

Aquitaine Closes for Renovations

Will Celebrates 19th Anniversary with Renovation Project

On February 21st, 2016, Aquitaine Bar à Vin Bistrot which helped re-define Boston's iconic South End neighborhood and paved the way for what is now known as "restaurant row," will close its doors for a revital-

ization project sure to impress loyal patrons and Bostonian's throughout the city. Partnering with Boston design firm Hark + Osbourne, The Aquitaine Group has planned a sophisticated renovation that will pay homage to the historic and iconic character of the St Cloud "Hotel" building which it occupies. The project will commence on February 21st, with plans to re-open just in

time for the 19th anniversary in May.

The core objective of this passion project is to nurture the iconic neighborhood French bistro, and pay respect to the years of service that she has delivered. As the South End evolves, Aquitaine is one of the few staples that remains, and the team will tailor the renovations to

Continued on page 3

Milk is sweet

Milk Like Sugar
Huntington Theatre Company, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through February 27. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

Family is the message for the black teen trio of Kirsten Greenidge's Huntington Theatre Company area premiere "Milk Like Sugar." Annie,

Talisha and Margie hope to celebrate motherhood and a joint motherhood in a scenario as unrealistic as the title overly sweet powdered milk in this 2011 Obie Award-winning play, but their futures look to be very different. Margie, already pregnant, looks to night school to enrich her options. Talisha, despite strong attitude and determination, seems entrapped



Ramona Lisa Alexander and Jasmine Carmichael in "Milk Like Sugar." (Courtesy T. Charles Erickson)

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B/FSNA Scholarship Benefit Continues to Grow

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

This year's Heart of Gold fundraiser to benefit the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) college scholarships for South End-based students drew a crowd of over 100 neighbors to gallery@ArtBlock on Thursday, January 11 to sample fine wines and chocolate, relax and socialize and bid on a wide array of auction items while enjoying swinging music performed by a former scholarship

recipient.

Although this year's event was more casual in nature and carried a lower ticket price, it attracted an even larger crowd and with many new faces, including a complement of the South End's elected representatives. The scholarship program, which was founded by former B/FSNA president Andrew Parthum in 2006,



cutline

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Got Potholes?

Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced he is dispatching between 15 and 20 crews from the Public Works Department (PWD) to repair potholes across the City. The combination of a dramatic freeze, followed by warmer temperatures and precipitation has made roads especially susceptible to pothole damage.

The Mayor is encouraging residents to report potholes through any of the City's several different platforms, including:

Mobile: download the free BOS:311 app on iOS or Android

(previously known as Citizens Connect)

Online: Boston.gov/311

Social media: tweet @BOS311

Phone: dial 3-1-1 (previously the Mayor's 24-hour hotline 617-635-4500. For those with VoIP and for calls from outside Boston, callers should continue to dial 617-635-4500.

PWD spent Monday actively canvassing neighborhoods to evaluate roadways and will begin inspections on Tuesday and continue repair work on Wednesday.

Honor Roll

Local Residents Named To Simmons College Dean's List

The following local residents were named to the 2015 fall semester dean's list at Simmons College in Boston.

Alisha Kimiko Morales. Her major is Undeclared.

Anna Tunik. Her major is Nursing.

Annie Rose Barringer. Her major is Undeclared.

Kathryn Patricia Fleming. Her major is Nursing.

Maria Pastukhova. Her major is Neuroscience & Behavior.

Susannah Rhiannon Moore. Her major is Chemistry.

Ripley Jean Cleghorn. Her major is Undeclared.

Margaret Douglas Kirby. Her major is Undeclared.

Meaghan Rose Schultheis.

Her major is Biology.

Araxi Apigian Krafian. Her major is Nursing.

Kelly Elizabeth O'Hanlon. Her major is Nursing.

Emma Koren Weimer. Her major is Business & Management.

Jordan Amaryah Owens. Her major is Business & Management and Marketing.

Katherine Riane Hepburnt. Her major is Nursing.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

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B/FNSA*Continued from page 1*

awards between \$1,000 and \$2,500 for books, computers and school supplies to South End residents who are rising seniors or continuing college students.

Wine provided by the Urban Grape at 303 Columbus Avenue and chocolate from Taza Chocolate of Boston and Somerville were creatively paired, and additional appetizers were provided by Foodie's Urban Market and Estragon, 700 Harrison Avenue.

