

Get on Board: The Legacy of Harriet Tubman

BY GARY BAILEY

"I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say; I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger."

Every summer, several people gather in a park located in a small triangular park at Columbus Avenue between West Newton and Pembroke Streets in Boston's picturesque and historic South End neighborhood in



Photo courtesy of Gary Bailey

Continued on page 5

A Stylish Grand Tour

**Big Apple Circus:
The Grand Tour,
Big Top at City
Hall Plaza, Boston,
through May 8. [www.
bigapplecircus.org](http://www.bigapplecircus.org).**

BY JULES BECKER

The 1920's proved the golden age of transportation. Worldwide

pioneers pushed the envelope of exploration in automobiles, trains, ships and planes. The Big Apple Circus is paying lively tribute to that enduring adventurousness in "The Grand Tour," now in its Boston premiere at City Hall Plaza.

The one-ring phenomenon's 38th season production is taking adult and young big top travelers alike on an imaginative eclectic



Photo courtesy of BPD

journey featuring clowning, animal feats and international talent—

Continued on page 2

From rescues to rising stars

**South End pooches
become social-
media celebrities**

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Many South End dogs lead the glamorous life, sporting fashion-forward wardrobes and accessories; being pampered at doggie spas; playing at doggie daycare while their humans are at work; and going on



Jenna DonLeavy

Continued on page 5

Coffee With a Cop Stops by South End IBA

SUBMITTED BY IBA

At about 2:00 PM on Thursday April 21, 2016, Coffee with a Cop stopped by the Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción Community Room at 100

West Dedham Street in the South End. Superintendent in Chief William Gross, members of the command staff and officers assigned to District D-4 were on hand to greet

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Photo courtesy of BPD

Jackson asks for virus reaseach halt

COURTESY OF
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

On Tuesday the City Council considered a proposal from Councilor Tito Jackson (Roxbury) for a hearing on barring research that involves "aerosolizing" pathogens not currently native to Boston—such as Ebola—at least until after scientists across the country have been able to figure out how to really keep us safe from inadvertent releases from laboratories.

The measure is aimed specifically at BU's National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories in the South End.

Jackson says the risks to the public of such mists escaping the lab are just too high without additional safety assurances.

Such aerosolization experiments have been used to generate novel potential pandemic pathogens (PPP), such as versions of the Asian bird flu (H5N1) and Chinese influenza virus (H7N9) with increased infectivity to mammals.

Register for Boston Shines!

Spring is coming and it's once again time for Boston Shines! It will take place over three weekends this Spring, divided regionally to allow for the best use of resources.

We are working to expand volunteer opportunities while focusing on four service areas: physical service, university engagement, youth development and expanding City of Boston volunteer opportunities

that help unite neighbors and communities. We look forward to kicking off the Spring season by breathing new life into our neighborhoods and making them beautiful!

South End, April 29th & 30th

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/BostonShines>

BPD

Continued from page 1

and speak with members of the community. Thanks to everyone who came out to say hello and a special thanks to Flour Bakery and Cafe for providing the refreshments for the event. If you are interested in learning about starting a Neighborhood Watch Group or interested in attending a future Coffee with a Cop event, please call (617) 343-4345.



Photo courtesy of BPD

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Tour

Continued from page 1

richly complemented by Oana Botez's vivid costumes and Antoinette Di-Pietropolo's eye-catching choreography.

Veteran music director Rob Slovik and the versatile Big Apple Circus Ban-perched above a fitting travel-poster dominated backdrop, accompany the high-stepping full cast during the show's flashy Charleston dance-driven entry and finale. Under Mark Lonergan's sharp direction, "The Grand Tour" immediately amazes with Chiara Anastasini's stunning hula hoop act. Defying gravity as she balances a continually increasing number of hoops, the standout Italian-American talent eventually becomes a kind of human slinky. Another showstopper soon follows- namely Russian juggler Alexander Koblikov. Disarmingly unassuming in the role of a 'swaying sailor,' he displays both impressive grace and his own balancing gifts with 14 balls (a feat unsurprisingly cited by the Guinness Book of World Records). Brothers Erick and Jayson Dominguez pull off the challenges of the fast-moving Wheel of Wonder with exciting agility. China's acrobatic Energy Trio displaying remarkable strength in demanding first act balancing- sometimes depending on only one arm.

