

## IBA: Virtually Celebrate Festival Betances

SUBMITTED BY INQUILINOS  
BORICUAS EN ACCIÓN

Every year, Inquilinos Boricuas En Acción's (IBA) Festival Betances will look a bit different, as Millie Gil from Cultura Viva hosts the virtual festival, which will feature performances from Los Pleneros de Severo and Andrés Jiménez "El Jibaro."

Festival Betances will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube on July 18 at 7pm.

This year's festival theme is "Reconnecting with our Mainland:



Puerto Rico,"

The festival is named after Ramón Emeterio Betances, a Puerto Rican patriot whose medical contributions benefited Latin America, the

Caribbean, and the United States.

For more information visit:  
<https://ibaboston.org/events/festival-betances>

## What, to Black America, is the 4th of July in 2020?

REV. IRENE MONROE

This 4th of July, Americans are forced to see the nation's celebration for independence differently.

The combination of Covid-19 and the ongoing protests on the streets of America have brought attention to centuries of anti-black violence with the murder of George Floyd.

George Floyd's death, a cis-gendered male, symbolizes the present face of anti-black violence, as Matthew

*Continued on page 3*

## BMCHS Receives Multiple Awards

From MA Society for Health-System Pharmacists

SUBMITTED BY BMCHS

The Department of Pharmacy at Boston Medical Center Health System (BMCHS) is being recognized by the Massachusetts Society for Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) for its success in industry-leading initiatives to combat the opioid crisis and improve patient care. Two individual leaders and one



(left to right): Mauricio Gonzalez, Joy Vreeland, Pamela Rosenkranz, William Vincent, Kevin Horbowicz, David McAneny

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Local news  
for and about Boston's  
best neighborhood



Family Fun at Home



Diversión en familia y en casa

## Family Activity Initiative

WGBH Partners with Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

SUBMITTED BY WGBH

With schools, preschool centers, and family childcare programs across the state closed in response

to COVID-19, public media outlet WGBH in Boston is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to launch the Family Activity Initiative, a series of weekly activity resources featuring a carefully curated collection of videos to watch, free online educational games and apps to play, and non-

*Continued on page 2*

## ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

A guy I met on Tinder suggested we meet for the first time at a dog park where he brings his dog every weekend. He gave me good directions and

I went there one Saturday afternoon. To be honest, dogs scare me but I figured any man who liked animals was probably a good guy.

The man was awesome looking, the dog not so much. I don't even know what kind of dog but the beast wore a thick chain collar, which looked very scary and hurtful to me. The dog seemed nice enough but the guy yelled at the poor thing when it was doing nothing but sniffing around. I don't even like dogs all that much but I felt sorry for this dog. Between the collar and the yelling, I decided I had enough so I left. I keep thinking about the guy. I might have been interested

*Continued on page 4*

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## Family

*Continued from page 1*

digital hands-on activities for young children.

"Public media outlets across the country are playing an integral role in supporting educators, parents and caregivers with educational resources during these challenging times," said Jon Abbott, president and CEO of WGBH. "As parents and caregivers of young children take the lead in supporting their child's learning, we are partnering with the state to make trusted educational resources available for every family across the Commonwealth."

The resources in the Family Activity Initiative will be drawn from popular WGBH and PBS KIDS brands, such as Arthur (health and emotions), Curious George, PEEP and the Big Wide World, Gracie and Friends, and the Ruff Ruffman Show (STEM) for preschoolers, and Molly of Denali (English Language Arts), and Plum Landing (environmental science). The activities will be highly accessible, require low/no cost, minimal materials or preparation, and will give families reasons to learn and explore indoors and out, offer strategies for talking through fears and anxieties, provide fun games that build math skills and much more.

The resources will be offered in both English and Spanish and will be geared toward children from birth to age 8. Both WGBH and partner station WGBY, part of New England Public Media serving western Massachusetts, will help raise awareness about this initiative among families via a variety of social media platforms.

"The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care is proud to partner with WGBH to support parents in continuing early learning during this time," said Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy.

"Families with young children face a particular set of challenges right now. Our goal is to support them with easy-to-use, age-appropriate tools to ensure that our youngest citizens are still learning during this critical period of their lives."

