

## Two Beacons on the Hill Rogerson and the Museum of African American History

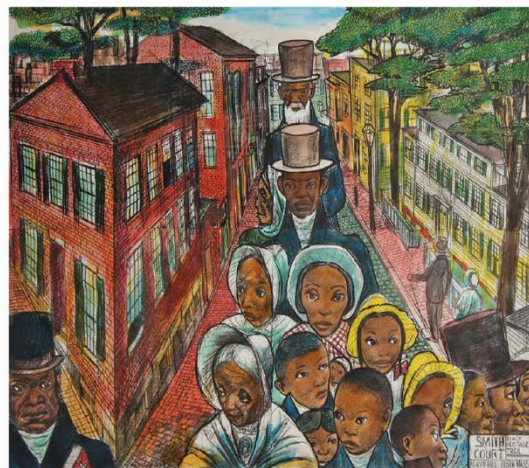


Walter Ramos and Dr. Noelle Trent.

ON SEPTEMBER 20, GUESTS OF Rogerson Communities were treated to an engaging conversation between Walter Ramos, Rogerson's president and CEO and Dr. Noelle Trent, the new President and CEO of the Museum of African American History. The event took place at Rogerson's Beacon House, an independent, supportive residence for low-income older adults (one of many such residences in the Rogerson family) and a close neighbor of the museum. Both Ramos and Trent agreed there is much synergy between these two mission-driven organizations, both committed to

building community, affirming human rights and human dignity.

Ramos and Trent observed that the two organizations are tied by the core belief that affordable housing is a human right. "Indeed it is a human right," Trent said. An accomplished academic, historian and longtime museum professional, Trent quoted extensively from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document in the history of human rights proclaimed in 1948 by the UN General Assembly (see p. 2) in outlining a unity of purpose.



Drawing courtesy of MAAH.

Trent also recognized the importance of diverse housing on Beacon Hill, bringing to life the origins of the African Meeting House, she captivated the audience with stories of pre-Civil War Blacks who made their home on Beacon Hill.

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## PARTNER PROFILE: **CONNECT TO WELLNESS**

Each month, Alfreda Payne, Resident Services Coordinator and many residents of Beacon House look forward to a visit from Theresa McCormick (Program Manager), Priya Sarin Gupta, MD (Medical Director), and Tsz Yan (Joey) Wong (Community Health Worker) and their team from Mass General Brigham's Connect to Wellness. Visiting Members of The Community Care Team and their Community Care Van round out the team and make for informative and reassuring regular visits.

Connect to Wellness offers weekly on-site health and social services to residents living in three communities – including Beacon House – surrounding the hospital campus in Boston's West End and Beacon Hill. The objective of this community collaborative is to assist all residents in maintaining independence as they age in place by identifying social and health-related needs and providing intervention.



Above: Priya Sarin Gupta, MD with the Community Care Team.  
Top, right: Tsz Yan (Joey) Wong and Theresa McCormick

Among the many services Connect to Wellness provides through its Wellness Nurse and Community Health Workers services are assessments to determine unmet care needs; resources and referrals; coaching for management of chronic conditions and strategies for residents to communicate with their own health care team.

Connect to Wellness' investment in Beacon House and its residents is just one example of the many vital partnerships which are central to accomplishing Rogerson's mission to provide healthy aging opportunities in all the communities we serve. **R**

### **Two Beacons on the Hill** continued from page 1.

When Ramos asked her reaction to local governments across the country limiting what schools can teach with regard to American history, slavery, gender expression and more, Dr. Trent responded, "His-

story is about the good, the bad and the ugly, but most important it is about creating awareness."



Museum of  
African American  
History  
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Both Rogerson staff and our guests left the talk understanding that Rogerson and the museum are truly proud Beacons on The Hill and beyond, preserving and extending their missions, embracing community, and generating an awareness of the critical need to protect the basic rights of all of our mutual stakeholders by providing housing, services resources and education. **R**

**Rogerson & MAAH are tied by the core belief that affordable housing is a human right.**



Beacon House Team from left to right: Sanika Forsythe, Alfreda Payne, Sandra Whigham with Dr. Trent.





**DECEMBER 10 IS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

commemorating the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) sets out a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all of us are entitled. It guarantees the rights of

every individual everywhere, without distinction based on nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other status.

Article 25 of the UDHR – so aptly referred to by Dr. Noelle Trent of the Museum of African-American History (see cover story) reads:

*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*

In honor of this 75th anniversary and in recognition of the vital work which Rogerson and our partners strive to provide, in 2024 Rogerson Communities will present...



*Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in the development of the UDHR.*

# Rogerson **A25** Roundtables

**Policymakers, Academics, Community Partners address housing, food insecurity, and public health and discuss possible solutions and ways for you to be informed and involved.**

**COMING IN EARLY 2024**







As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

— Maya Angelou

**At Rogerson House – as with all of Rogerson communities across Massachusetts** – we take the words, at left, to heart as we commit ourselves to the care of older adults. The originator of memory care assisted living in Boston, our mission is to provide the highest quality professional care for Assisted Living residents and Day Program participants who need Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other memory care support.

Rogerson House is also committed to helping the family members of our residents and participants as they navigate their way through the challenges of a loved one’s cognitive issues. The programs, dedicated staff, and special design of Rogerson House all focus on maximizing the functional and cognitive abilities of those in our care – all in a positive personalized environment. Rogerson House boasts plentiful outdoor space for residents and their families where they can enjoy healthy time outdoors, gardening, walking, or simply enjoying the surroundings of this unique and peaceful setting.

Jane T. N. Fogg remembers the early days of her husband George’s stay at Rogerson House:

“George had not been at Rogerson House for very long. With some trepidation, again I went to see him. There, in his room, he proudly showed me his bed, his table, his bathroom. Proudly! We ambled out to the larger main area, just visiting, chatting. Suddenly he turned, deciding to cross the way to an activity he had spotted, and wished to join. We parted, I left, sadly, but reassured, that my dear husband was content, and peaceful, at last.”







**Rogerson** has been providing housing and health care for older adults and low-income individuals and families since it was founded in 1860. Today, we serve over 2,000 Greater Boston families in 29 communities and programs – providing greater independence and longevity to a diversity of individuals.

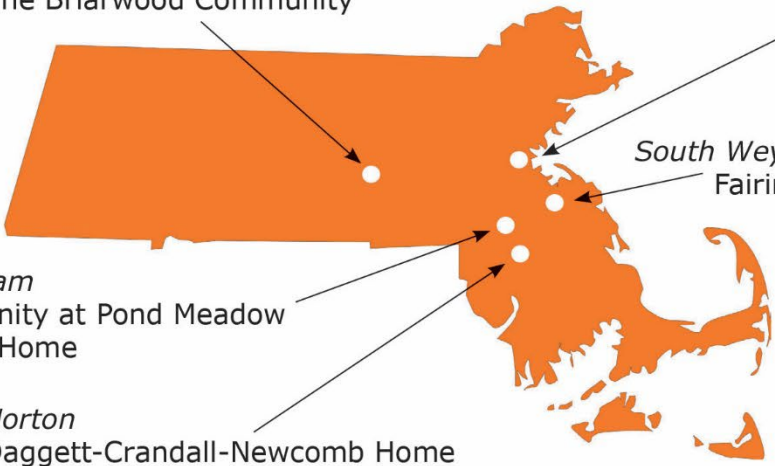
Our mission focuses on alleviation of Massachusetts’ housing crisis by raising public awareness, influencing housing and public health policy, designing properties and programs to meet the accelerating need, and partnering with other nonprofit entities to develop and implement effective housing and supportive service strategies. **R**

**TODAY, THE ROGERSON FAMILY OF COMMUNITIES WELCOMES RESIDENTS AND PARTICIPANTS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH:**

*Worcester*  
The Briarwood Community

*Wrentham*  
Community at Pond Meadow & Pond Home

*Norton*  
Daggett-Crandall-Newcomb Home



*South Weymouth*  
Fairing Way

*Boston*

- Beacon House
- Carleton House
- Cooper House
- Council Tower
- Farnsworth House
- Florence House
- Hale House
- Hong Lok House
- Joy Street Residence
- Longfellow House
- Peter Fanueil House
- Rogerson House
- Roslindale House
- Adult Day Health Programs
- The Residences at Sophia Snow Place & Sophia Snow House

**Boston’s Prudential Tower Shines BLUE in Support of Rogerson ● December 26 5:00pm**



**Look Up to Rogerson Blue** – Rogerson has been selected as a lighting partner for Prudential Center’s 31 Nights of Light program! The top of Prudential Tower will beam Blue shining support on the needs of at-risk older adults. The 31 Nights of Light program was introduced in 2009 to celebrate local Boston-area organizations and draw attention to the great work they do in Boston and beyond. The top of Prudential Tower will change color daily to honor the 28 selected community partners. **R**



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**WHAT TRUE WELL-BEING DOES** for people is remarkable. What it does for communities is incalculable. Philanthropy allows Rogerson to deliver this mission and promise so that older adults and all those in our care can enjoy richer, fuller lives.

The generosity of our supporters touches every aspect of the Rogerson model allowing us to deliver exceptional affordable housing, compassionate adult day health and fitness programs, and dignified memory care.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who make this work possible, including:



**SAVE THE DATE**

**ROGERSON'S ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATION**



**RETURNS SPRING 2024**

The Rogerson Communities family depends on your generosity to advance the mission at our core.

To learn more, please visit  
**Rogerson.org**

Email: **Community@Rogerson.org**

Call **617-469-5879**