportation provided**

**FREE**

## Programs to Come after the New Year:

### Armchair Traveler- NEW!

Travelogue presentations! RTH travelers- residents and staff- will present slides, photos, talks about their travels to Africa, Scotland, Mount Kilimanjaro- places near and far. An opportunity to travel from the comfort of your armchair! Light refreshments will be served.

### RTH Seniors Calendar/Newsletter- NEW!

A Calendar-Newsletter especially for RTH seniors of programs and offerings especially for them. Seniors may also submit work for possible publication.

### Cooking Demonstrations NEW!

Learn to prepare quick and healthy dishes. Special attention will be paid to low salt and diabetic dietary restrictions. Emphasis on preparing inexpensive yet exciting meals quickly. Enjoy lunch afterwards!

### Elder Law Workshops NEW!

Lawyers will prepare simple wills, durable power of attorney, and medical directives for RTH seniors for free.

**Also...** Senior trips, parties and celebrations, "Telling Your Story" personal history project, and more!

## Lunch Tickets

RTH seniors can purchase a ticket to have a meal at the Brigham and Women's Cafeteria on the  
**1st Sunday of each month.**

Tickets are **\$1.00 per ticket.**

The ticket entitles you to receive a meal worth \$5.00.  
*Tickets are available the last week of the preceding month.*  
If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please stop by the Flynn House Kitchen or call  
**Anna Adams at (617) 739-7433**

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

## Taxi Vouchers

Taxi vouchers can be purchased on the  
**1st Tuesday of every month**  
in the Flynn House Kitchen at 10 a.m.  
**Purchase \$10.00 worth of tickets for \$5.00!**  
(2 book maximum per person.)  
For more information please call  
**Theresa Parks at 617-739-7433.**

## Flynn Kitchen Available for Rental

to RTH residents for birthday parties, christening parties, baby showers, etc.

**Refundable \$25 deposit is required.**

Make checks or money orders payable to RTH. (No Cash Transactions)

Call **Theresa Parks at 617-739-7433 for more information.**

## LIBRARY/COMPUTER

### The Betty Powers Library

presents  
the 4th Annual Essay and Poster Contest  
in honor of Black History Month

Guidelines and rules will be available January 3 in the  
Library/Computer Center and the Community Bldg.

Grades 4-6 and 6-8  
Cash Prizes!

The deadline for all entries is January 31  
For more information call

*Beverly Moss at 617-738-8220.*



*Alex Sarleno, Dilliam Martinez, Brian Pinales  
We are having fun as we learn in the Technology Clubhouse.*

## COMMUNITY LIAISONS

and in-person. I would like to congratulate this special group of people for a job well done. The Resident Community Liaisons

are: *Maureen Adams, Annie Fok, Viktoria Galinovskaya, Michelle Gomez, Steve Goodman, Shashou Lorquet, Xavier Peeples and Lorraine Wise .*

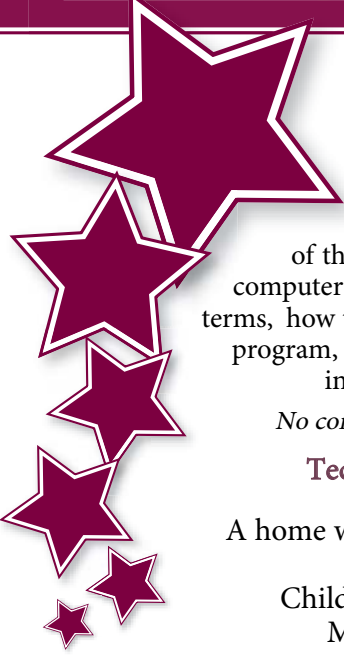
Our goal was to survey at least 10% of residents age 12 years and older or 170 residents. We have exceeded that expectation with over 190 surveys filled out.

The next step in the survey process is to analyze the information that was provided. Once that is complete, a community meeting will take place in which the Community Liaisons will report back our findings. This information will be crucial as we plan new programs, events and policies that speak to your need and desires.

