

# SPOKE -&-WORD

*Bikes Not Bombs  
February 2022*

**Applications for Spring 2022 Bike School are Open!**



This spring, Bikes Not Bombs is accepting applications for the following [Bike School](#) programs:

**Sisters In Action - Jamaica Plain**

- April 5 - May 5, 2022
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

### **Earn-A-Bike - Jamaica Plain**

- May 17 - June 16, 2022
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

### **Bike Institute - Jamaica Plain**

- April 2 - June 11, 2022
- Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

### **Sisters In Action - Roxbury**

- April 12 - May 12, 2022
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

### **Bike Institute - Roxbury**

- April 9 - June 18, 2022
- Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

For more information regarding curriculum, application, program fees and fee waivers, please visit our [Bike School page](#).

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## **Bike Match: The Ortega Family**



*Camila (left) and Moisés Ortega (right) who escaped political persecution from Nicaragua and settled in Newton, MA, pictured with their new bicycles provided by Bikes Not Bombs Bike Match program.*

Early in the winter of of 2021, Bikes Not Bombs was connected with the Ortega family from Nicaragua,

thanks to longtime BNB volunteer Chris Gruener. The Ortegas, a family seeking political asylum in Newton, MA, requested three bicycles through [Bike Match](#).

The Ortega family, made up of Moisés, Jessica, and their ten year old daughter, Camila, are victims of unthinkable political persecution and torture. Shortly before landing in Massachusetts, the Ortegas hid in a small attic of a Nicaraguan safehouse. Their story was recently featured on an episode of NPR's This American Life ([Episode 721: The Walls Close In](#)). *Content warning: graphic and horrific descriptions of state-run torture and violence.*

Thanks to generous bike donors like Steve Murphy, who raised over \$5,000 to support getting bikes out to people in need, our Bike Shop & Training Center staff were able to identify three bicycles for the Ortega family to get around town (including helping Camila get to and from school). The resilience of the Ortega family is truly inspiring, and Bikes Not Bombs is honored to have been able to contribute.

Bike Match grants mobility to the members of our community who need it most. Please consider making a [donation](#) to BNB and supporting the continued success of this program.

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## We're Hiring: Be a Part of Our Growing Movement

Are you looking for a new opportunity? Are you passionate about social justice and providing transformative opportunities for youth? **Bikes Not Bombs is hiring multiple full-time positions across our bike shop, community engagement, development, and Youth Pathways teams.**

Consider applying or help us spread the word!

[View Open Positions at Bikes Not Bombs](#)

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## Donor of the Month: James Selkin





*James Selkin (left) with his cycling friend Bert Scharf  
February 2022 Donor of the Month*

Bikes Not Bombs recognizes James Selkin of Denver, Colorado as our February 2022 Donor of the Month. James was a longtime donor to Bikes Not Bombs. **After his passing in November 2020, we were informed that he bequeathed a parcel of land in Lincoln Hills, CO to BNB.** According to his daughter Joelle Wedel, James was an avid cyclist, often touring in the U.S. and France with a childhood friend from the Bronx, the late Bert Scharf of Brookline, MA. James and Bert had both been involved in youth organizations, and were both committed to the BNB mission.

Joelle recalls that, prior to his death, her father was adamant about giving this particular parcel of land to Bikes Not Bombs. The parcel was part of a resort development created for Black families in the 1920s. At that time, Denver's vibrant Black community faced increasing hostility in the form of racially restrictive housing covenants and a resurgent Ku Klux Klan that claimed 50,000 members across Colorado. This animosity stimulated the development of Lincoln Hills, a resort community with a mission to give Black families in Denver and across the country a place to escape the daily burden of racism. This refuge was an alternative to the white only resorts that were prevalent at the time. James Selkin purchased one of the parcels of land that were made available to Black families to build cabins or campsites at the resort. Joelle remembers that her father enjoyed going up there.

Black musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Lena Horne often stayed at the Lincoln Hills resort before or after playing in Denver clubs. Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston visited the resort and held readings at Lincoln Hills on their way to the West Coast. With the approval of James Selkin's children, Bikes Not Bombs is donating the parcel of land to a youth development organization, [Lincoln Hill Cares](#), which operates at the site of the former Lincoln Hills retreat. Like BNB, Lincoln Hills Cares develops the next generation of young leaders through outdoor education and recreation, cultural history exploration, and workforce advancement. Their programs empower youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to economic, social or family circumstances.

