About the Project Coordinator:

Michelle D. Smith, have 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.

(continues, pg. 1/col. 2)

SUCCESSES: PART TWO

OUR SUCCESSESS

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

Healthy 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.

(2nd column)

OUR SUCCESSES (cont.)

Youth Center on Dec. 22nd. The Coalition provided the dinner, beverages, and dessert.

* Published and distributed 500 copies of "Action In Progress", December 1993 (to coalition members, other Healthy Boston Coordinators and Staff, agencies, and individuals).

* Successfully completed Part One of our Community Assessment Review & Discussion at a "Community Meeting & Dinner" on Jan. 12th at Freedom House, Inc. (Attendance: 34)

* Have planned to co-sponsor "Culture In Motion: Listening To The Voices Of The Future" with the Grove Hall Youth Center. This is a series of events that will be happening Tues., Feb. 22nd - Fri., Feb. 26th.

(continues on pg. 3)
**ACTIVITY UPDATE**

By: Alice R. Cintron

The Grove Hall Youth Center Teen Council and The Joseph Lee Community Center Teen Council met several weeks ago to plan a special event series during Black History Month. The following is what we agreed to do in collaboration with B.A.D., Boston Youth Development Project, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - Iota Chapter, Franklin Field / Franklin Hill Healthy Boston Coalition, the Grove Hall Healthy Boston Coalition, and Healthy Start:

**The Theme:**
"Culture In Motion: Listening To The Voices Of The Future"

**Dates:**
Tues., Feb. 22nd-Fri., Feb. 25th

**Locations:**
The Lee Community Center (Tues., Thurs., and Fri.)
Grove Hall Youth Center (Wed.)

**Activities:**

- **Tues., Brunch, 11:00 - 3:00**
- **Wed., Cultural Book Fair, 4:00 - 6:00**
- **Thurs., "Waiting To Exhale: A Commitment To Communicating With My People" – an open discussion, 4:00 - 6:00**
- **Fri., Poetry, Dance, & Drama, 6:00 - 8:00**

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 variety 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 Woolworth's, which became Ashmont. I was quite impressed 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 remember 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 anywhere else. 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 hardware 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 Blanchard'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 remembered 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.
ARTS CORNER

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.
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!!!