

The Honorable Theodore D. Mann Memorial



# NEWTON MAYOR'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Guest Speaker:

Joshua S. Levy

Acting United States Attorney

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 Mt. Ida Campus of UMass Amherst 100 Carlson Avenue, Newton

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### Proud sponsor of the 50th Annual Theodore D. Mann Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast



We applaud the vital work of the foundation for racial, ethnic and religious harmony to promote tolerance, respect and understanding among the diverse populations within the City of Newton.

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Dear Friends,

I warmly welcome you to Newton's 50th Annual 2024 Theodore D. Mann Mayor's Community Breakfast as we come together to renew our commitment to Newton's core values of respect, diversity, and acceptance. I'm honored to be here with our City's employees, members of the City Council and School Committee, people active in our community and community groups, and Newton's businesses and non-profits.



I am grateful for the partnership between the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association and the Foundation for Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Harmony. They are bringing us all together today while working throughout the year on building understanding and respect for the differences among us.

I want to thank our sponsors, and especially the Village Bank with the leadership of Joe DeVito and Susan Paley, for their generous support which makes this breakfast possible. Thanks also go to the UMass Mt. Ida team who have embraced the Newton community on their campus.

Teddy Mann, Newton's longest serving Mayor, started this breakfast 49 years ago as an annual celebration of the caring community spirit in Newton. Today we carry forward his vision and we honor two extraordinary people - Susan Paley and Karen Peirce - in our community whose good work reflects our community's commitment to service and who have gone the extra mile to make Newton a place where everyone is included and accepted. We also honor two outstanding public servants – Representative Kay Khan and Representative Ruth Balser – who have given so much to Newton for decades.

We are grateful to our neighbor, Joshua Levy, for speaking today.

me Fuller

Joshua Levy, as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, is a servant of justice and a champion for the idea that our justice system and our body of laws is the place where that uniquely American blend of individual liberty and social good, of public order and fervent protest, is relentlessly pursued. With Joshua's leadership, we know these goals will be pursued in a thoughtful, compassionate and equitable manner.

The Newton we love is more than a city of 89,000 individuals. We are a community of neighbors. This breakfast reminds us of our shared goal of working together so people from Nonantum to Auburndale, Upper Falls to Oak Hill, and all points in between are respected and included, seen, and heard, and treated equitably and compassionately.

At this moment of time when we are witnessing too often so much hate, I know that breaking bread together and reaffirming that Newtonians stand up, speak out and act affirmatively to support respect, diversity and acceptance is good and important. In Newton, we embrace community.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller Mayor, City of Newton



www.newtonica.org

May 2024

To our Newton neighbors,

Many of the great religious traditions of the world hold to the idea of "Love your neighbor" — Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, and Unitarian Universalism. It is one of many principles we can agree on and one that has the power to hold us together when it feels as if we are being pulled apart. It calls us into a unity that is nuanced with the harmonies of our diverse traditions, experiences, histories, and cultures. It is what we lean on when dissension seems louder than communion; hurt more insistent than peace.

The Newton Interfaith Clergy Association (NICA) is delighted to be partnering with Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and the Harmony Foundation for the 2024 Theodore D. Mann Mayor's Community Breakfast to encourage and bless our efforts to be neighbors in this One Love. At this event clergy, public officials, politicians, business leaders and community members come together to model solidarity and a unified pride for this city and its diverse population. We come in recognition of our many and diverse histories and cultures. We come to celebrate the hope that we can indeed live side by side with one another in empathy and compassion for each other's experiences.

NICA is a network of spiritual leaders who support the city of Newton as engaged chaplains and community allies. We strive to do good and model inclusivity as a collective interfaith community through outreach, dialogue, activism, solidarity and sometimes as the moral conscience of our community. As an association, we recognize our differences and also our need to stand in solidarity for the sake of the community that is the City of Newton.

This year, particularly, antisemitism, cultural differences, and a shifting economy have very personally affected Newton's residents, at times causing us to rise up against one another in frustration, anger and bitterness. As Newton's faith community leadership and clergy we recognize that, now more than ever, our combined voice, efforts, and communication with Mayor Fuller and her administration is significant to the point of essential.

