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## A history of peaceful protest challenged once again at Tufts



Students at Tufts have established a camp on the school grounds in protest of the war in Gaza and the university's alleged investments in companies involved in the conflict. — Photos by Bobbie Toner

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

For the past couple of weeks, members of the Tufts community, led by the Tufts Chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), have been staging a tent protest right in the middle of the University's Medford campus.

As of Tuesday, following allegations of vandalism and failed negotiations, Tufts University will be issuing a no-trespass order to protesters and handing penalties and suspensions to students who continue to be involved in the camp.

Students in the camp are protesting the current war in Gaza and are calling for Tufts to divest from companies that have a level of involvement.

In an April 28 message, Kumar alleged that the group had broken various *Continued on page 4*

## Somerville's Annual Porchfest returns

Somerville's porches, yards, and stoops are once again set to host free mini-concerts across the city as part of the city's annual Porchfest hosted by the Somerville Arts Council. This celebration of local, live, homegrown music offers something for everyone at drop-in home-based shows. Participants can simply stroll from house to house to enjoy the open-air entertainment.

More than 300 bands are set to participate across wide-ranging musical genres from youth playing classical music to electronica groups, karaoke, and – a first this year – stand-up comedy. The 2024 Porchfest is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, and music sites and times can be found via the online Porchfest 24 map at [somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest).

Somerville Porchfest takes place in three 2-hour blocks on Saturday, May 11. *Continued on page 4*



This year's Porchfest takes place on Saturday, May 11, at a neighborhood near you.

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Somerville community members are invited to the "Slice of the City" spring meet-up series. This new series of family-friendly pizza parties in the park offers attendees a new way to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, local elected officials, as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. Events in each of the city's seven wards will occur throughout the month of May from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. First up is in Ward 4 on Thursday, May 2, at the Healey School playground (5 Meacham St.). Somerville Recreation will host kid's activities, and refreshments and pizza will be provided. For more information and to find all event locations, visit [somervillema.gov/slice](https://somervillema.gov/slice).

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville Open Studios 2024, 25th Anniversary will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 – 5, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. each day at artists' studios and homes throughout Somerville. Over 350 artists in 90 locations citywide will open their studios to the public. For more information, map, artist, trolley and other events visit <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join SomerNova on Saturday, May 4, for SomerNightStudio to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Somerville Open Studios. Explore diverse local art, meet the artists, buy more art, see local performers, and bring your roller skates for this unique community gathering. It's a great opportunity to connect with Somerville's vibrant creative scene. More information online at *Continued on page 7*

# The Somerville Times

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## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 1 – May 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> May 1	Cloudy	55°/46°	22%	15%	ENE 7 mph
<b>Thursday</b> May 2	Rain	68°/46°	38%	31%	SW 10 mph
<b>Friday</b> May 3	Cloudy	57°/44°	5%	3%	NE 10 mph
<b>Saturday</b> May 4	Cloudy	56°/43°	4%	2%	E 11 mph
<b>Sunday</b> May 5	Rain	54°/50°	52%	42%	SE 13 mph
<b>Monday</b> May 6	Partly Cloudy	70°/51°	17%	10%	W 12 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> May 7	Partly Cloudy	71°/55°	6%	3%	WSW 12 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

## The Evolution of Duck Village: A Jane's Walk



As part of May Preservation Month, join the Somerville Museum on a "Jane's Walk" to honor urban activist and writer, Jane Jacobs. A worldwide event, this year's Somerville walk will be a leisurely stroll through the "Duck Village" neighborhood of Somerville. Guides will be an eclectic mix of local leaders.

**Date:** Saturday, May 4

**Time:** 10 am–12:30 p.m.

**Location:** 355 Washington St. at Perry Park near Argenziano School

Free and open to all.

For more information about Jane Jacobs, visit <https://janeswalk.org/>

Contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager, at [grace@somervillemuseum.org](mailto:grace@somervillemuseum.org) with questions.

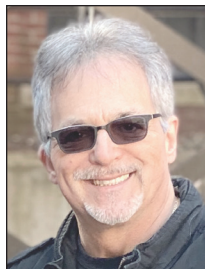
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Little league memories



Did you play little league baseball? I tried out but I stunk. At least my sons got to play.

It's baseball season again. A lot of my friends played little league baseball back in the day. Here are some of our Somerville friends' memories about little league.

"Cedar Asphalt, Tony Diccio was our coach, Trum Field."

"Sure did! Somerset Savings Bank out of Dilboy Field."

"Conway I played every day, starting in late March Somerville Buick, '56 - '59!"

"My brothers did but we played softball and loved it. The girls' softball team in Somerville was incredible. Some teams were definitely better than others, but we always loved it."

"Everyone used to come out to watch the teams play. Sherlock Holmes Pub."

"My sister was on a girls' team."

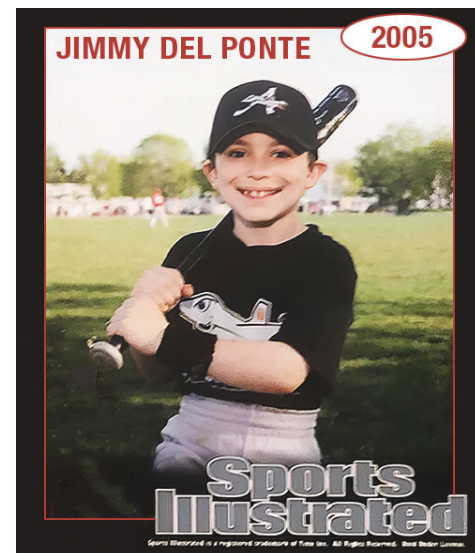
"Yeah, I played I played on five years. I was pretty good too. I played for post 388 and I made to all-star teams. I'm a lefty so you know I played the outfield first base to the little picture had a pretty good stick

and about 400. Yeah, never made the play-offs though my dad coached my last year I played. Yeah, my brother was good too. He was a couple years younger than me but yeah, yeah, yeah."

"You should have played at Foss Park! I stink but played second base for Baltimore Post and then DePinto Fuel. I loved it, even though I stunk."

Check with Somerville Recreation online for more info about baseball in the city.

I only took part in one sport. I joined the wrestling team at Emerson College. That fiasco lasted about two weeks. Go Red Sox!



## Police Department participates in Somerville's Civic Day

On Saturday, April 27, the Somerville Police Department and the Community Outreach, Help & Recovery (COHR) unit participated in the City of Somerville's Civic Day. Together staff engaged members of the community in activities to encourage positive emotional awareness,



regulation and resiliency for community members of all ages.

Staff also helped to promote the Blue Envelope Program, a new state-wide initiative to foster a safer and more understanding environment for drivers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during traffic stops. Attendees also had an opportunity to learn more information about services offered by COHR and trainings made available to both police officers and community members.

Civic Day aims to provide community members of all ages with fun, interactive opportunities to learn about City government, programs, services, and ways to get involved. To learn more about COHR and the various services and programs available visit their website at: <https://www.metro-bostoncit.org/contact>.

— Photos courtesy of Somerville Police Department



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## A history of peaceful protest challenged once again at Tufts CONT. FROM PG 1

university policies and allegedly harassed members of the community and tour groups. The message from the administration also claimed that the protestors had vandalized multiple buildings and locations across campus.

"While we have always felt that dialogue is the best approach to resolving differences, it would not be appropriate to discuss a meeting with the student organizers until they clear the academic quad," according to the email.

The university is seeking for the encampment to end in the next few days to begin preparations for this year's commencement ceremony. On Tuesday, members of the SJP and Tufts held an initial meeting between both groups.

In an Instagram post on Tuesday afternoon, the SJP said that negotiations between themselves and the university had failed. According to the organization, the university expressed to members that they

would be removed from the encampment with a "heavy hand".

In a follow-up email sent also on Tuesday afternoon, the university alleged that members of the protest refused to discuss proposals if certain conditions were not met.

"Unfortunately, the students refused to discuss the proposals, insisting instead upon an in-person meeting with the president, the chief investment officer, and members of the board of trustees," according to the statement.

In response to these calls, the university agreed to hold this meeting, but only if the protesters were to clear the academic quad.

An open letter also began to circulate around the university from both undergraduate and graduate students graduating this year.

The letter called the April 28 email concerning and pledged to boycott this year's commencement if violence is used to clear the encampment.

"We were shocked and deep-



ly concerned by your email sent Sunday evening using the approaching commencement ceremony as a pretext for implied violence against the students currently protesting on the Academic Quad," according to the letter.

As of the writing of this article, more than 150 students from various majors have joined the pledge.

"If the University turns to police violence rather than engaging with its own students, we pledge

to boycott the commencement ceremony in solidarity with our peers currently protesting on the Academic Quad and the people of Gaza," according to the letter.

Tufts University was not able to be reached for comment and the Tufts Chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine declined to comment.

A copy of the Tufts email can be downloaded from: [http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/tufts\\_email.pdf](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/tufts_email.pdf)



## Somerville's Annual Porchfest returns CONT. FROM PG 1

In the event of inclement weather, Porchest will be held on Sunday, May 12.

• West of Willow Street, performances from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

• Willow to Central, performances from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

• East of Central, performances from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

"We're proud that so many musicians and visitors participate in our Porchest," says Gregory Jenkins, Executive Director for Somerville Arts Council. "As the event has grown, we've been so impressed by the talent and neighborhood spirit in our community. Likewise, we've also deepened our efforts to remind musicians, porch hosts, neighbors, and visitors alike to keep our Porchest positive and be mindful of Porchest rules to ensure a safe and fun event."