During both acts, the show's multi-talented writer-creator Joel Jeske and Brent McBeth make a diverting duo with crowd-pleasing slapstick-especially pratfalls and a water bucket splashing. Both clowns demonstrate a facility for engaging audience members in

some of their routines, notably the 'Red Nose Transplant.' Veteran Big Apple circus fans may yearn for the earlier singular comedy of Barry Lubin as the signature character Grandma or the daredevil antics of Bello Nock, but Jeske and McBeth do display good chemistry in their skits. First act dogs and ponies and second act full size horses become nimble animal travelers themselves under the inspired guidance of trainer Jenny Vidbel working with head groom Emily McGuire. Look for a poodle riding a scooter and a large dog smoothly rolling a hoop bearing a smaller one. Vidbel and McGuire make the Arabian horses formations and ring moves-at times accompanied smartly by the famous title theme of "Lawrence of Arabia"—equally lighthearted and exhilarating. The circus offers (\$10) pony rides for young children (the weight limit is 65 pounds) at each intermission.

Besides the beguiling horses, the second half has other captivating displays. The African Acrobats sequence finds the Zuma Zuma Troupe creating a tower of balance as well as eye-catching flips and handstands. The Dosov Troupe from Belarus—at times with a height-increasing large seat or stilts—accomplish first class take-offs and landings with the teeterboard as the band cleverly plays "Those Magnificent Men on Their Flying Machines." Arguably the most poetic standout in the show is Sergey Akimov's masterful solo on aerial straps. Akimov twirls and flips with gymnastic flair and breathtaking balletic form.

"The Grand Tour" is a stylish one-ring journey and the Big Apple's global ensemble its winning big top guide.

Dinnerfest A Success

Victory Programs' annual Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction held at the Red Lantern last Sunday exceeded our previous fundraising records, raising more than \$120,000 for the

individuals and families who rely on Victory Programs for help with health, housing and prevention services.



Victory Programs' Dinnerfest 2016

SoWa ArtWalk This Sunday

The artists of the SoWa Artists Guild 450 Harrison Avenue in the SoWa Arts District in the South End of Boston invite you to the SoWa ArtWalk in the SoWa Arts District on SUNDAY MAY 1, 2016 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM rain or shine. SoWa ArtWalk is one of only two times a year when ALL art studios at 450 Harrison Avenue open their doors and welcome the public.

The SoWa Arts District is home to the largest community of working artists and art galleries in New England. SoWa ArtWalk is a fun and enlightening self-guided tour that brings visitors to the studios of more than 80 artists and a dozen art galleries, to meet and speak with the people who make the art.

SoWa ArtWalk is an opportunity for art enthusiasts, collectors, dealers and the curious to see, experience and purchase art directly from the artists—paintings, photography, sculpture, hand-designed jewelry, clothing, leather goods and ceramics.

SoWa ArtWalk is free and open to the public. Artists' studios and art galleries are located at 450 Harrison Avenue and immediately surrounding locations. Parking is available. MBTA Orange Line to New England Medical Center and Silver Line bus to East Berkeley Street or Union Park Street. For more information contact info@sowaartists.com or visit <http://sowaartwalk.com>.



BOSTON
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

PUBLIC
MEETING

370 & 380 HARRISON AVENUE

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

1145 WASHINGTON
STREET

Project Place, Boston, MA 02118

PROJECT PROPONENT:

South End 10, LLC and South End 11, LLC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Public Meeting to discuss the proposal for the redevelopment of the approximately 1.02 acre site bound by Harrison Avenue to the east, Traveler Street to the north, and East Berkeley Street to the south. The project includes up to 356,500 square feet containing a new residential building with up to approximately 280 units containing a mix of rental and home ownership opportunities, as well as up to approximately 6,000 square feet of new ground floor retail/commercial space. Up to approximately 180 parking spaces will be located in a below-grade garage with access from a new mid-block connection on the eastern edge of the site.

