



phillips brooks house association

# 2018

# Summer Newsletter

pbha.org

Fall 2018

## SUP: My Home

**Prasant Tamang '18**

*Summer Programming  
Group Officer*



As a 12-year-old camper in Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment (RYSE), I never imagined that one day I would supervise all of SUP. Thirteen years ago, as a recent Nepali immigrant, I decided to join RYSE to improve my English. Little did I know that my experience in RYSE and SUP would profoundly change my life.

When I think back on my days as a camper I remember my senior counselor, Mark. In the classroom, Mark helped me expand my mind and taught me about environmental justice, a topic that continues to be a passion of mine today. I can still hear the waves crashing against the rocky shore of Revere Beach the day our class went to pick up trash. Similarly, I can feel the grainy dirt between my fingers the day we participated in a hands-on urban gardening experience in Boston.

What I most appreciate about Mark is how he never hesitated to go the extra mile. Mark really believed in me. He took the time to organize SAT prep classes and even

taught me the ins and outs of applying to college. Having people like Mark look out for me as I navigated my new life in America is why RYSE became my second family. It is why I came back year after year and loved camp more and more.

Flash forward to today and I am now the SUP Program Group Officer (PGO). I am proud to say that SUP has given me the opportunity to take on the leadership positions that have molded me into who I am today. My experience as a camper inspired me to become an assistant leader (now called a co-teacher or junior counselor); being an assistant leader led me to want to have my own class as a senior counselor, and after senior counseling I knew I had to come back to direct. Along the way I have learned so much about service, justice, and the importance of youth development programs. I have experienced first hand the incredible opportunities SUP can provide its participants.



My unique perspective is what pushed me to see the potential of an expanded SUP. As SUP PGO, I saw a gap in programming for 13- to 14-year-olds who have graduated from camp but are too young to be junior counselors - in many camps

this summer there were unpaid student volunteers or "office JCs". To remedy that, the SUP team is in the process of brainstorming and eventually piloting a Middle Up/Junior Counselor in Training program for next year so that young teens can stay engaged in SUP. I want to help give young people the same opportunities I had to engage in SUP.



Throughout the summer I was reminded about how important SUP was for me growing up, and one of the most rewarding parts of being PGO was getting to see the incredible relationships developed between campers, families, and staff. At Keylatch's Final Show, I saw parents coming to celebrate their campers' achievements and thanking Keylatch's staff, one of whom was directing for the last time. She, like me, had grown up in camp and was surrounded by people in her community who believed in her. As she and others cried tears of joy, my heart was filled with happiness for those involved in such a special moment. Though my time as SUP's PGO is drawing to a close, I know that no matter where I go and what I do, I will always be grounded by my experiences in SUP. I will always have a second family and a place to call home.

# Stand with SUP

**Maria Dominguez-Gray, Ed.M. '94**  
Class of '55 Executive Director



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

**- Margaret Mead**

For decades, PBHA has worked to effect change to ensure a more hopeful future. This summer, a small group of students, staff, families, PBHA alumni, and Harvard and community partners worked together to continue that mission.

Together, we offered high-quality summer programming and advanced a shared mission to promote public service as a path to social justice. Together, we made PBHA a welcoming place of hope where anyone can seek refuge.

The Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y Harvard Square provided sanctuary and case management services to about nearly 100 guests over seven weeks. Habitat for Humanity worked tirelessly to acquire recycled furniture for their annual “stuff sale,” which raises funds to buy materials to build new homes. PBHA also piloted a new adult English for speakers of other

languages (ESOL) Program to address a tremendous unmet need for free summer English language instruction in Greater Boston. Adult ESOL, an extension of PBHA’s Chinatown Citizenship, Chinatown ESL, and Partners Empowering Neighborhoods programs welcomed about 300 recent immigrants in Dorchester and Chelsea.

Across the board, PBHA summer leaders and volunteers served with enthusiasm, immense compassion, and a drive to do good. Our largest program, the Summer Urban Program (SUP) again inspired, motivated, and challenged children from all over Boston and Cambridge to grow and thrive. “SUP Sparks” was a fitting theme for the powerful work done in 11 camps serving 799 children for six full weeks. Staffed by 184 college and high school students, SUP continued to be an affordable, quality summer service program aimed at combating summer learning loss and strengthening social and emotional learning.