"The community spirit and incredible creativity on display at Porchest is always inspiring. You

just can't beat the unique joy of wandering the neighborhood to discover good music and to connect with neighbors," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. I want to thank all the musicians and hosts participating and all the attendees who keep it safe and respectful for the neighborhoods that open up to us all for this community event."

To help ensure 2024's Porchest is a safe and fun event for all participants, as well as the larger community, the city is encouraging everyone to:

• Be considerate to porch hosts, neighbors, and residents.

• Avoid loitering on non-porchfest yards or driveways.

• Plan travel in advance, take public transport to lessen traffic/parking congestion.

• Use sidewalks, not streets, so cars can pass.

• Take advantage of the portajohns installed for Porchest if nature calls (a map of portajohn

locations can be found below).

• Tip the bands on site (cash or digital).

• Additionally, any public consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

Porchfest 2024 Map and Resources

• Band Map: [beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/](https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/)

• Participating Bands: [beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-listing/](https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-listing/)

• Portajohn map: [beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/](https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/)

• Tip and Porchest information: [beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-2024/](https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-2024/)

About Somerville Arts Council

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is a City Department that serves as the local cultural council (LCC) for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, and serves to celebrate the arts and commu-



nity. Our board is appointed by the Mayor, Katjana Ballantyne. SAC is located at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145. 617-625-6600 ext. 2985. somer-

villetimes.com.

For questions about the festival, contact Arts Council Executive Director, Gregory Jenkins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2985.



# Commission considers Disability Pride Month options

By Parker Garlough

The City of Somerville's Commission for Persons with Disabilities spent their recent meeting discussing ideas for how to celebrate Disability Pride Month in July. No events have yet been confirmed, but their suggestions included arts shows, film screenings, and book panels.

Many of the proposed events were focused around art. Commissioner Laurie Brandt proposed a pair of arts shows featuring work by people with disabilities. One would contain art centered around the experience of being disabled, while the other would be open to any subject material as long as the creator was disabled. This, she said, would make space for artists with disabilities who were not ready to experience the vulnerability and shame that can be attached to speaking about disability publicly, but also help break down the stigma around doing so.

"I'm going to be very honest. I think there's a cultural repulsion towards people with disabilities ... even I have it," Brandt said, noting that she had been disabled for about 50 years, and her experience with disability had been characterized by shame. "We're ashamed, and we're trying to move it into pride."

They should also feature art that is accessible to blind people, Commissioner Michael Shaps said, such as music or tactile art.

Arts and crafts could also be a tool for teaching children about disability pride, Commissioner Ingrid Schnieder suggested. They could set up a booth at Art Beat, or collaborate with art teachers in schools, so that kids could make bracelets with the disability pride flag colors and learn about what each one represents – red for physical disabilities, gold for neurodivergence, white for invisible or undiagnosed disabilities, blue for psychiatric disabilities, green for sensory disabilities, and a black background for lives lost due to ignorance.

"I just want the next generation to not be the last one as far as all this stuff [disability pride and advocacy] is concerned," Schnieder said. "If we can unravel the shame in advance, that's outstanding. That's the goal."

Both children and adults could enjoy a film screening or series featuring characters with disabilities. To achieve this, the commission discussed collaborating with existing film series: SomerMovieFest, which takes place annually through July and August, or a potential (unconfirmed) upcoming film series through the Department of Social Justice. Alternatively, the commission is considering hosting its own film screening.

The commissioners have begun compiling a list of movies. So far, their ideas include Crip Camp, Sound of Metal, or a biopic about FDR's life with polio.

Outreach to other organizations, Commissioner Murshid Buwembo emphasized, would be useful for generating publicity, especially among non-disabled people.

"We may have our specific project, but network with those people to provide us with the technical know-how," Buwembo said. "It would be a way of promoting inclusion and making other professionals understand us."

In July, the commission plans to host a book panel. Panelists will include Shaps, author of BUD and DHA Mindful Detectives: The Case of the Selfless Sting, and Laura Beretsky, author of Seizing Control, who also presented about her book at an event with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities in February.

Disability-centered books are an essential resource for people with disabilities and their loved ones, Schneider said.

"My son's autistic," Schneider said. "When he was diagnosed, I really felt at the mercy of Amazon to find books about it, and there's a lot of garbage."

The commission has an opportunity to help combat this issue, Schneider said, by collaborating with the West Branch Children's Library to host an event featuring a large collection of recently-donated books about disability.

Ultimately, the commissioners seemed optimistic about the possibilities they had put forward.

"The things being shared are all interwoven," Chairperson Holly Simione said. "They represent different things about ourselves but they work together



really well."

## 2024 Red Sox Disability Pride Celebration

Monday, May 13, 2024

Fenway Park

4 Jersey Street

Boston, MA 02215

The Boston Red Sox play the Tampa Bay Rays during their annual Disability Pride Celebration.

Residents who identify as disabled can

reserve free tickets for themselves and one guest by RSVPing online, emailing [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov), or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2059.

Refreshments and transportation to and from the game will be provided.

Fans requesting special accommodations should reach out to Fan Services at (617) 226-6381 in advance or speak to the Security Supervisor at their gate of entry.

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**2024**

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# Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' and representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of April 22-28. Some of the House roll calls are on the House version of a \$58 billion fiscal 2025 state budget.

## A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BUDGET "DEBATE"

Most of the decisions on which representatives' amendments are included or not included in the budget are made behind closed doors. Of the more than 1,500 budget amendments proposed, most of them were bundled into consolidated "mega" amendments. This year there were seven mega amendments and all were approved unanimously. There is no real "debate" on the House floor. Everyone who spoke on any of the consolidated amendments spoke in favor of them.

The system works as follows: Individual representatives file amendments on various topics. All members then pitch their amendments to Democratic leaders who draft consolidated amendments that include some of the individual representatives' amendments while excluding others.

The categories of consolidated amendments include many subjects including programs relating to public safety, judiciary energy, environmental affairs, housing, labor and economic development.

Supporters of the system say that any representative who sponsored an excluded amendment can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

Opponents say that rarely, if ever, does a member bring his or her amendment to the floor for an up-or-down vote because that is not the way the game is played. It is an "expected tradition" that you accept the fate of your amendment as determined by Democratic leaders.

## \$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4529)

House 157-0, Senate 38-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The programs funded by the \$175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets pro-

gram; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

"This legislation secures critical funding to our municipalities for the roads, bridges and sidewalks that residents utilize each and every day," said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "Regardless of where you live or how you get around, this funding will address infrastructure needs to improve travel, enhance safety and bolster our economy."

"The timely passage of this responsive legislation for fiscal year 2025 demonstrates the Legislature's continued commitment to fund our local transportation projects," said Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House Chair of the Transportation Committee. "With the renewed investment in funding rural towns and other infrastructure grant programs, our communities across the commonwealth will be better positioned to meet their unique transportation needs, and I am pleased to support these investments."

"Local officials across Massachusetts are grateful for the Legislature's swift passage of the transportation bond bill, with funding for the Chapter 90 program and additional key investments in municipal roads and bridges," said Adam Chapdelaine, CEO of the Mass Municipal Association (MMA). "Every community in the commonwealth will benefit from this critical funding, particularly with construction season already underway. The MMA again this year is asking the Legislature to supplement these programs through dedicated funding from the new Fair Share surtax. Last year, supplemental Chapter 90 aid via the surtax provided an additional \$100 million for the 30,000 miles of municipal roads, which went to great use in communities across the commonwealth."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$375 million package.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

## SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCLUDING \$251 MILLION FUNDING FOR SHELTERS (H 4582)

House 123-35, Senate 29-9, approved and sent to Gov. Healey a supplemental budget that includes an additional \$251 million in funding for the Emergency Assistance Program that funds the emergency family shelter system which houses migrants. The measure imposes a new nine-month limit on how long families can stay in the state's emergency shelters, with up to two 90-day extensions available to some and a new hardship waiver process.

Provisions include \$10 million for approved workforce training programs; \$10 million for a tax credit for companies that provide job training to Emergency Assistance participants; \$3 million for family welcome centers; \$1 million for supplemental staffing at emergency housing assistance program shelters; and \$7 million for resettlement agencies and shelter providers to assist families with rehousing, work authorization and English language learning.

Other provisions keep in place some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out; expanding outdoor dining; and allowing graduates and students in their last semester of nursing education programs to practice nursing.

"I'm proud that this legislation puts us on a responsible path forward without sacrificing our values of treating families with dignity and respect," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "This legislative action was warranted because of inaction at the federal level on a challenge of their own creation. Massachusetts has once again shown that we can work together to address complicated issues, as we have done today."

"Ensuring that people exit the shelter system in a timely manner is crucial to the emergency assistance program's long-term viability," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "This is the current reality due to the status of the migrant crisis, the lack of federal support, the number of people on the waitlist and the revenue challenges facing Massachusetts. It's also critical that we ensure that folks in the shelter system receive ample support aimed at helping them to successfully enter the workforce, which is exactly what this legislation does."

"Once again the Massachusetts Senate was given the opportunity to do right by our residents and the majority party failed to do so," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "The supplemental budget did not have a residency requirement nor prioritization criteria for the right to shelter program and therefore earned a 'No' vote from me. In a time when the state budget is being trimmed back, adding nearly half a billion dollars to the right to shelter program which has housed thousands of people who are not Massachusetts residents and has only hemorrhaged money is not the answer."

