



Esplanade Community Group

# ECG Newsletter

## 11.21

### Esplanade Community Listserv Now Set Up for All Our Residents

The Esplanade Community Group (ECG) is pleased to announce that we have started a Listserv for the benefit of everyone who lives at the Esplanade and chooses to participate. Learn about [listservs](#) and how to sign up [here](#)

### The Neighborhood

According to an ancient saying, man is the measure of all things. Today we would modify that statement to eliminate the gendered language. But we would also recognize that it is often apt when used in the singular. For example, on Google Earth maps, you can measure the distance between two points using a variety of different measures, which are listed in a menu at the

top. On this list, just under “nautical miles,” is “**smoots.**” As in: “How long is that flower bed? It’s three **smoots.**” [Read more](#) about the adventure of [Oliver Smoot](#), the measurer of the Massachusetts Avenue bridge. (by Ken Winston)



## Meet Your Neighbors



**Elaine Shiang** bought her Esplanade condo in 2018 and, then, moved in January 2021. For almost a year before she moved into the Esplanade, Elaine jokes that her daughter, Margaret, who lives in Cary, NC, ‘incarcerated’ her because of Covid. Once, Margaret ‘freed’ her, she left Cary to come back north.

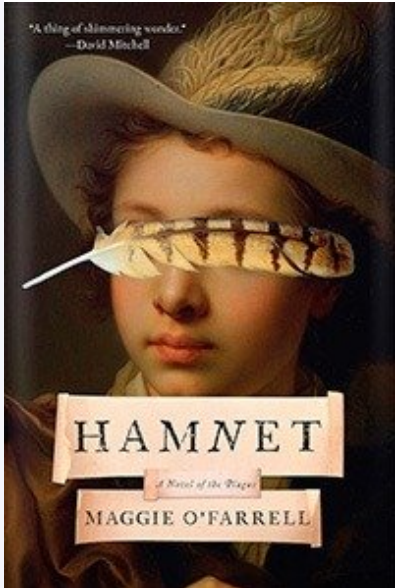
Elaine was a doctor at MIT for 35 years and always imagined that she'd move back to the Kendall Square area after she and her husband, Frederick "Fred," lived and raised their children in Brookline. [Read more about Elaine here.](#)

[Read more interviews with neighbors here](#)

## Environmental Update

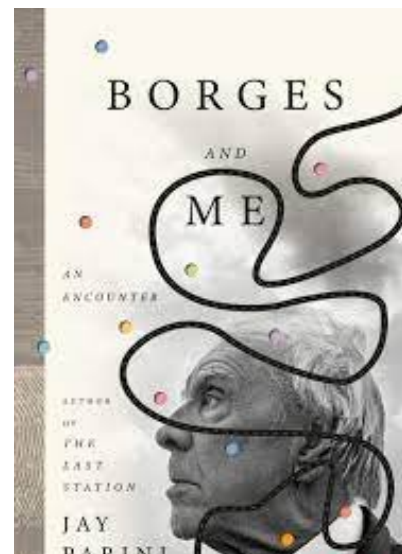
**The Esplanade Environmental Study Group (EESG)**, sorry to report, was not invited to the Glasgow Summit on Climate Change. Nor at this time do we have any new progress to report here on the home front, in our building. However, we have reason to believe that Board Chairman John Yee will discuss The Esplanade's progress and plans concerning energy use during the **Esplanade Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 16**. We therefore encourage residents to attend (via Zoom), and to engage the Board of Trustees and Esplanade management on this subject. The EESG would also like to hear directly from any resident about ideas and concerns to add to our agenda; we also encourage interested residents to work with us to learn more about energy-saving innovations in multiple unit residential buildings and bring that information to management's attention. Contact [Bob Kagan](#)

# Reading



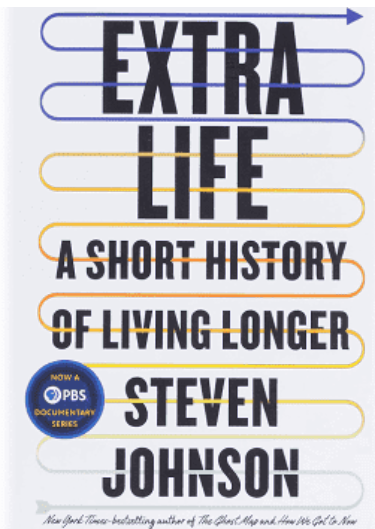
In **Hamnet**, acclaimed novelist Maura O'Farrell has created an absorbing fictionalized account of Shakespeare's family life, based on what little is actually known. Her novel is set in the lively, toil-driven atmosphere of an English country village where the family lived at the end of the sixteenth century. It follows the dates of Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway's courtship and marriage, the birth of their three children and the tragic death of their young son in 1596. [Read more.](#) (Reviewed by Jane Weingarten)

In the engaging and profoundly enjoyable novelistic memoir, **Borges and Me**, Jay Parini recalls his coming of age as a graduate student while facing the Viet Nam War draft, going to St. Andrews in Scotland, and encountering Jorge Luis Borges, the brilliant Argentinian writer. The encounter is at once comic, entertaining, and lighthearted yet still deeply soul searching as an exploration



of self-identity and that of the other.