At the Mission Hill Summer Program (MHSP), SUP sparked curiosity. In senior counselor Jose Coronado’s class, students learned about high-level philosophical concepts and social theory through discussions on feminism, indigenous art in the context of history, and racism. At the Refugee Summer Enrichment Program (RYSE), SUP sparked hope. In Will Li’s and Michena Eugene’s class, students researched issues that mattered to them and wrote letters to local, state, and federal officials. In Karina Ithier’s and Lucas Lopes Barbosa’s class, students wrote poems to express their emotions and thoughts.

Lastly, in every camp, SUP sparked justice. In partnership with the Harvard Office for Sustainability, SUP launched an environmental justice curriculum in five classrooms. One senior counselor, Kelly Navarro at South Boston Outreach Summer (SBOS) transformed her classroom into the Lorax’s forest of truffula trees covered in quotes about environmental justice. Other projects took place at Franklin I-O and the Native American Youth Enrichment Program (NAYEP), by staff committed to the practice of restorative justice. When difficult situations arose, youth, parents and staff worked together to assess the situation and develop collaborative, restorative, and reflective solutions.

## Equality

It keeps falling  
drops of black tears  
From her dark eyes.  
Different people in the same world.  
Same language different thinking  
Same rights, different color skin  
Same culture different food, but what more  
In this world could be same discrimination  
against other people all this in a typical world.  
All are Humans, all have feelings but that is  
something many people don’t think of.  
Not every person discriminates, there is still  
real people in this world.  
That’s how it is a typical world  
that’s what it’s a typical society  
That’s what it’s a typical world.

**-Josseline | RYSE student**

Without question, each summer at PBHA is full of exciting potential, new challenges, and remarkable growth. What remains consistent is the core mission of PBHA to value people and serve communities. The work and achievements of all of those involved in PBHA’s summer programs are a testament to that truth. Above all, PBHA will always be a home for participants and leaders in which to find themselves, learn, and change the world together.



BRYE ■ CHAD ■ CYEP ■ FO ■ KSP ■ MHSP  
NAYEP ■ RYI ■ RYSE ■ SBOS ■ LEADERS!

# Y2Y & Summer Science: Creating Bonds

**Juliana Lamy '19 & Jang Lee '19**  
Y2Y Harvard Square &  
Summer Science

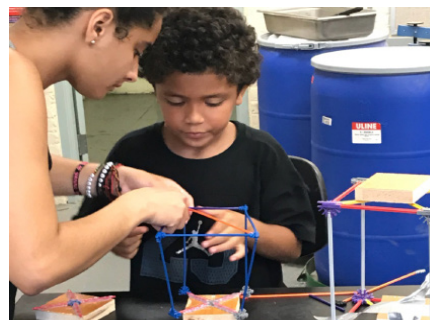
Y2Y Harvard Square is a student-run, overnight shelter that provides a safe and affirming space for young people experiencing homelessness in Greater Boston. During the summer, Y2Y offered 22 beds and served 79 unique guests, offering case management services (advised by faculty and professionals) and helping guests access resources that included job training programs, mentoring opportunities, mental health care services, and permanent housing.

PBHA's Summer Science delivers weekly science instruction to each of PBHA's 11 SUP camps. Summer Science is designed around activity-based experiential learning, with creative lessons like making ice cream, which covers topics like chem-



ical reactions and states of matter. The program aims to invite students to realize the joy of scientific discovery and spark further curiosity.

This summer, Y2Y and Summer Science began a partnership thanks to the support of The Boston Foundation, which saw Summer Science hire two guests from Y2Y as teachers. As part of Summer Science, the Y2Y teachers taught science curriculum to summer camps in Dorchester, Mission Hill, and Roxbury. They also attended weekly Summer Science meetings to discuss cur-



riculum and facilitate team bonding. Both were incredibly excited to work with SUP! One week, Y2Y teachers led a lesson on DNA and genetics by explaining to campers the science behind how physical traits are passed down. After the lesson, campers extracted DNA from a banana by using test tubes, funnels, dish soap, and alcohol. Both Y2Y and Summer Science hope to continue this partnership in upcoming summers and expand the program to provide more opportunities to youth experiencing homelessness.

## SUPstainability & Environmental Justice



**Natasha Dhamankar '20**

Summer Science: SUPstainability

In 2018, SUP partnered with the Harvard Office for Sustainability to support environmental education in classrooms. As a part of the initiative, five senior counselors at SBOS, NAYEP, RYI, and BRYE formed a working group for environmental justice education. In addition to doing project-based environmental work in their classrooms, this fantastic cohort collaborated to build both a strong

foundational curriculum and an environmental justice program to be used in future summers.