"I firmly believe that the state of Massachusetts cannot continue to afford to fund this program ourselves without jeopardizing many of the countless critical programs we hold dear," said Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). "Our emergency shelter system was simply never meant to handle the number of individuals it is housing" *Continued on page 16*







# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#921

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. When is Mental Health Awareness month?  | yardee?   |
| 2. What day is known as Star Wars Day?   | 9. Mariska Hargitay, who plays Olivia Benson on <i>Law &amp; Order: Special Victims Unit</i> , is the daughter of which famous actress? |
| 3. When is International Firefighters Day?   | 10. What was the name of the starship in the original series of <i>Star Trek</i> ?  |
| 4. When is Cinco de Mayo?  | 11. In <i>The Dukes of Hazzard</i> , what was the name of Bo and Luke Duke's female cousin who was played by Catherine Bach?            |
| 5. Why is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?  | 12. What 1989 Cher video was banned from MTV because of her revealing outfit?   |
| 6. On the first Saturday of May, what popular event takes place? It includes horses? |   |
| 7. Who was the first woman jockey to ever ride in the Derby?                         |   |
| 8. Who is Chef Bo-   |   |

Answers on page 14

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Bees have five eyes.
2. Most collect calls are made on father's day.

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

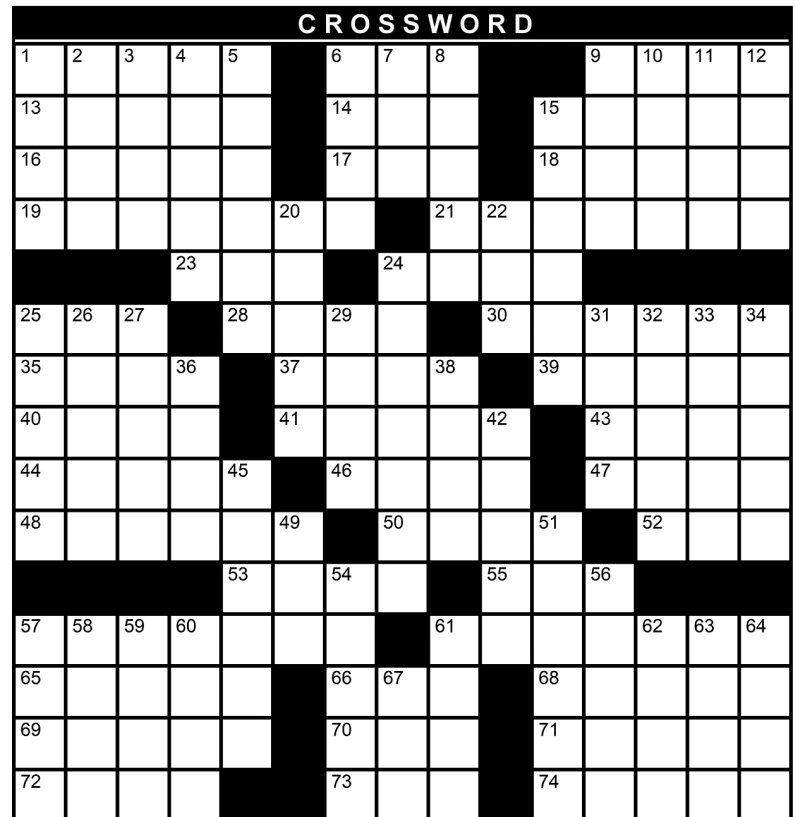
THE 1960s

#### ACROSS

1. "Odyssey" author
6. Time in NYC
9. Pay as you earn, acr.
13. Avoid paying taxes
14. Also
15. Rolled up, on a farm
16. From distant past
17. News channel acronym
18. Very angry
19. \_\_\_\_ Invasion
21. Vostok I pilot
23. Spring water resort
24. Talcum powder ingredient
25. Muted order
28. Sports award
30. Doled out, as in soup
35. Future atty's exam
37. Engage for service
39. In all sincerity
40. \_\_\_\_ Preminger, director of "Exodus"
41. Petri dish jellies
43. DDS exam
44. Gordon Gekko: "\_\_\_\_ is good"
46. Barbershop sound
47. Bread pocket
48. Rumor
50. Whiskey straight, e.g.
52. Cubby hole
53. One-horse carriage
55. #29 Down invasion coordinator
57. TV's Tony Nelson's "dream"
61. "8 1/2" and "La Dolce Vita" director
65. Lake scum
66. Toothpaste type
68. Baited
69. Thorny
70. Anger
71. Last eight in college basketball
72. Kill
73. Lamentable
74. Bob Marley, e.g.

#### DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_ Alpert & the Tijuana Brass
2. Last word over walkie-talkie
3. Algeria's southern neighbor



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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 4. Written corrections                 | 34. "The Times They Are A-Changin'" singer-songwriter |
| 5. Chef's guide                        | 36. Three on a certain sloth                          |
| 6. ____ A Sketch toy, launched in 1960 | 38. It's between Ohio and Ontario                     |
| 7. Just one of "My Three ____"         | 42. #21 Across - first man in ____                    |
| 8. Polynesian kingdom                  | 45. "Mary Poppins" producer                           |
| 9. Prefix with trooper or legal        | 49. Not Beta or Kappa                                 |
| 10. Resembling wings                   | 51. Farm tool   |
| 11. Abominable humanoid                | 54. Front of cuirass                                  |
| 12. #57 Across actress                 | 56. Spurious wing                                     |
| 15. Large feline (2 words)             | 57. Kickboxing moves                                  |
| 20. The Obamas' daughter               | 58. Twelfth month of Jewish year                      |
| 22. "A Man for ____ Seasons" movie     | 59. City of Taj Mahal                                 |
| 24. Political repression               | 60. "____ a soul"                                     |
| 25. Nordic gl hwein                    | 61. Ran off   |
| 26. ____ Turf                          | 62. Purple flower                                     |
| 27. Man behind Windows                 | 63. Not gross   |
| 29. Bay of ____ Invasion               | 64. Brainchild  |
| 31. "Turn on, tune in, ____ out"       | 67. E in B.C.E.                                       |
| 32. Shockingly graphic                 |   |
| 33. Fill with optimism                 |   |

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:





**OBITUARY**

**John Arthur McInerny III**



**John McInerny**, 90, passed away Thursday April 25, 2024, at his home in South Portland, Maine. He was born January 28, 1934, to Helen (Priddey) and John McInerny, Junior of Somerville, MA.

John had a long and fruitful life of public and personal service. He graduated from Somerville High School in 1952 and attended Boston and Northeastern Universities. His dream of becoming an Air Force pilot was put on hold, but this change of plans led him to his beloved wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Malcolm with whom he shared 66 years of marriage. They met at Somerville public library and were soon after married. John cared

for his grandparents, mother, and grandmother, all while raising his family with Betty.

John worked as a Librarian, Photographer, and as the Director of Civil Defense for the City of Somerville. After retirement, he was instrumental in starting Atlantic Hardwoods in Portland, Maine and worked for 25 years alongside his son Jack. He was a member of the US Coast Guard auxiliary, a volunteer fireman, a volunteer ski patroller and was a certified firefighting academy trainer in Topsfield, Massachusetts.

John was an avid outdoorsman and was an expert marksman, hunter, fisherman. He played football and ran track in high school, rowed on the crew team at BU, and later became a coach for the Somerville High School girl's track team. John was an avid tennis player and enjoyed skiing every chance he got at Pleasant Mountain in Bridgton Maine where he and Betty eventually retired. A lifelong golfer, he loved being on the course at Kezar Lake with his many friends and White Mountain Seniors league teammates.

John loved to sing and shared his beautiful voice with many different chorale groups and plays throughout his life. He especially loved to sing Elvis to his greatest love, Betty.

Predeceased by his parents, his sister Doreen, and daughter Patricia. He is survived by his wife Betty, their 3 children and spouses; Wendy McInerny and Chip Seamans, John (Jack) McInerny IV and Kathleen, Steven McInerny and Maria McEachern. His grandchildren Wesley McInerny, Mattie Seamans and Malcolm Seamans were the light of his life.

Visiting hours will be held from 4-7 pm on Friday, May 3, 2024, at Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home, 199 Woodford St. Portland. A Funeral Service will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, May 4, at Rise Church, 1047 Congress St. Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine, 390 US Rte-1, Scarborough, Maine 04074.

Please visit [www.jonesrichandbarnes.com](http://www.jonesrichandbarnes.com) to sign John's online guest book.

## Somerville teen thanks mentor for graduation success

At seven-years-old, Matheus Moreira, of Somerville, was matched with his mentor, with whom he refers to as his Big Brother, Richard D'Isidoro, of Hingham, through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM), the state's leading one-to-one youth mentoring program.

Their connection was magic, literally, as D'Isidoro won his mentee, or Little Brother, over by showing him a magic trick during the first of many walks together. Eleven years later, the duo's most recent walk was one of the most impactful in the now 18-year-old's life as they toured UMass Amherst's campus where the soon to be *Continued on page 12*



Matheus Moreira with Big Brother mentor Richard D'Isidoro.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



### Eagle feathers #303

*(This article was first published in the January 24, 2018, edition of The Somerville Times)*

### Somerville - Her Story

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Through the years, much has been said about the heroic men who touched or stirred the hills of Somerville.

- ✦ Myles Standish was the first European to explore her elevations.
- ✦ Paul Revere began his famous ride through East Somerville and over Winter Hill to Lexington.
- ✦ George Washington's troops raised the first American flag on Prospect Hill.
- ✦ Marine Sergeant Henry Hansen was one of the flag raisers at Iwo Jima.

