



BAR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belmont Against Racism Announces New Board of Directors

Belmont, MA – [September 12, 2024] – Belmont Against Racism (BAR) is thrilled to announce the election of its new Board of Directors, a group of dedicated individuals committed to addressing the problems of injustice however manifested and promoting equity and inclusion in our community. This esteemed board will lead BAR's efforts in creating meaningful change and fostering a more inclusive and welcoming Belmont.

The newly elected Board of Directors brings a wealth of experience and passion to BAR. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise will drive the organization's mission forward, ensuring a collaborative and impactful approach to combating racism and promoting equality.

Meet the New Board of Directors:

Joe Bernard, *Treasurer*

Sarah Bilodeau

Jennifer Burgess

Didier Moise, *President*

Bella Reardon, *Student Rep*

Sally Sennott, *Clerk*

Nicole Werther

The elections of the directors and the three officers—president, treasurer, and clerk—took place during BAR's Annual Meeting which was held at the Beech Street Center. A workshop followed the voting. There were 19 attendees seated at tables arranged in a U-shape formation. Aply led by facilitator Sheetal Chhabria, a Belmont resident and professor at Connecticut College, the group engaged in conversation centered around an article now considered a "classic" by anti-racist educators. The diverse group of participants exchanged viewpoints and honed in on the schools, and the MBTA Communities Act's prospect of passing at Town Meeting. It was a true learning and teaching moment. Sheetal Chhabria donated her honorarium to the Black in Belmont student club at Belmont High School.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to founding member Mike Collins. He made remarks about how he and his wife, Bev, were moved to action and started BAR soon after the 1992 Rodney King beating in Los Angeles. After 32 years of service, Collins was stepping down from the Board. He reflected on the importance of organizations like BAR and their role in helping "bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice." Collins expressed confidence that the incoming Board will continue the hard work of bending that arc toward justice and equality. In addition to Collins, BAR's Board of Directors issued a statement thanking other outgoing directors: Meg Anderson, Steven Friedman, Kim



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Haley-Jackson, Angela Middleton, and Gladys Unger. They were thanked for "their outstanding commitment and dedication to making Belmont a better place." BAR expressed its gratitude for their unwavering passion, tireless efforts, and selfless contributions, which have significantly impacted the lives of countless individuals within our community and beyond. BAR believes that their legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, and their impact will be felt for years.

About Belmont Against Racism:

BAR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating racism and promoting racial equity in Belmont and its surrounding areas. Through education, advocacy, and community engagement, BAR works to foster a more inclusive and just society. The organization has been active since 1992, originally formed in response to the Rodney King beating and the ensuing riots in Los Angeles. BAR is an all-volunteer community action organization. While racism was its initial focus, it now addresses various forms of bigotry and social injustice.

BAR's board meets monthly to discuss community issues and support a wide range of events in town, all aimed at creating a more inclusive and welcoming community. The organization provides funding support to the schools for METCO students, teacher training, and student events such as field trips. BAR's monthly meetings are centered around addressing community issues and supporting a wide range of town events to improve our community.

For more information about BAR, please visit its website at belmontagainstracism.org.

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