For more information  
about classes and programs  
call Beverly Moss  
at 617-738-8220

## BETTY POWERS LIBRARY/COMPUTER

## COMPUTER CLASSES



### Computer Basics

(4 weeks)

**Start Date:** January 10  
Wednesday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Learn about the parts of the computer, how to turn the computer on and off properly, computer terms, how to use the mouse, how to start a program, create and save a your work, introduction to typing

*No computer experience necessary.*

### Technology Clubhouse

A home work enhancement program  
for

Children in grades 4 thru 6  
Monday - Thursday  
Hours 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**This is a Drop In Program.  
Register Today**

### Photoshop Basics

(4 weeks)

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 noon.*

**Start Date:** January 20

**Prerequisite** *Basic computer and mouse skills required*

### Intro to Microsoft Word

(4 weeks)

**Start Date:** January 10

Learn computer terms, how to navigate the program, how to create and save your work.. formatting text, familiarization with the menu bars  
introduction to typing

**Prerequisite** *Basic computer and mouse skills required*

### Web Design

(4 weeks)

*Thursdays 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

**Start Date:** January 11

In this class you will create your site, hang it on the Web while learning web design

**Prerequisite:** *a beginner level computer course and experience using a mouse; PhotoShop experience helpful.*

## RTH CHILDREN'S CENTER



This fall the **RTH Children's Center** celebrated at our annual graduation ceremony. Parents, children and staff gathered together to share in the festivities. The graduates, who are now ready to enter Kindergarten, walked in their cap and gown and were presented with graduation certificates and a certificate of accomplishment from the Computer Center.

We are very proud of the achievements of our young graduates. They worked very hard throughout the year to learn basic writing skills, emerging reading skills and, of course, they graduate with the gift of being comfortable using a computer.

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**You have a high-quality daycare program that offers care for your child from infancy to preschool age conveniently located in your neighborhood.**

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Our children participate in various programs that motivate their learning and development. Some of these fun and enjoyable programs are:

**Literacy** The children learn the enjoyment of books and reading.

**Arts and Crafts** The children develop necessary skills through play and working with all kinds of materials such as paint, glue, colorful textures etc. We provide the children with the opportunity to express themselves through a variety of mediums.

**Computer Classes** This program is offered to the pre-K group. The children learn problem solving skills and independent use of a computer. This program also supports the Center's pre-reading and writing skills curriculum.

**Plant Life** Children learn about growing plants from seed. The focus of this program is to develop a caring and nurturing attitude toward self, each other and the environment.

**Swimming Classes** We offer our preschool children swimming lesson during the summer. They enjoy learning to swim and playing together.

**Food Program** The children enjoy a nutritious and delicious breakfast, lunch and snack cooked on the premises.

We believe in offering our children fresh, nutritious and appealing meals, to ensure that they grow healthy. If you have any questions about the RTH Children's Center or would like to visit, please contact **Marta Franklin, Program Director at 617-232-9222 or [mfranklin@roxbury-tenants.org](mailto:mfranklin@roxbury-tenants.org)**. We truly have a wonderful program that enriches the lives of children! We encourage all RTH residents, who are in need of care for their children during the day, to enroll!

## RTH TEEN DEPARTMENT

### Teen Center

The Teen Center is located on the second floor of the Parks Community Building and is open Monday through Saturday, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. In the past, the Teen Center was used as a hang out spot after school for RTH teens. With the New Year upon us, the center is looking to head in a new direction. Although there will still be time to socialize and hang out, with new programming such as an after school homework hour, the curriculum of the Teen Center evolving. RTH is currently working on having students from Harvard Medical School come and volunteer their time in an effort to serve as mentors to teen residents. There will also be other exciting programs offered. Look for information in your What's Up and in posted flyers.

### RTH Resident Teen ID's

Teen IDs will now be required to enter the Jonathan Brodie Teen Center. If a teen is not an RTH resident, an ID will not be issued to them. However, a RTH teen resident will be allowed to bring one guest to the Teen Center as long as the resident is present. The Teen Center will allow residents to enter without their teen ID until January 1, 2007. After this deadline any RTH teen resident who doesn't have a teen ID will not be allowed to enter the Teen Center. Teens can get their IDs made at the Betty Powers Library. Teens that would like to schedule a time to have their teen ID made, contact **Silas Carnes**, the Youth Development Coordinator at 617-232-0400. Teen IDs are for the safety of RTH teen residents.

