

Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

Dear Friends,

I would like to open this month's newsletter by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season. It is this time of year that we say thanks to the people that matter to us and reflect on the things that we have and how we can help those in need.

During this holiday season, my office has volunteered with a number of local community organizations. We helped serve food at Rosie's Place in Boston. Rosie's helps homeless women find their way. My staff also will be volunteering at the Sherrill House, a non-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, for bingo and an ice cream social. This event is a great way to spend time and engage with the elders in our community.

Also in December, we will also be visiting Community Servings, a non-profit food and nutrition program providing services to families throughout Massachusetts. If there are any volunteer opportunities that you would like us to get involved with, please contact Michael Baker from my office at: Michael.Baker@mahouse.gov.



With City Councilors Mike Ross and Ayanna Pressley at the 2013 Mission Hill Road Race

In the District

Bromley-Heath Community Health Survey

Bromley-Heath residents have faced unprecedented challenges in recent years. Given the historical and current environmental context, concerns emerged that social isolation and disengagement were prevalent features impacting the health of Bromley-Heath residents. To best identify and address these concerns, we worked with Urban Edge to conduct a coordinated and participatory mixed-method viability evaluation and health survey at the Bromley-Heath Housing development.

Through the Bromley Heath

Community Health Survey Initiative (BHCHSI), we have collected over 227 surveys to date and counting, surpassing our original goal of 200. Our objective is to utilize the findings from this preliminary assessment in concurrence with other available public agency information to establish a framework aimed at improving living and health conditions for Bromley Heath residents as well as broaden the investment of larger patient-centered community-based solutions. Our work will also help inform other policy makers as healthcare delivery models

and payment systems are being designed. Our primary concern is to improve health outcomes for the most underserved and vulnerable communities in Massachusetts.

Please look out for the results of my survey in the coming months!

Back to School Jam

This summer I was happy to work with Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University to host the eighth annual Back to School Jam events at Bromley Heath in Jamaica Plain, Mission Main in Mission Hill, and the Brookline Veterans High Street Housing Development.

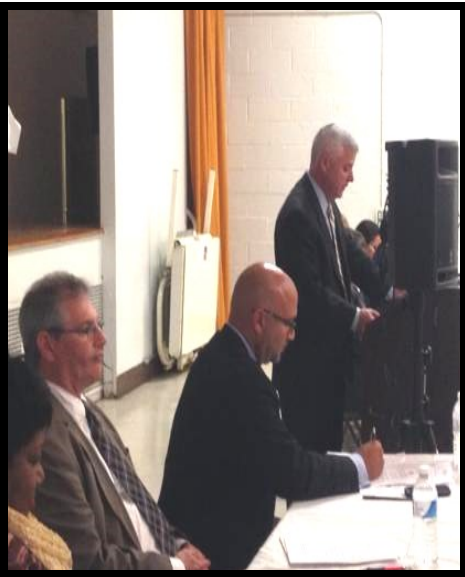
It was great to see so many young people excited about the up-

coming school year. Representatives from health-focused community organizations were there to provide free health screenings and connect residents to resources they can utilize to stay healthy. There was good food, give-aways, resource tables, games, backpacks and the grand prize was a brand new bike.

The Back to School Jam is always the highlight of my summer and I hope to see you all there next year.



Gun Violence Forum



Last month I hosted a Gun Violence Forum at the Anna Mae Cole Center in Bromley-Heath, in JP. This forum highlighted the public health and mental health underpinnings associated with gun violence in Boston. In attendance at this forum were several gun advocacy groups which included LIPSTICK (Ladies Involved in Putting a Stop to Inner-City Killing) and Citizens for

Safety. Several professors with experience in gun violence also spoke, such as Michael Siegel, who teaches Community Health Sciences at Boston University, and Glenn Pierce, the current Acting Director of the Institute for Security and Public Policy at Northeastern University. Many speakers shared powerful personal stories and provocative statistics.

The event also gave the opportunity for many residents of Bromley Heath to voice their views on possible solutions on what can be done around the housing development to prevent future gun violence. This event is serving to inform our work in the event that the legislature takes up legislation focused on guns.