Past recipients of the scholarships were on hand to greet guests and share their college experiences. Abel Marcial, a 2014 winner of the Andrew Parthum scholarship who attends the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology circulated the room selling raffle tickets and Kailey Tse-Harlow, a 2015 scholarship winner who enrolled at Brandeis University last fall to study journalism and performing arts, took the mic to tell guests that the scholarship not only closed gaps left by her budget and financial aid, but lunch on occasion. Matt Hull, a trumpeter and 2012 scholarship winner who graduated from Berklee College of Music, played crowd-pleasing jazz standards with The Factory Trio as his parents, scholarship committee members Jeff and Deborah Hull, beamed.

This year's gathering garnered support from District 7 city councilor Tito Jackson, state representative Aaron Michlewitz, state senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and South End liaison Sam Chambers, all of whom congratulated scholarship committee members

and recipients. Chang-Diaz, chair of the Massachusetts legislature's Joint Committee on Education, acknowledged the important role of community support and philanthropy to provide a well-rounded public education but also thanked Boston taxpayers, many of whom are feeling pinched by recent property tax increases, for their predominant role in funding public education. Admittedly channeling the Black church, Jackson animatedly said, "You are going over and above to invest in, I believe, the most important people in the city of Boston: our younger generation."

Former Art Block residents David Wisholek and Christopher McBride were active members of B/FNSA until they moved to Winchester last year, but continue to play a role in the scholarship committee and fundraising. McBride, a teacher himself, stood near the entrance and greeted guests early in the evening while Wisholek staffed the registration table with another committee member. Later on, McBride reprised his role as auctioneer, and he and Wisholek donated a week at their Provincetown retreat as one of the big-ticket auction items.

Commenting on the financial outcome of the fundraiser, Wisholek said via e-mail, "From what has come in, we raised \$25,000 and growing. This is a tremendous success considering ticket prices were one-third of the cost of last year's event. It was such a fantastic evening!" In addition to raising \$2,200 with the bid on the Provincetown stay, the benefit auctioned off the chance to underwrite individual scholarships, netting two fully-sponsored Andrew Parthum scholarships, named for the scholarship program's founder, and sufficient

funds for six \$1,000 scholarships.

Lisa Jenks, who serves as co-chair of the scholarship committee with Andrew Parthum, commented via e-mail on a number of benefits garnered at the fundraising evening in addition to its monetary bounty. "It was wonderful to have Tito Jackson, Aaron Michlewitz, Sonia Chang Diaz and Samuel Chambers at our event. We know that there are many demands on their time and so they were great support our cause in person. I overheard a conversation where Sonia's assistant was chatting with our scholarship recipient, Hayley, and encouraged her to apply for an internship with Sonia's office. The scholarship committee loves to see this kind of connection between our city and state officials and our South End students! I find that South End residents are so happy to meet the student scholarship recipients and learn about their lives and vice versa." Summing up the event's impact, she continued, "This good cause of helping our young neighbors head off to college or trade school with a financial boost from their neighbors resonates with members of B/FNSA and beyond. It was fun to meet guests from all over Boston and Cambridge who came out on an icy cold winter evening to support our South End youth. We are at our best as a community when we can support our young people both financially and emotionally by showing that we care and that we are one South End community."

B/FNSA continues to accept donations to the scholarship fund by mail at B/FNSA, P.O. Box 180940, Boston, MA 02118 or by visiting npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=04-2760925.

Honor Roll*Continued from page 1*

Simmons College (www.simmons.edu) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women's leadership. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college offers world-class

coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, library and information science, business management, and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsCollege and @SimmonsNews.



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**PUBLIC
MEETING****DOUGLASS PARK
150 CAMDEN ST**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

650 COLUMBUS AVE
1st floor lobby
Boston, MA 02118

PROJECT PROPONENT:

Hamilton Northeast Development, LLC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Hamilton Northeast Development's (the Proponent) proposal to construct a new five (5) story building with forty four (44) residential dwellings at the property. The proposal includes significant new landscaping and buffering designs along the frontage on Camden St as well as new curbing, fencing, and planting areas to provide an established residential feel (the Proposed Project). The Proposed Project, situated in Roxbury, will be located on approximately 15,500 square feet of vacant land that consists of a portion of the existing Douglass Plaza a/k/a Douglass Park Project.

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PHONE: 617.918.4259
EMAIL: Christopher.Tracy@Boston.gov

BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org

@BostonRedevelop

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



**BOSTON
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

**OPEN
HOUSE****PLAN: DUDLEY
SQUARE**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**2300 WASHINGTON
STREET**

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
Roxbury, MA 02119

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The BRA is launching a process to create an updated vision and plan for Dudley Square in Roxbury. Residents, property owners, business owners, community and civic groups are invited to this open house event to learn more about the study, the area, and how to get involved.

