



**IN UNITY, STRENGTH:** Local 888 leaders and staff joined the nontenure-track faculty at Northeastern University and their supporters to demand that the college recognize their right to unionize. From left: President **Brenda Rodrigues**, Secretary-Treasurer **Tom McKeever** and Rand Wilson, Mike Kelly, John Magner, Hersch Rothmel, Ian Adelman, Penelope Jennewein and Steve D'Amico. Faculty members, who have united in Local SEIU 509, have gained the backing of students and the wider community.



## Should dental & vision be in your contract?

Arlington town employees' latest contract includes dental and vision plans offered through Local 888. Members bargained it into their new agreement.

Many other Local 888 members are already reaping the benefits from these plans.

"The dental plan is one of the best I've ever had; you couldn't ask for a better plan," said **Margaret McCluskey**, clerical and administrative shop steward at the Brockton Housing Authority. "The Delta Dental plan covers up to \$2,500 per person annually."



For the 70-plus Local 888 members at the Brockton Housing Authority, the benefit is 100 percent employer paid – as part of their negotiated contract. "Everybody seems to be quite satisfied with the plans," said McCluskey.

*See page 2 for more on dental & vision plans*

## Drive for millionaires tax back on track

The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition is looking to revive the millionaires tax.

"This plan would raise the money that the state desperately needs to increase state funding for education and have a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system," said Local 888 President **Brenda Rodrigues**.

The measure would amend the Massachusetts Constitution to create an additional tax of 4 percent on annual incomes above \$1 million.

Raise Up supports this action and, with the help of SEIU Local 888 members, had gotten such a measure approved for the 2018 ballot.

But last June, the state's Supreme Judicial Court rejected that ballot question, also known as the Fair Share Amendment, as unconstitutional — after business groups opposed to it sued. The court struck the measure off the ballot, arguing that it combined subjects that were not closely

*See page 4 for more on millionaires tax*

# Labor of love for new state rep

Tram Nguyen's most recent job was as a lawyer at Greater Boston Legal Services, a union shop. And her first co-op position as a law student was at the Roxbury office of the state's public defenders agency.

So it's not surprising that the newly seated state representative has already signed on as a sponsor of a bill that would give those state employees, the Mass-Defenders, the right to bargain collectively. Due to a bureaucratic roadblock, workers in the Committee for Public Counsel Services – who are campaigning to join Local 888 – have been denied that right.

As a new member of the House, Nguyen said, "I am committed to making sure unions have someone speaking up for them, and that labor's



**OFF AND RUNNING:** State Rep. Tram Nguyen has already co-sponsored legislation giving the MassDefenders their union rights.

interests and issues are heard at the State House."

Nguyen, who was endorsed by Local 888, was elected in the 18<sup>th</sup> Essex District, which covers parts of Andover,

Boxford, North Andover and Tewksbury.

"Nguyen really does understand the struggles of working families," said Local 888 Secretary-Treasurer **Tom McKeever**. "She's been there on the front lines with her legal services work, and we look forward to working with her now that she's in the Legislature."

Even before her election, Nguyen advocated for legislation on labor issues while still at Greater Boston Legal Services, which provides free legal assistance in noncriminal matters to the poor. She points to the campaign for paid family leave, which under a new law taking effect in 2021.

Nguyen, 32, traces her passion for workers' rights to childhood. For more on Nguyen, <http://tinyurl.com/repnguyen>.

## Local 888's dental, vision win fans

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And in a world full of critics, she said "no one has ever complained to me about it."

McCluskey, who has worked at the authority for eight years, said she was happy to see that in-network co-pays under Local 888's Davis Vision program have been eliminated.

Starting in January, some co-payments were dropped under the Massachusetts Employers/SEIU Local 888 Health and Welfare Fund's Davis Vision plan. This means no co-payments for in-network eye exams, regular lenses and contact lenses.

"We are very pleased to be able to offer this improved benefit to members and their families," said Linda DeLuca, director of Local 888's health funds.

The Davis Vision plan also covers standard in-network "progressive" lenses and some coatings.

To find a Davis Vision provider, call 1-800-999-5431 or go to

<https://www.davisvision.com/provider/> on the web.

The SEIU Local 888 Affiliated Funds include three separate funds that deliver a broad range of benefits to SEIU 888 members:

- Massachusetts Employers/SEIU Local 888 Health and Welfare Fund
- University of Massachusetts Lowell/SEIU Local 888 Health and Welfare Fund
- Massachusetts State Lottery Commission/SEIU Local 888 Health and Welfare Fund.

For more info, contact Linda DeLuca, director of SEIU Local 888 Affiliated Funds at (617) 241-3367 or email [ldeluca.funds@seiu888.org](mailto:ldeluca.funds@seiu888.org).



**GUEST ATTRACTION:** Local 888 President **Brenda Rodrigues**, in front, was on hand for an Athol chapter meeting. From left: **Marie Croteau, Nancy Watson, Deb Vondal, John Duguay Jr., Eric Smith, Diana Cooley, Alyssa Moore, and MaryAnn Murphy.**

## Local 888 activist joins staff

**Darlene Archibald**, a veteran Local 888 leader, is trading in her duties as a school paraprofessional to take the post of internal organizer for the local.