Halloween on the Hill

Mission Hill held its 2nd annual Halloween on the Hill event on October 31 at the Mission Hill Tobin Community Center. This community event was filled with Trick or Treating, pony rides and residents

exploring their local community and businesses. The event also provided other family friendly activities such as pumpkin painting and a haunted house.

Gift certificates were also given to the first 10 kids who were able to visit all the designated trick or

treat stations. Along with the Mission Hill Youth Collaborative and volunteers from my staff, students from the Wentworth Institute of Technology were also in attendance.

Developments In The District

Northeastern University in the past decades has transformed itself from a local commuter institution to a world renowned University with a stellar reputation for research and academics. Much of the current Institutional Master Plan, including the proposed Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building, focuses on increasing the institution's capacity to become even more of a competitive global academic force.

Over the past year and a half, community members, youth groups and elected officials have attended Task Force meetings to express their thoughts about how Northeastern University can make Mission Hill an even better place. Many have voiced a desire to see Northeastern take a more active role in increasing the amount of on-campus student housing, mitigating student behavior issues in the Mission Hill neighborhood, and increasing the opportunities available for

public school graduates in Boston neighborhoods to attend Northeastern University.

Throughout the master planning process, I was extremely engaged in seeking guarantees from Northeastern University for additional student housing and educational opportunities for those in surrounding communities beyond what was provided in the original Institutional Master Plan.

I am proud to say that all the hard work put forward by community members to see their vision for Mission Hill reflected in Northeastern's Master Plan finally came to fruition. Northeastern University augmented their Master Plan to include a commitment to housing an additional 600 students within the first five years of the planning process, and to reach a goal of 1000 students within the first 10 years of the master plan.

Wentworth Institute of Technology Dormitories

I am very excited to say that Wentworth Institute of Technology's project to build apartment-style student housing at 555 Huntington Avenue was approved by the City of Boston last month.

These apartments will provide housing for

In addition, Northeastern University had extended their benefits package for students applying from the 02115, 02118, 02119, 02120, 02130 and 02215 zip codes. Northeastern included additional 30 full-tuition, need-based scholarships to Boston Public Schools graduates, 20 in the specified zip codes and 10 citywide, in addition to continuation of 120 current full-tuition scholarships currently offered in Boston.

Though the University's work to house more students, extend access to Boston Public School Graduates in surrounding neighborhoods, and increase jobs and procurement opportunities for neighborhood residents, I believe the components added to the Institutional Master Plan in these areas is a step in the right direction. I look forward to continuing work on these issues with Northeastern as their master planning process continues.

Wentworth students by means of 305 beds in apartment style units on 7 floors. There will be a total of 72 dwelling units that will consist of 51 four-bed apartments, 20 five-bed apartments and one resident director apartment.

These apartments,



Mayor Menino, Northeastern University president Joseph Aoun, City Councilor Mike Ross and Representative Sánchez at the topping off ceremony for Northeastern's GrandMarc dormitory.

featuring open spaces with kitchens and in-unit laundry, will draw many Wentworth students from surrounding neighborhoods back on campus, allowing them to thrive academically while freeing up market housing for families.

Amazingly, this new project will allow Wentworth to house

96% of their students! Wentworth has demonstrated their position as an engaged community partner in continually listening to the community in developing their plans for expansion, and I am excited to work with them as they move forward.

Boston Children's Hospital

Last month, Boston Children's Hospital's amendment to their Institutional Master Plan was approved by the Boston Housing Authority. The plan includes a new clinical building, an additional floor on the Patient and Family Garage and a building to house administrative offices at 819 Beacon

Street. The plan for the Clinical Building includes a new ground floor garden on the Fegan Plaza adjacent to the building's interior courtyard/dining area, with large windows looking out to the garden and play area. The new ground floor garden would preserve the char-

acter and many of the features and statues of the Prouty Garden.

Through their Master Plan, Boston Children's Hospital has included millions of dollars in community benefits for health programs across the city. Among these many benefits is the Community Asthma Initiative, which provides nurse case management, home visits, asthma education, environmental assessments and removal of triggers for asthma, and improves communication between primary care providers. In addition, the Hospital will provide funding for the I'm In Charge (INC) program at the Martha Eliot Health Center at Bromley-Heath in Jamaica

Plain. The INC program is a family-centered youth diabetes prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion program, which encourages behavior change in youth of color who are at risk for diabetes.