MAIL TO: CASEY HINES
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
PHONE: 617.918.4244
EMAIL: Casey.A.Hines@Boston.gov

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:
Thursday, May 12, 2016

BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org

[@BostonRedevelop](https://twitter.com/BostonRedevelop)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

guestopinion

Will you challenge the BRA extension?

BY SHIRLEY KRESSEL

The Boston Redevelopment Authority is asking the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to approve a six-year extension of 14 expiring Urban Renewal (UR) Plans, which cover 3,000 acres of central Boston and affect hundreds of thousands of residents and property owners in South End, Roxbury, Chinatown, Fenway, Charlestown, Bay Village, and North End/Waterfront.

Per state regulations (760 CMR 12.00: URBAN RENEWAL REGULATIONS Section 12.03: Plan Changes), DHCD is allowed to approve UR Plan extensions only if they have been properly approved by the Boston City Council.

But as DHCD is aware, the Boston City Council no longer has jurisdiction over UR Plan extensions and therefore the DHCD approval of this extension is not in conformance with the statutory regulations.

On December 15, 2004, the City Council

approved a 10-year extension of the UR Plans and "a series of procedural changes with respect to Urban Renewal Plans in Boston." The "procedural changes" consisted of changes in the Council's UR Plan approval powers, leaving the Council with voting power only on proposed creation of new UR Plans and proposed termination of ongoing UR Plans, but not on extension of expiring UR Plans.

The BRA submitted to DHCD the Council-approved UR Plan extensions and changes to the Council's review powers, and DHCD approved in 2005. These changes are still in effect.

The Council's loss of power over extensions has been acknowledged by BRA attorneys, both at the time it was enacted and today. Yet the BRA has advised the Councilors that their vote complies with the law, deliberately misleading them in order to get a vote to take to DHCD for ratification.

But the Boston City Council exceeded its authority in casting this vote, which is therefore not lawful. The same would be true

for a DHCD vote based on such a Council vote. Since the Council could not lawfully vote on this extension, DHCD cannot lawfully consider the proposed change. Therefore, the UR Plans must by law expire as mandated, on April 30, 2016.

DHCD's only lawful course of action is to notify the BRA that DHCD cannot entertain the extension request and that these 14 UR Plans will expire by law on April 30, 2016. However, DHCD, either unaware of or ignoring these facts, seems prepared to approve.

This unlawful decision can be challenged in court. If you are a resident or property owner in an Urban Renewal Plan neighborhood, and want to talk about about how to protect yourself from the impacts of this extension of Urban Renewal powers, please contact me at urplanaction@gmail.com.

For further information:

<https://www.universalhub.com/2016/urplan-extension-how-city-council-lost-its-power>

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Mayor Walsh Announces 2016 Coffee Hour Series

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department today announced that the 18

"We've increased our Neighborhood Coffee Hours this year to give even more residents the opportunity to learn about and discuss city services," said Mayor Walsh. "I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy our parks at these coffee hours as the warm weather approaches."

The Neighborhood Coffee Hours give residents a unique opportunity to speak directly with Mayor Walsh and other city officials about needs in their neighborhoods. Through these

discussions and a suggestion box at each site, the coffee hours give the City insight on how to improve city services.

Information will be available on City programs from the Boston Public Library, Boston Public Schools, Boston Police Department, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families.

All participants will enjoy coffee and breakfast provided by Dunkin' Donuts and fresh fruit from Whole Foods Market. In addition, each family in attendance will receive a flowering plant grown in the city's greenhouses as a gift from Mayor Walsh. Residents at the event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin' Donuts.

