



Welcome Springtime!

# TELSTAR

SPRING ISSUE, 2006

ROXBURY TENANTS OF HARVARD PUBLICATION

## RTH Board of Directors

Jacquelin Boston

*President*

Carmen Torres

*Vice President*

Izrail Tselnik

*Treasurer*

Roxanne Haecker

*Clerk*

Jack Anderson

Mary Clifford

Robert J. Healy

Rebecca Hill

Lee Little

Juanita Medina

William Sullivan



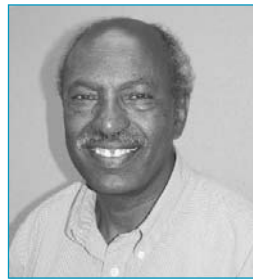
Juan Then, Poster Contest  
see page 4

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

**Girma Belay**  
*Executive Director*  
Executive Offices

11 New Whitney Street  
Boston, MA 02115

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Girma Belay*

Time flies. It has been an exciting six months since I joined you at the helm of RTH. With the major participation of the RTH Board, we have hired a reputable consultant with extensive experience in board and staff training. The Board training has started and is moving along pretty well. A Board retreat has been scheduled for April 2nd. In

addition, we just purchased the property located at 777-779 Huntington Avenue for \$1,500,000.

As for our staff, we have recently hired two new senior managers. **Melinda Weekes**, with degrees in both law and theology, is now the **RTH Director of Program Development**. Ms. Weekes was previously Program Director for the Boston Capacity Tank. She has a long-standing commitment to grass roots community based organizations like RTH. We have also hired **Ms. Anne Mosley** as **Director of the After School and Summer Enrichment Programs**. She has several years experience working with children and families in the areas of academic development and achievement. I hope you will find time to call, e-mail or just meet with these new staff members and share your experiences and knowledge of what it means to be a resident of RTH.

The current Board has been extremely productive and collegial and is working very hard on your behalf. For those of you who participated in last year's Board election, I would say you have done a good job in selecting the current Board. The RTH Board and staff are working together to produce excellent resident programs for the benefit and enjoyment of our residents. I want to encourage everyone to join us, not only to attend, but also to participate in the production of exciting resident programs. We are extremely open to your suggestions and efforts to make RTH a truly participatory organization through its annually elected board of directors and its various task-oriented committees.

The **2006 Annual Meeting** will take place in **June** (the exact date will be announced soon by

*continued on page 3*



*Chinese New Year Celebration*  
(see page 5)



*Irene Smalls comes to RTH*  
(see Page 3)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Black History** 3

**Chinese New Year** 5

**Job Opportunities** 7

**Library/Computer Center** 4

**RTH Events** 6

**Senior News** 5

**Scholarships** 8

**Summer Enrichment** 7

## NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



Melinda Weekes

I am elated to have started this past January as the Director of Program Development for RTH. Each day, I am impressed by the enthusiasm and pride that residents bring to every aspect of their work, play and living. I am especially privileged to work under the visionary leadership of Girma Belay and with such a committed and creative

Program Staff. In addition to improving and expanding current programs, we are creating new programs that address a variety of needs and interests reflective of the entire RTH community.

I am convinced that with RTH's rich history, unparalleled diversity, and openness to becoming its best, RTH has all it needs to become the jewel of Mission Hill, the talk of Boston and a model for urban living throughout the country. In fact, let's collectively decide to make this our goal!

Morehouse College former president Elijah E. Mays once stated, "Not failure, but low aim is sin". With your help, we can keep the bar high and reach the heights in building community at RTH.

Your input is vital to creating the vision for programs in this community. In addition to giving feedback to the Community Liaisons who will be contacting you in the coming weeks with surveys, please email me ([mweekes@roxburytenants.org](mailto:mweekes@roxburytenants.org)) with ideas, concerns or questions as they relate to the programs of RTH. I look forward to hearing from you, and especially if you do not participate in RTH's current programs or events, but would like to in the future.

I personally welcome and encourage you to take advantage of the many services, resources and benefits that come from involvement in the programs of RTH.

**RTH's Program Department:** reaching the heights, realizing the hopes, and ready to help.

## RESIDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Yvette Waters



Yvette Waters

"I am a single parent and I have lived in Mission Park since 1989. I have seen many changes while caring for my children and seeing many of their friends become teenagers and young adults. Some of those changes are quality programs for children such as the martial arts program at

the RTH Community Center, the Teen Center, and the Library/Computer Center which are wonderful places for our youth to connect with their friends.