The Children's Hospital Master Plan will also provide millions in housing and job-creation linkage. I am proud to have worked with Boston Children's Hospital during their master planning process, and I am confident their Master Plan will not only further Boston's reputation as a national leader in healthcare, but help families in our Boston communities stay healthy and happy.

Arborway Advisory Committee

Every year I host a variety of community members and organizations to discuss ways of increasing pedestrian safety along our most dangerous roads. This year representatives from MassDOT, Boston Public Works, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, State Police and local police were in attendance. Members from our local community groups including the Jamaica Hills Association, the Jamaica Pond Association, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and the Arborway Coalition also participated. Together we were able to hash out our top priorities that we wanted to

see completed over the next year to increase driver and pedestrian safety in our community.

In September, there was a serious accident along the Jamaica Way. This incident helped to increase momentum for advancements in pedestrian safety on our roads. The Jamaica Pond Association had been advocating for increased safety along the Jamaica Way before this meeting and with a large group of the community present we were able to solve a number of these issues. The Pond Association noted that there were a number of "No Left-Hand Turn" signs that needed to be more visible to drivers on the Jamai-

ca Way, who were constantly making these illegal left hand turns. The JPA also pointed out that there should be a continued yellow line throughout these intersections because no one should be crossing the double yellow line legally.

Through continued collaboration, all of these agencies were able to come together to make significant changes in our roads. It is my pleasure to be able to spearhead this conversation and I hope that by this time next year we will be able to continue to make considerable improvements to our streets.

Legislative Update

In these tough economic times, many families throughout the Commonwealth feel the strain of having to choose between paying rent, and paying for the everyday costs of raising a family. As Massachusetts ranks as the 7th least affordable state for renters in the country, this strain is especially felt by low income families who depend on our existing stock of affordable housing. As a Commonwealth, we

must work to protect this precious resource.

Last month, I was proud to work closely with the Citizens Housing and Planning Association to preserve the Commonwealth's affordable housing law, Chapter 40B, within the Housing Bond Bill currently in Conference Committee. Twenty-seven

colleagues signed on to my letter asking the Conference Committee to remove provisions within the bill that would serve to limit the



preservation and creation of affordable housing. I am happy to say that last month, the House passed the Housing Bond Bill without the provisions harmful to Chapter 40B, ensuring that many families throughout Massachusetts will still have access to affordable housing.

In addition to working to preserve affordable housing, I submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development on behalf of my bill that calls for better alignment and innovation of youth workforce development programs across the Commonwealth. We must address the needs of young people out of the labor market and out-of-work, those who have either dropped out of school or are at risk for dropping out, the achievement gap within the public school system, and the development of educational pathways for young people to obtain a post secondary education which is increasingly needed for

successful entry into the labor market. Our youth are our future of the Massachusetts workforce, and it is an utmost priority to ensure our young people are prepared with the education and training they deserve.

I recently testified before the Joint Committee on Public Service on behalf of my bill *An Act to Improve Quality in Early Education Care Centers*. This piece of legislation promotes high quality early education and care for low-income families by allowing for the creation of a providers' organization that can negotiate with the Commonwealth over issues related to the recruitment and retention of teachers. This includes professional training, reimbursement rates and compensation. My goal in filing this legislation was to support the lowest paid teachers who are responsible for caring for and educating the most at-risk children in the state.

Public Health Update

In June, I led the charge for the House to pass critical Affordable Care Act implementation legislation which ensures state law is compliant with federal statute. The bill extends greater access to the individual insurance market, allows an insured's dependents to remain on their health plan until age 26, prohibits benefit waiting periods or pre-existing condition requirements in insurance plans, and streamlines MassHealth eligibility determinations. This legislation maximizes progress our states has made since we extended universal coverage in 2006, and gives us the tools to best leverage our current system to maximize federal health reform funding. Several major program changes related to the ACA will benefit the state budget, saving us \$205.7 million in the second half of fiscal year 2014. The legislation also continues programs

which have been funded with over \$380 million in ACA-related grant funds, including a demonstration project for individuals eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, support to create and implement a streamlined insurance exchange

and integrated eligibility system, and 22 grants designed to improve public health in Massachusetts, including \$133 million in support to community health centers.

