

West End Community Center

* December Newsletter *



Dear Friend,

This letter comes with our very best wishes for you and your loved ones for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year! In our first three years, we have enjoyed serving you through our unique programs, dynamic events and meaningful services. We are happiest when you express there is always something to do in the West End.

Over the past three years we have developed new programs and tailored existing ones to fit the unique needs of our diverse community. Our programming has expanded to include celebrations of the Hindi festivals of Diwali and Holi, Italian Heritage Month, the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, and the Harlem Renaissance Ball in honor of Black History Month. We have also hosted Social Media and Financial Planning seminars, and even facilitated artistic outlets such as Opera and Poetry classes. We have maintained our regular programming such as our co-ed adult softball league, the parent's playgroup, a drop in program for at-risk youth and most notably - the West End Children's Festival. In total, our offerings, all of which are free or low-cost, reached over 3,000 participants in 2010.

As the Community Center continues to grow, so too does the need for your support. At this time we are writing to you with the request that you will keep the West End Community Center in mind during this season of giving. The Annual Fund will support the Community Center in its perpetual efforts to expand programs and services to continuously improve the quality of life in the West End.

The launch of our first Annual Appeal last year resulted in a high level of community participation, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$2,000. We are profoundly grateful for any gift within your means. Donors from 2009 and 2010 of \$100 or more will be recognized by the center in the form of a Family Membership along with your individual or family name on a plaque unveiled at celebration of our Third Anniversary in January.

As always, all donations to the West End Community Center are tax-deductible. Giving is, of course, much more than a tax deduction. Your dollars quickly translate to the sustainability and growth of the Community Center. In our early existence, we have achieved so much thanks to your support. For your convenience, donations can be made on our website: www.westendcommunitycenter.com

We wish you a happy, peaceful and safe holiday season. Thank you again for your continued support and community spirit. We hope to see you on January 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the celebration of our Third Anniversary!

Warm regards,

Amy J. Ericson
Executive Director

Martha Maguire
President

Family Movie - Ice Age (PG)

Saturday, December 11th at 3:00 PM



Movie description: Back when the Earth was being overrun by glaciers, and animals were scurrying to save themselves from the upcoming Ice Age, a sloth named Sid, a woolly mammoth named Manny, a saber-toothed tiger named Diego, and an acorn-loving saber-toothed squirrel named Scrat are forced to become unlikely heroes. The four reluctantly come together when they have to return a human child to its father while braving the deadly elements of the impending Ice Age.

Please contact Chiara Rhouate at westendparentsgroup@gmail.com to register or with any questions.

New: Free Lunch Program for Seniors

The Free Lunch program for West End seniors began on November 29th.

"I'm grateful to Partners Healthcare for generously contributing this shuttle service, and to the West End Community Center for helping us to get this program up and

running. I'm thrilled that an institution like Partners is helping to meet the needs of all Bostonians," City Council President Mike Ross said.

Interested participants must call **at least two business days ahead of time** to reserve your lunch. For Monday or Friday lunches, please contact Mary Romano at ABCD at 617-523-8125. For Tuesday or Thursday lunches, please contact Jean Belmonte at Community Work Services at 617-263-4650.

Amy Lowell Schedule

	Leave:	Pick-up a
Monday ABCD, 1 Michaelangelo Street	12:00pm	2:30pm
Tuesday Community Work Services, 174 Portland Street	10:45am	1:30pm
Thursday Community Work Services, 174 Portland Street	10:45am	1:30pm
Friday ABCD, 1 Michaelangelo Street	12:00pm	2:30pm

Blackstone Schedule

	Leave:	Pick-up a
Monday ABCD, 1 Michaelangelo Street	11:45pm	2:30pm
Tuesday Community Work Services, 174 Portland Street	10:30am	1:30pm
Thursday Community Work Services, 174 Portland Street	10:30am	1:30pm
Friday ABCD, 1 Michaelangelo Street	11:45pm	2:30pm

Collection For Los Abuelitos de Casitas de Dios

Donations will be accepted through December 6, 2010

Los Abuelitos de Casitas, is a non-profit serving the elderly population in the community of San Francisco de Sales, Cundinamarca in Columbia. The organization is dedicated to caring for and protecting their elderly community.

