

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

For many in our community, the national conversation around immigration and activity has been deeply unsettling. We know that for some, it has brought fear, anxiety, grief, or painful memories—whether for yourselves, your families, your neighbors, or loved ones. We want to acknowledge that these feelings are real, valid, and heavy.

The Brookline Senior Center exists first and foremost as a place of welcome, dignity, and belonging. No matter where you were born, what language you speak, or how long you have called this community home, you are valued here. In moments like these, connection matters more than ever. Isolation can deepen worry, while community can help carry it. We encourage you to lean on one another, to join us for programs, meals, conversation, and quiet companionship. Sometimes simply being together is an act of resilience.

Please know that support is available. Our staff and social workers are here to listen and to help connect you with trusted resources if you are feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or unsure where to turn. You are not alone in navigating these uncertain times. Even when the world feels heavy, we continue to believe in the strength of community, in compassion, and in caring for one another. Together, we can create moments of calm, understanding, and hope—right here, every day.

Later in February, we will be launching our Needs Assessment Survey, an important opportunity for you to share your experiences, priorities, and ideas. Your feedback will directly help guide our programs, services, and planning for the years ahead. I encourage everyone to participate—your voice truly matters to us. The survey will be available online and in print later this month.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Lunar New Year on February 9, a time centered on renewal, hope, and community. This year's celebration highlights the Year of the Horse, a symbol often associated with energy, resilience, and moving forward with confidence. We hope you'll join us as we mark this joyful occasion together.

February is also Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements, resilience, and contributions of Black leaders and communities, past and present. As we reflect, I'd like to share a quote that means a lot to me and speaks to the power of kindness and mutual respect:

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

— Maya Angelou

May this reminder inspire us to continue supporting one another with empathy, curiosity, and care. Please be sure to always check in on your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Williams

Director