Earlier this year, I filed legislation to address growing concern



Speaking at Prostate Cancer Awareness Day 2013 at the State House

around youth access to electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes. Currently, these products exist outside of our state's existing legal and regulatory scheme for tobacco products, giving tobacco free reign over this booming market. This means that right now youth in our state can walk into a store and legally purchase e-cigarettes in flavors like chocolate chip cookie and cherry. The bill I filed places e-cigarettes under the state's existing tobacco control laws that prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors, prohibit use of tobacco products on public school property, and regulate the use of tobacco products in the workplace and certain public spaces. Attorney General Martha Coakley, numerous public health advocacy groups, and over 40 legislators have endorsed the bill, further emphasizing its importance. By closing this major loophole in Massachusetts law, I hope to prevent the creation of a new generation of nicotine addicts.

In October, the House unanimously passed legislation I filed that adds necessary oversight to pharmaceu-

tical compounding in Massachusetts and helps ensure another tragedy like the fungal meningitis outbreak last fall never occurs again. The Senate, like the House, has also passed legislation addressing this critical issue. Both bills seek to enhance transparency for both pharmacies and the state bodies regulating them, increase pharmacy accountability for maintaining quality control while setting clearer standards for pharmacies to meet, and ensure patient safety through rigorous inspection of compounding pharmacies. Before this important legislation becomes law, the House and Senate versions must be reconciled into one bill that will ultimately be laid before the Governor for final passage.

During a November Executive Session of the Committee, members successfully advanced 4 bills from Committee related to head injury detection and enhanced student athlete safety. As we see more and more sports-related concussions in our youth, these bills take steps to raise awareness and increase testing in school settings. The Institute of Medicine and the National Re-

search Council released a report calling for a system to nationally track sports-related concussions, highlighting the importance of this issue. This report also revealed that reported concussions among high school football players are almost twice that of collegiate football players, and is drastically higher than other contact sports. To address these startling findings, one bill would require both public and charter schools to develop athletic head injury safety programs, which would help ensure students in the Commonwealth are able to compete in safer athletic competitions. Another bill would require all high school athletes complete baseline concussion tests, which are critical in properly diagnosing head injuries and in preventing students from returning to competition too early from an injury. These 4 important pieces of legislation now await referral to another committee, the next step in the legislative process.

Restaurant of the Month

Wonder Spice Café

697 Center St, Jamaica Plain, MA

This lovely little spot in the heart of Jamaica Plain represents one of the unique opportunities in a greater Boston area to dine on both Cambodian and Thai cuisine. For those of you who are skeptical of such foods, the Wonder Spice Café offers a

wide variety of food that will appease even the pickiest of eaters. Even featuring the option to mix and match your entrees to what you desire. Being so reasonably priced, this café is a wonderful place to spend a Saturday afternoon, and one is rarely unable to

get a seat. Located almost directly in between Jamaica Pond and Green St station, I believe the Wonder Spice Café is a treat for all ages and definitely a spot that everyone should experience at least once.

Job Openings by Neighborhood

Jamaica Plain

Position(s) Available: Baker/Prep cook

Employer: Ula Café

Location: 284 Amory Street, Boston, MA, 02130

Additional Information: Requirements consist of prior kitchen experience, ability to get to work before 7 runs, weekend availability, and a one year commitment to the job. Applications are available on their website, www.ulacafe.com, or ready for pickup at the location stated above. Professional resumes are required.

Position(s) Available: Store Team Leader

Employer: Morgan Memorial Goodwill

Location: Jamaica Plain, MA

Additional Information: full time job. One must assume the role of a sales associate which entails: taking care of monetary transactions behind the cash register, providing excellent customer service, ensuring policies and procedures are followed by all, and may include fulfilling manager responsibilities, such as, but not limited to, closing and opening the store. This position requires a high school diploma, past retail experience, ability to speak and understand English, perform math at an 8th grade and to work with diverse staff and customer base. To apply and find further details see the link provided:

https://www4.recruitingcenter.net/Clients/goodwillmass/PublicJobs/controller.cfm?jbaction=JobProfile&Job_Id=10177&esid=az

Position(s) Available: Part-Time Bookkeeper

Employer: Donelan Contracting, Inc.