I would like to share my thoughts about being an adult student. We all have dreams that we would like to manifest, but having a family with its obligations makes us put those dreams away, sometimes for the rest of our lives. We tend to forget what makes us happy. I have decided to return to school to reach my dream one step at a time. Being a *non-traditional* student is honorable for me because I appreciate my aca-

demical experiences that challenge me to explore, expand, and enhance my talents and knowledge so that I can reach my life purpose. Being a positive role model for my children is very important to me. I am grateful for the *Believe and Achieve Scholarship* that is helping with my tuition costs. I urge you to apply for one if you decide to attend school. It is a fantastic program. I am sure there are neighbors who are presently in college who would greatly benefit from this program too. I have a passion to improve the quality of life in my community and beyond. I must make education the bridge that will guide me there. My advice to you is to never give up your dreams, because through dedication and commitment, you can fulfill your own happiness."

---

**"Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use  
to change the world "**

NELSON MANDELA  
SOUTH AFRICAN STATESMAN

---

## BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATIONS



*Kurtis Rivers Jazz Quartet*

In honor of Black History month several events were planned for our residents.

On February 3rd, Kurtis Rivers performed with his cool jazz group. Mike Boston, a Hip-Hop Gospel Rapper, gave a spirited performance for our teens. On Friday, February 17th, Irene Smalls, an African-American author of

children's literature, came to read to the RTH After School Program and the Technology Clubhouse participants. Her storytelling event was very interactive and colorful. The children sat in awe as Irene retold stories about "Jenny Reen & the Jack Muh Lantern", an African American Halloween Story, and "Johnkankus", a 200 year old story about the First Black Christmas celebration. After Irene's presentation, the RTH Board of Directors donated a set of books from her collection to the RTH After School Program, the Technology Clubhouse and the RTH Children's Center. Thank you Irene Smalls for a wonderful night!

On February 24, Marilyn Casey, a resident of Mission Park, displayed some of her beautiful art work. Marilyn is presently an honor student at the Massachusetts College of Art. We wish her luck in her endeavors.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

We will offer weekly field trips to recreational areas, museums and other cultural institutions throughout the greater Boston area. Your child will participate in physical activities such as swimming, sports, martial arts, and other organized group games. They will also participate in computer related activities.

- Session I:** Monday July 10 – to July 28
  - Session II:** Monday July 31 to August 18
  - Hours:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - Cost:** \$50.00 for 3 weeks, \$100.00 for 6 weeks
- (extended hours are available for a fee)*

Applications are available at the [Community Building](#) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, and the [Library/Computer Center](#)

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*(continued from page 1)*

the RTH Board); it is time to put our community planning together. Thus, I want to urge everyone at RTH to participate in the upcoming **Annual Meeting** to show your fundamental interest in the well-being of our RTH community. Once again, in the best reflection of our democracy, you will have a chance to cast your vote to choose the new RTH Board members. I see the annual meeting as a celebration of our vibrant and diverse community - a community gathering where we can share our achievements and future plans with friends, neighbors and partners. Most importantly, we hope you will do your level best to help us to get the word out to increase resident's participation and just have fun. If you have any ideas please let us know.

Sincerely,  
Girma Belay  
Executive Director

## WEIGHT WATCHERS



### *What are you "weighting" for?*

Residents have appreciated the RTH Weight Watchers on-site program.

At Weight Watchers meetings, you will have a confidential weigh-in to keep you on track. You will learn how to make wise choices, eat healthy, enjoy food, and exercise. You will receive support and guidance from a Weight Watchers expert to help you reach your goal and stay there. You will benefit from the practical experiences, recipes and tips of others losing weight with Weight Watchers.

Please call **Laura Adams, Office Manager**, at **(617) 232-0400** for more information.