Our gathering today calls each of us to commit to building a welcoming faith culture, where people from all walks of life can find inclusion and belonging. Newton's community -faith and otherwise- is diverse, and it is our hope that through this event we might cultivate empathy and communion in a way that appreciates this diversity for its many varied experiences.

We thank Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and the Harmony Foundation, as well as all of the partners, sponsors and guests for this gesture that carries the belief that Newton residents can come together with the common effort toward love for our neighbor.

In Faith,

### NEWTON INTERFAITH CLERGY ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP



### Foundation for Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harmony P.O. Box 620694

Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462 harmonyfoundationnewton@gmail.com

### **About Us**

The Foundation for Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harmony was founded in 1988 at the initiative of the Mayor of Newton, Theodore D. Mann. It is a private foundation dedicated to promoting understanding of the similarities and respect for the differences among the citizens of Newton within its diversity of races, creeds, cultures and ethnicities. The Foundation seeks to assist the Newton community on its progress toward a society where this diversity is understood as a continuing and ever increasing source of community strength.

In carrying out this mission, the Foundation seeks to make grants to community groups, K-12 educational institutions and all other related local organizations carrying out programs that facilitate learning, interaction, understanding, respect and unity among the citizens of Newton and surrounding areas across the divides of racial, ethnic and religious differences.

The Foundation's charter (May, 1990) assigns to it the responsibility to ensure that two community events are perpetuated:

- The annual City of Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast, begun in 1975;
- The annual City of Newton observance of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Foundation will also pursue its mission through sponsoring and participating in such other community events as it deems may best serve the community in promoting and sustaining racial, ethnic and religious harmony.

### **Mission Statement**

To facilitate learning, interaction, understanding and respect across racial, ethnic and religious dimensions within the Newton community, with the purpose of furthering the recognition of our diversity as a continuing and increasing source of community strength.

### **Board Members**

Anthony T. Logalbo Renande Loayza Karen Manning Tamika Olszewski Reverend Devlin Scott

### **Advisory Committee**

Richard Evans
Theresa Fitzpatrick
Jane Frantz
Dian Dian Jonas-Walsh
Karen Haywood
Anne Josephson
George Shen

In addition to the organization and hosting of the annual MLK Day observance and the annual Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast, the Harmony Foundation has over the past three years made grants to community organizations and events totaling more than \$63,000; 40 individual grants to 21 different organizations. This has been possible only through the ongoing operating support from The Village Bank and the support of individual donors. While the Community Breakfast had historically been our principal fundraiser, the rising cost of the event in recent years has not been covered by ticket and program book ad income.

A partial list conveys the scope of grantees and purposes, 2021 through 2024:

### Family Access of Newton

Anti-racism professional development program "Advancing DEI for all staff and all programs" project

### West Suburban YMCA

Summer Camp scholarship program "DEI and Belonging at the Y" project

### **New Art Center**

BIPOC Curatorial Program: 2022, 2023

2024 BIPOC Curatorial Exhibitions, Cultural Celebrations

### **Newton Public Schools**

Newton North – "Writing as Activism for Racial & Social Justice" Brown Middle School, Theatre Expresso: "Justice at War"

### **Juneteenth Organizing Committee**

Co-sponsorship: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

### Indigenous Peoples Day, Newton

Co-sponsorship: 2021, 2022, 2023

### **Newton Theatre Company**

2024 Production: "Kindertransport"

### **Newton Public Schools Creative Arts & Sciences**

Authorfest 2022

Performing Arts Tour – "African Music for All" (2023)

### **Newton Community Development Foundation**

Youth Program: "Nourish for Life"

### Indian American Community/Newton

India Day - 2022, 2023

### Haitian Americans United, Inc.

Co-sponsorship: Independence Day Gala: 2023, 2024

### Suzuki School of Newton

"Diversity in the World of Classical Music" (Feb. 2024)

### **Newton Muslim Community**

Support for Newton Community Iftar (Mar. 2024)

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Use the QR Code or <u>paypal.me/harmonynewton</u> to go to our PayPal account and make a donation today; or mail your check to

Foundation for Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harmony PO Box 620694

Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462

Support The Harmony Foundation Here





## NEWTON MAYOR'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

### Land Acknowledgment:

We gather this morning on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Newton. We pay respect to the people of the Massachusett Tribe, past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Buffet breakfast is available at 7:00 a.m.