The city also boasts an impressive list of heroic women and how some men recognized them. Here is part of HER-STORY.



- ✦ The lead ship, bringing the first puritans and the Massachusetts Charter to the Mystic shores was named after one of its passengers. Her name was Lady Arbella, daughter of the Earl Of Lincoln. The ship's name, originally called the Eagle, was changed in her honor.
- ✦ Anne Adams Tufts was considered one of America's first heroines. After the Battle of Bunker Hill, she tended to many wounded American soldiers in her Winter Hill home. Following the siege of Boston, she also nursed prisoners brought here regardless of their uniform.



- ✦ Betty Davis, one of the biggest Hollywood legends to grace the silver screen, lived across from Teele Square's Firehouse Engine Six on Westminster Street and later on College Avenue near Davis Square. She coined the name "Oscar" for the prestigious actor's award; and at one time, she was the most highly paid female in the country.

✦ Tallulah Bankhead, daughter, niece, and granddaughter of three United States senators, stood firmly on her own talent as an actress. She performed *Continued on page 17*



# LEGAL NOTICES

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### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated November 8, 2022 by Edge Real Estate Investments, LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022 (recorded with Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deed in Book 80884, Page 355), said mortgage recorded with the Middlesex County (South) Registry of Deeds in Book 80926, Page 372, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **9:00 a.m. on the 16th day of May, 2024** at 42 Sargent Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
Property Address: **42 Sargent Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts**

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Somerville, being the same premises now known and numbered 42 Sargent Avenue, and being shown as the Lot marked No. 42 on a Plan of Land on Sargent Avenue, Somerville, belonging to Eveline M. Duseault, dated August 1, 1919, James E. Stone, Eng., and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans No. 275, Plan 24, and bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by Sargent Avenue, forty-eight and 4/100 (48.04) feet;  
SOUTHEASTERLY by land of Smith, seventy and 88/100 (70.88) feet;  
NORTHWESTERLY by land formerly of Skilton, fifty and 50/100 (50.50) feet;  
NORTHEASTERLY and by land of Dimond, seventy-one and 4/100 (71.04) feet.

Containing 3597 square feet of land.  
For grantors title, see deed recorded herewith [Book 80926, Page 369].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust u/d/t dated October 25, 2022  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By his Attorneys,  
Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C.  
1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610  
Quincy, MA 02169

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**TO PLACE LEGAL  
ADVERTISEMENTS IN  
THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,  
CONTACT US  
BY 12 PM MONDAY  
PHONE: 857-488-5138**



### SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

#### PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

**THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT  
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2025 BUDGET**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.** (Originally scheduled on May 1, 2024)  
In the **EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM-50** Cross Street

To watch the Budget Hearing live from home:  
Use the following web address and choose GOVTV: [www.somervillema.gov/tv](http://www.somervillema.gov/tv)

#### THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

**Hana Krepchin, Chair**  
Somerville School Committee

**Dr. Sarah Philips, Chair**  
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

**Dr. Rubén Carmona**  
Superintendent of Schools

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:  
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>

Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:  
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

#### STATE-WIDE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL  
CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO  
DETERMINE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL  
CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**  
**MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

4/24/24, 5/1/24 The Somerville Times



### City of Somerville ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00pm** through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_i3qrD0BhTfGz2s3ZtT0Nw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i3qrD0BhTfGz2s3ZtT0Nw)  
Webinar ID: 897 0699 0477

#### TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

The Zoning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

**97 Orchard Street** Richard Roy seeks zoning relief from the sum of side yard setbacks for front driveway access, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

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[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)**



### City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00pm** through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov).

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_d96X5Ru9Qz0QEgAtIpKevg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d96X5Ru9Qz0QEgAtIpKevg)  
Webinar ID: 813 4687 4400

#### TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

**350 Assembly Row** Street Retail, LLC seeks to extend the validity of a previously issued Special Permit (P&Z 21-137) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.

**17-27 Holland Street** Green Soul Organics proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Mid-Rise 4 zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

**290 Revolution Drive** Liberty Mutual Insurance Company seeks a Major Amendment to a previously issued Special Permit (PB 2018-12) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at  
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov).

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**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
UNDER M.G.L.c.183A:6**

By virtue of Judgment and Order of the Somerville District Court (Docket No. 2310CV000329), in favor of TRUSTEES OF THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM TRUST against ESTATE OF PATRICIA RICARDO, ET. AL. establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L.c.183A:6 on the real estate known as UNIT #40-EIGHT, 40 HIGHLAND AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS of THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction at 11:00 O'CLOCK AM ON THE 6th DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2024, AT UNIT 40-EIGHT, 40 HIGHLAND AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

Unit No. 40-Eight of The Cumberland Condominium created by Master Deed dated July 29, 2005 and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45862, Page 115, and The Cumberland Condominium Trust dated July 29, 2005 recorded with said Deeds in Book 45862, Page 128.

The Post Office Address of the Condominium is: 40 Highland Avenue, Unit Eight, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

The unit conveyed is laid out as shown on a plan recorded herewith, which plan is a copy of a portion of the plans recorded with said Master Deed and to which is affixed a verified statement in the form provided in G.L. c. 183A, §9. It is subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in G.L. c. 183A, the Master Deed and the By-Laws recorded therewith.

The Condominium and each of the units is intended for residential purposes and other uses permitted by the applicable Zoning Ordinances and as set forth in the Master Deed.

The undivided percentage interest of the unit conveyed hereunder in the common areas and facilities is 4.31%.

For Grantor's title see deed to PATRICIA RICARDO AND WILLIAM RICARDO dated February 6, 2007 and recorded with the Middlesex County Southern District Registry of Deeds in Book 49457, Page 579.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

- TERMS OF SALE:
1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.
  2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.
  3. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
  4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.
  5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.
  6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.
  7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.
  8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is".
  9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.
  10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM TRUST,

For the Trustees,  
By its Attorneys  
MARCUS, ERRICO, EMMER  
& BROOKS, PC

Dean T. Lennon, Esq.  
BBO#668031  
45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107  
Braintree, MA 02184  
(781) 843-5000

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

4/17/24, 4/24/24, 5/1/24 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, March 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Used Car License.

New Garage License, Mercedes Benz of Boston, 161 Linwood St, 0 vehicles inside, 25 vehicles outside for mechanical repairs, auto body work, and spray painting, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pN6XDE7gQw0nZMNHwzNDbw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pN6XDE7gQw0nZMNHwzNDbw)
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS  
CITY CLERK

5/1/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB # 24-71**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites sealed bids for:

**Citywide Holiday Plants and Flowers**

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, May 16, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Felisa Garate**  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

5/1/24 The Somerville Times

## Tufts University Department of Music Presents Electronic Music Ensemble: Blessed Relief

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Electronic Music Ensemble: Blessed Relief at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Thursday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m.

Another in a series of highly eclectic electric concerts played entirely on electronic instruments. Dr. Paul D. Lehrman, director.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

For more information, please visit [as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter](http://as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.





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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-72**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

**DPW Boiler 1 Condensate Return Line Replacement**

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 1st, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 pm, Thursday, May 16th, 2024**.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Interested bidders are encouraged to attend a Prebid walk at **1pm on 5/7/2024** (see bid package for details).

Please email Sonia Castro [scastr@somervillema.gov](mailto:scastr@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Sonia Castro  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB # 24-73**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites sealed bids for:

**On-call Fence & Gate Repairs and Installation**

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **12:00 pm, Friday, May 17, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Felisa Garate  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406**

5/1/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFQ # 24-69**

**Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Services for SFD Master Plan**

The City of Somerville is seeking an owner's project manager (OPM) to oversee the design, construction and related tasks associated with the implementation of the SFD Master Plan stations. Qualified OPM firms will meet the requirements outlined in M.G.L. c. 149, § 44A½ and as outlined in the RFQ available on the City's website as of **May 1, 2024** at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> and at <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home>.

Prospective OPM firms are encouraged to attend a virtual briefing session on **5/8/2024 at 3:00 p.m.** Parties intending to submit offers must email [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) stating that they want to be added to the prospective bidders list and to register for the briefing session. The deadline for submission of Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) is **May 24th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Felisa Garate  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406**

5/1/24 The Somerville Times

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## Somerville teen thanks mentor for graduation success CONT. FROM PG 9

graduate from Prospect Hill Academy Charter School was accepted into the Computer Science program.

For many BBBSEM mentoring matches, their relationships continue even after mentees graduate from high school and age out of their community-, site- or campus-based programs. Moreira and D'Isidoro plan to maintain their connection through the agency's post-secondary success program in which caring adult mentors stay with their mentees through young adulthood helping to provide them with resources and opportunities to pursue post-secondary pathways of their choosing to actualize their future goals.

"Without Richard, I don't believe I would have made it as far as I have," says Moreira. "He has pushed me to be the best, he

has listened whenever I needed to get something off my chest, and he has gone out with me whenever I was going through a tough period in my life. There were times when I had issues I couldn't discuss with my mother or peers, and Richard was there to hear me out and talk through things with me. He has become more than just a mentor to me, he has become family."

As Moreira's high school graduation approaches, please consider covering a story on his mentoring experience and the value of mentors in young people's lives. He can tell you more about his relationship with his Big Brother and how having a caring adult from outside of his home has helped him to realize his full potential and why more volunteers, like D'Isidoro, are needed to step

up for Somerville's youth.