Location: 65 Brookside Ave, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, 02130

Additional Information: 3-5 years of past experience required along with proficiency in Quickbooks, job costing and managing cash flow. Salary and hours are negotiable.

Contact Information: 617-522-8532

Position(s) Available: patient care monitor.

Employer: Community Substance Abuse Center

Location: 170 Morton Street, Jamaica Plain, MA, 02130

Additional Information: Immediate opening for full time employment. Qualifications include a high school diploma and effective written and verbal communication skills.

Contact Information: For more info please fax: 617-541-3681 or E-mail janice.biggs@csachelp.com.

Brookline

Position(s) Available: Pizza Makers, Delivery Drivers

Employer: OTTO Pizza

Location: 888 Commonwealth Ave., Brookline, MA, 02446

Additional Information: Candidates are requested to apply in person between 2:00pm and 5:00pm Monday through Thursday. Pizza makers should have previous restaurant experience. Drivers are required to have Friday, Saturday, Sunday availability, a vehicle (mileage is reimbursed), and a clean driving record.

Position(s) Available: Hosts/Hostesses and Bussers

Employer: OTTO Pizza

Location: 289 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446

Additional Information: Candidates are requested to apply in person between 2:00pm and 5:00pm Monday through Thursday.

Position(s) Available: Delivery Drivers

Employer: DiningIn

Location: 1660 Soldiers Field Road, Boston, MA 02135 (Office located on the second floor. Please use door located between IParty and Staples)

Additional Information: Candidates must be at least 18 years old available nights and weekends. They have to own their own vehicle and have a good driving record and background. Knowledge of the local areas is a considerable help as well as drivers being customer service oriented and friendly.

Contact Information: Call Chris Bentubo at 617-763-7408 between the hours of 10:00am & 6:00pm 7 days a week. Walk-ins at the office are welcome between 10:00am & 6:00pm.

Roslindale

Position(s) Available: Cemetery Laborer

Employer: Boston Catholic Cemetery Association

Location: 366 Cummins Hwy., Boston, MA, 02131

Additional Information: Must have a valid driver's license and be able to drive a standard transmission dump truck. Must have experience with small engine equipment and landscape techniques. The position requires year round outdoor work in all types of weather. This is a union position and the candidate must be willing to join the union. Apply only in person.

Position(s) Available: Live-in Caregivers

Employer: Home Instead Senior Care

Additional Information: Caregivers go to senior's home and provide non-medical services to keep them living safely. Services include personal care, companionship, light housekeeping, meal preparation, medication reminders, transportation and errands. Personal Care experience is required as well as the ability to speak and write English fluently. A reliable car, current auto insurance, and a valid driver's license is also required

Contact Information: Fill out the application at <https://norwoodma.in-home-care-jobs.com/x/detail/a2u1xf51rvy/aaan> or call 781-352-4664 and say you are calling about Live-in.

Position(s) Available: Day Program Aide

Employer: Jewish Family & Children's Service

Location: 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA, 02451

Additional Information: This position requires one to work with a friendly and outgoing individual with mild to moderate developmental disabilities and physical support and safety needs. Responsibilities include assisting the individual in the community-based day program, developing volunteer and work skills, and adapting volunteer projects and activities to meet the individual's needs. A High School degree is required and experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or medical needs preferred. Ability to pass First Aid/CPR/MAP trainings and familiarity with Microsoft Office including Intermediate Skills in Outlook and Word and basic skills in Excel are key.