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Boston, MA 02201
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EMAIL: Hugues.Montestime@Boston.gov

WEBSITE:
<http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>

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Joe DeMartino, Broker - 406 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657 - 508-487-9550

Milk

Continued from page 1

in a relationship with an abusive older man.

Focal teen Annie-in conflict with her hard-working mother Myrna—finds empathy at least temporarily from a tattoo artist on the one hand and college-bound star-gazing friend Malik on

the other. While Greenidge vividly captures the teens' easy banter and the challenges of their lives, her involving play could do with a sharper resolution and more response to the trio's varied life choices.

Even so, director M. Bevin O'Gara makes

the unfolding of their fortunes very satisfying. Joanne Carmichael is very persuasive as determined if sometimes desperate Annie. Marc Pierre has the right understatement as thoughtful if demure Malik. Matthew J. Harris proves strikingly sympathetic as the caring tattoo artist. Ramona Lisa Alexander is quite moving speaking of Myrna's remembered frustrations as an early pregnant mother herself. Shazi Raja catches Talisha's vulnerability as well as her volatility. Shanae Burch is properly fervent as Annie's religious friend Keera, who may be drawn to her more than as a friend. Wen Ling Liao's lighting is as shimmering as the teen trio's hopes. Likewise, "Milk Like Sugar" really glistens at the Calderwood.

Aquitane

Continued from page 1

creating another twenty years of memories, with a primary focus on keeping the authentic and nostalgic Parisian vibe that Aquitaine has set the bar with.

For Seth Woods, founder of the Aquitaine Group, this is a very personal venture. "Almost twenty years ago I began a relationship with Aquitaine, and she has seen me through more

than most; I have a very special place in my heart for this restaurant, and a loyalty to the neighborhood it helped define," said Woods.

For more information visit www.aquitaineboston.com as the team will feature a real-time countdown and award those "in the know" with weekly contests and giveaways through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Partnering with local South End businesses, this neighborhood initiative will be well worth the wait.

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Pet of the Week



Bamm-Bamm

Meet **Bamm-Bamm**, a 3-year old white and buff shorthaired rabbit brought in from a law enforcement case. He loves spending time outside of his cage and munching his daily fresh vegetables. He is very friendly, enjoys snuggling in someone's arms or on their lap, as well as lounging around completely stretched out! He would do best in a home that allows him plenty of time outside of his cage with someone who likes to hold him. In order to adopt him or any of his bunny friends here at ARL, bring a photo of the cage he will be living in so that we can approve it for a rabbit of his size. For more information on **Bamm-Bamm**, or any of the other animals currently residing at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact us at 617.226.5602. The shelter is open Tuesday through Thursday 1-7pm & Friday through Sunday 1-4pm, excluding some holidays.

Also, be sure to check out our:
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BLOG: arlbostonblog.wordpress.com
TWITTER: @ARLBostonRescue
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston)

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On the Move

Swet Studio celebrates its success with fresh events, activities

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Bulgarian-born personal trainer Silviya Mihaylova had high hopes and innovative ambitions when she decided to open her own fitness facility, Swet Studio at 482 Tremont Street in the ground floor of the Castle Square complex. Mihaylova wanted to introduce the South End to her holistic approach to ongoing fitness and health, which encompasses exercise incorporating natural forms of movement with a varied and fun array of activities, and she wanted it to be inclusive and welcoming for neighbors of every age, body type, race and sexual identity. Swet also distinguished itself by offering both memberships and a la carte exercise classes and workout sessions.

"By allowing our clientele to pay as they go, without making a major commitment, they have been able to sample the different variety of classes the studio offers, without feeling intimidated," Mihaylova observed. Swet opened in October 2015 with a sleek look, a mix of classic and novel classes and equipment and an opening-night fashion show with high-energy music and fashion-forward athletic garb. Reflecting on Swet's first few months, she commented, "The South End is filled with such amazing people and has such a strong sense of community. The support we have received has been fantastic."

The neighborhood has welcomed Mihaylova's diverse and flexible offerings, and she is pleased with her reception in the South

End. This Saturday, February 20 at 6:00 PM, she will host another fashion event presented by Qwear, a web site of fashion commentary that looks at fitness from the point of view of gender-fluid folks, accompanied by a talk by a community health expert who specializes in transgender issues.