Major funding for the Family Activity Initiative is being provided by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

"The Family Activity Initiative is a shining example of how our state comes together to provide essential support to our communities, in innovative ways," said Jon Bernstein, PNC Bank regional president in Boston. "While children and families are home together, it is critical that families have resources and support to create a rich learning environment for their children. We are committed to ensuring all children develop a love of learning that

lasts a lifetime."

Each week, families will be invited to visit the WGBH Distance Learning Center where they can access that week's activities. Families will be encouraged to complete as many activities as possible during a week's time and then be eligible to enter a weekly random drawing for prizes that include books as well as gift cards for essential items donated by Walmart and Stop & Shop. The Distance Learning Center will also offer a collection of resources for parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers, including short-form videos, tips and strategies, and developmentally appropriate, easy-to-do activities, drawn from materials developed by WGBH and The Basics.

To reach families that do not have internet access, WGBH will work with the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grantees, a network of close to 90 programs providing services to some 350 cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. Each CFCE will distribute the Family Activity packets in their community in collaboration with their local community-based partners, such as food pantries, Head Start, drop and go food distribution sites, and shelters.

"While there is no shortage of information or online resources, many families are struggling to determine what resources best meet the needs of their child. For families with limited access to the internet, this challenge can be overwhelming," said Seeta Pai, executive director of education at WGBH. "The Family Activity Initiative is designed to offer high-quality, turnkey educational activities parents can feel good about and children will enjoy doing."

Earlier this spring, WGBH announced a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide students in grades 6-12 distance learning opportunities on broadcast television (WGBH's WORLD Channel), to complement programming for young children available on the WGBH Kids 24/7 channel. This ensures students learning at home continue to have access to educational programs, regardless of their access to broadband internet. The broadcast programming is in addition to other resources from WGBH Education, including PBS LearningMedia, a free online service of thousands of compelling educational resources, aligned to state standards and contextualized for educational use in grades PreK-12, and the WGBH Distance Learning Center which makes these PBS LearningMedia resources more accessible to families, as well as educators, to support students PreK-12.

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## Monroe

Continued from page 1

Shepard's death, a white gay male, symbolizes homophobic violence after his murder in 1998. As a matter of fact, Floyd's death appears to be an inflection point and wake-up call for white America.

The confrontation with Black Lives Matter protestors and police during this pandemic has created the perfect storm for America's democracy to face its not-so-storied past. Most of us during this holiday will be home with family and loved ones in front of computers or televisions watching fireworks, people singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" or reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or reenacting the Continental Congress of 1776. However, what does this holiday mean to Black America this year?

The same question was asked on July 5, 1952, by Frederick Douglass. In his historic speech, "What, to the slave, is the Fourth of July?" he stated to a country in the throes of slavery the following: "What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence. . . I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. This Fourth of July is yours, not mine."

A century-plus later, the immeasurable distance between black and white America is revealed in every metric in society such as health, wealth, education, and employment, to name a few. The deleterious effects of 250 years of slavery, 90 years of Jim Crow followed by 60 years of "separate but equal" rule of law, brought about the gaping disparities. The core principles in American democracy stated in the Declaration of Independence are the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's what black America is still striving for peacefully. However, the civil unrest now going on is a direct result of not being heard.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in his Montgomery Bus Boycott speech on December 5, 1955, "The great glory of American democracy is the right to protest for right." In 2016, San Francisco 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick protested against police brutality and racial inequality. Now it's being seen on the streets of America and across the globe. Kaepernick knelt instead of the mandatory standing during the national anthem. His ac-

tion was seen as polarizing, un-American, and unpatriotic. But Kaepernick stood his ground and paid a steep price for his moral stance. The NFL and the Americans who opposed Kaepernick could never understand the lived reality black and brown men face with police brutality, sometimes resulting in a death like that of George Floyd. In 1968, Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos lifted their black-gloved fists as the national anthem was played after they won the gold and bronze medals in the men's 200-meter sprint — a gesture seen as radical and an endorsement of black power.

When patriotism is narrowly defined, it can only be accepted and exhibited within the constraints of its own intolerance. For example, racism is baked in the story of American patriotism. The U.S. National Anthem is the "Star-Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key and sung at major sports events and on the 4th of July. It is one of the quintessential symbols of American patriotism. The song, however, is racist. The song wasn't meant for all Americans when Key wrote the lyrics in 1814. Not only was slavery nearing its second century, but Key was also from a wealthy and influential plantation family in Maryland. The controversial third verse was never sung at sports events or at the 4th of July ceremonies because it was offensive after 1865, the end of slavery. The verse stated the following:

"No refuge could save the hireling and slave/From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave."

