About the Project Coordinator:

Michelle D. Smith has been a community activist since 1976. When I'm committed to a cause, I'm committed. So, here I am.

Project Coordinator's Update

By: Michelle D. Smith

We are moving right along! The Coalition gained momentum, in terms of increasing general membership, in late October, 1993. And, it has maintained momentum to date, hoping to continue moving forward and establishing itself as a valuable resource for Grove Hall. In addition to the fifty (50) community-based organizations involved with the Coalition, the general membership presently consists of thirty (30) residents. I look forward to continue doing one-to-one visits at St. Hughes "Our Daily Bread" program on Wednesdays and Fridays (12:00-1:30 p.m.) and throughout the neighborhood. Diversity, as much as possible, is our goal.

Upon completing our "Community Assessment Report" (target date: Feb. 15th), we will be making it available through the public library and looking forward to developing our Action Plan to receive funding for program needs in Grove Hall.

We hope that as we become more visible and real to you, your family, friends, and neighbors, you will consider joining us.

And

Together, We Can Make The Difference

"Striving for a united community, active in progressive work.”

SUCCESSES: PART TWO

The Grove Hall Healthy Boston Coalition has accomplished the following since late October, 1993:

- Continued having regular monthly meetings with the combined group of Advisory Board and Executive Committee members—every third Thursday, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., RMSC Conference Room, 1st Floor.

- Co-sponsored a Holiday Toy Give Away with the Grove Hall...
A Word
From A Volunteer
By: Doris Gilliam Obi

"H ealthy Boston is a program that deals with today's problems and issues concerning urban communities. All of the issues have to do with life. To me, life is beautiful. Healthy Boston is a great program.

Doris is a member and volunteer of the Grove Hall Healthy Boston Coalition.

Co-Chairpersons' Updates

STREET FIGHTER 2 VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT FOR SEGA GENESIS AND SUPER NINTENDO GAME SYSTEMS
By: Kenneth H. Grubbs

Boston Police Youth Service Officer, Kenneth H. Grubbs assigned to Area B District 2, Roxbury, will be hosting a "Street Fighter 2 Video Game Tournament For Sega Genesis and Super Nintendo Video Game Systems." The tournament is designed to offer youth healthier alternatives to physical violence against one another. A conflict resolution workshop will be offered to the participants to help the process. The tournament will be held at different youth centers and agencies throughout Roxbury and the Area B District. Winners from each site will have a Genesis winner and a Super Nintendo winner. These winners will then compete in the Grand Championship--playing against winners from the other sites to determine who is "The Best Of The Best in Street Fighter 2."
The tournament going on now is at the Roxbury Boys & Girls Club, Roxbury Family YMCA, and the Orchard Park Teen Center.

I will start again at the Grove Hall Youth Center about the 3rd week in February and other sites following. So, check your local youth center or agency on when I will be coming. If your youth center or agency is located in the Roxbury / Area B-2 District, if you would like to be a host site, or if you have any questions, contact Kenny Grubbs at 343-4284.

( cont., pg. 3)
## Activity Update

**By: Alice R. Cintron**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues., Brunch, 11:00 - 3:00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed., Cultural Book Fair, 4:00 - 6:00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs., &quot;Waiting To Exhale: A Commitment To Communicating With My People&quot; – an open discussion, 4:00 - 6:00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri., Poetry, Dance, &amp; Drama, 6:00 - 8:00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more info., contact Alice Cintron at (w) 635-5146 or Michelle D. Smith at (w) 427-4470 Ext. 445.

**Hope to see you there**

---

## Senior Say...

**Retracing My Steps**

**By: Mrs. Sarah Beach**

I am going to take you down Memory Lane and try to remember what Grove Hall was like in the '50s and early '60s. Because of the many changes and extraordinary happenings, one would never realize just how rich and beautiful Grove Hall was.

When we say rich, we do not mean money or wealth; but though a small neighborhood, it was unique. Rich in culture, success, progress, friendship, love, and growth. People from all walks of life visited the area for different reasons. Perhaps to browse around the stores and boutiques or just to keep an appointment with the dentist or doctor or optometrist; because, there were many around. Then, there were the delicatessens with the mouth-watering meats and foods or just to socialize with an acquaintance or friend. You could go to the bank right there and choose between the Grove Hall Savings or the Charlestown Savings. It was really convenient to shop in Grove Hall.

Then, do we remember the big Chevrolet sign and seeing all the cars at the Chevrolet dealer? Not far from there was the supermarket, where everyone shopped, known as Blairs. There was also the gas station, a large hardware store, and the drug store. As I still retrace my steps, I come in contact with Elma Lewis’s Dance Studio -- right at the corner of Warren Street and Blue Hill Avenue.