D'Isidoro was in his 30's and living alone when he first enrolled as a volunteer for BBBSEM's signature community-based program in which adult mentors are paired with youth, plan their own outings, and meet for two to three hours, a couple times a month. By day the risk management professional worked at financial institutions. At night, he was tutoring Boston-based elementary school students and facilitating mock interviews for young people looking to enter the workforce. He was excited to devote the time and attention needed to make an even bigger impact on one child's life.

"It is crazy to think Matheus was 7 years old when we first met," says D'Isidoro, 46, of Hingham, now a father to two of his own

children, ages one and 5. "During one of our first outings together, I wanted to take him to the Museum of Fine Arts because I could go for free. Matheus pushed back. We argued on Summer Street in downtown Boston, but I turned the tide with sharing how they have mummies there. Real mummies. Since then, I have seen so much growth in him. Matheus's story is still being written and I'll continue to watch."

The duo has since explored more of the city, tried new foods, seen countless movies and continued their walks. They've worked on Moreira's math homework, completed college applications, and Matheus even attended D'Isidoro's wedding.

"Matheus and Richard's 11-year friendship is a testament to the incredible work of our volun-

teers and staff members who keep kids learning, engaged and having fun," says Mark O'Donnell, President & CEO of BBBSEM. "We are so proud of Matheus for all he has accomplished and are excited to see how his next chapter unfolds as we will continue to see them at future agency events. We need more caring adults, like Richard, to step up for children, like Matheus, to become mentors to ensure they reach their fullest potential."

In 2024, BBBSEM celebrates 75 years of service. Since its inception, the organization has supported more than 25,000 youth. For more information, to become a volunteer or to make a donation to support the nonprofit's year-round one-to-one mentoring programs, your readers can visit: [www.emassbig.org](http://www.emassbig.org).

Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)  
Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](http://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1)  
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## COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

## Socialists in office denounce violent suppression of student protesters

Democratic socialist State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven (27th Middlesex), Cambridge City Council Member Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, Somerville City Council Members Willie Burnley, Jr. and JT Scott, and Medford City Council President Zac Bears, who represent almost a quarter of a million residents released the following statement:

We stand in solidarity with the students practicing peaceful protest at Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Emerson, and Northeastern Universities, as well as all others across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the country. We unequivocally condemn the

violent repression that the police, university administrators, and elected municipal leaders have exercised toward these students.

Massachusetts, and the Boston area in particular, has long been a cradle of protest and dissent, dating back centuries. These students embrace and honor this history of dissent through their peaceful protests against the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the higher education structures that enable it. Their brave and powerful protest represents a united call to not just end to the ongoing genocide in Gaza but for their universities to divest from institutions that profit from this

genocide, Israeli apartheid, and occupation. We are firmly opposed to antisemitism, which has no place in this movement to end the genocide and is part of the same machinery of fear and division that these students are organizing against. We are moved by this multiracial, multigenerational, interfaith movement and these encampments demonstrate the power of solidarity against division and hate. The sowing of division and condemnation of peaceful protest has been a longstanding tactic to undermine social justice movements standing on the correct side of history.

As we approach the 54th an-

niversary of the Kent State University massacre on May 4, it is disturbing to see university administrations and police replicating the violent suppression that led to that tragedy. We must not repeat this history. Massachusetts is home to over 100 institutions of higher learning with nearly half a million students. We call upon these universities to protect these students' right to assembly, free speech, and to provide amnesty for students by revoking any retaliatory academic discipline. Universities should be bastions of free speech, but instead we clearly see that our constitutional rights are second-

ary to universities' collusion with police as a means of maintaining systems of oppression.

It is important in this moment to remember why these students have made the brave decision to protest: the ongoing genocide in Gaza. University administrators, government officials, and corporate media outlets seek to reframe the conversation in this moment around students' right to protest. We must avoid this trap and remain focused on demanding those in power finally adopt what the majority of Americans support - an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Palestine and end to the Israeli occupation.

## How a local nonprofit is changing the landscape of climate education

By Emmett Biewald

A nonprofit organization based in Cambridge has been taking steps to change the way we learn about climate change. Climable was founded in 2012 with a goal of making climate science more understandable and actionable to a larger audience.

In 2022, Climable began developing a climate curriculum after receiving a grant from Mitsubishi. This curriculum includes lessons for middle school and high school students, covering topics such as climate solutions, renewable energy, and environmental justice. Something that makes Climable's curriculum unique is the use of understandable, local examples for students to grasp more complex and big picture ideas.

Maisy Rohrer has been the program director for Climable since last year. When asked about the long-term goals for the curriculum project, Rohrer referred to the students, saying "Maybe they'll go on to become climate leaders. That's our goal, to inspire some kids in the future to take action or even right now." Rohrer emphasized the fact that many young people don't realize how much of a difference they can make on a small scale.

This past fall, Climable's curriculum began implementation in schools across the Boston metro area, in Cambridge, Roxbury, and Brockton. The lessons are taught both during class time and during after school programs. Teachers outside the Boston area still have free access to the climate education courses through the Climable website.

Another future possibility for Climable's curriculum could be an expansion into more schools in the Boston area. The program director implied that if the desire is there from teachers, the nonprofit is open to support a greater range of school districts in the classroom.

Climable's lesson plans are meant to give students a foundation of understanding topics based around climate change. The underlying goal is more than that though. The curriculum is meant to help students realize their own role in making a difference. Rohrer noted once again, the sometimes overlooked but very important role that students play in causing change, saying "I think we've all seen examples of when youth come together in a collective and organized fashion, that they can really make a difference."

Anyone who feels that their classroom or afterschool program is lacking in the climate education department is encouraged to reach out to Climable.





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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

# Olio

Answers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. May   | 7. Diane Crump                                    |
| 2. May 4th   | 8. Italian-American chef, Ettore "Hector" Boiardi |
| 3. May 4th   | 9. Jayne Mansfield                                |
| 4. May 5th   | 10. USS Enterprise                                |
| 5. Celebration of Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla in 1862 | 11. Daisy Duke                                    |
| 6. The Kentucky Derby  | 12. <i>If I Could Turn Back Time</i>              |



# Somerville Foundation building new network for youth and nonprofits

By Petra Wolf

As Federal relief funding dries up for Somerville nonprofits, the Somerville Foundation looks to fill some of the void. Formerly the Somerville Education Foundation, the grantmaking organization works to become a community foundation for Somerville. This means helping nonprofits and programs involved with getting jobs, green technology, and journalism. Now, two months after the name change, the organization is starting to help fund and draw attention to new programs.

"We recognize that one of the things the Somerville Foundation has done well is acting as fiscal sponsor with other groups," Somerville Foundation President Greg Nadeau explains. They have been able to apply for American Rescue Plan Act funding in the past but this year when applying for \$1.7 million they only received \$250,000.

As the Foundation looks to help with job security and employment programs, the Foundation can apply for other federal funds, such as from the Department of Labor. Ideally, the Somerville Foundation hopes that more nonprofits turn to them for funding more often in the future.

Somerville Foundation hired Rafael Vieira as program manager in July. Recently Vieira helped the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences apply for larger grants to pay for more materials for their adult learning courses.

Somerville Foundation helps nonprofits with grant application writing and reporting. This

includes meeting with organizations like Padres Latinos de SPS (Latino Parents for Somerville Public schools) to work more with immigrant communities, helping to translate grant applications. The Foundation also helps provide training like legal aid to struggling organizations.

"What we want to do is allow passionate people to do the things that they're passionate about," said Vieira. "And provide that backroom boost to some organizations that are already worn so thin."

Vieira also created an intern program back in January which

*"What we want to do is allow passionate people to do the things that they're passionate about"*

allows high schoolers to get media experience early on. Recruited by Foundation vice president Wilbert Pineda, a Somerville High alum, the students would create interviews, posters, and videos. They would go around Somerville, interviewing other nonprofits. They can also cover YouthStream, an afterschool gaming tournament program Somerville Foundation helped fund. They get paid and what they create will go up on a new Somerville Foundation website.

The nine current students find the program refreshing, they get to go to new places around the city and learn the history. They're



Rafael Vieira (second on left) with the Somerville High School Media interns.

telling their own friends about the program and getting them to join as well. Vieira remains thankful for Somerville High School for letting the program gather after school and use their classrooms. The Foundation aims to continue the program throughout the year and provide a summer internship for students outside the school year.

The students also hope the program helps with jobs, as does Vieira and the Foundation. Youth support and employment are key areas for the Somerville Foundation. Some advisors and stakeholders want the Foundation to quickly move away from the youth focus. But Nadeau feels there is still insufficient resources for the high school population.

"The school population [in Somerville] has become much poorer and smaller. Young people tend to graduate from high

school at pretty high rates but drop out before graduating college" says Nadeau. Somerville is a young city, with 40 percent of the population at ages 25-35. Many have needs like food security, housing, parent support, and employment. The Foundation is working to get the media program interns employed to give back to the community which Somerville nonprofits can benefit from as well. But that isn't the only program giving back.

The Foundation brought two organizations, Groundwork Somerville, and Somerville Bike Kitchen together and helped create the Green Team Biking Division. This program pays high school students to repair recycled bikes and give them back to the community. Groundwork and Bike Kitchen also host weekly bike repair workshops at the Somernova Dojo, which

itself is trying to become a nonprofit and host place for nonprofit meetings.