"I hope to bring all my experience — as a chapter vice chair and a member of negotiating teams — to other chapter leaders," said Archibald. Since 2011, she has served as vice chair of the Marlborough Public Schools Paraprofessionals Chapter, which has about 130 members.



**ARCHIBALD**

In her new role, she said, "I want to create good relationships and increase unity and organization in Local 888. I look forward to working with more union members." Archibald, a Marlborough paraprofessional for 13 years, got involved with her chapter because she wanted

it to be better organized and more effective.

Regarding her Marlborough job, Archibald said that she loves "working with children and helping them to succeed. And I love working with the public."

Prior to that position, she worked at a public nursery school run by the Marlborough schools. Archibald is married and has three grown children. It's a union family: Her husband, Rich, is a longtime member of Local 4 of the International Union of Elevator Constructors.

## Labor Guild springs into action with classes for trade unionists

The Labor Guild School is again offering a range of its popular labor-related courses, starting March 11 at its Braintree headquarters.

"The classes are excellent," said Mike Kelly, a steward at the Massachusetts State Lottery for 38 years. "And it's a great way to meet people from other unions and get ideas from them — learn how they solve problems."

In particular, he praised the classes covering the duties of a steward and how to resolve conflict. "Those two are really helpful if you're a steward or chapter chair, or thinking of getting involved," said Kelly, who now works as a Local 888 political organizer.

From his experience, Kelly said, "If you can solve a problem before it becomes a grievance, that's the best way to go." All told, Kelly said, he's taken 16 classes at the Labor Guild over the years.

Classes at the Labor Guild, in Braintree, are Monday nights March 11 to May 13. The cost is \$125.00 for both periods. Members may be eligible for reimbursement if they complete the full semester. For more info on the classes, see: <https://laborguild.com/school-of-labor-management-relations/courses/>



**ALL OUT FOR LIBRARY LEGISLATION DAY:** Brockton Library members Jonathan Stroud and Malice Veiga, state Rep. Michelle DuBois and Michele Stroud, SEIU Community Action, meet at the State House. Local 888 members were there with Massachusetts Library Association members to urge more support for public libraries.

## Battle on for millionaires tax

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enough connected - because it stipulated that money raised by the tax be spent on transportation and education.

This time, supporters of the millionaires tax are planning to go through the Legislature. That route avoids the technicalities the SJC rejected. That's because the previous millionaires tax got on the ballot through the citizens petition

supported by Local 888.

State Sen. Jason Lewis has filed the bill in the Senate. He told The Boston Globe that schools and transportation are in

dire need of increased funding, and that the millionaires tax is one of the fairest ways to get the money.

The popular measure was already backed by the Legislature in the lead-up to the electoral campaign that was cut short last year by the SJC. So its chances look good, though the measure can't be put on the ballot sooner than November 2022. For more info, see:

<https://www.raiseupma.org/fair-share-amendment-2022/>

## Moments of Silence

The officers of Local 888 extend our deepest sympathies to the families of:

- **Paul B. Haugh**, 28, of West Roxbury and a member of Iron Workers Union Local 7, who died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. He was the son of Joseph and **Helen (Bittrich) Haugh**, a Local 888 member who works for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.
- **Gordon MacCollum**, 64, of Allston. The Local 888 member worked for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.
- **Martin G. Connolly**, 67, of Norwell, died after a long illness. He was the husband of Local 888 member **Maureen (Dunlea) Connolly**, who works for the town of Duxbury.



## April 27 SEIU fest

A statewide SEIU "Spring Fling" is set for Sat., April 27, 4 to 8 p.m., at the SEIU 1199 Union Hall, 108 Myrtle St., Quincy: Celebrate our unity and kick off spring. Look for: music,



dancing along with resource and caucus tables and a special guest speaker.

The event is sponsored by the SEIU

Massachusetts State

Council, SEIU Community Action and Locals 888, 1199, 509 and 32BJ. Celebrate our 2018 victories in workplaces, communities and for all working people – including the Legislature's approval of a \$15 minimum wage and paid family and medical leave. To RSVP, visit

<https://bit.ly/2SbhnwY>

## Coming Attractions

**LOCAL 888 LEADERS MEET:** The SEIU Local 888 Executive Board meets Wed, March 13, 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the union's conference room at 25 Braintree Hill Office Park, in

Braintree.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**EDUCATORS:** Advocacy Day set for Wed., March 13, Great Hall, Massachusetts State House. Registration begins at

9:00 a.m. with speakers at 10 a.m. and legislative visits after 11 a.m.

**WORKERS RIGHTS 101:** Thurs., March 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Pioneer Valley Workers Center, 200 Hampton Ave. Northampton. Led by Rose Bookbinder (Mass. Jobs With Justice, Pioneer Valley Workers Center and Hampshire/Franklin Central Labor Council). Register at

<https://truthschool.org/workers-rights-101/>.

**POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN THE TRUMP ERA:**

The third annual Boston Labor Conference is set for Sat., April 6, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Massachusetts Archives and Commonwealth Museum, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston. For info:

[https://www.umb.edu/lrc/the\\_boston\\_labor\\_conference\\_2018](https://www.umb.edu/lrc/the_boston_labor_conference_2018).

