

About the show

The goal of this show is to build a stronger sense of connection and community amongst residents of the city of Waltham through a better understanding of each other's realities.

The city is a unique melting pot of races, inclinations, ideologies and rich with the histories of all these individual parts. Yet chasms exist between these sub-groups, as they must in any dynamic, active community. It might help bridge these chasms if we relate to



E-mail your story ideas to wearewaltham@gmail.com. If it seems like a fit, you will get help crafting and refining it for the stage and get coached in the art of telling.

The story should be centered around a meaningful event or incident in your life that changed or touched you in some way.

You may be invited to tell on the mainstage, at a Wee-WaW at the Common Good Co café, at some other event or all of the above.

Watch past shows and learn more

- 2 large shows at the Charles River Museum of Industry
- 2 small (wee) shows at the Common Good Co. Café (Wee-WaW)
- You may see us at micro-shows at other community events like Waltham Pride, REACH Festi, Waltham Day and others.



www.wearewaltham.com

Acknowledgements

Thank you - volunteers who stepped up to help: Rachel Parzivand, Deb Herman, Michael Spoering, Oyon Ganguli, Nabeel Khan.

Thank you - tellers who share their stories so fearlessly & viewers with open hearts and minds.

Thank you -Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University for the fellowship that brought wonderful intern Yi He to the show.

There is no show without people like you.
- Chandreyee Sahiri (show creator)

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Thanks also to the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation for their space & support



Playbill printing at a deep discount due to the generosity of John Fantasia of Minuteman Press (colorconnection.com)



WE ARE WALTHAM
True stories. Real people.

Building community, one story at a time



Fall 2024 show

Friday, September 27
Charles River Museum of Industry



Divine Mbune Nkwelle

Divine will take us back to one afternoon in Cameroon, when a government official in a country torn by conflict and turmoil took a selfless risk out of sheer kindness and changed the course of his life.

Divine Nkwelle hails from the South West region of Cameroon and is the youngest of four. He has worked in various organizations across the world dedicated to conflict resolution, human rights and peace and is currently pursuing his second master's degree at Brandeis University in the same area. He's a diehard fan of Manchester United and loves reggae.



Jenn Rose

Jennifer takes us back to a blood donation outing during the pandemic and the insights that followed.

Jennifer Rose has been a breezer since 1977 and works in the field of downtown revitalization, a career she accidentally discovered when working to save the Grover Cronin facade. Not by accident, she is a poet and creative non-fiction writer and is now at work on a contemporary version of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.

Drew Thurman



Drew took up a walking challenge that led to an unexpected transformation and a sense of belonging.

Drew is the co-owner of Common Good Co., a coffee shop and coworking space on Moody St that helps spotlight local non-profits and give back to the community. Drew has been a proud resident of Waltham since 2018, now living in Banks Square with his wife Breanna, and two girls, Annie and Dottie.

Raine Newman



Raine's story actually started right in the Charles River Museum, where an exhibit transformed his ideas of his Waltham heritage and healed some of his pain.

Raine graduated from Waltham High in 1975, has spent his life pursuing art as a painter, photographer and creator of stained glass. He is an avid trash-picker and founder of a campaign called WalthamBeautiful.com through which he plants sunflowers everywhere.

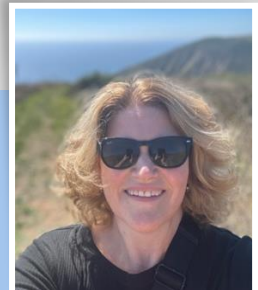


Yasmin Azad

Yasmin's story on the fall show centers on an uncomfortable moment of self-awareness that being a person of color does not exempt her from bias.

Born in Sri Lanka, Yasmin moved to the US in her twenties, raised three children and retired from a 25 year career as a mental health counselor. Her memoir 'Stay, Daughter' plumbs her experiences of growing up in a close-knit, Muslim society (www.staydaughter.com).

Alison Shea



Alison's story starts on the wall of a rock climbing gym, travels to the Grand Canyon when she unlocked a fear, and then comes back again to the moment when she defeated it.

Originally a New Yorker, Alison has happily adopted Waltham as her city and is raising 4 humans and Labradoodle here while teaching, hiking and supporting the local farm. She has a storied and varied professional past that you should ask her about.