[Read more](#) (Reviewed by Mitch Glassman)



Over the past century, average life expectancy in the world has doubled, giving a baby born now an “extra life.” What explains this extraordinary phenomenon? Where, when, and how did it occur? What can we expect for the future? Steven Johnson’s book, **Extra Life**, provides a short history of the scientific and economic developments that have saved hundreds of millions, indeed billions, of lives. [Read more](#) (Reviewed by Mary Jo Bane)

[Read more book reviews here](#)

## Eats



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Susan Barron offers a recipe for [sheet roasted chicken with pears and arugula](#).

And Michael Altman reviews [Cafe Beatice](#)

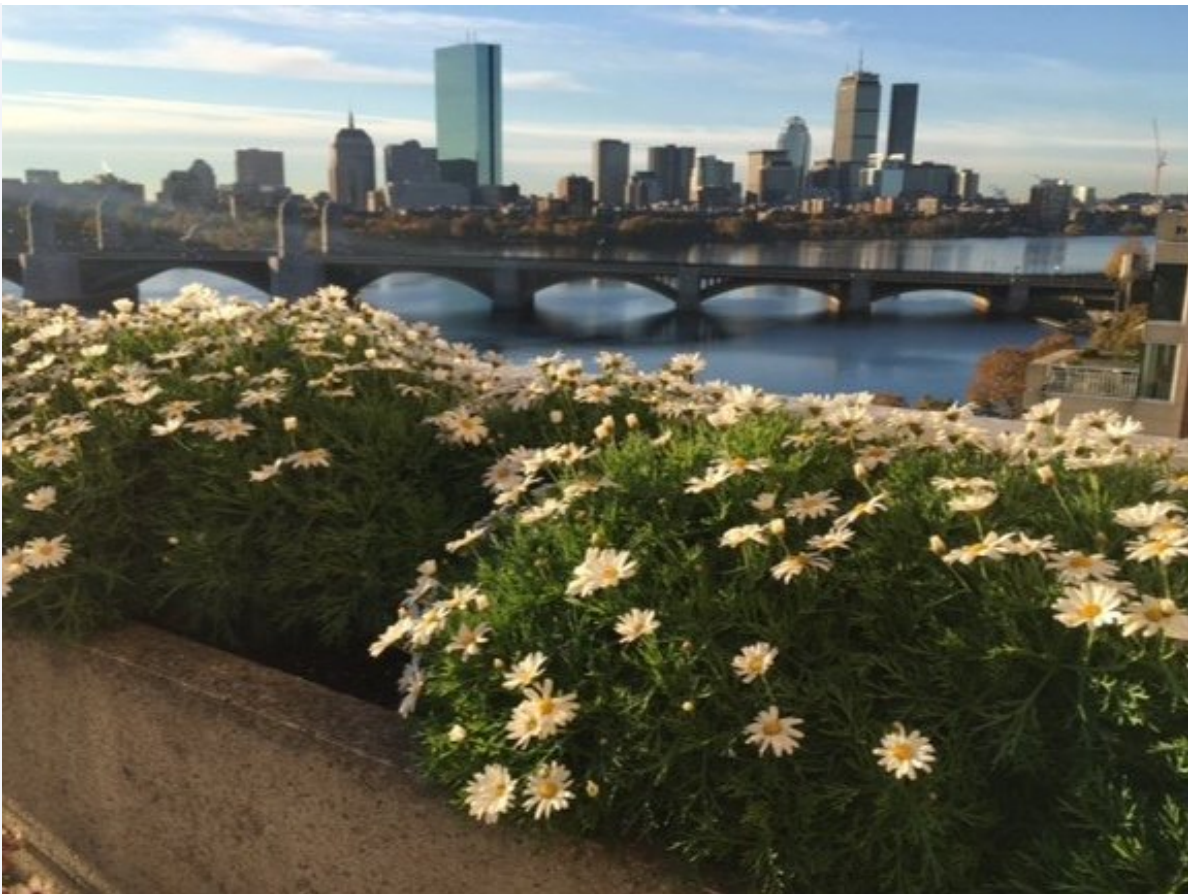
# Opportunities

From Sissela Bok

Cambridge residents are invited to join a new free **Cambridge Friends Program of the Harvard Art Museums**. In addition to free admission, Cambridge Friends will receive a Museum Monday newsletter; invitations to select Friends programs and events; as well as special discounts. To learn more and become a Cambridge Friend, visit [here](#)



## Halloween at the Esplanade



## **And fall on Linda Felter's terrace**

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### **VISIT OUR ECG [WEBSITE](#)**

Missed any of our newsletters or updates? Catch up on them [here](#).

Want to share opportunities with your neighbors? Send to [Esplanade Community](#).

Esplanade neighbors and newcomers to the building, whether owners or renters, are welcome to be part of the ECG and to receive our Updates, newsletters, and invitations to ECG events. Please pass along this update to new folks. To get on (or off) our

mailing list just email [Esplanade Community](#).

Have ideas for these newsletters and updates? Want to write something? Send to [Jessie](#), [Mary Jo](#) or [Jane](#). Next newsletter early in 2022.

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