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THE 18TH ANNUAL TASTE OF THE BACK BAY



Neighborhood  
Association of the  
Back Bay



The Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay invites you to the 18th Annual Taste of the Back Bay at the Prudential Skywalk. Please join us for an evening of wonderful food, wine, and live music. Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$75 NABB members, \$85 non-members, \$100 at the door. To purchase tickets, go to [www.nabbonline.com](http://www.nabbonline.com) or call the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay at 617-247-3961.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Lovin' Spoonfuls.

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## Friends & Neighbors Events

**NABB's Gay and Lesbian Friends and Neighbors** are getting together on Monday, April 8, 2013, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Come join us for drinks, light fare and conversation as we hear about the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and marriage arguments before the Supreme Court from Gary Buseck, Legal Director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), and find out what else is on the horizon for the LGBT and HIV communities. RSVP for this congenial and informative evening by going to NABB's website, [www.nabbonline.com](http://www.nabbonline.com), and signing up at the bottom of the event's description. We look forward to seeing you there!

### YOUNG FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Stay tuned to the Facebook page for upcoming details at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/170000949110/>

**MOMS' GROUP** Help support the hundreds of families with young children in the Back Bay, and be a coordinator for the Moms' Group! New parents will be able to connect with each other through weekly meetings you'll facilitate in the neighborhood. If you have an infant or toddler and can attend some of the group's gatherings, please contact Angela Wang at [wangahome@yahoo.com](mailto:wangahome@yahoo.com) or 617-823-5378 (c) if you're interested in helping the group.

**MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** This group meets for lunch the third Tuesday of every month for fun, new friendships and learning. For information, please contact Jonathan Bagg at [jonathan@beachbagg.com](mailto:jonathan@beachbagg.com) The next meeting is on April 16 at noon.

**BACK BAY SALON** next meets on Monday, April 22, at 7:00 P.M. at Linda Morgan's. The topic is *Urban Life*. For more information contact Linda at [words6@verizon.net](mailto:words6@verizon.net) or 617.437.0542

*Do you want to save money and energy?*

**Calling All Owners, Renters and Building Managers!**



Whether you rent a studio apartment or own a single family townhouse there are lots of ways you can reduce your energy costs and contribute to a more sustainable community. Join us on Thursday, April 25th from 5:30 - 6:30 PM at the First Baptist Church at 110 Commonwealth Avenue. We'll meet in Waylin Hall with representatives from the MassSave program to discuss low to no cost energy retrofits and talk about rebates and incentives that are available to help you save even more money.

*Sponsored by the NABB Green Committee as part of Earth Week*

## **NABB Licensing & Building Use (LBU) Committee Report for March 2013**

**Yogurtland (294 Newbury St.)**. *Yogurtland* proposes to open a yogurt shop with takeout at the former location of *Audrey's Pet Supply*. The shop will be open from 11 a.m. to midnight and will have approximately 17 seats, with no cooking and no outdoor seating. The LBU Committee agreed not to oppose *Yogurtland's* zoning and licensing applications for this proposed operation, subject to the applicant's agreement to the following conditions: (1) The approval of takeout use is be for this operator only (*Yogurtland*); (2) The operator's logo is to be imprinted on all paper products; (3) A trash receptacle is to be provided and maintained on the sidewalk in front of the premises; and (4) Garbage is to be stored inside the building, preferably compacted, and taken out for pickup no more than one hour before collection.

**Takeout Restaurant at 699 Boylston Street (One Exeter Plaza)**. The owner of One Exeter Plaza (the so-called "Darth Vader" Building) is undertaking a substantial renovation of the building's basement and lower floors and, as a part of that renovation, is proposing to expand the existing restaurant space, formerly occupied by *Morton's*. The owner anticipates a fine dining restaurant and, potentially, also a takeout restaurant which would be operated either in conjunction with the restaurant or separately. No operators have as yet been identified and details of the operation (hours of operation, trash storage, etc.) are not yet known.

NABB has a longstanding policy that any operator of a takeout restaurant be identified before a building is allowed to be used for that purpose. This policy helps to ensure that the restaurant is appropriate to the location and will not create an adverse impact on residents as a result of noise, garbage, deliveries, cooking odors, or other aspects of its operation. Accordingly, the LBU Committee requested the owner to withdraw its application for a takeout license at that location until a specific restaurant operator has been identified and has met with the LBU Committee. If the owner does not withdraw its application, the LBU Committee will oppose the application on the grounds that the community review process has not been adequately completed. (The Committee will also need to review any proposed transfer of an All Alcohol or Beer and Wine license for use at this location.) [Following the LBU Committee Meeting, LBU Chair Jim Hill was informed by the applicant's attorney that their application for take-out Use #36A will be withdrawn. A new application could be submitted if / when a lessee/operator is identified.]

**Bangkok Blue (651 Boylston St.)**. *Bangkok Blue* has operated at 651 Boylston St. with a Beer and Wine license since the mid-1990s, including operating an outdoor dining patio. The patio was first allowed by the zoning Board of Appeal in 1983 for a previous restaurant and is noted on the current Certificate of Inspection for the property, with an occupancy capacity of 28 persons. The current Beer and Wine license also includes the occupancy capacity of 28 persons for the outdoor patio, but the premises description in the license does not include the patio.

*Bangkok Blue* has filed to amend the description of its premises to correct this omission. The patio will close at 11 p.m. and the occupancy will remain the same. The LBU Committee agreed not to oppose the proposed amendment, subject to the applicant's agreement to the following conditions: (1) Alcohol to be served on the patio only in conjunction with meals; (2) Patio to be staffed at all times during operation; and (3) Patio to close at 11:00 p.m.

