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**Pool Opens
Saturday
June 25th**

Girma Belay

Executive Director
Executive Offices

11 New Whitney Street
Boston MA 02115

Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Annual Report

Girma Belay, Executive Director

By the time you have received this report the winter will be behind us. As I am sure you have witnessed, RTH Staff, Board of Directors, and Cornu and S-C Management companies have been extremely busy building and beautifying the RTH community. What follows are the highlights of the major capital improvements that are either completed or are still underway.

Ellen Daley Park

The park, located to the side of the Flynn Building, which was completed in December 2010, includes the replacement of the old playground with a new one, adding a new barbeque grill, game tables, furniture installation, and landscaping with beautiful plants and flowers. We hope you will join us to celebrate the official opening of the park in late June 2011.

Mass Mental Redevelopment

The redevelopment of the former Mass Mental Health Center has been proceeding on schedule. The demolition of the building has been completed without significant disruption and no accidents. RTH and Brigham and Women's Hospital together employed Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E) to monitor dust and other hazardous materials, including lead, asbestos, and carbon monoxide. To date, the result from the regular monitoring has been that the levels of hazardous materials in the air have not exceeded federal government regulatory requirements. The two new buildings on Binney Street and Vining Street are slated to be completed and ready for occupancy by the Department of Mental Health by October 2011.

Jacqueline M. Boston Multipurpose Gym

We have assembled a development team, including hiring Steffian and Bradley Architects to design the new building, and Boehm Architecture to plan how spaces can be used most efficiently. We hope to begin the construction work by April 2012. In the meantime, the architects will gather basic information about the project, hold an introductory community meeting and conduct a community charrette to come up with recommendations for a comprehensive and integrated space plan for the RTH programs, administrative offices, and other space needs.

RTH Community Apartments (FFH)

We have just substantially rebuilt the foundation wall of the building at 50 Francis Street and have restored the building's integrity to safety and soundness. The construction was completed at a cost of \$250,000. We have

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RTH
Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 12, 2011
2 p.m.
New Whitney Street Loop
(see page 2)

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also completed a very difficult project to repair the lateral sewer line between 747 Huntington Avenue and the sewer main under the street. The completion of this work solved the sewer backup flow issues in the basement of 733 Huntington Ave.

Restoration Housing

We have replaced all of the old windows with state of the art, energy efficient acoustical windows. The installation of these particular windows substantially reduces the level of noise experienced by the Old Neighborhood residents from helicopters, ambulances, and on-going construction projects while also saving energy for the project. We appreciate the Brigham and Women's Hospital contribution of \$550,000 towards the cost of the windows.

Mission Park

The construction work to repair the longstanding water infiltration in several of the Neville Building's apartments has been completed as of early this year. There are some residual issues, including the landscaping work, which will be completed as soon as weather permits. Other projects completed include the Duggan Lobby construction, Mission Park Garage exit wall, elevator upgrades, and common area hall painting in Neville and Flynn buildings.

RTH Financial Picture

RTH continues to be a financially healthy organization. During 2010, it invested in substantial capital improvements, planned for the development of new properties as described above, and offered nearly \$2,000,000 of program services to its residents. It accomplished this while still setting aside savings for the future. Many of the program services were made possible by the renewed program agreement between RTH and the Brigham & Women's Hospital and contributions from local organizations including the New England Baptist Hospital, Mission Youth, So-ciudad Latina, Mission Hill Fenway Trust, and the City of Boston - Browne Trust Fund. As we move forward during 2011, RTH is committed to investing a similar amount of resources to enhance existing program services and design new, creative programs. Asset preservation, fundraising, and spending resources wisely will remain a top priority for RTH.

Conclusion

As usual, this has been a busy and productive year for RTH staff, board, and residents. We appreciate

the patience of our residents for tolerating the inconveniences produced by the intense level of construction in their neighborhood this past year. However, the result of all this construction has no doubt substantially improved the appearance and the quality of the built environment for our residents and for the wider community. It has been an extremely successful year for RTH, for which the staff, board, and residents should all be very proud.