### Music - Suzuki School of Newton Quartet

Sydney Lai, piano Theo Karon, violin Rachel Miller, viola Zach Double, cello

Joy Grimes, SSN faculty

### PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT AT 7:30 a.m.

### Welcome

UMass Amherst Chancellor Javier A. Reyes, Ph.D

### Words of Invocation Newton Interfaith Clergy Association

Chery Kerr, Senior Minister at United Parish of Auburndale Saadia Baloch, Vice President, Islamic Center of Boston (Wayland) Rabbi Keith Stern, Temple Beth Avodah

### Newton South Madrigals

Benjamin Youngman, Conductor Christy Liao, Piano

### Lift Every Voice and Sing

Music by John Rosamond Johnson, words by James Weldon Johnson, arr. Johnson and Chea

### Harmony Foundation Remarks

Board members: Tony Logalbo, Renande Loayza, Karen Manning, Tamika Olszewski, Devlin Scott

### Newton South Madrigals

### What's Going On

Words and Music by Renaldo Benson, Alfred Cleveland and Marvin Gaye, arr. Dilworth

### Bridge Over Troubled Water

Word and Music by Paul Simon, arr. Shaw

Mayor's Remarks Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

### Guest Speaker

### Joshua S. Levy

Acting United States Attorney

### Mayor Mann Community Service Awards

Presenter Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

### Awardees

Susan Paley, Senior Vice President, Community Relations The Village Bank

Karen Peirce, Associate Director of Special Needs Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture

### Honoring State Representatives Ruth Balser and Kay Khan

### Rotary Club of Newton Anthony J. Bibbo Scholarships

Presenters

Liz Tavares, President, Rotary Club of Newton Dr. Anna Nolin, Newton Public Schools Superintendent

### Recipients

Hibaq Ali
Jamen Goldberg
Fabricio Gonzalez Estrella
Newton North High School
Newton South High School

### Newton Youth Commission Student Voices

Grace K. Cai Newton South High School Emma Zhang Newton South High School

> Closing Community Reflection and Prayer Newton Interfaith Clergy Association

> > Closing Music



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### Community Education & Engagement Local Advocacy Voter Service

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization open to men and women of all ages. The League encourages active and informed participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Connect with us at LWVNewton.org

### Keynote Speaker



### Joshua S. Levy

### Acting United States Attorney

Joshua S. Levy is the Acting United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. On May 19, 2023, Mr. Levy assumed the role as Acting U.S. Attorney after serving as First Assistant U.S. Attorney since his appointment in January 2022. As First Assistant, Mr. Levy supervised approximately 125 federal prosecutors in the office's Criminal and Civil Divisions as well as the office's administrative functions. Mr. Levy has over 30 years of legal experience. Prior to his appointment as First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Levy was a partner at the global law firm Ropes & Gray for 17 years. For several years he was the co-chair of the firm's 325-lawyer Litigation and Enforcement practice group and then served as the co-Managing Partner of their Boston office. Mr. Levy was also co-chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclu-

matters and complex civil litigation. In 2022, Mr. Levy was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers for his courtroom advocacy. He was also named as one of the Lawyers of the Year by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly in 2017 for his work as a criminal defense lawyer. Earlier in his career, Mr. Levy spent seven years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts prosecuting a wide range of white-collar crimes. Mr. Levy attended Brown University and then graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992. After law school, Mr. Levy clerked for the Honorable Harold H. Greene with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

sion Committee. In his legal practice,

Mr. Levy handled white-collar criminal



Newton Rotary is proud to award the **Anthony J. Bibbo Scholarships** today, and we wish the recipients the best of luck in college and beyond!

Join Leaders \* Exchange Ideas \* Take Action

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Visit RotaryNewton.org





### **CLUB OF NEWTON**

### Anthony J. Bibbo Scholarship Recipients 2024

### Hibaq Ali Newton North High School

Hibaq is described by her guidance counselor as an independent, honest, and passionate student. She has worked hard to maintain strong academics throughout her high school career, with a particular passion for the sciences. Despite a very full schedule outside of school, Hibaq prioritizes her academics and has maintained a strong transcript all four years of high school, enrolling in advanced and honors courses throughout her time at NNHS.