### Programming and Workshops

The Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center visited RTH on November 1, 2006 for a workshop on sexual harassment. The teens participated in the workshop and enjoyed role-playing as a method of solving everyday problems. The Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center also offers workshops on drug abuse, peer pressure and violence prevention. They will be returning to the RTH community to offer more workshops to the teens and flyers will go out to make all teen residents aware of the dates.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

by Laura Adams

Laura Adams says, "Community Events are great opportunities to gather with other residents, and/or to meet new residents. It is wonderful seeing so many people at Community Events enjoying each other's company. It is at these events where you can witness how special our community really is; residents dancing together, singing together and eating together no matter what their differences may be. It is the people that make up the community, not the buildings. Please join us this year at Community Events. They are a lot of fun."

RTH's Community Events mission is to build community spirit and to generate a sense of belonging within our neighborhood. We offer events that reflect the diversity of our residents. We want all to feel welcome and enriched by living in RTH.

The following are a list of Community Events that are scheduled for 2007.

- Black History Month—February
- Chinese New Year—February
- Bike Rodeo -April
- Gospel Concert - April
- Latin Night- June
- National Night Out -1<sup>st</sup> Tues of August
- Block Festival— August
- Halloween Party (children)—October
- Senior Thanksgiving Dinner -November
- Holiday Party (adult)—December
- Holiday Party (children)—December

Watch for flyers with exact dates and more details.

If you have any ideas for community events or would like to help with planning the event, please call **Laura Adams, Community Events Coordinator** at (617) 232-0400.



*On Thursday, Nov. 16th the RTH Walking Group went on a CVS/Pharmacy ExtraTour in Allston. The store pharmacist gave them a tour of the store, while speaking about generic drug alternatives, drug interactions, vitamins, and other helpful tips on health and well being. The walking group had a lot of fun!*



*Arts and Crafts class participants prepare for a special trip to the Arboretum in JP. This class meets every Wednesday from 10-12 in the Flynn Kitchen. Everyone is welcome! A trip to Museum of Fine Arts is being planned for after the New Year!*



*Janice Bohencamp and Barbara Nunez enjoying themselves at the RTH Thanksgiving Dinner.*

## MESSAGE THERAPY

As part of the Senior Health and Wellness Program, RTH is offering Therapeutic Massages for RTH seniors and disabled residents.

During the introductory period, massages will be free, thereafter, massages will cost \$5.00. Limit one free massage.

Elaine Adams, RN, LCMT graduated from Muscular Therapy Institute, Cambridge, MA., where she completed an intensive two year program focused on muscular therapy. Elaine also works as a Registered Nurse at New England Baptist Hospital, where she cares for the geriatric population. Elaine has a passion to help clients improve their quality of life through the power of touch. Massage has many benefits, rejuvenates, reduces anxiety, relieves stress, improves posture, increases circulation, and facilitates well-being.

In order to receive massages, you must pick up a massage ticket from **Theresa Parks** at the Flynn House Kitchen or **Laura Adams** at the Parks Community Building.

## CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

### Congratulations

to Irina Zeliger, Diana Filonova, and Pek Che! The year of 2006 is definitely a milestone in their lives. They have gotten their citizenship and taken their Oath of Allegiance. They all feel they have made a great move in life and being a citizen, they also feel they are more related to this country. They are now ready to take on their new responsibilities as voters and full participants in U.S. society. RTH will offer another round of 12-week Citizenship classes. The classes will aim at preparing learners for the naturalization interview, which includes the English test and the Civics test. The teaching materials include the typical 100 sample U.S History and Government questions, Naturalization exam practice video, and other updated naturalization test information from the U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services official website. *To register or to inquire, please contact Fran Fang, Education Specialist, at 617-232-0400 or email her at [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org)* Updated Citizenship Application forms are available at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) and you can also get the forms from the Parks Community Building at 2 New Whitney St. The filing fee for applications will be raised and USCIS is already under way to redesign their test into a new format. So it is in your best interest to file your application as soon as possible. Don't you want to vote for the next president in this country? Your citizenship will grant you the most important right---the right to vote!

## ESOL PROGRAM

RTH's English for Speakers of Other Languages program is now in full swing! The class provides opportunities for learners to use functional language in daily life situations. Integrated language skills are practiced during the class sessions with a major focus on oral communication skills. Learner-centered communicative approach is used to enrich language input and encourage learner output. The class is not only a class where students learn but also a social get-together time for people from different cultures. Learning can be fun! Beginning class and low-intermediate classes are full. The high-intermediate class is still open. To get detailed information about classes at each level, or to get information about other Adult Education and Literacy programs city-wide, please contact *Fran Fang at 617-232-0400 or [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org)*

## MONEY FOR COLLEGE/ TRAINING

DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR SCHOOL? RTH AND BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL CAN HELP!!!