Potluck Supper | Candidates Night

Saturday, June 11, 2011

6 p.m.

Community Building,
2 New Whitney Street.

Bring a dish to share with your neighbors

Running for the Board

Roxanne Haecker

The RTH Board is comprised of eleven directors who are elected by RTH residents at our annual meeting. There will be six seats open at this year's election on Sunday, June 12th, 2011.

Please join your neighbors to share a **Potluck Supper** in the RTH Community Building, 2 New Whitney Street, at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 11th. The Potluck Supper will be preceded by a **Meet the Candidates Forum** at which eligible RTH residents interested in running for a seat on the Board may introduce themselves and their qualifications and present their positions on RTH community issues. Our community provides us with so much that is worth supporting and protecting! We need RTH community members to attend this Candidates Forum. Find out who is running for the Board of Directors and what they will stand for and work for in our community. Let's choose our Directors responsibly and hold them accountable.

What does a Board Director do?

What is the time commitment?

The Board of Directors oversees RTH financial resources, ensures there is sufficient funding for sustainability and desired growth, and ensures accountability to the RTH community. It engages in

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Three RTH Residents – One RTH Community

Anne Vinick



left to right: Michelle Soto, Teresa Naranjo, Jennifer Diaz

In the summer of 2009, RTH ran a training program for teenagers who were interested in babysitting. Community Liaison and resident **Teresa Naranjo** taught RTH teens to be responsible, smart, and fun babysitters. As a former RTH Children's Center teacher, she helped to create the program and facilitated the entire ten-hour curriculum. The teens learned through guest speakers, video, hands-on learning, and lots of discussion around child development, basic first aid, appropriate play for different ages, and more.

One of the graduates of the Babysitters Group is 18 year-old **Michelle Soto**. Michelle has babysat for resident's children many times during RTH special events, workshops, and classes in the past. But her most recent babysitting job made a difference not only to the mom she was working for, but to some younger youth from the RTH neighborhood, as well.

RTH sponsors Girl Talk, a sexual health program for 12-14 year old girls. The program focuses on how our bodies work, social norms and body image, teen pregnancy, healthy relationships, and communication. The group is co-led by Anne Vinick, Director of Resident Services, social work intern Allison Krebs, and resident **Jennifer Diaz**. Jennifer was asked to co-facilitate this group because of her experience working as a youth leader and her passion for working with teens. Although Jennifer works full-time and has two children, her commitment to this age group and her community has developed into a new opportunity.

After Girl Talk began, Jennifer realized that she would have to leave early from every group meeting in order to take her daughter to dance class. Happily, Jennifer was able to connect with Michelle for babysitting services. Michelle now has a part-time job, and Jennifer

can fully participate in Girl Talk.

Teresa Naranjo, Michelle Soto, Jennifer Diaz: This is an example of three residents making a difference in their neighborhood and to each other. This is what community building is all about.

Security Meetings

Held the second Wednesday of each month in the Community Building

NEXT MEETINGS:

May 11, 2011
and June 8, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Attention Russian Speakers

Cyrillic keyboards for your use in the Library have arrived. For more information call Beverly Moss, Technology Director at 617-738-8220

Running for the Board (continued from page 2)

strategic planning and oversight implementation, ensures effective program development and evaluation, hires, supports and evaluates the executive director, ensures the legal and ethical integrity of the RTH organization, and works to enhance RTH's public image. It is hard work. Each year the RTH organization's business becomes more complex; it takes much study and preparation to conscientiously and responsibly address.

In addition to a monthly Board meeting (there may be more frequent meetings if necessary) Board members chair or serve on various committees such as Audit, Budget & Finance, Governance, Strategic Planning, ADA (Disability), Social Events, and other ad hoc committees.

Although it can be time consuming, it is also immensely gratifying to make a commitment and be of service to your community and worth every bit of the hard work and time invested. If family, work, school, or other commitments don't allow you time to serve on the Board of Directors, please do come to community meetings and to the annual meeting to help elect Directors who you believe will work in the best interests of the whole RTH community.