Collection Items Needed:

Male/ Female in Sizes S-L

- T- Shirts
- Pants
- Underwear
- Socks
- Medicine

- Toiletries

For more information, please contact Felicia Garcia at sfg@westendcommunitycenter.com

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support for aiding Los Abuelitos.

Introduction to European Based Aromatherapy

Thursday, January 20th at 6:30



A workshop presented by Bill Georgaqui, a certified aromatherapist in both France and the United States. Bill is currently the managing partner of Aromatherapy International, www.aromasa.com. He will teach participants:

- A European perspective on the holistic nature of essential oils,
- Important essential oils including Lavender, Tea Tree, Eucalyptus, Rosemary,
- Important criteria to determine essential oil quality

The cost to register for this event is \$10 and space is very limited. [Click Here to Register](#) Email Bill Georgaqui at parisbill@rcn.com with any questions.

West End Community Center 3rd Birthday Party

Saturday, January 22 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM



We are celebrating our Third Anniversary with a family friendly birthday party featuring traditional children's birthday games, a photo montage, the unveiling of our supporters over \$100 on a plaque to be displayed permanently in the community center and of course, cake and ice cream.

Please email Amy Ericson at ae@westendcommunitycenter.com to register or with any questions.

Are you getting the most out of your workout?

Thursday, January 27th at 6:30

Do you workout regularly but wonder if you're doing the right things? Do you experience everyday aches and pains that impact your sleep, mood or daily energy level? Join The Clubs at Charles River Park's Personal Trainer Julie Schlenkerman as she highlights specialized techniques to improve muscle function and ensure you're getting the most out of your workouts.

Please email Felicia Garcia at sfg@westendcommunitycenter.com to register.

Savvy & Safe in the City

Saturday, February 5th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

A self defense workshop offered by Duane Lucia, which outlines strategies for avoiding danger using simple deterrents like time, light and noise. Learn how to develop awareness, self-esteem and confidence. Participants will also learn simple skills which are effective in a physical confrontation. All ages & abilities are encouraged to attend.

Cost: \$30 non-members, \$20 WECC members - [Click Here to Register](#)

The Second Annual Harlem Renaissance Ball

Thursday, February 17th 7:30-10:00 PM



Archibald Motley Jr., "Saturday Night"

The Spectacular Rooftop Ballroom at the Holiday Inn Select
5 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114

The Harlem Renaissance is an affordable and sophisticated celebration of Black History Month in Boston's diverse West End neighborhood. Last year, the ball attracted a true cross-section of the community, including people residing in the West End and Beacon Hill area, but also people who work at nearby businesses such as Mass General Hospital, Mass Eye and ear Infirmary, and "the Garden." Attractions included a live band a female vocalist playing music from the Harlem Renaissance era, poetry reading and a live tap dancing performance. This year, entertainment will feature a Cotton-Club style big band, dancing, and tributes to African-American art and literature.

Please contact Amy Ericson at 617-670-1900 or via email at ae@westendcommunitycenter.com for sponsorship opportunities or donations for the silent auction.

Regular Programming

Children/Youth Programs:

Parent's Playgroup

Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 A.M.

Come by the Community Center with your infant/toddler and let your little ones

stretch their body and mind. Complimentary for WECC members, \$30 a quarter for non-members.

Not a member? [Click Here to Join](#)

Family Music Makers

Fridays 9:30-10:15 A.M.

Family Music Makers is a musical journey designed for children aged newborn through 4 and their caretakers. Kids sing, play percussion instruments and dance as they learn musical behaviors, gross motor movement, and socialization with other children.

Classes are ongoing. Register at www.linx-usa.com or call 781-235-3210. Registration includes a CD of songs from Family Music Makers' own locally recorded repertory.

Youth Droppin' In

Sundays 2:00-5:00 P.M.

Youth drop in center for kids 10-15 of age. A safe, fun, learning environment which will provide homework help as well as broaden their horizons by expanding upon things they are learning in school. We incorporate regular physical activity into our youth program. Occasional field trips to the Museum of Science and the Aquarium will both educate and enlighten participants. Please contact our Youth Program Coordinator, Merlyne Pierre at mp@westendcommunitycenter.com with any questions about this program.