Vieira says the Foundation tries to get groups to work together. Groundwork had a large number of employees but were tight on resources while Bike Kitchen had resources but less employees as volunteer co-op. Program Manager Kenzie Ballard confirmed Groundwork and other local youth organizations feel the ARPA funds drying up. Groundwork is concerned about how long they can continue the program.

"The reality is there's a lot of organizations that are doing these kinds of things in Somerville already, but they're struggling," said Vieira. "We're not trying to reinvent the wheel. This central community foundation that can just provide wide-spread support."

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## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

today and unlike the federal government, who has completely abdicated their responsibility to address the immigration crisis, the commonwealth must have a balanced budget and cannot simply run up debt without any consequences."

(A "Yes" vote is for the supplemental budget. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

### RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (H 4460)

House 30-125, rejected an amendment that would change the state's Right to Shelter Law which requires the state to provide shelter and other necessities to homeless parents with young children, pregnant women and recently the many migrant families arriving in the Bay State. Homeless individuals are not covered by the Right to Shelter law.

The amendment would require that people provide proof that they have lived in the state for at least three months to qualify for the program. It also exempts from the requirement a victim of domestic violence or a person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in Massachusetts.

Amendment supporters said the current interpretation of residency in Massachusetts by the Healey administration is that the person can be in the state for a matter of minutes to qualify to get services. "The emergency housing assistance program is operating under a 7,500-family cap imposed by Gov. Healey, but the demand for services continues to grow and has created a lengthy waitlist," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Imposing a minimum residency requirement of three months is reasonable and will help to ensure that people who are already living in the commonwealth will have access to housing assistance when they need it."

Some amendment opponents said the amendment might be unconstitutional. Others said people from around the world who are the victims of rape, violence and oppression are coming to Massachusetts and the state should not impose residency requirements on these suffering migrants.

"I would also just like to underscore, as I did a moment ago, that no families -- whether they are longtime Massachusetts residents or families that are new to the state -- are being put out on the street," said Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley). "We do have these overflow shelters. I don't want anyone to be operating under the assumption that we have Massachusetts residents who are being left out on the street, so once again, I ask you please ... reject the residency requirement."

(A "Yes" vote is for the 3-month requirement. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

### PRIORITIZE HOMELESS VETERANS (H 4600)

House 27-129, rejected an amendment that would prioritize honorably discharged homeless veterans for eligibility for placement in the shelter assistance program.

"Massachusetts is widely recognized as a national leader for the programs and services we provide to our veterans and our shelter system should be reflective of that," said amendment sponsor GOP Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "No individual who has served their country with valor and dedication should ever be forced to sleep on the street. Ensuring the well-being of homeless veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country and our commonwealth, is not a policy decision; it's a moral imperative."

Opponents of the amendment said it is a political stunt designed to make it appear that Democrats are against helping veterans and noted that nothing could be further from the truth. They noted this shelter assistance funding was designed to protect women, children and families. They noted that the Bay State proudly already has some of the best veterans' benefits in the nation and pointed to increased veterans benefits in the House budget.

Rep. Gerard Cassidy (D-Brockton), House chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, previewed a veterans bill being prepared by his committee for consideration in May and said it will provide even more benefits for veterans. "This is not a veterans' bill. This is basically a political ploy," said Cassidy.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment giving priority to homeless veterans. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

### HOUSE APPROVES \$58 BILLION FISCAL 2025 STATE BUDGET (H 460)

House 153-4, approved a \$58 billion fiscal 2025 state budget after three days of debate. The House version now goes to the Senate which will approve a different version. A House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to the governor.

"This budget builds off the successes of the last few years by prioritizing our residents," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), chair of the House Committee on Ways and

Means. "Whether it is greater investments into programs like housing stability, public transportation or early education, these initiatives are a reflection of our shared values. By reinvesting in the people of the commonwealth, we will continue to make our economy more competitive and equitable for years to come."

"We take pride in our collective efforts to develop a budget that mirrors the needs of our constituents," said Rep. Pat Haddad (D-Somerset), Assistant Vice Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. "The fiscal year 2025 budget underscores our dedication to significant investments in healthcare, education, housing, veteran services, energy and environmental services, among other critical areas. Passing this budget will provide vital protection for the cities and towns of the Bay State, particularly amidst fiscal challenges. Our commitment to supporting municipalities has never been more resolute, with local aid emerging as a top priority to sustain essential local services."

### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of April 22-26, the House met for a total of 26 hours and 57 minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and six minutes.

Mon. April 22	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. Senate 11:19 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.
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Tues. April 23	No House session No Senate session
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Wed. April 24	House 11:01 a.m. to 8:33 p.m. No Senate session
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Thurs. April 25	House 11:02 a.m. to 8:46 p.m. Senate 12:22 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
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Fri. April 26	House 10:00 a.m. to 5:25 p.m. No Senate session
---------------	--

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)



# Women's Money Matters and City of Somerville celebrate success of Financial Futures program

Women's Money Matters (WMM), a leading nonprofit dedicated to empowering women to achieve financial stability, is thrilled to announce the receipt of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to launch Financial Futures, a financial wellness program in Somerville.

The City of Somerville granted these funds to Women's Money Matters to provide financial wellness programming to Somerville women living on low incomes. Financial Futures aims to empower these women by providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to gain confidence and independence in managing all aspects of their finances.

In collaboration with esteemed organizations in Somerville, such as the Somerville Housing Authority, Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE), Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), Riverside Community Care, Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville, and Padres Latinos De SPS (Latino Parents of Somerville Public Schools), we have been able to reach a diverse group of women across the city. The program tailored personalized learning experiences for 37 women, while 21 others joined collective cohorts, showcasing a community-wide effort towards financial education. Participants reported outstanding outcomes, including a dramatic increase in budgeting skills, with 86% of graduates now utilizing a budget to manage their finances, up from 21% at the program's start. Confidence in managing finances soared to 96%, and 89% of graduates reported having savings, a significant rise from 32%.



This Financial Futures program has been a beacon of hope and progress, particularly for Nancy, one of our program graduates. Nancy's journey, supported by her dedicated coach, Julie, stands as a testament to the transformative power of personalized financial education. Nancy's heartfelt gratitude to Julie, "Thank you very much, Julie, for all the coaching and reaching out to us during our time in WMM. You're the perfect candidate to be part of this awesome teaching financial program. Wishing you much success in your career! Love, Nancy" encapsulates the meaningful bonds and personal growth that form the heart of this program.

The City of Somerville, Women's Money Matters, and several community organizations celebrate the courage and commitment of women like Nancy, who have seized the opportunity to reshape their financial futures. Echoing the sentiments of many, Nancy exclaims, "Credit, cash, budget, savings – all this and more I've learned about in this amazing program with amazing women and our coaches and leaders. Thank you kindly, my friends and sisters, for a wonderful experience."

Nancy's experience with Julie highlights the program's focus on providing tools for managing finances and nurturing solid, supportive relationships that extend beyond the program itself. Women's Money Matters and the City of Somerville are committed to maintaining this momentum, ensuring every woman in the community can access the financial education necessary for a stable and prosperous future. The Somerville's Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development's Jennifer Mancia said, "Partnering with Women's Money Matters is one of my proudest accomplishments this year, and there are many moments where I share information about our collaboration and the positive impact it is having on Somerville residents."

Nancy's story, alongside the voices of many other graduates, shines a spotlight on the resounding success of the Financial Futures program – where women come together to learn, grow, and succeed in their financial endeavors, fostering resilience and empowerment within the Somerville community.

## About Women's Money Matters:

Women's Money Matters builds the financial wellness, confidence, and security of women living on low incomes through a unique program that combines instructional workshops and personal, one-to-one coaching. For more information about Women's Money Matters and its programs, please visit <https://womensmoneymatters.org/>

## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

like many other stars at the Somerville Theatre.

- Former Somerville brothers, Charles and Joseph Revson, founded the Revlon Cosmetics' empire, which was based on the aesthetic likes and dislikes of American woman.

- New Year's Day, January 1, 1906, was the date the Fuller Brush Company opened its cellar door on Windom Street near Davis Square. Initially inspired by ideas and purchases of Somerville women and beyond, Alfred Fuller's company became a household name. In 1950 Lucille Ball starred in the film "The Fuller Brush Girl" which some say credit the beginning of our

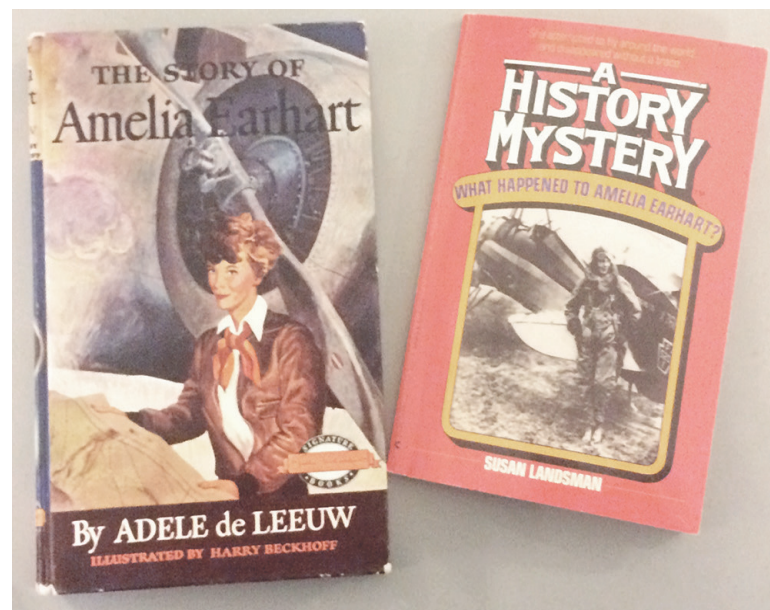
love of Lucy.