At that studio is where a lot of men and women of today got their start. As we travel further down Blue Hill Avenue,
one would be amazed to see
the variety of specialty stores
filled with dresses, dusters,
gowns, children's wear and
hosiery. And if you needed
a wedding or birthday gift,
there was no problem in
finding one. There was a var­
iety store right near to the
theatre that had all kinds of
china and beautiful items
for gifts. And, what about
the beautiful synagogue right
across the street, where the
First Haitian Baptist Church
now is?!

As I said before, it was a
pleasure to visit Grove Hall.
There was the repair shop,
where we took the toaster or
iron to be fixed; and you
could get a bargain on a used
refrigerator or a new one.

Further down was Wool­
worth's, which became
Ashmont. I was quite im­
pressed with a little furniture
store at the corner of
Otisfield Street and Blue Hill
Avenue. And, I recall buying
my first kitchen set there
when I got married; I still re­
member the design and it
was good stuff.

Then, there was Otisfield
Manor where all the wedding
receptions and concerts were
held; but now there at
churches. And, what about
West Floral Shop at the
corner of Brunswick?!

At every corner of the block,
there was a drug store.
And also, Bob's Shoe Store
was where everyone took
the kids; if you could not get
to Dudley Station, where the
Stride Rite Shoe Store was.
The Stride Rites were expensive; so,
you only bought those
if the kids had problems with
their feet.

Walk along with me and visit
Morse's, a large supermarket
where a lot of Jewish products
were sold. All along The Avenue
were markets with the freshest
fish and vegetables, and other
products that you just did not see
any other place. The kosher
market was at the corner of
Gaston Street and Blue Hill
Avenue. And of course, there
was Carl and Eddy's that
everyone knew about and came
from far and near to shop there.
I can also remember the bakery
near Ashmont and near that was
a furniture store, dry cleaners,
and Bollings Real Estate office.

Does anyone remember the Stop
& Shop that was right beside
Carl and Eddy's? And, how about
the famous Drake's Bakery and
Kasnof's with all the goodies?!
I cannot but brush a tear away,
but life goes on.

One thing that fascinated me
when I first moved in the area
was an ice cream parlor.

with a giant cone on the billboard.
I guess I was attracted to that
because I like sweets so much.
Then, the fish and chips store
and a restaurant right at Quincy
Street. There were many hard­
ware stores along The Avenue,
but the only one that still exists
is Kiley's. At Savin Street, there
was a health unit where everyone
took their babies -- that is now
the Rosa Parks Day Care Center.

If you noticed, I did not mention
seeing one liquor store; and, I
don't think there was any.
Everyone went down to Blanch­
ard's. It is my belief that when
those stores started coming on
The Avenue, everything changed
and started going downhill.
As I look back, I am grateful
to have shared a little of those
times. And, I'm sure there is
more to be remembered along
Memory Lane. Like, I just re­
membered the theatre name
was "The Roxy." And maybe,
someone else might like to
continue "Retracing Steps."
While the black race decreases, the white race increases. David Duke is laughing, the clansmen are clapping for you to kill me or vice-versa. They don't care; and either way it happens, they don't want us in this land. Our ancestors built this place through pain and diserase. Call me a nigga with a pilgrim hating black face, for those that were hung and for those that were raped. You wanna forgive and forget; sellout, it's too late. Search through your mind, find the lines of pollution; wait, where's my nine; I'm a start a revolution.

CIA wanna make me a fugitive; take, take, take and never wanna give. Blame drugs on me, I'm gonna blame it on the government, sitting having tea with Noreaga. Y'all incompetent fools, pay ya duz 'cause ya luz. It ain't over, y'all. My people won't stand for this now. We're faking all of y'all.
FROM THE HEART
By: Michelle D. Smith
c 1992

From The Heart, purity;
from the heart, creativity.
From The Heart, you own;
from the heart, nothing is for loan.

From The Heart, you're bare;
from the heart, develops your "love affair."
From The Heart, all is well;
from the heart, you have a legacy to tell.

Tell Your Legacy Well.
The next issue of "Action In Progress will be distributed by February 26th and will include:

* An update from the Project Coordinator, Michelle D. Smith

* An update of activities from our Co-Chairpersons, Alice Cintron and Kenny Grubbs.

* Senior Say...
* Youth Say ...
* Articles/Info./Words of Support from Coalition Members
* A regular open space for creative artworks.

After March, 1994, "Action In Progress" will be published and distributed in Grove Hall on a quarterly schedule (every 3 months).

Submission Deadline: 15 days prior to publication.
Publication Date: The last day of each quarter.
EDITORIAL

We encourage you to join the efforts of the Grove Hall Healthy Boston Coalition and contribute to the newsletter (i.e. writing or assisting with production).

If you have any questions or want more info., feel free to call Michelle D. Smith, Project Coordinator at 427-4470 Ext. 445 or come visit the office at the Roxbury Multi-Service Center, 317 Blue Hill Avenue.

Keep The Faith
For Our Community!!!