In addition to environmental justice-focused lesson plans, the Summer Sustainability Initiative encouraged project-based environmental learning across camps through environmental justice-specific training and community partnerships with organizations like the Harvard Community Garden. The initiative also began to assess SUP's environmental impact as a program (e.g., program waste), an exciting project we hope to continue to develop in the future!

The five senior counselors who focused on environmental justice did so in a variety of ways: through projects, literature and media, games and simulations, field trips, and more. Projects included "shipbuilding" from recycled materials, "pop bottle" ecosystems, and gardening. Supplement-

ing specific environmental themes introduced in lessons, classes from the cohort took many field trips to places like the Wellesley Edible Ecosystem, the New England Aquarium, a local Farmers Market, parks and natural areas, and the Waterworks Museum.

After an exciting first year, SUP hopes to continue to build and expand the Summer Sustainability Initiative by promoting environmental education in even more classrooms through community partnerships, field trips, training, and curriculum support.



# Thank you to our 2018 PBHA

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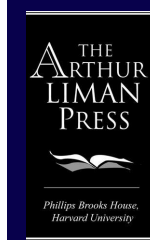
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# The Meaning of CHADLove

**Olivia Chung '18  
& Sarah Wang '19**  
Chinatown Adventure



CHADLove. It's a word that every camper and staff member ends their CHAD experience knowing. Many campers who become junior counselors bring it up. Junior counselors who become senior counselors speak about it often. It's etched on CHAD T-shirts, yearbooks, and email sign-offs. It is easy to toss CHADLove into every other sentence and ramble on about how incredible the summer was. Nevertheless, we struggle to find a comprehensive definition that would satisfactorily encompass the entirety of the feelings, stories, and depth of that singular, timeless word. Instead, our best attempt at conveying what CHADLove means rests in analogies that we hope can express the essence of our truly special program.

CHADLove looks like a team of staff and campers loving each other for who they are and where they come from. It's senior counselors and directors learning about housing issues in Chinatown on a tour led by a CHAD alumnus; G5 and G7 collaboratively exploring what it was like to be a Paper Son in the 1900s; G3 designing tours of Chinatown to reflect their individual experiences; junior counselors understanding what microaggressions are in their Leaders! workshop. CHADLove takes

form as a family unraveling the weighty question of "What does it mean to be Asian-American?" while learning to appreciate each other and ourselves for our multi-layered identities. CHADLove sounds like families engaging with each other and with staff - whether it be WeChat pings as counselors send overnight camping trip pictures to parents, the buzz of grandparents interacting with each other in the CCBA Conference Room during pick up or drop off, or the interplay of English and Chinese as junior counselors and directors translate for parent-counselor meetings.

In the middle of the summer, CHADLove manifests itself when older and younger campers work together. G2 developed algorithms for creating paper airplanes and shared them with their G6 Big Sibs. G7 read to their G1 Little Sibs at the China-



town Public Library. Dong, a G3 camper, befriended Charles, a G7 camper, who ate breakfast and lunch with him.

CHADLove is never limited by grade. CHADLove feels like the indescribable bond among campers, staff, and families. It's in the laughter, "awwws," and sniffles that sweep across the auditorium as pictures illustrating our all too short summer flash across the screen at Final Show. It's in the way we encourage (or coax) our middle-school campers and volunteers to show us their Fortnite dance moves at Teen Dance. It's a team of junior counselors, senior counselors, and directors collectively trying to win against a band of campers in laser tag at our Final Trip at Roll On America.

Even after our last day in August, CHADLove looks like the memories that will long outlast the summer of 2018, the future aspirations that returning staff, families, and community members will have for camp, the growth and excitement that campers will carry forward to the school year and next summer. It looks like the perpetual community to which everyone who experiences CHAD knows that they are connected - for that summer, and every summer thereafter.

I can adequately describe all of this and so much more with the only word that inevitably pops up summer after summer: CHADLove.

# One Summer is Not Enough

## Thalia Ramirez '18

### Mission Hill Summer Program

When asked why I decided to direct the Mission Hill Summer Program (MHSP) again as a college senior, my answer was always the same: "One summer is not enough." Those words I borrowed from Henry Santana, my dear friend and a former MHSP director. A living embodiment of what SUP is all about, Henry, who entered SUP at the age of eight, has, year after year, dedicated his summers to serving his Mission Hill community by empowering and investing in its youth. Though it was my passion for serving youth that initially drew me to SUP, it was ultimately the campers, the SUP community, and people like Henry that made me see that I simply had to come back.