As only one of a small group of Muslim students at Newton North, Hibaq set a personal goal to educate the school community about her culture. She joined the Muslim Advocates group and has spoken with teachers and peers about Muslim traditions, holidays, and costumes. Establishing herself as a true leader amongst her peers, Hibaq created the first prayer room at Newton North, a major accomplishment for Muslim students.

Hibaq has become involved with many other communities in Newton. She is a member of the Black Leadership Advisory Council, as well as a participant in the METCO program. She is a Muslim Advo-

cate, and participated in the One to One mentoring program, partnering with an elementary school student to provide support and guidance throughout the academic year. She has volunteered at Brigham & Women's Hospital, and as a youth worker and camp administrator at Roxbury YMCA. At Brigham & Women's Hospital, Hibaq supported staff by bringing food to patients. She recalls one powerful moment where, while delivering food to a patient's room, she realized that the nurses were struggling to communicate with that patient due to a language barrier. Hibaq recognized that she spoke the same language as the patient and was able to help communicate her needs to the hospital staff, and help the nurses communicate information about the patient's medical procedure. This experience reinforced Hibag's belief that a connection to her culture as well as her local community was an incredibly important and fulfilling part of her life.

An extraordinary student with endless potential, Hibaq will continue her studies at Northeastern University this fall.

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Proud to support and celebrate the Harmony Foundation and the 50th Annual Theodore D. Mann Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast.

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### Jamen Goldberg

Newton North High School From the very beginning of his high school journey, Jamen displayed an unwavering commitment to academic excellence. As evidenced by his consistent presence on the honor roll, he has demonstrated a remarkable work ethic and an insatiable hunger for knowledge. Notably, Jamen has a strong interest in business, having taken multiple advanced business courses. He possesses a great aptitude in this field, and it is clear that he has the intellectual curiosity necessary for success in the business world. Jamen has shown great resilience and determination throughout his high school years. He has overcome early hearing loss, a challenge that would have deterred many, yet he persevered and continued to excel in his academic pursuits. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Jamen is a compassionate and empathetic individual

who genuinely cares about helping others. Jamen has taken his passion for business beyond the classroom by actively participating in DECA and the Investing Club. Moreover, his commitment to community service is commendable. His involvement in various volunteer efforts, including Athletes Unlimited, a local food pantry, refereeing youth sports, coaching youth basketball, and his creation of the "Birthday in a Bag" program, showcases his dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Furthermore, Jamen has displayed versatility and sportsmanship as a member of the school golf, basketball, and unified track teams. His participation in these activities demonstrates his ability to balance academics, extracurriculars, and community service. In summary, Jamen is an exceptional individual who embodies the qualities of an outstanding student and a compassionate community member. His dedication to personal growth, his passion for business, and his commitment to giving back to his community make him an ideal candidate for higher education. It is clear that Jamen

will continue to shine no matter what the next step on his journey may be; he will be attending Tulane University in the fall.

### Fabricio Gonzalez Estrella

Newton South High School
Fabricio moved to Newton from the
Dominican Republic right before his sophomore year in high school. Moving to a new school in a new country, suddenly living your life speaking a second language, being separated from close extended family, and making all new friends is certainly no easy feat. However, Fabricio, with his flexibility, thoughtfulness, and positive attitude has, according to his guidance counselor, thrived at Newton South, and has given back to the community in the process.

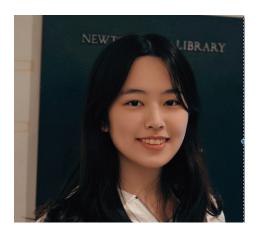
Described as a gentleman, a good listener and thinker, an intelligent and hard worker, and an athletic and caring leader, Fabricio not only excels in his own work but also notices the efforts of others and expresses appreciation often. He is a skilled soccer player and a collaborative team player on Newton South's soccer team.

Fabricio has provided strong and consistent support to the school's Spanish program by serving as a teaching assistant during his sophomore and junior years. He is patient and conscientious, and his work has been highly valued by faculty. During his sophomore year, Fabricio founded a program where he collected outgrown soccer equipment from South community and transported it to his home country; there, he donated it all to children who otherwise would not have the resources to buy the equipment themselves. Soccer plays a big role in the Dominican Republic, bringing joy to children struggling with poverty. Fabricio's role in organizing these drives has made a real difference in the lives of countless children

Fabricio's dedication to others is exemplified by his annual soccer gear donation project. He will continue his studies next year at Babson College where he will study business.

