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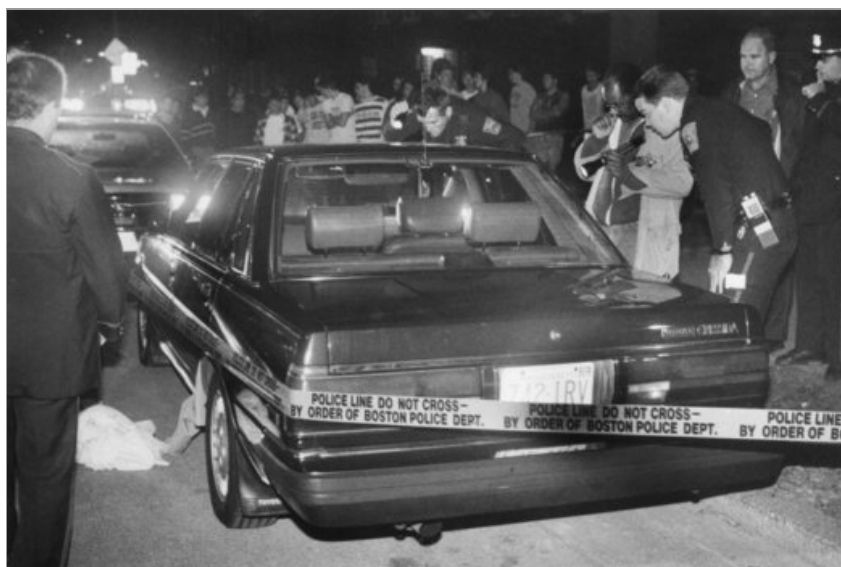
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Mission Hill to remember how it mended after Charles Stuart case

Posted October 15, 2010 09:42 AM

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(Tom Herde/Globe Staff/1989)

Police investigate Charles Stuart's car at the shooting scene on St. Alphonsus St, in Mission Hill, in October 1989.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Mission Hill residents gathered a year ago to remember the 20th anniversary of a horrific murder that prompted false, racially motivated accusations that tore the neighborhood and the rest of the city apart.

This weekend, after a year's worth of events reflecting on the Charles Stuart case and its aftermath, residents will reunite to remember how a benefit concert one year after that 1989 crime helped mend and strengthen the community.

Stuart fatally shot his pregnant wife Carol DiMaiti Stuart on Oct. 23, 1989. Accusations immediately afterward, initially backed by city officials and Boston police, swirled that a black man had carjacked the couple and was responsible for white woman's murder. Three months later, Charles Stuart was identified – by his brother – as the killer, and he [jumped to his death](#) from the Tobin Bridge the following day. In the aftermath, the city was

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divided over the racial profiling that drove the initial investigation.

A year after the murder, the DiMaiti family established a scholarship for Mission Hill youths, and a memorable "Mission Hill in Harmony" benefit concert at Mission Church, which raised \$20,000 for the fund, brought the community together and began a long healing process.

When residents return to that church Saturday evening, organizers believe they will unite with "a better understanding ... that we're all in the same boat, basically," said program director Donald Garnett.

"I think people have taken away [from the past year's series of events], a better understanding and appreciation for the Mission Hill community and a better understanding of people, cultures and community," he said.

The "Harmony on the Hill" initiative began with a gathering last October and included the presentation of the A&E City Confidential documentary on the murder case, "Betrayal in Beantown."

Since then, two discussion events year on race and diversity earlier this year were followed by two workshops on the topic in the spring. Last weekend, a youth training and race relation workshop was held, and the year-long series will conclude Saturday with a two-hour celebration and benefit concert at 6 p.m. Proceeds will go toward replenishing the scholarship fund in Carol's name.

"In the past 20 years, many a kid who came through Mission Hill has benefitted from that scholarship," Garnett said

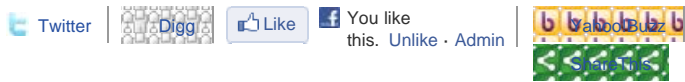
The church on Tremont Street holds 1,200, he said, so "we should expect 1,200 people," but there is no set goal for how much organizers hope to raise.

"Whatever it takes to keep this scholarship ongoing," said Garnett.

Saturday's concert will feature Frank Wilkins and "We Jazz Up" with special guest Stan Strickland among other live performances. The event is sponsored by several local institutions, which Garnett said have been a strong support for the neighborhood.

Admission is \$10, or \$5 for children under 8 and seniors, said Garnett. Tickets are still available online and at the community group's office on 1534 Tremont Street. Tickets will also be sold at the door. For more information, call 617-427-6919.

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