All coffee hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Dates for the full schedule of Mayor Walsh's 2016 Neighborhood Coffee Hours are as follows. Locations are weather permitting unless

otherwise noted. Coffee Hours being held in conjunction with park openings are also noted:

Thursday, May 12

Little Scobie Playground (with opening celebration)
36 Copeland Street, Roxbury

Tuesday, May 17

Peters Park
230 Shawmut Avenue, South End

Friday, May 27

Commonwealth Avenue Mall
1 Commonwealth Avenue, Back Bay

For more information and updates on possible weather cancellations, please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505 or online at Facebook or Twitter @bostonparksdept.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court	
In the matter of: Gerard Sekou Smith Of: Boston, MA			
To all persons interested in petition described:			
A petition has been presented by Gerard S. Smith requesting that:		Docket No. SU16C0128CA	
Gerard Sekou Smith		Suffolk Probate and Family Court	
be allowed to change his name as follows:		24 New Chardon Street	
Gerard Severide-LaSalle Smith-Lillie		PO Box 9667	
		Boston, MA 02114	
		(617) 788-8300	
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 5/21/2016			
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 8, 2016 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate			

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Letters policy

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

Dog

Continued from page 1

sleep-overs and vacations with their owners and with friends. This is the story of Knox, Bear and Harper, three rescue pups who have found a loving South End home and social-media fame and Jenna Donleavy, the young woman whose dream they fulfilled.

Once she graduated from Lafayette College with a degree in economics, Donleavy was ready for her lifelong dream to come true. Growing up on a spacious property in Vermont, she had always longed for a dog of her own. "I did not grow up with one single dog, one single cat, nothing. My mom always jokes that I came out of the womb asking for a dog." After graduating and moving to Boston to rejoin her family, she set out to acquire a dog. "I always wanted a golden retriever, but after educating myself about breeders, I thought that the best choice was to rescue a dog because there are so many animals out there looking for homes," Donleavy recalled. Browsing Petfinder.com for weeks, Donleavy stumbled upon "Ace," a black Labrador Retriever/border collie mix puppy at a rescue in Arkansas. Smitten, Donleavy completed the adoption application. When her application to adopt Ace was approved, "I was completely and utterly over the moon. That same day I went into every pet boutique in our area and showed every employee (that was willing to listen) a picture of baby Ace's face, while cleaning out their inventory," she wrote on the dogs' web page, www.knoxandbear.com. Donleavy picked up the puppy, renamed Bear, about a month later from a transport in Connecticut and joyfully brought him back to her home on Appleton Street. The novice dog owner was not initially surprised by her puppy's calm, sleepy behavior, but soon found out that he was actually critically ill with Parvovirus. An

alert veterinarian at Back Bay Veterinary Clinic kept Bear under observation on an IV and then referred him to Angell Animal Medical Center at the MSPCA on South Huntington Avenue, where he was hospitalized for four days. Donleavy believes that Bear is an "old soul" as a result of his early brush with death.

The second dog, Knox, came Donleavy's way unexpectedly when a neighbor told her of squalid conditions at the breeder from which she obtained her Golden Doodle. Upon visiting the breeder in early 2015, Donleavy found over 60 dogs in various states of abuse and neglect and a breeder who was no longer interested in caring for them. While she wasn't planning on adding another dog to the household at the time, she decided to rescue a purebred English Golden Retriever-American Labrador puppy that she named Knox. "Integrating Knox was interesting for Bear because he was the prince of the house and got all of the attention and all of a sudden there was this little puppy. They hit it off and now they are the best of friends," Donleavy said. Harper, a reddish mixed-breed female puppy at a high-kill shelter in Arkansas, completed the pack when Donleavy was again browsing Petfinder.com and became enchanted with her big eyes and wrinkly face. Harper arrived via transport in June, 2015. Donleavy calls Harper the head of the pack. "She definitely keeps everyone in line," Donleavy observed.

Her passion for dog rescue has extended beyond her own household, spawning the dogs' web site, www.knoxandbear.com; their Instagram page, www.instagram.com/knox_and_bear/, which has over 40,000 followers; a Knox and Bear Facebook page; and story and photo coverage in Modern Dog Magazine, Boston.com, TheDogist.com, and People Magazine's Twitter account, @PEOPLEPets. "It just grew out of the whole rescue component. Rescue dogs in the city is a big thing that people love

seeing. We are able to leave the city with them and take them to the parks, on hikes and on vacation. I think that people like seeing a family with this many rescue dogs and that there are options." After becoming aware of Knox, Bear and Harper's on-line presence, photographer Lauren Dobish reached out to Donleavy and offered to snap the dogs gratis in a photo shoot in the Seaport district.