One of our most famous American heroes is Patrick Henry, who we all know for his famous final words, "Give me liberty or give me death," in his speech on March 23, 1775, in which he explained how he views himself as the "other." "No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism . . . But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs,"

Democracy can only begin to work when those relegated to the fringes of society can begin to sample what those in society take for granted as their inalienable right. It's the patriotism Kaepernick exhibited at NFL games, now seen on the streets of America and what George Floyd hoped.



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## Letter to the Editor

# Senator Ed Markey is standing up for students

As the school year winds down, I, like most teachers in Boston and beyond, am on edge about what school may look like come fall. There is so much confusion and uncertainty. This past semester was one of the most challenging that I have faced as an educator.

While I'm not sure what the future holds for traditional education, I do know that Massachusetts needs leaders who will do everything in their power to keep our students safe and healthy and learning. I have always been impressed by and a supporter of Ed Markey. He has constantly been going above and beyond to ensure students can keep up

with their studies at home, even before the pandemic.

His revolutionary E-Rate program has been helping provide students with access to the internet for decades. In this moment, access to consistent high speed internet is critical for both academic and social-emotional needs. Ed has continued his fight for equitable access to the internet, pushing for an additional \$4 billion in special funding so students can continue their education from home during the pandemic. This is an issue that particularly affects students of color, which shows me that Senator Markey is focused on breaking down

the systemic racial barriers to education that these students face.

It came as no surprise to me that Ed Markey was recently endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers of Massachusetts. He puts our young people at the center of every decision he makes and respects teaching as a craft. I look forward to voting for him September 1 or by mail earlier and encourage my fellow educators to do the same.

Julie O'Neil, M.Ed.

## BMCHS

Continued from page 1

pharmacy team at BMC have been chosen to receive awards from MSHP in 2020, highlighting their efforts and leadership in the field of pharmacy in Massachusetts.

Natalija Farrell, PharmD, BCPS, DABAT, has received the MSHP Pharmacist of the Year award, honoring her contributions to pharmacy practice within the Department of Emergency Medicine at BMC. Farrell, who is the pharmacy clinical coordinator for emergency medicine and toxicology, is being recognized in part for her role in implementing pharmacy-led programs to dispense Suboxone and intranasal naloxone to patients with opioid use disorder being discharged from BMC's emergency department. As the director of BMC's PGY2 emergency medicine pharmacy residency program, Farrell plays an integral role in training the next generation of pharmacists. In addition, she was recently appointed to assistant professor of emergency medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, demonstrating her unparalleled leadership in both the clinical and educational aspects of pharmacy practice.

Erin Smith is this year's recipient of the

MSHP Technician of the Year award. Smith, who works as a medication reconciliation technician supervisor for the department of pharmacy, has exhibited leadership, compassion and excellence over her nearly three years at BMCHS. Promoted for the traits that make her an effective and respected leader, Smith has led a number of initiatives to standardize her team's workflow, strategically deploy her team to areas of high volume, expand services where none previously existed, and target specific at-risk patients for medication reconciliation. She has also taken an active role with MSHP on the Technician Advancement Committee and was a member of a panel discussion at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Boston Medical Center's Opioid Utilization Improvement Team has won the Pharmacy Health-System of the Year Award, recognizing the team's multidisciplinary work responding to the opioid crisis. Led by more than 20 pharmacists from BMC's ambulatory, inpatient and retail pharmacy units, the team reduced inpatient opioid utilization in surgical patients by 41 percent since being implemented in 2017, and sustained those results over a period of 18 months. BMC also reduced discharge opioid prescribing for surgery patients by 25 percent, resulting in

74,000 fewer opioid dosage forms dispensed in 2019. In addition, the pharmacy team helped facilitate the dispensing of more than 1,000 intranasal naloxone kits and provided training about its use to more than 1,000 employees and community members.