## LIBRARY/COMPUTER



**Black History Month Essay/Poster Contest Winners:** Luis Ortiz, Michelle Soto, and Noel Vega. (Missing from photo: Juan Then and Ivan Vega)  
We would like to extend a special thank you to our judges: **Jack Osgood, Lorraine Wise, Gloria Wright, and Gail Kurland.**

## TECHNOLOGY CLUBHOUSE

**FREE**

**Join Today**

**Grades 4 - 6**

**Monday – Thursday**

**4 p.m.– 6 p.m.**

**Friday is game day 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

This is a “**drop in**” program

Projects focus on math, reading, writing, science, vocabulary building, computer skills training (Word, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations, typing), digital photography, computer graphics, and educational games. For more information call **Beverly Moss** at **617-738-8220**

## COMPUTER CLASSES

### Excel Workshop (4 weeks)

Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Start Date:** April 10

Create and design workbooks; introduction to formulas and calculations; enter data; and create a home budget

**Prerequisite:** a beginner level computer course and experience using a mouse; completion of a Microsoft Word course is helpful.

### PhotoShop Workshop (4 weeks)

Tuesdays 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

**Start Date:** April 18

Have fun with your images! Learn to repair old photos and add special effects. Create your own masterpieces!

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

### Computer Basics (4 weeks)

Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Start Date:** April 26

Learn how to turn the computer on and off properly, parts of the computer, how to start a program, create and save a new document and navigation techniques; file management

*No computer experience necessary.*

### Web Design (4 weeks)

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon

**Start Date:** April 22

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.

### PowerPoint Workshop (4 weeks)

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

**Start date:** June 5

Learn to produce professional-looking presentations using clip art, pictures, animation, sound and graphs. Learn how to make a photo album slideshow

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

### Internet Basics (2 weeks)

Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Start Date:** June 7

Learn how to use browsers, surf the net, use search engines and e-mail

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

For more information and/or suggestions for future classes please call Beverly Moss at 617-738-8220

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### National Women's Day

On March 10th RTH celebrated National Women's Day with performances by **Irina Frolova** who sang Russian and American love songs, dances by **Anna and Angelika** (granddaughters of Lyudmila Kagon, a resident of Mission Park.) We would like to acknowledge the beautiful words written by **Mark Tucker** which were put to music. Residents danced to contemporary dance music. Everyone had an enjoyable time. Mike Ross and the Boston City Council presented an official resolution to RTH in recognition of this celebration. Special thanks to Mission Park resident, **Rita Perchenok**, for organizing this wonderful event.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



RTH sponsored the second *Annual Chinese New Year* celebration on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. State Representative **Gloria L. Fox** and City Councilor At-Large **Sam Yoon** were present at this event. Although this is one of the most important Chinese holidays, it is not an occasion exclusively for Chinese residents. It is an inclusive event to bring our diverse community together.

About 100 residents enjoyed entertainment by some of the talented RTH children, who performed classical Chinese musical instruments and a martial arts demonstration. There was a wonderful performance by the Cambridge Chinese Senior singing group. Other performances included Chinese folk dance and folk songs, a Russian song, and children's dances. The children were also organized for fun games. Residents also enjoyed tasty Chinese food and traditional Chinese snacks.

Special thanks to **Nancy Jie, Lifang Zhang, Yeejen Lu, Yueqiao Chen, Ruchan He, Xiwen Huang**, and other residents who made the event such a success.

## TEEN BEAT

### Summer Jobs

Each summer RTH collaborates with ABCD to provide summer jobs at RTH for the teens in our community. If you are between the ages 14 and 19 and interested in working at RTH, complete the application process with ABCD and apply for a summer job at RTH. Summer Works applications are available in the Community Building and at ABCD Parker Hill Fenway. For more information please call **Silas Carnes** at **617-232-0400** or call the Summer Works Program at the ABCD Parker Hill Office at **617-445-6000**.

Summer Jobs at Brigham and Women's Hospital are available for teens between ages 16 and 19. Applications are available in the Community Building. If interested and would like to interview for a summer position please call **Silas Carnes** at **617-232-0400**.

**Youth Building Community** is a six-week summer program designed for youth ages 12 to 15. This program offers the best of both worlds—summer camp and a summer job. Participate in this program and gain valuable work experience while enjoying the fun activities of a summer camp. The youth in this program work with the homeless and elderly, and volunteer at food pantries. They will also enjoy fun field trips and earn weekly stipends for their participation. Are you too old for summer camp but are still too young to work? **Youth Building Community** is the program for you! **Start date to be announced**. For more information please call **Silas Carnes** at **617-232-0400**.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY AT RTH



*The 2006 Resident Community Liaisons are: Shashou Lorquet, Anne Vinick, Vicky Galinovskaya, Joe Cotrone, Maureen Adams, Xavier Peebles, Lorraine Wise, and Michelle Gomez. (missing from picture Annie Fok)*

RTH entered into a community benefits agreement with Brigham and Women's Hospital (in September 2001) called the "Program Agreement". The Program Agreement summarizes how RTH and BWH will work together to identify, develop and implement a comprehensive continuum of services and benefits for the neighborhood residents.