Donleavy originally created the Instagram site in order to post the hundreds of pictures she's taken of the dogs without casting herself as a "crazy dog lady" on her own Instagram feed. Now the Knox and Bear site has revealed itself to have other applications. "I just started it for fun; I didn't realize it would have this marketing component," Donleavy said. While Donleavy uses the dogs' on-line sites to promote dog- and rescue-related events and groups, her deepening involvement in the animal-lover community has guided her career as well. With a post-graduation stint at the international public relations firm MSL Group under her belt, Donleavy was able to parlay her skills into her current position in marketing and investor relations with Slobbr, an app that will provide information on pet-friendly restaurants and lodgings, services and supplies set to debut shortly in New York and Boston.

With Donleavy's help and PR savvy, Bear, Knox and Harper have lent a paw to a number of causes. For example, a bandanna "autographed" with Bear's paw print will be auctioned off to benefit the MSPCA in conjunction with its Fast and Furriest 5K

fundraiser on Sunday, May 22. "We are just figuring out how we can help all the rescues with all the followers we have," Donleavy said. Her current employer similarly backs rescue fundraisers. Slobbr was co-sponsor with Audrey's Rescue Angels of Rescue to Runway, a benefit fashion show featuring local celebrities and adoptable dogs.

For someone with no previous canine experience to take on three large, young dogs in less than a year's time is quite a challenge, but because she is passionate about her dogs and a quick study, Donleavy has navigated a steep learning curve deftly. Managing the exercise and elimination schedules of three large dogs while living in a Boston apartment with no dedicated outdoor space has been the biggest challenge. She explained, "The biggest thing is not having a yard. The three dogs have their own schedules to go out and that's been challenging because you can't just open the sliding door and let them out. I walk them all separately. We do have the benefit of having parks everywhere but it is a challenge finding time to take them all out." Donleavy, who works mostly from home, sometimes sends the dogs to the Urban Hound for daycare as her work schedule requires and credits her father with helping her both with dog-walking duties and the cost of daycare.

Are there more dogs in the future for the Donleavy household? "I would love to have more but I think we are maxed out at three. I would love to rescue them all," Donleavy said.

Tubman

Continued from page 1

front of a 10-foot bronze statue of famed abolitionist and freedom-fighter Harriet Tubman, by artist Fern Cunningham. Important to note is that this particular statue was the first statue on city-owned property honoring a woman in Boston.

Tubman, who had spent the first 28 years of her life toiling in the household and fields of the Maryland plantation where she had been born, she escaped when the plantation's owner died, following the North Star and stopping at various Underground Railroad 'stations' along the 90-mile journey to Pennsylvania.

For her efforts freeing other enslaved people famed Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison called her "Moses" for she, like the Moses of the Old Testament, returned to lead numbers of other people out of bondage, to freedom and the "promised land". 'Mother Moses' is depicted standing erect and out in front of a small group of people of African descent who appear tired and frightened. While she appears steadfast, resolute, and unafraid with a Bible clutched in one hand and her other hand extended outwards gesture in a gesture as if she is pointing the way to freedom to those who surround her.

As I sat in the park last Wednesday afternoon the 20th April, after Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury announced to the nation that this same Harriet Tubman, the woman who had escaped her captivity and who time after time would then risk her new found freedom to liberate other enslaved people would replace former President, Andrew Jackson, himself a holder of slaves, on the front of the \$20 bill; making her the first American woman to adorn US paper currency in more than a century. I was reminded of the words of another great foot soldier for justice and freedom Nelson Mandela who once said "There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires."