When thinking about how to paint the best picture of such a remarkable summer, I find myself going back to the core values - inclusion, creativity, appreciation, respect, and effort - that the MHSP senior counselors intentionally selected to lay the foundation that we as staff hoped would hold strong through inevitable challenges. MHSP campers and staff routinely exemplified and held each other accountable to those values. For instance, when paired as reading buddies, older campers would patiently instruct younger campers on how to sound out unfamiliar words and phrases. For Final Show, campers in Group 6, who at the beginning of the summer did not know one another, were enthusiastically choreographing and teaching one another a spunky dance. In the Oldest Girls' and Boys' classroom, campers had incredibly powerful conversations covering topics like colorism, community violence, police brutality, and the

experience of black and brown youth across America and in Boston. Each day, it was amazing to witness phenomenal MHSP senior counselors sow seeds of knowledge and curiosity in the minds of their campers. More astounding was the progress of campers who, over the seven weeks, steadily tended their own (and their peers') intellectual gardens that blossomed by the end of the summer.



Though the summer was also marked by minor setbacks and moments of frustration, the core ICARE principles of our camp grounded the MHSP family. Campers learned how to work through disagreements, staff purposefully utilized wholistic restorative justice practices in place of exclusionary discipline, and when faced with challenges, our camp strove to demonstrate resilience and rise to the occasion.

One especially notable moment came the day former Representative Jeffrey Sanchez visited MHSP. Ready to talk to campers about his career in politics, Representative Sanchez was met with prepared questions on legislation surrounding racism, community violence, and structures of inequality in Boston. Led by Jose Coronado and Tre Mongo, Group 5 was a class of "philosophers" who regularly

engaged in high-level learning activities that included discussions about the complexity of the human condition, exploration in the field of virology, and critical analysis of great works by artists outside the Western canon. Equipped with tough questions for Representative Sanchez, the youth demonstrated the impressive scope of their knowledge and sincere concern for their communities.

While any outside observer can clearly see that SUP "sparks" confidence, compassion, and intellectual curiosity, what sets SUP apart is what happens after those sparks are ignited. Each summer, SUP develops a new wave of philosophers, scientists, artists, activists, and world leaders who will prioritize people and communities in their work. Simply put, the sparks SUP ignites become flames that eventually transform into a raging fire that fuels a collective effort for equity, justice, and social change. That is the power and legacy of SUP. That is why one summer with SUP is simply not enough.



Support PBHA and its  
mission. Donate now!  
[www.pbha.org/donate](http://www.pbha.org/donate)

## Growing Up in Keylatch

### Tatiana Burgos '18

#### Keylatch Summer Program

Since 1984, the Keylatch Summer Program (KSP) has provided a safe and welcoming environment for campers from Boston's South End and Lower Roxbury community to explore, be challenged, have a voice, and lead. For 15 years, I was able to take part in this truly amazing program. A program that never shut its doors on my family or others when we couldn't afford the camper registration fee. A program with people that took the time to listen to participants and implement the changes necessary to improve, and that pushed for those in the community like myself to lead.

Directing KSP was such a unique and special experience. This summer, my third and final year directing, I thought long and hard what makes this program one that I love so much. One of the first things

that came to mind was our camp-wide fun - the moments we spent together as a camp. Every year our campers and staff always say some of their best summer memories are moments we spend together.



With that in mind, my co-directors Mehrina, Yuliza, and I implemented camp-wide activities organized by Yuliza. In one of our most popular activities, *Color Wars*, each class was assigned a specific color to wear to camp on a Friday. Classes were also tasked with placing as many items of their color on their

classroom door as possible in only five minutes. *Color Wars* was fun, but the best part of it all was having all of Keylatch in one space laughing, cheering, and celebrating while working together and just enjoying the moment.

I'll be the first to admit that directing for three summers wasn't easy. However, I am proud to say that something that has held steady since 1984 is camp love and quality time. That is what I will always remember and cherish from my time directing. At Keylatch I always received genuine love and support.

If I could direct again I would, and I will always miss participating in such an amazing program. Growing up I could not imagine a summer without SUP in some shape or form and I know my campers feel the same. For us, SUP sparks love, compassion, confidence, power, and pure happiness.