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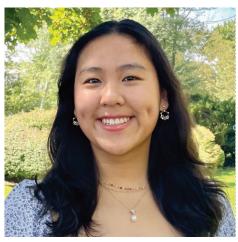
### Student Speakers



Grace K. Cai

Grace K. Cai, a senior at Newton South High School received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Cultural Exchanges and Community Development in May, 2023 presented to her by the Boston City Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor at Large Erin Murphy. She is a six-time President's Volunteer Service Award winner (five Gold and one Silver medal), has more than 600 hours of community volunteer service, and is currently a member of the Newton Youth Commission Advisory Board. She is the founder and president of Tibet and Himalayan Club at Newton South High School and is passionate about the preservation of Tibetan culture as a Tibetan-American. When she is not engaging in public service or civic engagement, she loves to play music and figure skate. Grace is a two-time Fidelity **Investment Young Artists Competition** Finalist as a Hammered Dulcimer player. Grace is also a competitive figure skater and recently received her third world Gold Medal in France 2024 at Nations Cup competing for the Team USA Junior team Act 1 of Boston, Theater on Ice. Grace has been

using her music and figure skating as ways to serve the community by performing at Senior Centers, Newton community events and skating shows that have raised donations for cancer research and other causes.



### Emma Zhang

Emma Zhang is a current senior at Newton South High School. She is one of nine commissioners on the Newton Youth Commission and has been on the Advisory Board for the past three years. On the Commission, she's helped to develop a townwide youth newsletter and to plan mental health events. Emma also engages in community journalism as the former Editor-in-Chief of The Lion's Roar Newspaper and as a journalist for Fig City News. Serving her community, Emma leads skin education workshops for Newton teens through the non-profit Comfortable in Our Skin, and she volunteers at the Newton Chinese Language School. In her spare time, Emma enjoys creative writing, perfecting her chocolate chip cookie recipe, and playing NYT word games.

### Thank You

### WITH APPRECIATION

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> Newton South Madrigals Benjamin Youngman, Conductor

Suzuki School of Newton Sachiko Isihara, Executive Director Joy Grimes, faculty Musicians: Sydney Lai, Theo Karon, Rachel Miller, Zack Double

### 2024 50<sup>th</sup> Theodore D. Mann Memorial Newton Mayor's Community Breakfast PLANNING COMMITTEE

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> Program Video Eugene Foygelman, NewTV

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Susan Chapman, The Village Bank
Cindy Greene, Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ)
Susan Paley, The Village Bank, Vice President, Community Relations
Blair Sullivan, Newton Community Pride
Liz Tavares, Rotary Club of Newton

Rotary Club of Newton Event Day Volunteers Michael Jordan, Paul Loiselle, Chris Masterman, Marie Presti David Sellers, Liz Tavares, Andy Willinger

### Musical Performers:

Newton South Madrigals - Benjamin Youngman, Conductor
Soprano: Claire Cho, Nain Kim, Koharu Komagata, Darya Rostami, Sofia Telio
Alto: Aleeza Amitan, Sophie Chang, Margo Fan, Ava Gordon
Robbie Jones, Summer Montgomery
Tenor: Gavin Coull, Max Kret, Ben Miner, David Rosemberg
Bass: Ivan J. Estes, Thomas Hughes, Andrew McGuire, Theo Younkin

### PARKING AT UMASS AMHERST AT MT. IDA

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For GPS users, enter "20 Carlson Avenue."

Members of the Rotary Club of Newton will be stationed along Carlson Avenue to guide you to the main parking areas along the campus access road, including the lot at the Newton LDS Chapel, 41 Carlson Avenue.

All parking areas are within walking distance from the Tent on the field facing Shaw Hall.

Handicapped parking spaces are located in front of Shaw Hall

Bike Racks: Located between New Hall and Wingate (next to Shaw Hall on the left-hand side of the stairs).



# "Humanity is our ultimate community and everyone plays a crucial role."

Yehuda Berg
 American Clergyman and Author



The Village Bank is proud to sponsor
The Harmony Foundation and the Mayor's Community
Breakfast, a morning of celebrating our connection
to each other and our responsibility to the whole.

Congratulations to today's honorees, including our own Susan Paley.



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