As I sat there in the park I recalled watching Viola Davis, when she won Outstanding Lead Actress In A Drama Series for her role in "How to Get Away with Murder" at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards show, making her the first black woman to win the award begin her remarks with the following quote by Harriet Tubman:

"In my dreams and visions, I seemed to see a line, and on the other side of that line were green fields, and lovely flowers, and beautiful

Continued on page 6

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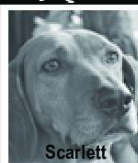
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542 Columbus Avenue

617.267.1755



Pet of the Week



Scarlett
ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON

Meet **Scarlett**, a sweet 4 year old lady, who came from an animal control facility. She will need a patient family who can work with her fears. She is much more confident now, and is playful, but still cautious of strangers. Her new owner must understand this and make sure she is handled appropriately around new people. **Scarlett** shows food guarding behavior at the shelter, so she will need a home that doesn't have small children.

For more information on **Scarlett**, 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 Tues through Thurs 1-7pm & Fri through Sun 1-4pm, excluding some holidays.

Also, be sure to check out our:

WEBSITE: www.arlboston.org

BLOG: arlbostonblog.wordpress.com

TWITTER: @ARLBostonRescue

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston)



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MICHELLE
for **BOSTON**
CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

South End Community Fundraiser

THURSDAY, MAY 5TH
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

MIKE'S CITY DINER
1714 Washington St, Boston, MA 02118

SUGGESTED DONATION
Guest \$100 • Friend: \$250 • Host: \$500

Boston-based chef and restaurateur, Ken Oringer will join Mike's City Diner's Jay Hajj to cook for this special event.

Questions or RSVPs? Call Sharon Durkan, 617-303-0347.



**BOSTON
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

**PUBLIC
MEETING**

SUFFOLK CONSTRUCTION EXPANSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

1240 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 12
Boston, MA 02125

PROJECT PROPONENT:
Suffolk Construction

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Proponent seeks to redevelop five (5) parcels of land, collectively consisting of approximately 71,200 square feet, adjacent to the existing Suffolk Construction Headquarters located at 65 Allerton St. in Roxbury. The Proposed Project consists of the demolition of four (4) existing structures on the sites and the construction of an approximately 38,000 square foot addition to the existing Headquarters, an expanded parking area for employees, and associated landscaping improvements.

MAIL TO: RAUL DUVERGE
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

PHONE: 617.918.4492

EMAIL: Raul.Duverge@Boston.gov

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:
Friday, May 20, 2016

 BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org

 @BostonRedevelop

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Tubman

Continued from page 5

white ladies, who stretched out their arms to me over the line, but I couldn't reach them no-how. I always fell before I got to the line"

As a member of the board of Park, whose president is renowned Boston activist Frieda Garcia and as the great grandchild of people who were themselves enslaved, this yearly ritual of reverently and gently washing, waxing and buffing the statue, both in an effort to protect it from the harsh elements of city life, and to also ensure that its majesty is not diminished. The significance of the contribution made by 'Mother Moses' to so many by during her lifetime, and beyond, is certainly not lost on me. I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I wash her feet and outstretched hands and as I gently wash her face find myself saying softly into her ear "thank you"; and that I along with many others remember and are grateful because you dared to take your freedom from those who held you captive and also worked to free so

many others as well.

Over the course of the past week anonymous individuals have visited the park and placed bouquets of flowers at the base of the statue. Someone even placed a dozen long stem roses in Tubman's hand, held high as in a triumphant gesture. As a nation and as a society do we still have much work before us to do – without question, we do – but that Wednesday, for a brief moment Tubman's words echoed in my head as I sat in a park in Boston, dedicated to her legacy of courage and steadfastness: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

The decision announced on Wednesday to add Harriet Tubman's face to our nation's most traded piece of currency to some, might seem a mere gesture to some, but to others of us it holds very special meaning and significance.

Thank you 'Mother Moses' for once again, leading the way!

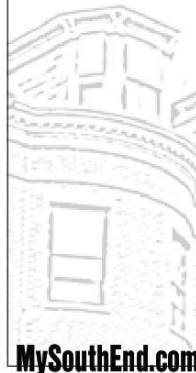
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