Contact Information: To apply for employment opportunities, please reply to this ad in person or fax a resume with cover letter and salary requirements to: 781-693-5072

Upcoming Events

Citi Center: Straight No Chaser A Capella:

Straight No Chaser all male A Capella group brings their Under The Influence North American Tour to Boston. Under the Influence sees the acclaimed a cappella group reimagining a selection of their all time favorite songs alongside many of the superstar artists and undisputed music icons that made them famous. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., \$, 617-482-9393, www.citicenter.org December 10th – 13th*

Noises Off:

Backstage antics and hilarious comedy – not to mention a plate of pesky sardines – ensue as harried director Lloyd Dallas puts his mercurial cast through its paces during a final rehearsal of Nothing On. Then things really go crazy - backstage we witness a final lurch toward the last performance. *The Boston Conservatory, 31 Hemingway St., \$, 8:00 p.m., 617-912-9222, www.bostonconservatory.edu December 12th*

The Nutcracker:

Join Boston Dance Company as they bring all the wonder and beauty of the classic Nutcracker, from the magic tree to sugarplum fairies. *The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., 10:00 a.m., www.bostondancecompany.com December 12th*

Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll:

The Beacon Hill Business Association invites you to the annual Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll. Enjoy Carolers, strolling brass quintet and horse and buggy rides and Santa! *617-720-7888, www.beaconhillbusinessassociation.org December 13th*

Citi Center: Trailer Park Boys' Ricky, Julian and Bubbles

The Trailer Park Boys bring their Dear Santa Claus, Go F#@K Yourself Tour featuring Ricky, Julian, Bubbles, Randy, & Mr. Lahey to Boston. When Bubbles tries to spread the true meaning of Christmas to the

world, his good-hearted plans are botched by Julian wanting to cash in on the Festive season and Ricky's relentless pursuit to meet the real Santa. And if that wasn't enough, all three of them have to deal with the very intoxicated Jim Lahey and his cheeseburger eating sidekick, Randy. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., \$, 617-482-9393, www.citicenter.org December 13th*

The Boston Conservatory Wind Ensemble

Visit the Boston Conservatory for this ensemble with Eric Hewitt as conductor featuring Muhly: So to Speak, Strauss: Allerseelen (All Soul's Day), Holst: Hammersmith: Prelude and Scherzo, Mozart: Serenade in B-flat K. 361, "Gran Partita". *The Fenway Center at Northeastern University, 77 Saint Stephen St., FREE, 8:00 p.m., 617-912-9222, www.bostonconservatory.edu December 13th*

Emerging Playwrights Staged Readings

The Emerging Play-

wrights Program for Boston Public Schools is a new Wheelock Family Theatre initiative designed to inspire, motivate, and support BPS students who have an aptitude for writing and a specific interest in developing their playwright skills. *The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., 7:00 p.m., 617-879-2300, www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org*
December 13th & 14th

Annual Kwanzaa Concert

Annual Kwanzaa celebration featuring the Performing Arts Program students, NIA Dance Troupe, Girlz of IMANI, IMANI, Jr., Aleye Boyz Troupe and Spoken Work ArtistbOmekongo. *Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury Crossing, \$, 617-541-1875, www.originationinc.org*
December 14th

International Holiday Festival

Families are invited to participate and learn about different culture's holiday traditions inside the Club House at Franklin Park. In addition, families will enjoy watching international festive dances and treats. *Franklin Park Golf Course, December 14th, 617-635-4505, www.cityofboston.gov/parks*
December 14th

A Choral Holiday: Boston Choral Ensemble

BCE's annual holiday concert featuring a variety of winter and holiday-themed repertoire including Britten's Ceremony of Carols for women's choir, harp, along with music and carols for choir and audience. *Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., 3:00 p.m., 617-536-1970,*

**www.oldsouth.org
December 14th**

Mayor's Holiday Gospel Concert

Presented by Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events. *The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., 5:00 p.m., www.strandboston.com*
December 14th

Boston Children's Chorus: All Choir Holiday Concert

The Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) harnesses the power and joy of music to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change. *Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., 2:00 p.m., www.bostonchildrenschorus.org*
December 14th & 15th

10th Annual SoWa Holiday Market

Boston's holiday gift show is back for the tenth year with over 80 vendors including the very best of New England's independent designers, artists and crafters. *Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, \$, 41 Berkeley St. Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., & Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., www.sowaholidaymarket.com*
December 14th & 15th

Candlelight Carols

A beloved Boston tradition since 1909, come hear holiday carols by the Choirs of Trinity Church. *Trinity Church Boston, 206 Clarendon St., 617-536-0944, www.trinitychurchboston.org*
December 15th

New England Philharmonic Performance

Featuring: John Adams, Tromba lontana Silvestre Revueletas, Janitzio Richard Cornell,

Umai's Journey, Boston Children's Chorus, Concerto to be performed by NEP Young Artist Competition winner Tsai Performance Center, *685 Commonwealth Ave., \$, 3:00 p.m., www.nephilharmonic.org*
December 15th, 20th, 21st & 22nd

Haul Out the Holly!