"The exceptional teamwork and collaboration among members of the pharmacy team have led to our department's success that is demonstrated through these awards," said David Twitchell, PharmD, MBA, vice president and chief pharmacy officer at Boston Medical Center Health System. "I could not be more proud of the BMC pharmacy team and all their consistent efforts to provide the very best of care to the community we serve."

Joy Vreeland, PharmD, senior director and associate chief pharmacy officer for BMC's inpatient pharmacy, Kevin Horbowicz, PharmD, associate director of inpatient clinical pharmacy services, and William Vincent, PharmD, clinical coordinator, were key players in overseeing the work for which BMCHS was recognized.

The Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) was founded in 1945 to foster the professional growth of hospital pharmacy in Massachusetts.

## Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

but I couldn't stand the way he treated his pet. Do other women judge potential boyfriends this way?

— Gloria

Dear Gloria,

Of course. The way someone treats animals is a surefire indicator of how he or she will respond to members of the human race. You keyed into the clues. The punitive metal collar on his dog and his screaming at the dog indicate some human folly. Dog Lady is a big fan of dating; but you made the right decision to let this one go.

Dear Dog Lady,

When we were together as a couple, my

ex-boyfriend Tim seemed to love my dog too. I got Sasha, a lean hound mix from a shelter when she was a puppy. He would take her running along Charles River. The dog loved it and so did Tim. I thought Tim and I were going to get married but he met someone else where he works. I was devastated when we had a very troubling breakup. It's taken me a long while to get over it.

Because Tom wasn't taking her running anymore, Sasha was jittery, chewy, barks, and needy. I finally gathered my courage and called Tim and asked him to keep taking her out with him. He was happy to do it. They now run together four times a week. He keeps the key to my house and comes to get her whenever he wants. What do you think of this arrangement?

— Ellen

Dear Ellen,

From Sasha's point of view, this convenient arrangement with your ex-boyfriend is obviously a sweet deal. From the human point of view, it's dicey. How will you feel if your ex starts to include his new woman in the mix? Let's say he doesn't tell you and you find out because you're home one day when he comes to take Sasha out running and there's somebody with him. Will you feel hurt? Do you want to take the risk of having your heart bruised again? And again? You have much at stake emotionally with this arrangement.

Dog Lady advises you to hire a dog runner to take Sasha out for hearty exercise

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com

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# Mayor's Garden Contest Deadline Announced

SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has announced that the 24th annual Mayor's Garden Contest will take place this year keeping within current social distancing guidelines. Boston's green thumbs have until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 10, to register. The contest provides the perfect opportunity to recognize those who have taken advantage of the "safer at home" guidelines to hone their gardening skills.

The contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods. The safety of gardeners and contest judges is the top priority of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Gardeners should follow all current advisories from the Boston Public Health Commission and the City of Boston. Visit the City's coronavirus website for the latest information and guidance.

Gardeners or those nominating their favorite gardeners may find printable and online nomination forms at [www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest](http://www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest). First place winners will receive the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Walsh while second and third place winners will be awarded certificates. The traditional awards ceremony will be dependent on the rules on public gatherings that apply in August.

Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years will be automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are not eligible to enter as contestants but are welcome to return as judges.

The preferred method of entry for residents is to submit photos through the online application at [www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest](http://www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest). Alternatively, they may request an application by emailing their name and address to [gardencontest@cityofboston.gov](mailto:gardencontest@cityofboston.gov). For more information please call (617) 635-4505.

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for the 24 units affordable to households earning between 50% and 60% AMI, income minimums do not apply to households with housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

Applications are available during the application period for 22 days, from Monday, June 29 – Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 10 AM - 4 PM and on Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, July 23 evenings until 7 PM and Saturday, July 11, 10:00am – 2:00pm

**60% AMI units** - To request an application online, please visit <https://bit.ly/OConnorWaySeniors>. After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online or from your smartphone, please call us at 617-464-2483 to request that we mail you one and to ask for any guidance you might need to complete the application. When you call, you will be asked for your full name, complete mailing address, and phone number. This is a City and HUD requirement.

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P0962EA
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You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 07/31/2020.		
This is NOT a hearing date but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.		
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)		
A Personal Representative appointed under MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.		
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 23, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate		

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P0694GD
In the matter of: Vimala Sarojini Of: Boston, MA	RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston M Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Vimala Sarojini is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.		
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.		
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance of this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/22/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.		
IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.		
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 10, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate		



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