Betty Powers Library and Computer Center

Roxanne Haecker

We are proud to announce that the Library/Computer Center has adopted a number of the principles for excellence that were approved by the Boston Public Library Trustees in 2010. We are committed to providing a welcoming atmosphere and services that respond to our neighborhood's interests, needs, and changing demographics. We are a community gathering place that fosters the love of reading and critical and creative thinking, provides digital access and training, and that serves all of our residents- children, youth, young adults, and lifelong learners. We invite all RTH residents to take advantage of our classes and many ongoing and new offerings.



Intro to Computer | Spanish: Millie Diaz, Instructor, Anna Bonilla, Carmen Rosado, and Natividad Morales
Not shown in picture: Juana Renta, Betty Negron, Angie Negron, Louis Rivera, Marta Sanchez, Blanca Guzman, Elsa Rivera,

NEW! The Library Troupe- A reading group formed of some of our library regulars. The children read the Secret Garden and then attended a performance of the same at the Wheelock Theatre, went to the Brookline Puppet Showplace to see a marionette performance of a traditional Chinese tale, enjoyed a comic book workshop, and have much more to look forward to including more comic book workshops with artist Raul Gonzalez, another trip to the Wheelock Family Theatre, a puppet show by the Gerwick Puppets here at RTH (open to all!), a financial literacy class, and the always popular Bookworm contest.



Library Troupe at Puppet Showplace Theatre
Tara Powell, Desiree Cromartie, Jovan Freeman, Tony Ly, Carlos Dablah, David Thomas, Kenny Ly, Michael Ly, and Julia Chen



Intro to Computers | Chinese
left to right: Helen Hui, Li Nu Zhang, Xiao Qing Huang, Dong Hui Deng, Beverly Moss, Xiu Fang Cheng, Mei Hu, Fung Yee Law, Guo Jing Xu, Ying Yu Zhu, and Xing Yi Zhou.

NEW! Introduction to Computers classes in multiple languages. Intro to Computers I Spanish is into its second cycle. Intro to Computers Chinese is in the third week of its first cycle. Both classes have been very well attended and supported by RTH residents. There are graphic pads available for Chinese writing and Cyrillic keyboards available for Russian speaking residents. We plan to offer Intro to Computers and Computer Basics in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian on an ongoing basis.

UPCOMING! Intro to Computers Russian, new children's picture books, Storytime, Anti-bullying Workshops, Comic Book Workshops, online subscriptions to oft requested newspapers and magazines, and more!

Please watch for the "What's Up" and the Library/Computer Center calendar to take advantage of the many great classes offered at the library/computer center, as well as open access time, training aids for self instruction and practice, and tutoring and homework help.



Library Troupe's Marta and Tara and Secret Garden castmember

Youth Council

Silas Carnes

The RTH Youth Council is preparing for spring and would like residents to watch for flyers announcing Youth Council sponsored events that will be going on around the community. The Youth Council will be hosting the annual Senior Luncheon in the month of May and a neighborhood cookout in April!

In addition to hosting community events and activities, there is much more that goes into being a member of the Youth Council. The purpose of the council is to increase youth participation in our community; to develop leadership, critical thinking, and collaboration skills; to create relationships between youth and adult leaders in the RTH community; to give youth a meaningful voice in future RTH development and program planning; to encourage RTH youth to discover and utilize resources; and to help RTH youth understand the importance of civic participation and help prepare our next generation of community leaders.

Each participant is committed to their fellow council members and the RTH community. Currently we have six Youth Council members and we are seeking one committed teen resident between the ages of 14-17 to join the council. The Youth Council offers a variety of benefits including educational and fun trips and outings, leadership workshops, enhanced community awareness, a paid stipend, and the ability to add a very important extracurricular activity on your resume.

If you are interesting in applying for a RTH Youth Council position, contact Silas Carnes at 617-232-0400.

Civic Engagement

Roxanne Haecker

Roxbury Tenants of Harvard (RTH) is a rare entity. It is a highly successful, financially solvent non-profit organization that provides both affordable housing and numerous social programs- including health and wellness, education, job training, recreational, and support services- to its approximately 2,000 residents. Born of a fifteen year battle begun in the late 1960's by working class Mission Hill residents fighting to save their homes and preserve working class housing, RTH retains that "can-do" spirit and belief in the abilities of its resident members.

