

# Pathways

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA, EASTERN NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL (HI-ENEC)



Bringing the world to Boston, Cape Cod and the Islands.

November 2008

## Hostelling International Boston's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event



From left: Kimberly Hirsh, Judy Shen-Fileman, Neil Clark & Nancy Stevenson



From left: Russ Hedge, Stephan Chait & Glenn Azuma



Senator John Kerry & Dick Norcross

The Boston Hostel celebrated 25 years of service to the City of Boston with a reception at the Goethe-Institut, the German cultural center in Boston's Back Bay. Glenn Azuma, HI-USA Board President and Deborah Ruhe, HI-ENEC's Executive Director, welcomed an illustrious roster of attendees including Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts and keynote speaker Paul Guzzi, President of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

The event, called *Bringing the World to Boston*, recognized HI-Boston's critical role in fostering tourism, cultural understanding and economic growth in Massachusetts. Over 100 city officials and local business and community leaders were in attendance.



From left: French Deputy Consul, Henry Bertrand-Pradviel; German Deputy Consul, Dr. Bernd Rinnert & Canadian Consul General, Neil LeBlanc



Paul Guzzi & Deborah Ruhe

Senator Kerry, who was on hand at the hostel's opening in 1983, described his experiences as a young man traveling Europe via hostels, and underscored HI-Boston's cultural impact.

"The hostel performs a wonderful public service," said Senator Kerry. "Now more than ever, we need to restore our connection with the people of the world."

Ms. Ruhe presented Mr. Guzzi with a giant check, a symbol of the \$12.5 million hostel guests spend in the city each year.

"The hostel really serves as part of the American dream, welcoming people to our city," said Mr. Guzzi.

## HI-ENEC Board of Directors

- Dawn Anderson – Northeastern University
- Kristen Arent – Biogen Idec
- Ellie Botshon – Coldwell Banker
- David Breen – David Breen Associates
- Art Canter – Association of Strategic Alliance Professionals
- Stephan Chait – UMass Building Authority
- Neil Clark – Communications Consultant
- Kimberly Hirsh – Management Sciences for Health
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- David Noble – Royal Hospitality Services, Inc.
- Ann Parker – Ropes & Gray LLP
- Monica Roberts – Boston Public Schools
- Robert Schiller – General Services Administration
- Julie Wingerter – Phase Forward
- John Yonce – Porter Sargent Publishers, Inc.

## HI-Boston's Economic Impact

As HI-Boston celebrated its 25th anniversary, a new report, released by Suffolk University's Center for Public Management, demonstrated the hostel's far-reaching social and economic impact on the city. According to the study:



From left: John Yonce, Bob Sylvia, Deborah Ruhe, Art Canter, & Peter Rielly

- HI-Boston hosted more than 32,000 guests in 2007
- Hostel guests spent \$12.5 million in the city of Boston through direct and indirect expenditures
- 65 % of HI-Boston guests live outside the United States
- An impressive 97% of guests expressed a willingness to recommend Boston to friends and family
- HI-Boston volunteers performed nearly 5,000 hours of community service at local non-profit organizations

The results of the impact study reaffirmed HI-Boston's commitment to bringing the world to Boston and acting as a catalyst for social change.

## Hyannis Gets a New Hostel



Thanks to the generosity of one Cape Cod woman, thousands of travelers may soon have the opportunity to explore the Cape while staying at a hostel in Hyannis. The late Ruth Rusher, a former tour guide and long term Cape resident, left her harborfront property to be renovated into a hostel. The use of

Ms. Rusher's Hyannis property honors her wishes to provide low cost hostel accommodations that enable young people to experience the historic, recreational and cultural attractions of Cape Cod.

The Rusher property consists of .45 acres of land containing five buildings, including two garages. The main dwelling is one of the Sears Roebuck kit homes built in the United States in the early 1900s. It was Ms. Rusher's hope that the property be retained and not torn down for a commercial enterprise.

The Town of Barnstable has approved the plans for the hostel, and renovations will begin later this year. The property will be owned by the Cape Cod Foundation and HI-ENEC will operate the 40-bed, seasonal hostel.

## Welcome Paula Levitt



Welcome Paula Levitt, our new Cultural Kitchen Coordinator. Originally from Southern California, Paula brings a love of

sun, beach, and Mexican food. After graduating from the University of California in San Diego, she completed an AmeriCorps year of service where she designed and implemented diversity appreciation and positive self-image programs through Providence Children's Museum. Paula is looking forward to expanding the Cultural Kitchen Program, meeting the youth involved, and sharing stories and experiences with them.

## MY TOWN Summer 2008



MY TOWN's mission is to use the process of sharing local history to empower young people. This summer, HI-Martha's Vineyard welcomed twenty-seven young people from MY TOWN, only a small handful of whom had ever been to the island. Many of the young visitors came with preconceived notions about the locals and

the conditions of the hostel, which they associated with a horror movie of the same title. They were pleasantly surprised on both counts.

After a visit to the cliffs of Aquinnah on the first day, youth competed in the "ultimate crew challenge," a series of teambuilding games and activities, including races, tower building contests and trivia. The group also discussed the history and sacredness of the site to the Wampanoag people.

The next day, the group set out for Oak Bluffs and toured the African-American Heritage Trail. "The tour guide, Alex Palmer, did a wonderful job of unveiling the hidden history of a thriving African-American culture on the island," said Kristopher Carter, MY TOWN Program Manager. "The experience broke down stereotypes and empowered youth who were fascinated to discover the presence of so many people of color on Martha's Vineyard."

En route to Boston, a very tired group and exhausted staff reflected on their overnight stay through written and spoken exercises. But the most remarkable outcome of the journey was the close-knit bond the group shared after having taken part in such a unique experience.



Hostelling International, USA  
Eastern New England Council  
218 Holland Street  
Somerville, MA 02144  
Phone: 617.718.7990



Creating pathways to peace and understanding. Visit our website at: [www.hinewengland.org](http://www.hinewengland.org).