Bring your family, friends and neighbors to the Boston Gay Men's Chorus's joyful celebration of the holidays with traditional favorites and new classics. *NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., www.bgmc.org*
December 18th

Studio@36: Art Making Benefit Night

Adults enjoy art making, adult beverages, and networking in the heart of the South End! This session focuses on a block printing for the holidays which will expand your creativity in our historic Children's Art Centre. All proceeds directly support high quality arts education and programming for children and families regardless of ability to pay. *Children's Art Centre, 36 Rutland St., \$, 7:00 p.m., 617-536-8610, www.uses.org*
Dec 19th – 22nd

The Nutcracker

Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre presents its Timeless Classic Nutcracker 617-354-7467, **www.ballettheatre.org**
December 19th & 22nd

A Bach Christmas

Blue Heron music director Scott Metcalfe makes his H&H debut in this festive program featuring Bach's Cantata 62, which was composed for the first Sunday of Advent, and music from the 17th century German tradition, one of Metcalfe's specialties.

Handel & Haydn Society, NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., \$, 617-262-1815, www.handelandhaydn.org December 20th & 21st

NEC Millennium Gospel Choir

The 200 members are drawn from church choirs throughout the greater Boston area, let their voices get you into the holiday spirit. *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 465 Huntington Ave., \$, 7:30 p.m., www.mfa.org/concerts December 21st*

Tafuta!

OrigiNation presents Tafuta! A musical theatre production about a young boy's search for the true meaning of Kwanzaa. *Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Roxbury Crossing, 7:00 p.m. 617-541-1875, www.originationinc.org December 31st*

New Years Eve Afternoon Harbor Cruise

Boston Harbor is beautiful every month of the year and what better time to enjoy it than New Year's Eve Afternoon. This Harbor Cruise features light narration as we travel along the waterfront. Enjoy a hot cocoa with schnapps, a cup of hot coffee or a cold beer and try a bowl of delicious chili while

the while we float by the wonderful harbor scenes. *109 Atlantic Ave., \$, 11a.m., www.bostonbestcruises.com December 31st*

New Year's Rock the Boat Fireworks Cruise

Now in its 9th year, the Boston's Best Cruises New Year's Cruise creates memories of a lifetime as we bid a fond farewell to 2012 and welcome 2013 in grand style. Dance to the live rocking blues band until midnight when "First Night Boston" will put on an unbelievable fireworks display. Your ticket includes continuous servings of heavy hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast and party favors at midnight, and a very special gift from Boston's Best Cruises. *109 Atlantic Ave., \$, 9p.m., www.bostonbestcruises.com December 31st*

First Night Skating Spectacular

The Skating Club of Boston celebrates the New Year at The Boston Common Frog Pond with our annual Skating Spectacular! Delight in watching spins, jumps, lifts and fancy footwork from our community of talented skaters. *Frog Pond, Boston Common, FREE, 6:00 p.m., 617-635-2120, www.bos*

tonfrogpond.com
December 31st

New Year's Eve King of Instruments

Experience the "Sensurround" magnificence of Old South Church's mighty 1921 Skinner orchestral pipe organ—affectionately dubbed the "Copley Philharmonic Organ"—played by renowned organist Harry Huff. The program will include Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Puccini's Turandot Suite, LeRoy Anderson favorites, and a demonstration of the organ. *Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., 3:30 p.m., 617-536-1970 www.oldsouth.org December 31st*

First Night Pipes and Pops Concert

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join Harry Huff, an organist with imagination and verve, in a supersonic program of "Pipes and Pops," playing electrifying arrangements of popular classics, as well as leading the audience in singing stirring favorites. *Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., 6:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m., 617-536-1970, www.oldsouth.org*