In fact, the RTH corporation is run by its residents. It is controlled by a board of directors - all RTH residents- elected by the residents themselves at an annual meeting. This year the annual meeting will be held on June 12.

Informed and engaged resident members are the lifeblood of RTH. Its survival and well being depend upon morally and civically responsible residents who understand that active participation in the quality of life of their community is everyone's work. There are many ways to participate- run for the Board, serve on a Committee, volunteer in the RTH Children's Center or Senior Center, come out for community events and meetings, keep informed about community affairs, vote. It is essential that RTH resident members educate themselves about RTH business in order to choose capable leaders and RTH board directors and to hold those leaders accountable.

John Dewy, an eminent American public philosopher, agreed that an educated and engaged citizenry was important and necessary in a democratic society (think RTH as microcosm) but went one further. He conceived of a democratic society "as one in which citizens should interact with each other, learn from each other, grow with each other, and together make their communities more than the sum of their parts". As we contemplate the changes and opportunities that lie ahead of RTH, including the new gym and much needed additional program space, let's determine to educate ourselves on community matters, choose our leaders carefully, and work together to become more than the sum of our parts.

Scholarships

Anne Vinick

DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR SCHOOL?

RTH/Brigham and Women's Hospital *Believe and Achieve Scholarship* Applications are AVAILABLE NOW.

To be eligible you must be:

- A legal resident of RTH
- Enrolled in a vocational/training program that leads to a certificate or license OR an accredited two or four year college/university
- In need of tuition assistance to pay for your education.

Applications are always available throughout the year at the RTH Resident Services office on the ground floor of the Duggan Building, 11 New Whitney St., the Community Bldg. and the Library. Return your application to *Anne Vinick* in the RTH Resident Services Office. You can also download an application at www.roxburytenants.org right on the home page. Call Roxanne Haecker at 617-232-0400 if you have any questions.

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 **June 30th** for the next round of interviews in July.

In Memoriam Lee Little

Our condolences to the family and many friends of Lee Little, twice elected to the RTH Board of Directors, known to many RTH children (to Lee's great delight) as "Keep off the Grass", lover of gardens and growing things, loyal friend, and champion of the underdog. Lee often referred to herself as Crusader Rabbit, her Nom de Plume when she wrote for the Boston Church of Spirituality and later when she fought for programs- especially for RTH teens and for her beloved landscapes. We'll think of you ,Lee, when we' re sitting on the Levinson Plaza benches amongst the trees and flowers, and we will smile.



*Sunrise: April 3, 1938
Sunset: March 5, 2011*

www.roxburytenants.org

Restoration Housing Trash Removal

Amy Lawton

We have noticed that there has been a growing issue with some residents placing their trash bags *on top* of the trash barrels instead of *in* the trash barrels. When you do not place your trash in the barrel it causes several problems like:

Other people assume that the barrel is full so they just leave their trash next to the barrel and before long we have a collection of trash bags just sitting next to an empty barrel.

- Raccoons tear the bags open looking for food and leave the trash all over the grounds.
- It attracts rats and other rodents year round.
- In the warmer months it attracts flies and other flying insects.
- It creates an unsightly condition; no one wants to see trash blowing around their neighborhood.
- It takes time away from work orders and other maintenance tasks while they have to clean up trash.

We ask that you please place your trash directly in the barrel and close the lid.

If Restoration Housing residents have any questions with regard to the proper disposal of trash, please feel free to contact the 747 Huntington Avenue Management Office at 617-232-5910. Both the Maintenance Staff and your neighbors thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation!