December 5 - Youth Droppin' In Trip To the North End

Mayor Thomas Menino, families, friends, and Droppin' In take part in the Christmas Trolley Tour located at the Paul Revere Mall, Hanover Street North End at 2:15PM. A plethora of singing and dancing to celebrate the holidays and Christmas cheer.

December 12 - Youth Droppin' In Discussion Titled, "What Are You Thankful For?"

Group discussion about gratitude and how privileged we are in comparison to underprivileged youth in other countries. It will overall be a mental preparation for volunteer work that will take place the following week.

December 19 Youth Droppin' In Give Back to the Community

We will be giving back to the community, using resources within the Boston area to help those that are in need. This outing is meant to be a hands on experience to show that there is also a large population right in our backyard that are in need of aide.

Adult Programs:

Spring Softball League

In its 3rd Season, the West End Softball League doubled in size from 4 teams to 8 teams. Next spring will mark our 4th season on the Teddy Ebersol Red Sox Fields (across the Blossom Street footbridge). The co-ed, recreational, slow pitch league is a great way to spend evenings socializing, relaxing and having a good time with neighbors along the Charles River.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Special Thanks to Our 2010 Sponsors:

The Hill Tavern
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
Suffolk University
Sully's Ts

West End Poetry Club

Tuesday, December 28th at 7:00 PM

Open readings: Area poets and writers of all levels are welcome to read and enjoy refreshments. For more information, contact Duane Lucia at 617-416-0718 or by email at dl@westendcommunitycenter.com

Taxi Discount Coupons

Taxi discount coupons are available for seniors (65+) and disabled residents on the first (12/7) and third (12/21) Tuesday of every month from 3:00-4:30 PM. The coupon books are worth \$10 each and are sold for \$5 each. Residents may purchase two books per month.

Community Events, Meetings and Notices:

West End Civic Association Monthly Membership Meeting

The Civic Association membership meeting will be on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 PM - 150 Staniford St. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Louise Thomas at weca.boston@gmail.com with any questions.

Second Annual West End Holiday Party Hosted by the West End Museum at West End Johnnie's

Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 - 138 Portland St.

All ages welcome - kids are free - \$10 donation

Tickets available at the West End Museum, 150 Staniford Street, Suite 7

For more info please call 617-723-2125 or 781-929-7691

Volunteer Coaches Needed for Hill House Basketball!

Volunteer to coach either a U8 or U12 basketball team. There are 9 games beginning on Thursday, December 2nd and ending March 10th (no sessions on 12/23, 12/30, and 2/24). Games are held at Basketball City, located across from the TD Garden. Coaches should enjoy working with children and have a good understanding of basketball. Visit www.hillhouseboston.org and click on "Volunteer or Coach" under Get Involved for more information and to apply. Please contact MacEdgan Starrett at 617-227-5838 ext. 11 or mstarrett@hillhouseboston.org.

St. Joseph Parish Poinsettia Festival

68 William Cardinal O'Connell Way - 617-523-4342

Friday, December 3rd 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 4th 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Poinsettia plants, wreaths, food, raffles, gift certificates from local supporters, jewelry, hand made knit goods, crafts for kids and more! For the young and not so young, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Festival Saturday and Sunday to collect lists of all kinds. All proceeds support St. Joseph's Parish.

Chanukah Party for Kids & Parents

Sunday, December 5th 11:30-1:00 PM

The Boston Synagogue - 55 Martha Rd. Boston, MA 02114

Chanukah celebration for kids at The Boston Synagogue where the Hebrew School kids are preparing a play, there will be crafts, dreidels, latkes & other holiday food!

Please contact the Synagogue at 617-523-0453 or office@bostonsynagogue.org with any questions.

Public Information Meeting for the Leverett Circle Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study

Thursday, December 7, 6:30-8:00 at the Amy Lowell House Community Room
65 Martha Rd. Boston, MA 02114

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation invites you to a Public Information Meeting for the Leverett Circle Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the feasibility study for the Leverett Circle Pedestrian Bridge, introduce MassDOT's study team, answer questions and gather comments.

If you would like more information about this meeting or wish to provide written comments, please contact John Romano at 617-973-7028 or at John.Romano@state.ma.us

Serving the Greatest Neighborhood This Side of Heaven

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www.westendcommunitycenter.com