As part of the Program Agreement, RTH conducted a

Community Assessment to help identify particular needs and assets in the community. We reported the results to you over a year ago and many new programs have begun since that time.

Eight new residents have now been hired as **Resident Community Liaisons**. You will be seeing a lot more of these resident leaders in the near future.

This new group is made up of dedicated residents who want to make this neighborhood a better place for everyone. They will be doing a great deal of on-going outreach and organizing to let residents know about the many programs, special events and other opportunities available. In addition, over the next few months, we will begin planning a large-scale community survey. Our goal is to survey all RTH residents to get the most comprehensive picture of our future priorities.

We are excited to begin this next phase of community involvement and look forward to your participation!

## RTH EVENTS

### Employment Specialist On Site!

Do you need help finding employment or help with a resume? Our Employment Specialist, **Keila DeOliveira**, can help you learn:

- \* Customer Service for healthcare
- \* Computer Skills
- \* Resume and Cover letter writing
- \* Job search techniques and Job search assistance
- \* Interview Tips

She will be available at One Brigham Circle every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. She will be available at the Community Building once every month. For more information or referral, please call **Fran Fang** at **617-232-0400** or e-mail her at [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org) or **Keila DeOliveira** at **617-879-1620, ext.235**.

### Girls Night Clubhouse

(For girls ages 13-16)

This group meets on Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the mezzanine of the Community Building

Contact **Millie Diaz** at **617-738-8220** for more information.

**FREE**

### Arts and Crafts

This class meets on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Flynn House Kitchen. No experience necessary. Join in the fun, get to know your neighbors and express your creativity through various mediums.

**FREE**

### Tutor Appreciation Event

Tutors from nearby colleges have been working for our community since last October. They helped children with homework and MCAS/ISEE preparation. Most of them will leave for summer vacation in late April. We are planning an appreciation event for them.

*Date to be announced.*

## TRANSLATION SERVICES

### For Russian and Chinese Residents

Tuesdays

9:00-11:00 am

Flynn House Kitchen

Need help translating documents or letters? Have questions or concerns about other matters? Please come and meet with **Sofiya Deych** or **Annie Fok**, our resident interpreters and **Gail Kurland** of the Resident Social Services Office.

**FREE**

### 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, our math and literacy program can help you. Contact **Fran Fang** at **617-232-0400** or e-mail her at [fming@roxburytenants.org](mailto:fming@roxburytenants.org) to schedule an initial assessment or for more information about the program. Classes begin April 5, 2006

### Multicultural Festival

Saturday, June 10, 2006  
12 noon to 2 p.m.

Please call **Laura Adams**  
Office Manager at  
(617) 232-0400  
if you want to participate in  
the multicultural talent show.

### Game Night

Friday, April 21, 2006  
7 p.m.

Community Bldg.

Join your neighbors for an evening of fun and games!  
*scrabble, chess, checkers, cards, backgammon, pokeno, and more!*

### National Night Out

National Night Out is a time to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness in our community by strengthening our community spirit and supporting local law enforcement. Please join your neighbors on

**Tuesday, August 1, 2006**

*(location and time to be announced).*



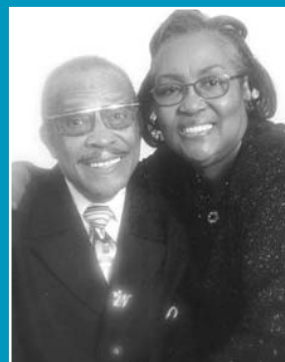
### Bingo for Seniors

Every Tuesday  
1 p.m.