- Mary Sawyer Tyler championed many causes, such as aid to Somerville Civil War soldiers, and worked to save Boston's Old South Church from destructive developers. Thomas Edison's first recorded words on his phonograph were "Mary had a little lamb." The heroine of this poem, little Mary Sawyer, grew up to become Mrs. Mary Sawyer Tyler and was a long-time resident of Somerville.

- The Amelia Earhart Dam and its conning tower honor the female aviator. She accumulated speed, distance, and altitude records too numerous to list, and her status in female aviation

was unrivaled. This memorial in Somerville honors her amazing feats. Once the loftiest structure in the area, the height now bows to the new Assembly Square and soon to be Wynn Casino down river in Everett.

- Elizabeth Peabody was considered the first American female lecturer. She was brilliant, daring, and ahead of her time. She advocated for cleaner hospital operating rooms and medical equipment that reduced infant mortality and began the first English speaking kindergarten in the United States. Originally formed in Boston, the Elizabeth Peabody House was founded in her memory and came to



Somerville's Winter Hill over a half century ago.

Through the years in Somer-

ville, these and hundreds of other stories have kept "her-story" part of "her history!"



# East Somerville Spring Community cleanup

The East Somerville Spring Community cleanup took place on Saturday, April 27. Volunteers joined in to make a difference in the East Somerville community.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro





## Climate Forward at Greentown Labs

A celebration of Somerville's newly updated community climate action plan, Climate Forward, took place on Wednesday, April 24 at Greentown Labs. Attendees stepped into Somerville in 2050, an inspiring community where our collective efforts have triumphed in creating a climate-forward society.

Live music, refreshments, and interactive art installations that depict our shared vision of resilience in the face of climate change were in abundance. Featured speakers included Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Climate Forward is Somerville's plan to creating a strong, healthy community in the face of climate change while simultaneously reducing climate pollution, also referred to as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and our dependence on fossil fuels.

— Photos courtesy of Greentown Labs and SustainaVille.ma





## 2024 Somerville Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services are announcing that Somerville's Memorial Day parade will be held on Sunday, May 26.

The parade will step off at 11:00 a.m. from Davis Square, proceeding west on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street.

The city's annual remembrance ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 27 at the Somerville Veterans' Memorial Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. The ceremony will feature remarks by Mayor Ballantyne and Director of Veterans' Services Jerome Thomas.

### Sign Up to Join the Parade as a Marcher or Volunteer

Somerville community groups, organizations, and local businesses are encouraged to participate and march along with local Veterans and first responders, as well as volunteers to help the parade run smoothly. To sign up to participate, or volunteer, please complete a brief form at [somervillema.gov/memorialday](http://somervillema.gov/memorialday) or call 617-625-6600 x 4700 by end of day on Tuesday, April 30.

Please contact the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services at [veterans@somervillema.gov](mailto:veterans@somervillema.gov) or call 617-625-6600 x 4700 with questions.

## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Be a good neighbor!...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do you say to your sister when she's crying?  
Are you having a crisis?

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## On This Day in History

### May 1

- 1486 – Christopher Columbus convinces Queen Isabella to fund expedition to the West Indies.
- 1805 – The state of Virginia passes a law requiring all freed slaves to leave the state, or risk either imprisonment or deportation.
- 1867 – Reconstruction in the South begins with black voter registration.
- 1877 – President Rutherford B. Hayes withdraws all Federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction.
- 1898 – The U.S. Navy under Commodore George Dewey defeats the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay in the Philippines.
- 1927 – Adolf Hitler holds his first Nazi meeting in Berlin.
- 1931 – The Empire State Building opens in New York.
- 1961 – Fidel Castro announces there will be no more elections in Cuba.
- 1970 – Students from Kent State University riot in downtown Kent, Ohio, in protest of the American invasion of Cambodia.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

and with your continued support, they're hoping to fund even more amazing programming.

\*\*\*\*\*

As part of May Preservation Month, take a "Jane's Walk" to honor urban activist and writer, Jane Jacobs. A worldwide event, this year's Somerville walk will be a leisurely stroll through the "Duck Village" neighborhood of Somerville. Guides will be an eclectic mix of local leaders. Free and open to all. Advance sign-up via Eventbrite is appreciated: https://www.somervillemuseum.org/ Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 355 Washington St. at Perry Park near Argenzia-no School. For more information about Jane Jacobs, visit https://janeswalk.org/. Contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager, at grace@somervillemuseum.org with questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

As the city is still trying to figure out how best to handle the water bill issue that has shocked and upset many residents, City Councilor Kristen Strezo has had an order approved for the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations to conduct a Committee of the Whole Public Hearing for public hearing to hear how the increases in water and sewer rates are affecting Somerville residents. Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. in person and virtually. Copy and paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\_HjYINim\_RG62H21wtDiyCA.

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville High School proudly presents the 2024 Music and Art Spring Showcase, Thursday, May 16. The Art Exhibit opens at 5:00 and the Concert begins at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy music performed by the Somerville High School Chorus, Orchestra, Band, World Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Guitar Class. Artwork from current High School art students and select 7th and 8th grade students will be on display. All staff, family, and friends of the Somerville Public Schools community are invited to join us for an evening celebrating the arts.

\*\*\*\*\*

JoyFest will be a block party/festival in Somerville at Prospect Hill Park on Saturday, May 18, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date May 19). JoyFest is a celebration of local arts and culture, highlighting local artists and organizations

that support artists and musicians and advocate for affordable spaces for living and playing. Five bands are lined up to perform, with an open mic hour and DJs between sets. Community organizations will be tabling at the event, and artists will be there to share and sell their work. A few local organizations are hosting some in-person workshops. They will have food available for folks throughout the day. For more information visit their event page https://partiful.com/e/o0C4VXs4IcCDKiGg2rIB, sign-up for open-mic, etc., here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ohR6S4L2mZIPVQX-LyxmKcfkITtUm-mCWgA0EkAfi1mc/viewform?edit\_requested=true

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville Rotary Club is planning an event to celebrate 100 Years of Service to the Community. The celebration will take place Tuesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m., at George Dilboy VFW Post 529, 351 Summer Street, Somerville. Individual Event tickets are \$75, purchase tickets at somervillerotary.org. For any additional event information, contact David Worzala at dworzala@gmail.com or 608-695-3278.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Thursday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m. (doors 6:30 p.m.), enjoy YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City. Experience a culinary journey celebrating our city's diverse flavors of immigrant communities. Indulge in a variety of dishes, drinks, and discussions that will transport you around the world. Come hungry and ready to savor the vibrant tastes of our community. Join The Welcome Project in its first in-person event in five years in a celebration of the wonderful diversity and tastes of Somerville. More info and tickets here: https://artsatthearmory.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

A reminder that yard waste pickup has begun. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the DPW Building (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing 311updates@somervillema.gov.

\*\*\*\*\*

Applications are now available for an income-restricted homeownership lottery for four affordable condominium units through the city's Inclusionary Housing Program at 71 Bow Street. Two 2-bed-

room units will be offered to households with an annual gross income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). One 1-bedroom unit plus study and one 2-bedroom unit will be offered to households with an annual gross income between 81% and 110% AMI. Applications should be submitted by Wednesday, May 15, at 5:00 p.m. Learn more and apply at somervillema.gov/inclusionary

\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Public Library will host a Poetry Reading with Local Poets on Wednesday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. West Branch Community Room, 40 College Ave. Join local poets Holly Guran, Gloria Mindock, and Timothy Gager as they read from some of their recent work. Questions? Contact Brigid at bblack@somervillema.gov.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 2024 street sweeping season has resumed and will continue through December 31. Check signs in your neighborhood for sweeping days. Visit somervillema.gov/sweeping for a full schedule and to sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone. For more information on street sweeping procedures, visit park-somerville.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's Memorial Day parade will return this year on Sunday, May 26. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. from the Davis Square Rotary (9/11 Memorial Granite Circle Site), and end at Broadway and North Street. The city's annual remembrance ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 27, at the Somerville Veterans' Memorial Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/memorialday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join Union Square Main Streets and 50+ of your favorite local food producers for the 20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 66-70 Union Square. Shop local Saturdays from May 11 to October 26, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square

Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason.

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit CultureHouse Union Square, 64 Union Square, Somerville, Wednesday - Sunday: 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. This week they will be hosting Neurodiversity and Asian American Identity - a writing workshop, May 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Let's Make Zines!, May 4, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Bolly Fusion Dance, May 4, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., May 5, LGBTQ+ Improv Comedy Community Meetup, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more information visit https://culturehouse.cc/.

\*\*\*\*\*

This May, join the Somerville Public Library and the City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department to "Paint Your Pride!" in a joy-filled series of community art events. The completed works will be displayed in the Library's Gallery @ SPL for Pride Month (June 2024). During the month of May, patrons of the Somerville Public Library, and citizens of Somerville can: Attend a library painting program in-person at one of their three locations. Pick up a "Paint Your Pride" Kit and attend a virtual painting program. All completed canvases and artwork should be turned back into the Library by June 1 to be included in our "Paint Your Pride Tiny Art Show," showcased in the Gallery @ SPL during the month of June. Contact Kerry: keodonnell@somervillema.gov with any questions. The first event in our Paint Your Pride series will take place this Thursday, May 2, to register https://somervillepubliclibrary.org

\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrate music citywide. Somerville PorchFest 2024 will take place on Saturday, May 11, (rain date May 12) from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Perhaps you've sat on your porch and overheard a neighbor strumming guitar on another porch? Porchfest takes this idea and multiplies it. Somervillians share their love of playing and listening to music ... from their porch, driveways, yards, etc. Plan your visit ahead, take public transport to avoid traffic congestion. Remember to be kind to neighbors, no drinking on streets, use the porta-potties and tip the bands. https://bit.ly/somervilleporchfest2024.