Just as the fashion show celebrates a non-mainstream audience, its imaginative format breaks with tradition by observing the audience's style as well as showcasing the looks being presented. Guests are encouraged to wear their best activewear finery and Qwear's team will survey the crowd, snapping photos of their favorite looks. Activities including darts, pole dancing and a photo booth will put a very individual spin on the evening's fun.

Cei Lambert, patient advocate with Fenway Community Health Center's Trans Health program, will lead a discussion on the obstacles trans and gender-fluid people can face in fitness settings. "Different gyms have different styles and some are more social than others. We've all heard the stories of trans folks being confronted in locker rooms, and these are real challenges people are working hard to solve," Lambert said in a written statement.

Mihaylova created a widely varied menu of exercise options designed to appeal not only to the youngest and fittest but to a wide variety of ages and fitness levels and just as important, to a variety of tastes. Swet's classes range from Get Started for those who want to get back on the workout bandwagon to a lap to the challenging conditioning regimen Marino Muscle as well as an array of dance classes including same-sex or opposite sex ballroom dancing, hip hop yoga and a hybrid called Air Barre. In the four months since Swet's debut, Mihaylova has expanded the menu. "Since

opening, we are now also offering a class called "Levitation," in which participants relax and experience the calm of guided meditation while suspended in a floating silk hammock," she explained via e-mail.

The latest addition is AirBarre, which premieres this week. Mihaylova explained, "This is a big week for us. Not only are we hosting the event on Saturday, but launching an exciting, new class, which we are debuting for the first time in New England, called AntiGravity AirBarre. Airbarre combines the elements of ballet barre training with the suspension of the anti-gravity aerial silk hammock. It is such a cool workout." Emerging client favorites include Anti Gravity, an aerial yoga class utilizing the silk hammock, and Indo Row, an indoor group rowing class. Some of Swet's exercise equipment is unexpected as well, reflecting Mihaylova's philosophy that it is safer and more effective for exercise to include motions and exercise aids that are closer to normal human activities.

For example, Swet has sandbags rather than dumbbells for weight training and special rowing machines that have real water in the base for resistance. Mihaylova also believes that enjoyment is vital to sticking to one's exercise routine. She said, "Since opening, we have literally had hundreds of people take classes at the studio. It has been exciting to see their reaction to what we have built. People want something different, to feel the sense of comradely of working out as team, and to have meaningful fun."

Tickets to the Qwear fashion show at Swet Studio cost \$10 and can be purchased at <https://www.tickettailor.com/checkout/view-event/id/44963/chk/1c61>. For more information on Swet Studio, please visit www.swetstudio.com.

37/5

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Boston receives \$17.7 million in Homeland Security Grants

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced on Wednesday that the City of Boston and the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) have received \$17.7 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program.

"I am extremely proud of the strong partnership between the City of Boston and the Department of Homeland Security," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm grateful for Secretary Johnson's continued support of our world-class City, and a special thanks to our Massachusetts delegation – Senators Warren and Markey, Congressman Lynch and Capuano – who have been incredibly supportive during the process. The City of Boston has always placed a premium on the safety and security of our first responders, and this grant funding provides critical resources and ensures long term resiliency."

The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is the agency responsible for ensuring the City has plans to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters. During emergen-

cies, OEM operates the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) where City agencies gather to share critical information and coordinate response for managing an incident. OEM is also entrusted with managing homeland security funding for the entire MBHSR region comprised of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville and Winthrop.

"Whether natural or man-made, emergencies can happen anytime. This funding allows us to enhance the capabilities of our first responders, ensuring they are trained and prepared for any potential emergency or disaster," said Rene Fielding, OEM Director. "The program will also support efforts to work with Boston's surrounding communities in preparing for emergencies."

Past funding has supported initiatives in communications interoperability by providing the capability to allow first responders to clearly and seamlessly communicate with one another and in running Urban Shield Boston, the largest first responder exercise conducted in New England and the cornerstone of the MBHSR training and exercise program. Urban

Shield Boston was last held in May 2014 and involved approximately 2,000 emergency response personnel from more than 50 local, state and federal agencies. The goal of Urban Shield is to test and evaluate specific public safety capabilities that have been developed, or enhanced, with the investment of funds received through the UASI grant program.

UASI program funding addresses the unique multi-disciplinary planning, organization, equipment, training and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists them in building capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

The City of Boston was designated as an UASI site in 2003.