RTH students with comic book artist, Raul Gonzalez

Have an idea for a newsletter article?
Contact Beverly Moss
Library/Computer Center
617-738-8220

Security Department



Jim Perez de Alderete

Jim Perez de Alderete comes to RTH with many years of experience as a Security Director. Jim has managed Security programs for some Massachusetts hospitals including as an Account Manager for BWH, Boston high-rises and the Harvard University Art Museums. Most recently Jim was involved with the construction of a

multi-million dollar high end elderly community where he was tasked with creating the Security department and its policies and procedures. His training includes the Boston Special Police Training, HAZMAT, Incident Command System (ICS), Hospital Incident Command (HICS), Non-violent Crisis Intervention, High-Rise Emergency, and other certifications in the safety and security field.

Special Dedication

Ellen Daley Pre-school Playground
Flynn Drive Playground
Saturday June 25th
4 p.m.

Facilities Department

By Madeline Stein

Apartment inspections are scheduled for May 26 & 27 as part of the Physical Inspection Report of the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC), of US Department of Housing and Urban Development. 20% of the apartments in Mission Park will be inspected, randomly selected by the inspector, the day of the inspection.

Please help us shine by doing a little spring cleaning: remove foil from drip pans on stove, clean the oven, wash stove top and wall backsplash to remove grease buildup, remove any articles blocking a door, and remove barriers to the electric breaker panel located in kitchen.

Maintenance Walk-up Window

(temporary change in service hours)

Monday & Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4.p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Phone calls 24 hours at 617-566-0707

An Invitation to Volunteer

Dear Neighbors,

This is an invitation to volunteer at the RTH Children's Center. The benefit of spending a moment with a child is gratifying and benefits the children immensely.

What we need:

- Commitment for an hour per month
- Reading to 3 and 4 year olds
- Playing table games
- Listening
- A kind smile

Please call me at 617-232-9222. We are located at the Levinson Bldg.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Marta Franklin

Employment Opportunity

Roof Deck Assistant (seasonal position)

Duties / responsibilities:

Opening duties:

- Greet residents and guests;
- Maintain sign in sheets
- Promote the roof deck to other residents
- Keep area clean; Deck Furniture Wiped Clean & Secured; perform closing duties
- Ensure roof deck policies are followed

Please call Laura Adams, Senior Program Coordinator at (617) 566-4025 or stop by her office at Flynn lobby to apply.

Bilingual residents encouraged to apply.



Jaidah Lindsey and Tberh Andebrhan creating comic art

FLYNN KITCHEN AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

RTH residents may rent the space for RTH resident birthday parties, christening parties, baby showers, etc. Refundable \$25 deposit is required. Make checks or money orders payable to RTH. (Sorry, No Cash Transactions.) For more information call Theresa Parks at 617-739-7433.

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Translation and interpreter services are available for Russian and Cantonese speakers in the Flynn Kitchen

Russian

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Cantonese

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 2:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

Have mail translated - Interpret for management and facilities - Discuss issues important to you and more.

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Pool Opening
 Saturday, June 25, 2011
 12 Noon
Sign Up for Pool ID's
 2 New Whitney Street
 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
 *Extended hours to be announced
 for more information call 617-232-0400

FLYNN KITCHEN

HAVE LUNCH FOR \$1.00 at the Brigham & Women's Cafeteria on the 1st Sunday of each month. Tickets are available the last week of the preceding month. Call **Theresa Parks** at **617-739-7433**

TAXI COUPONS on sale on the 1st Tuesday of every month (10:30 a.m.) Purchase \$10 worth tickets for \$5.00. For more information or tickets call **Theresa Parks** at **617-739-7433**

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS		
After School Program	Jessica Woodward	617-232-0400
Children's Center	Marta Franklin	617-232-9222
Community Building	Anna Komarova	617-232-0400
Community Events/Programs	Laura Adams	617-566-4025
Cornu Management	*****	617-566-0707
Facilities Department	*****	617-566-1534
Flynn Kitchen	Theresa Parks	617-739-7433
Library/Computer Center	Beverly Moss	617-738-8220
Mission Park Garage	*****	617-732-6334
Resident Services	Anne Vinick	617-232 0204
RTH Executive Offices	Noemi Laboy	617-232 4306
RTH Management	Tim McLean	617-232-1399
S-C Management	Amy Lawton	617-232-5910
Security	*****	617-731-6972

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