\*\*\*\*\*

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, Continued on page 23



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder



## Somerville Artist/Poet Bridget Seley Galway:

### Talks about her life in poetry and painting

Recently, I caught up with the accomplished poet and artist Bridget Seley Galway, before her exhibit of her work at the Cultural House in Union Square, Saturday, March 30, 2024.

**Doug Holder:** You lived in a number of places over the years: Somerville, Provincetown, New York City. Do you think your most creative years have been in Somerville?

**Bridget Selway Galway:** What I have come to realize is everywhere that I have lived from childhood to present. My creating art has been equal in measure.

My creative spirit and thoughts are constant company. They have and are always stirring around in the cauldron of my imagination until ready to be served up into a poem or painting. My belief is this state of processing is just as creative in being as any tangible outcome of my art and writing.

Since moving to Somerville, I have written more than any other time in my life, and because of that have I achieved having two collections of my poems published.

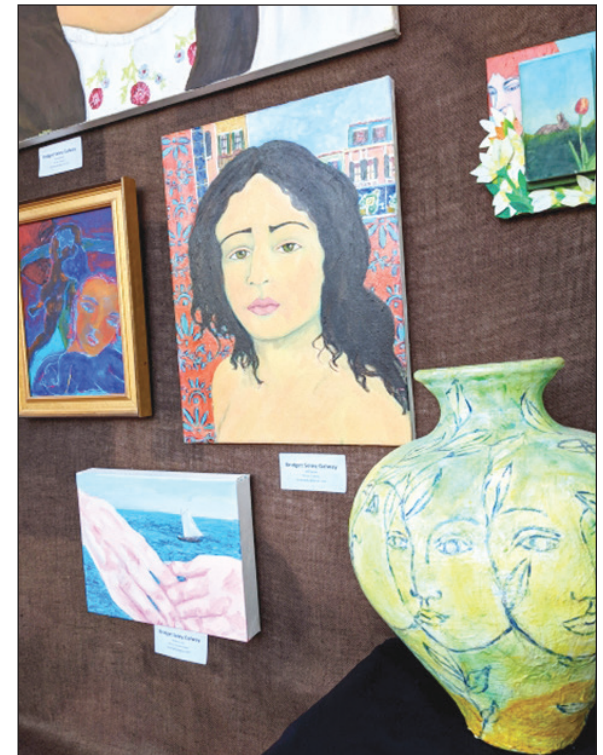
There are two main reasons for this. First, I moved here from Provincetown shortly after my mother passed. That was an extremely painful time and I isolated for three years.

My writing has always given me great solace during difficult and emotional times in my life.

Given the huge life change of my mother passing along with leaving my life long roots in Provincetown, I was quite raw in my grief. All of which, along with my past experiences, I processed through my writing. I am inspired to create something touching and lasting through my poetry to honor everything that is important to me. It also serves my need to acknowledge anything of beauty, which is a healing force in my life, and many of my poems are manifested from that.

The second reason was connecting with you and your invitation to join the Bagel Bards. You and the Bards have been a huge springboard towards my writing. Being included in anthologies, and my art on their covers as well as individual poet collections has been a blessing. I have been so inspired by the many poets and writers I have come to be surrounded by. I became more committed to writing poetry and this in turn has expanded my poetic language.

As far as my art, I go through times I'm very productive and times when even though I have an abundance of creative ideas, they seem daunting. Now, there are pragmatic reasons that get in the way. The main one is the lack of studio space I need for many



of my ideas. My ideas yearn to be as large as possible. *Birds of a Feather*, which is one you chose for an *Ibbetson* cover, is quite a large painting I created when I was fortunate to be living in an artist/live space in Provincetown. It was the last time I had studio space, and so I was able to manifest my ideas for larger pieces. I still manage to move past the limitation of not having studio space, but it definitely limits my ability to be as prolific as my ideas. Now especially since I am retired, and have the time to commit to my art, which I often chastise myself for not doing.

**DH:** In some of your poems your bohemian mother appears. How was she an influence on you and your work?

**BSG:** This questions answer will be abundant, but it could be a novel if answered fully.

Our mom, my brother and I, was the most loving, demonstrative, generous person I've ever known. My first memories of childhood began in Greenwich Village, within the bohemian culture of the 50's and continued through all our many moves. Creative people always surrounded me. The bohemian culture of the 50's was so far from the norm.

There were always interesting conversations about life books, politics, art and writing.

Our mom was brilliant, with a quick wit. Observing her knowledge within conversations, her endless humor was an education no schooling could provide.

As young children she read the classics to my brother, such as Dickens, Kipling, as well as *The Hardy Boys* and other wonderful

Continued on page 23

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet states: "Hi, my name is Olivia Steele. I am a Criminal Justice major at Endicott College. I enjoy writing in many literary genres, such as poetry and short stories."



### Butterfly Effect

She wishes she could hug her younger self,

And tell her it will be okay in the end.

She wishes she could see the world didn't end when she was 14.

It didn't end when she was 16.

And it still hasn't ended at 18.

She wishes she could hold her hand

Through the things that were the hardest.

Where she was the only one there for herself.

She wishes she could tell her it'll get better,

Because she didn't think so back then.

She wishes she could tell her that asking for help is okay.

You can't deal with everything on your own.

She wishes she could hug her younger self,

Because that's all she needed.

— Olivia Steele

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:  
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Are you a member of **Somerville High School's class of 1974**? The **class of 2024** is looking for participants for this year's **Class Day festivities** which will take place on **Friday, May 31**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at **Somerville High School**. They are looking for 50 graduates in total from 1974 to participate. The Class of 2024 looks forward to seeing you. Email any questions to **Irma Calderon** at [icalderon@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:icalderon@k12.somerville.ma.us).

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the

**Council on Aging** is now able to provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins**

at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Somerville Public Schools** is looking for **substitute teachers**. Join an amazing team of educators, earn \$150/day, and play an important role in our schools. Learn more about job requirements and apply here: <https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=1146>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital edition** of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

children's books.

When I was school age, it became clear that I struggled to read. I was dyslexic. At that time educators were not educated to identify dyslexia. They expressed to my mom that I was a low functioning learner, with a low IQ. Her response was "She's fucking brilliant, you need to learn how to teach her." She had no problem adding expletives to make a point, and did so often in a very colorful way within a command of the English language like no other person I would ever know.

She was an insatiable reader. She often shared her knowledge of writers and books with me. She was my salvation for my self-esteem, my greatest teacher and cheerleader when it came to my art and writing.

**DH:** Often in your work the ocean is referenced. What is the allure for you? Is the shoreline more enticing than the ocean itself?

**BSG:** The introduction in the beginning of my collection defines what Shorelines mean to me. "Shorelines are where the ebb and flow create a constant transformation." Our mom was living on a boat on the Florida Keys while she was pregnant with me and after I was born.

I learned to swim before I learned to walk. So, while in the natal sea and after, water was both comforting and freeing. The element of water stirs my emotions, and inspires my creativity. All forms of nature inspire me to create. However, my first memories begin in Greenwich Village, and have continued to inspire my art and writing, and many of my poems stem from those memories.

**DH:** You are an accomplished artist, as well as a poet. Your art has graced the cover of *Ibbetson Street*, and any number of books. Your portraiture are quite beautiful,

and often wistful. Your subjects look like they are in a state of meditation.

**BSG:** With the exception of a few and of my son, most of my portraits are from my imagination and rise from how I feel and am in the world. My imaginary paintings of people are large and fill the space with their presence. This emphasizes the emotion that comes through, and I believe that is what is most striking to the viewer.

The many compositions I create, whether they are portraits or other subjects come from the same feeling and inspirations as my poetry. I create them through the same emotional processing. So, although they do not look like me, they are internal self-portraits.

Then there are the ones of my son. I have captured the different phases of his life. My spiritual belief has influenced my ability to view and relate to my son as a completely separate being with his own ways, and path to experience, and not to intrude on that with expectations. Of course, I fall short sometimes of that stance when I want to relieve him of any struggle or suffering along the way.

All his ways and phases have also continued to inspire my art and writing.

**DH:** Why should we view and read your work?

**BSG:** All the answers to your questions are defined within the poems of this collection. The poems begin with memories from childhood, and move forward chronologically to some degree. Intermingled are poems that formed from the outcome of those experiences. There are also images that do the same. I created those images to be visual poems, which serve to provide not only a separation between times and topic, but also as introductions.

A Little Word

While looking for a word  
 to define the images  
 I place in little boxes  
 so to say to you,  
 a little box can hold more than its size.

I came across the Greek word  
 Dia  
 Such a little word  
 with great expanse of meaning  
 as to go  
 "through, or across"  
 and  
 "from point to point; completely"

Its meaning is found  
 in the beginning  
 of many words.

Most perfectly for me  
 is Dialog.  
 From which the images I place  
 to pose thoughts  
 for you to take  
 beyond the little boxes I create

— Bridget Seley Galway

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