To receive emergency notifications from OEM by phone, email or text sign up for an AlertBoston account at www.cityofboston.gov/oem/alertboston. To learn more about the Office of Emergency Management, visit www.boston.gov/oem or follow @oemboston on Twitter.

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Get ready for the 21ST Taste of the South End

More than 40 Chefs in Boston's Hottest Culinary Destination

AIDS Action Committee's 21st annual Taste of the South End will take place Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Attendees will enjoy small plate culinary creations from 45 of the neighborhood's finest restaurants. The popular event will also feature live cooking demonstrations, extensive wine tastings, beer sampling, a silent auction, and a raffle. Taste of the South End takes place from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama at 539 Tremont Street in Boston. Tickets are \$125; VIP admission is \$175; Patron levels are \$1000 & \$5000; and proceeds benefit programs and services at AIDS Action.

"Taste of the South End has become one of the most anticipated events in Boston's culinary scene," said Carl Sciortino, Executive Director of AIDS Action. "Top-notch chefs, elegant wines, a festive atmosphere, and supporting the fight against HIV is a recipe for a delicious night out in the South End. Best of all, proceeds from the event support our work to get to zero new infections, zero stigma, and zero new deaths from HIV/AIDS."

"The fun and festive crowd at Taste of the South End makes it one of Boston's best foodie events," said Joanne Chang and Karen Akunowicz of Myers + Chang. "When you throw in the fact that this is an easy way for us to support the life-saving work of AIDS Action Committee, it's the perfect mix."

A partial list of 2016 participating restaurants includes:

Addis Red Sea	Appleton Bakery + Café
Aquitaine Bar a vin Bistrot	B&G Oysters
Back Bay Harry's	Banyan Bar + Refuge
Barcelona Wine	Blackbird Doughnuts
Boston Chops	Brownstone
Cinquecento Roman Trattoria	DaVinci Ristorante
East Meets West Catering*	El Centro
Five Horses Tavern	Flour Bakery + Café
Formaggio Kitchen South End	Gaslight Brasserie du Coin
Haley House Bakery Café	Kitchen
La Motta's	Masa
Mela Indian Restaurant	Metropolis
Mistral	Myers + Chang
Ohana*	Picco
Precinct Kitchen + Bar	South End Buttery
Stephi's on Tremont	The Beehive Restaurant
The Butcher Shop	The Elephant Walk
The Gallows	The Trophy Room
Tremont 647/Sister Sorel	Whole Foods Market
ZC Boston	

*VIP Restaurants as of January 27, 2016

This year's sponsors include Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Macy's, East Meets West Catering, Eastern Bank, Nordstrom, Pfizer, State Street Corporation, Walgreens, AEW, Eaton Vance Investment Managers, InterSystems, Whitney Towers Apartments, Whole Foods Market, Gilead Sciences, Inc., Hingham Institution for Savings—South End, Frost Lighting, Modern Reserve, Peterson Party Center, Boston Beer Company, The Boston Harbor Distillery, The Martignetti Companies, The Hess Collection, Gloria Ferber Caves & Vineyards, Trincher Family Estates, Treasury Wine Estates, Vineyard Brands, Lamarca Prosecco, William Hill Estate Winery, and Yelp.

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is the state's leading provider of prevention and wellness services for people vulnerable to HIV infection. It provides services to one

in six people in Massachusetts living with an HIV diagnosis. These services include HIV counseling and testing; needle exchange; mental health counseling; housing assistance; and legal services. AIDS Action works to prevent new HIV infections, support those affected by HIV, and tackle the root causes of HIV/AIDS by educating the public and health professionals about HIV prevention and care; and advocating for fair and effective HIV/AIDS policy at the city, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1983, AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is New England's first and largest AIDS service organization. In 2013, AIDS Action formed a strategic alliance with Fenway Health that will allow the two organizations to work more closely together and improve delivery of care and services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Learn more at www.aac.org.

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No Garden Tour this year

BY SOUTH END GARDEN TOUR COMMITTEE

The ownership of the sixteen South End / Lower Roxbury Community Gardens—along with 44 other community gardens throughout Boston—was transferred to The Trustees, a statewide conservation and preservation nonprofit, in 2014. We expect that this will bring many positive changes to our operations. Now, while The Trustees develop and roll out new operating, programming, and fundraising plans for the Greater Boston Region, the all-volunteer South End Garden Tour Committee has decided to suspend its work on this year's South End Garden Tour.