Please join us in remembering James Selkin and honoring the Lincoln Hills stewards of Black culture, racial justice, and youth empowerment.

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**Join Bikes Not Bombs for an**

## Everyday Revolutions Tour



### Everyday Revolutions Tour

Saturday, March 19th, 2022 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Learn more about Bikes Not Bombs and get inspired!

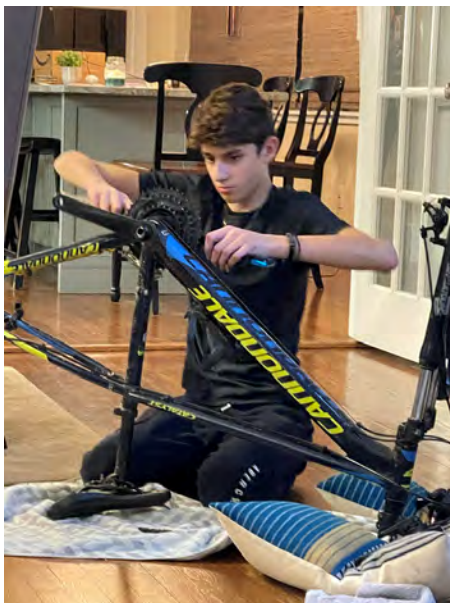
Bikes Not Bombs will be opening its doors to members of our community for an inspiring **Everyday Revolutions Tour** on **Saturday, March 19th, 2022 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM**. This event takes place at the BNB Hub at [284 Amory Street](#) in Jamaica Plain.

You will be part of an in-depth discussion of BNB's incredible 37-year history, powerful mission, and innovative programs. Meeting with BNB staff, board members, and supporters, you will get an insider's view into what makes Bikes Not Bombs such a mighty community organization.

This is not a fundraising event. All are welcome, but we do ask that you RSVP to [angela@bikesnotbombs.org](mailto:angela@bikesnotbombs.org) so that we can limit the number of participants.

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## Volunteer of the Month: Dean Fontaine



*Dean Fontaine, February 2022*

Bikes Not Bombs is honored to recognize Dean Fontaine as our February 2022 Volunteer of the Month. Dean started volunteering with Bikes Not Bombs in June 2021 as a Volunteer Bike Recycling Apprentice. He then transitioned into his current role as a Mechanic Apprentice, wanting to build his bike mechanics skills.

Dean writes, "My favorite thing about volunteering at Bikes Not Bombs is the confidence it is giving me in understanding the mechanics of bikes and knowing that I can fix my bike or help others if they are stuck on the road! I also love knowing that I am volunteering at a place that does so much good for the community and truly helps people."

"I have learned SO many things here at BNB! I now have the knowledge to build a bike out of a bare frame. I have a greater appreciation for what goes into building a bike and how everything works together. I am better able to problem solve now that I know how the components on the bike work together. I've also learned that people go about fixing bikes differently, but that in the end they are usually repaired successfully. This is kind of like a lesson in life-

*Volunteer of the Month*

sometimes you must remember that there are many ways to do things and your way isn't the only correct way!"

**Are you interested in learning bike mechanics and effecting positive social change at the same time? Consider applying to our [Volunteer Apprenticeship](#) program today.**

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## The E-Bike Revolution is Coming to BNB!

E-bikes are coming to Bikes Not Bombs! [Batch e-bikes](#) will be the first to arrive on our sales floor in the coming weeks, being shortly followed by [Bianchi](#).



Stop by the [Bikes Not Bombs Bike Shop & Training Center](#) to test ride a [Batch e-bike](#) soon!

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## Bike Shop & Training Center closed 3/4/2022

The Bikes Not Bombs Bike Shop & Training Center will be closed on Friday, March 4, 2022 for staff development. As always, the full inventory of bicycles and accessories can be viewed on our [online shop](#).

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## City Life/Vida Urbana is Hiring

Community partner City Life/Vida Urbana is growing and are looking for another Bilingual Organizer, a Director of Development, and a Grant Writer to join their team. Please visit the [CLVU jobs](#) page for more information.

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[Donate to Bikes Not Bombs](#)

Connect with us:



### **Our Contact Information**

Bikes Not Bombs  
284 Amory Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 617.522.0222  
<http://bikesnotbombs.org>

### **Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:**

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm  
Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm  
Thursday: 12pm - 7pm  
Friday: 12pm - 7pm  
Saturday: 11am - 5pm  
Sunday: Closed