**NABB and Back Bay Neighbors Say “NO” to Fisher College Expansion  
- “This is a Historic Neighborhood, Not a Campus”-**

NABB and area neighbors are girding for a full-fledged fight against Fisher College’s proposed expansion plans along the first block of Beacon Street. NABB members, local residents and activists from neighboring communities plan to voice their strong opposition to the College’s Institutional Master Plan (IMP) when the Task force formed to review the plan next meets. That meeting originally was scheduled for March 28 but was postponed. When it is held, the IMP will be discussed and comments accepted. This will be a public meeting and all interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend.

Fisher unveiled its Institutional Master Plan (IMP) in January. It outlines aggressive plans to boost its real estate holdings in the residential Back Bay, including the conversion of two rental buildings to dormitories, adding 300 more students to its enrollment and utilizing the newly purchased 11 Arlington Street property.

“This part of the Back Bay is a historic neighborhood, not a campus,” says Howard Kassler, NABB’s chairman. “For more than 40 years NABB has endorsed the accepted ‘no expansion’ policy for existing institutions in historic areas and has joined with the City to help preserve and protect these unique localities. We view these plans by Fisher College as a threat to the Community and an attempt to undo all the years of work by dedicated citizens and enlightened elected officials. This block is a prime gateway to one of Boston’s unique historic districts and there is simply not enough space to accommodate institutional growth of any kind, let alone the kind of expansion Fisher seems to require.”

Kassler said that despite initial signs that Fisher was open to revising the IMP, talks seem to have fizzled. “I am disappointed that a solution was not reached. NABB remains open to exploring alternative options but it is imperative that we vigorously protect our neighborhood from this expansion. We look forward to presenting our objections at the Task Force meeting.”

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## NABB ALLEY RALLY – April 27, 9am – 12pm

Spring is definitely here, and Alley Rally 2013 will sweep through the neighborhood on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. through noon. Coordinating with Mayor Menino's Citywide Cleanup, come and join your neighbors, including groups from local fraternities and some of our Back Bay schools, in sweeping the alleys and side streets. Thanks to donations from our local businesses, we provide coffee, juice and doughnuts at the Clarendon Street Playground starting at 8:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m., we will divide in groups and head off to clean. After we finish, there will be a picnic lunch (also donated by Back Bay businesses) for the volunteers at the playground. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors and spruce up the neighborhood at the same time. NABB has been conducting the Alley Rally since 1967! For further information, please contact Ellen Rooney at [parnell3@verizon.net](mailto:parnell3@verizon.net).

## Architecture Committee Report for March 2013

**146 Beacon St.** The Board of Appeal allowed the owner of the top floor to raise the rear façade of the headhouse 19" (reduced from a request for 34") to allow access. As this was a minimal amount and did not raise the overall height of the building, NABB did not oppose.

**761, 777-793 Boylston St.** The pyramidal flame heaters that were installed on the patios at Abe and Louie's and Atlantic Fish last winter have been removed, and the applicant has agreed to a more traditional mushroom shaped heater, which was approved by the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC).

**50 Gloucester St.** The Board of Appeal approved conversion of 50 Gloucester Street to residential and restaurant use, and the BBAC approved the proposed design. A headhouse will be added. The rear yard will be used for dining as well as access.

**272 Marlborough St. penthouse.** The BBAC approved a façade renovation to the penthouse, requiring French doors and copper siding to replace glass sliders and asphalt shingles. A new rail will be installed at the rear to connect to the existing fire escape.

**315 Marlborough renovation.** The BBAC approved the proposed remodeling of 315 Marlborough with a reduction in the size of the proposed headhouse. The existing Magnolia will be retained or replaced if it is damaged in construction. The parking area will be reconstructed with brick walls and an iron gate.

**354 Newbury Street mural.** The Boston Architectural College is undertaking to replace the deteriorated mural at the Hynes MBTA station as part of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014. NABB is supporting this effort.

**Kip Tiernan memorial.** Designs for the proposed memorial on Dartmouth St. will be aired on April 8 from 4:30-8:30 pm at the BPL. The public is invited to review and comment.

## New NABB Members

**Maxwell Burke**  
**Mary and Thomas Heiser**  
**Len Karan**  
**Tracy Pesanelli**  
**Kimberley Sherman**  
**Stamler**



## Important Meeting Dates

The **NABB LICENSING & BUILDING USE COMMITTEE** will meet on **April 1st at 7:00pm** at the Lenox Hotel.

The **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** will meet on **Tuesday April 2nd at 4pm** in the NABB office.

The **NABB ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE** meets next on **April 3 at 6:30pm** at the New England College of Optometry, 424 Beacon St.

The **CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** will meet on **April 9 at 6pm** in the NABB office.

The **DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on April 23 at 6:30pm at The Learning Project, 107 Marlborough St.

The **BACK BAY POLICE PANEL** meets on the last Wednesday of the month. **Next meeting: Wednesday, April 24, at 6:00pm** in the Boston Public Library. The **NABB CRIME COMMITTEE** meets at 7:00pm following the Police Panel. For information, please call the NABB office.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**April 11, 2013**

**Taste of the Back Bay**

Come and sample some of the finest food and drink Boston has to offer. This year a portion of the proceeds will benefit Lovin' Spoonfuls. Tickets: \$75 NABB members, \$85 non-members, \$100 at the door. Re-serve online at [www.nabbonline.com](http://www.nabbonline.com)

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