**Flynn House Kitchen.**  
805 Huntington Avenue

For more information call  
**Theresa Parks** at (617) 739-7433  
Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Gospel Concert



featuring  
Gospel recording artists  
**Bill Moss and the  
Celestials**

Detroit, Michigan  
**Monday, April 17, 2006**

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Community Building  
2 New Whitney Street  
**FREE ADMISSION**

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT RTH

### After School/Summer Enrichment Program Group Leader

**PAY RATE:** \$10.00-\$12.00 hourly

#### QUALIFICATIONS

A Group Leader must be at least 18 years of age and meet one of the following sets of requirements: 1) Have a Bachelor's Degree or an Associate's Degree; and have 3 months of experience working with school age children; or 2) Have a high school diploma or equivalent; and have 6 months experience working with school age children including 3 months supervised experience at a school age child care program. A demonstrated interest and commitment to working with children and families is necessary. *Experience in designing and leading activities for children is strongly preferred.*

#### GENERAL DUTIES

Responsible for the daily planning and implementation of small group activities and direct supervision of children. Actively participates in both small and large group activities. Group Leaders work approximately 20-25 hours per week 1:30 a.m. -6:30 p.m. *Group Leaders must also be available to work full-time during the summer and school vacations from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*

Forward resume and cover letter to:

Anne Mosley  
RTH After School Program Director  
2 New Whitney St.  
Boston, MA 02115  
E-mail: [amosley@roxburytenants.org](mailto:amosley@roxburytenants.org)  
Fax: 617-232-4010

## RTH WALKING CLUB

### Walking Our Way to Health

On **Thursday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m.** RTH will celebrate the Kick-off of the Boston Public Health Commission's Neighborwalk in the Flynn House Kitchen. The RTH Explorers ( RTH's walking group) have been enjoying the benefits of walking for the last 2 years.

It is a wonderful way to get some exercise, meet your neighbors, and best of all have FUN. The walking group meets **Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.** in the Flynn House Kitchen. Everyone is invited to walk.

For more information, please call **Anna Adams** or **Theresa Parks** at (617) 739-7433

### Lifeguard Positions

Duties include enforcing pool rules, monitoring all pool activities, maintaining accurate daily pool records as well as sustaining sanitary conditions in and around the pool.

**Requirements:** *Certified Lifeguard, CPR & First Aid training.* Applicants must be 18 years of age. CORI check required.

Please send your resume to

Laura Adams, Office Manager  
Community Building  
2 New Whitney Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
or e-mail it to [ladams@roxburytenants.org](mailto:ladams@roxburytenants.org)

Please call **Laura Adams** at (617) 232-0400 for more information.

**Do you have an article that you would like to submit for an issue of the newsletter?**

Call **Beverly Moss** at 617-738-8220.

## SENIOR NEWS

### The Flynn Kitchen

is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Drop in!**

For more information call  
**Theresa Parks** at (617) 739-7433

#### 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 any time Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Tickets are limited.**

**Bon Appetite!**

#### 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.

## MONEY FOR COLLEGE/TRAINING

### *RTH/Brigham and Women's Hospital* *Believe and Achieve*

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RTH RESIDENTS

Have you always thought about going back to school? Do you need money for school?

*RTH and Brigham and Women's Hospital can help!*

#### 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 available throughout the year at the **RTH Administrative Office** at 11 New Whitney Street, the **Betty Powers Library**, the **RTH Community Building** at 2 New Whitney Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, or download a copy from our website at [www.roxburytenants.org](http://www.roxburytenants.org).

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.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!**  
For more information, call **Anne Vinick** at 617-232-0400.

## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2006

RTH would like to congratulate the following RTH residents who have received RTH/Brigham and Women's Hospital Believe and Achieve Scholarships in 2006:

**Yvette Waters**, attending Simmons College School of Management; **Keith Curtis Dimalanta**, attending College of the Holy Cross; and **Alan Mui**, attending University of Massachusetts at Amherst

*Great job! We know that you will reach your goals and succeed in whatever you do!*

## NEW STAFF



**Anne Mosley**  
After School Program and  
Summer Enrichment Director

### Flynn Kitchen Available for Rental

*to RTH residents*  
birthday parties, christening parties, baby showers, etc.  
Refundable deposit required.

*Make checks or money orders payable to RTH*

Call **Theresa Parks** at  
**617-739-7433**

## In Memory of



**Ruby Baynes**  
November 22, 1913 -  
January 29, 2006



**Imette St. Guillen**  
March 2, 1981 - February 25, 2006

*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to both of the families.*

### Editorial Contributors

Girma Belay  
Jacqui Boston  
Roxanne Haecker  
Anne Vinick  
Melinda Weekes

### Contributing Writers

Laura Adams  
Fran Fang  
Ann Mosley  
Kris Tyler  
Melinda Weekes

### Layout & Graphic Design

London Garry  
Beverly Moss

### Editor/Publisher

Beverly Moss