RTH and Brigham and Women's Hospital are offering SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RTH RESIDENT

RTH/Brigham and Women's Hospital Believe and Achieve **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW**

To be eligible you must be a resident of RTH, enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college/university **OR** enrolled in a vocational/training program that leads to a degree or license, in need of tuition assistance to pay for your education.

Applications are **ALWAYS** available throughout the year at the *Betty Powers Library* or the *RTH Community Building* at 2 New Whitney Street, 2nd floor.

Applications will be reviewed in *January, April, July and October*. Essays and interviews are required in addition to an official letter from your school acknowledging your enrollment.

Submit your application by *December 31* for the next round of interviews in January.

## Congratulations

to the following residents who received scholarships from the RTH/Brigham and Women's Hospital Believe and Achieve Scholarship fund

Aaqila Abdul-Nar  
Phillip Chu  
Keith Curtis Dimalanta  
Heidi Jackson  
Anisha Ballard  
Simon Chu

## EDUCATION

### Math and Literacy Program

If you want to get your GED, or to improve your TABE score so that you can be admitted into job training programs, or to improve opportunities for job advancement, our math and literacy program can help you. Class meets every Wednesday (Math session) and Thursday (Reading session) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30p.m. Enrollment is on-going. If interested, please contact **Fran Fang**, Education Specialist, at 617-232-0400 or email her at [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org) to schedule an initial assessment or for more information about the program.

### Tutoring Program

A total number of 6 tutors work in the Betty Power Library/Computer Center Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tutors not only help children with their homework, they also provide mentoring to the children. Most children have set a bond with the tutors. One-on-one tutoring sessions can be arranged by request. Parents and children who wish to get a personal tutor next semester can contact **Fran Fang** at 617-232-0400 or visit her on the 2nd floor, RTH Community Building.

*If you are a college student or graduate, and you would like to help the children in our community by working as a tutor, please contact **Fran Fang** by phone or by email: [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org).*

Do you have an article that you would like to submit for an issue of the newsletter?  
Call Beverly Moss at 617-738-8220.

## HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

After School Program	617-232-0400
Children's Center	617-232-9222
Community Building	617-232-0400
Cornu Mgmt.	617-566-0707
Facilities Dept.	617-566-1534
Flynn Kitchen	617-739-7433
Library/Computer Center	617-738-8220
Mission Park Garage	617-732-6334
RTH Executive Offices	617-232-4306
RTH Mgmt.	617-232-5910
Security	617-731-6972

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT RTH

### Full Time Teacher

RTH Children's Center

**Requirements:** Degree in Early Childhood Education or EEC Teacher Certification Classroom Experience.

**Duties:** Planning and implementation of classroom curriculum, daily supervision and caring of children; nurturing, caring and respectful; ability to uphold RTH and EEC policies and regulations.

**Marta Franklin**, RTHCC Director

Tel. 617-232-9222

Fax: 617-232-0571

E-mail: [mfranklin@roxburytenants.org](mailto:mfranklin@roxburytenants.org)

### RTH Pool Supervisor

Spend your summer at our incredible outdoor pool. Roxbury Tenants of Harvard has an opening for a seasonal full-time summer pool supervisor at Mission Park. Responsible for the direct supervision of the daily operations, training & supervising pool staff, scheduling & managing swim program, customer service & safety, payroll & daily maintenance. Candidates must have current lifeguard training, CPR and First Aid certifications or be willing to be trained. Requirements include previous supervisory experience and strong customer-service skills.

Interested applicants should send their resume to **Anne Vinick**, Director of Program Development, 2 New Whitney Street Boston, MA 02115.

### Reliable Translator Needed

RTH is looking for someone who can translate flyers from English to Spanish. This person must be able to use Microsoft Word and email. Intested persons should contact **Anne Vinick** at 617-232-0400

### Editorial Contributors

Girma Belay  
Jacqui Boston  
Roxanne Haecker

### Contributing Writers

Laura Adams  
Silas Carnes  
Fran Fang  
Ann Mosley  
Beverly Moss  
AnneVinick

### Layout & Graphic Design

London Garry  
Beverly Moss

### Editor/Publisher

Beverly Moss