Over the next few months, Peter Bowne, South End / Lower Roxbury Engagement Site Manager for The Trustees, may contact you about your ongoing interest in supporting its Greater Boston Region, including the South End / Lower Roxbury Community Gardens.

We hope you will be open to learning more about their work and continuing your relationship with our gardens.

For the last 22 years, the Tour has provided critical financial support to our Community Gardens and to the Land Trust, their original owner. As we have said so many times, the Tour would not have been possible and our neighborhood gardens could not have thrived without your support. Your volunteer time and financial contributions were—and continue to be—essential to the vitality of our neighborhood gardens.

On behalf of the South End Garden Committee, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your help bringing this wonderful event to the South End. It has been a great pleasure getting to know you. We all look forward to crossing paths again soon and hope that you'll find other paths to helping the sixteen South End / Lower Roxbury Community Gardens.

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Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I have been trying to sell my home for quite a while now and am looking at apartments to rent.

However, the term "Pet Friendly" is not what it appears to be, much to my disappointment. I have always had "very large" dogs. I lost my Anatolian shepherd last February. I have

my other girl who is half-boxer/half-Airedale mix. She weighs in around 70 pounds. I have yet to find an apartment that will allow a dog over a weight limitation, normally "under 20 lbs, or small enough to be able to pick up."

I do not understand the logic behind this anti-large dog premise. Do you have any advice?

—Lee

Dear Lee,

The theory: Small dogs can cause less damage than large dogs. However, it all comes down to the owner

If you find a "pet friendly" apartment you like, you are wise to present yourself as the finest tenant any landlord could hope to house. Dress nicely. Instead of complaining about the weight limitation and bad mouthing smaller dogs, be upbeat and promise the landlord your dog is under your control and will behave suitably in the community. Meet every "no" with a polite "what if."

Propose a codicil in the lease so your landlord retains the right to inspect the apartment on a monthly basis and you will pay immediately for any dog damage. Or offer to pay a higher security deposit. Introduce your pet to the proprietor. And present a couple of references from people who know your dog, attesting to her disposition and training.

In essence, do not be passive or defensive in your search. Be proactive and positive. Rentals banning pets and those that restrict weights are irksome but not insurmountable roadblocks.

Dear Dog Lady,

We have a two-and-one-half-year-old Siberian husky and we have tried every method of house training. We have done paper training and crate training. We've let her out every half hour, and

put a bell on the door for her to ring to let us know. Every time we think she is getting the hang

of something, she regresses. There are times she'll go a week or two without an accident. When she has an accident, it won't stop for about a week or so. Do you have any suggestions?

—Nick

Dear Nick,

Walk her more and longer. Load up on tasty morsels (such as freeze-dried liver chunks) to reward her when she's good. And, please, patiently stick to one method of training. You're confusing your dog by trying a dab of this and a dollop of that — the paper, the crate, the bell.

Geez, what's a husky girl to do but have an accident? (Just to rule out any medical problem that might hinder housetraining, you should always have your dog checked out by a veterinarian.)

Dogs adore routines and rituals. Humans, on the other hand, can get bored by following the same-old, same-old. When it comes to housetraining, you must be absolutely robotic with repetition. Go back to square one of whatever method you choose. Each time your husky performs when and where

she should, always reward her with a yummy and extravagant praise.

After two months of no accidents, you know you've done your job and she's doing hers.

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a one-year-old Shihpoo (Shih Tzu-poodle mix). Normally, she is a loving, goofy, puppy. But when you give her a certain kind of bone and you try to go near her, she growls and will show her teeth. Last night, I tried moving her while she had her bone and she bit me and broke the skin. As soon as the bone is removed, she is back to her old self.

—Mary

Dear Mary,

Whenever our dogs draw blood, the situation is serious and the need for training becomes urgent. You have to live with your puppy for many years to come. You should never feel intimidated or fearful of this hairy heap — as cute as she may be. Tell your veterinarian what happened and ask him or her for a reference to a trainer. Your dog is "food aggressive" and professional training could benefit both of you.

Basically, your Shih-poo has to understand you are the leader of the pack. You reinforce this concept by carefully monitoring and doling out her food.

Go to www.askdoglady.com to read chapters from "Book of Shorpy: A Little White Dog Leads Me Home" on the new blog.

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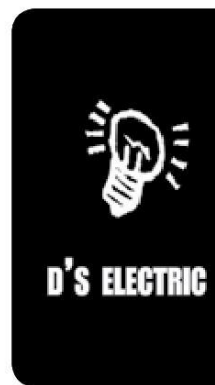


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