South Enders at BAC Spring Gala

Over 500 guests filled the first floor of 25 Devon Ave in the Innovation and Design Building on Thursday, April 6th, for the Boston Architectural College’s most successful annual spring gala to date. Creatively designed food stations throughout the colorful room provided guests with ample grazing opportunities from some of Boston’s top restaurants and chefs. Fundraising at the gala directly support the Boston Architectural College’s students with financial aid, innovative technology, and improvements to the college’s Newbury Street campus.

(L-R) Gala sponsor Elizabeth Lowrey of Elkins Mastfield Architects with BAC alumnus Tom Trzyzposki and Joe Caccio favorite.

USES shifts programming focus

Senior programs to end June 30

BY MICHELE D. MARISCALCO

In an email sent to United South End Settlements (USES) supporters on Friday, April 21, president and chief executive officer Mariahre Weir-Lyle announced plans for a major restructuring of the 125 year old non-profit’s programming to focus on helping families and children to overcome poverty and improve their prospects for future prosperity and to achieve increased sustainability through reorganizing existing programs and eliminating others, notably services to seniors such as senior wellness and fitness classes, affordable home repair referrals, low-cost daily lunches and free, supplemental

Victory Programs Dinnerfest

RED sets new fundraising record

On Sunday, April 25 from 3 to 6 PM, Victory Programs celebrated another year of health, housing and prevention services with nearly 300 supporters at the 27th annual Dinnerfest. RED Party + Auction fundraiser at Red Lantern on Standpipe Street in the Back Bay. This year’s Dinnerfest raised more than $145,000, and set a new event record for the third year in a row with a 12% increase over

Free Bike Tune Ups

Saturday, April 29 1-3 pm, O’Day Park (West Newton St. between Newland and Tremont).
A family-friendly afternoon of free bike tune-ups and ice cream. Come early for a free bike light!
Sponsored by Friends of O’Day Park in partnership with Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion, Blackstone Franklin Square Neighborhood Association and Pilot Block Neighborhood Association.

Rookie Ball Sign-Ups

South End Baseball will be holding Rookie Ball Sign-Ups (ages 4-7) on the following Saturdays:
April 22 and 29 from 10am-12pm at Rotch Park (49 Randolph St between Harrison and Albany)
May 6 at 10am at the Villa Victoria Plaza (50 West Detham St between Tremont and Shawmut) before our Opening Day Parade—kids then march in the parade.
http://www.southendbaseball.com

ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Just curious. Has President Donald Trump gotten a pet yet? Is he the first president not to have a four-legged friend in the White House?

-Peter

Continued on page 3

New music from South End jazzman Arni Cheatham

BY MICHELE D. MARISCALCO

Against the backdrop of his own photography, Arni Cheatham celebrated the release of his latest CD, “Telecumbie”, at the Passo Factory Gallery, 793 Tremont Street, on Sunday afternoon, April 2. Approximately 40 people joined Cheatham and his band: trombonist Bill Lowe, pianist Kevin Harris, bassist Timo Shankle and drummer

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USES
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groceries for low-income seniors.

The announcement results from a stra-
tegic planning process called Vision 219 that
began last fall, with USES staff, board members,
and consultants meeting among themselves
and engaging with community members and
leaders, elected officials, funders, and others
to determine the best way to serve South Ros-
bury in the face of changing demographics and
and to use its assets and facilities more efficiently
to serve residents. Weintraub, who took the
helm at USES in February of 2015, expressed
consern for the financial struggles she found
at USES since arriving and stressed the need
to rework the organization's financial model
so it aligns with its program offerings. Work of
possible discontinuance of senior programs
began to spread among participants.

On Friday afternoon, vice president Nikki
Stewart responded via email to the South
End News' inquiry, writing, "We've already
patched our seniors, and have been grateful
for the opportunity to contribute directly
to their lives and to enjoy them for many
years as a small, but integral group among our pa-
ticipants. Seniors are absolutely a rich part of
the fabric of this community and our families.
Though our programmatic focus on families
with children will not include our current
Senior Services offerings, we do envision our
impact will have a positive cumulative effect
on every member of participating families,
everyone.

According to Stewart, the senior health
and wellness classes currently serve approxi-
ately 160 participants. "To give context, we
are serving approximately 950 individuals
overall, so the senior health and wellness
program makes up only 17% of our program
participants," she explained. In a follow-up
interview, Stewart said that although senior
services at USES will end on June 30, the
organization is talking with other social service
organizations, the city's Commission on Aging of
the Elderly, and the Department of Neighborhood
Development about transitioning existing
programs to other agencies in the South End.

"Elderly Affairs commissioner Emily
Stoddard weighed in on the elimination of senior
services at USES, responding via email, "United
South End Settlements has been a great partner,
and we are sad to see that programming end.
Senior programming in the South End is very important to us, and
we will be engaging in our competitive grant
process beginning next month to offer funding
to a range of programs across the city. We are
grateful for the relationship we've had with
United South End Settlements, and we will be
working with them to identify other potential
partners in the neighborhood."

Longtime community activist Frieda
Carron, who served as executive director of
USES for 20 years, has remained involved with
the organization through its senior activities.

"For the last several years I have attended the
Tuesday Tai Chi class taught by Rich Toung-
ament. He also teaches a class on Thursday,
each with about 15-20 enthusiastic students.

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most every one of his colleagues has discovered.”

Ever the good reporter, Bennett has found an expert who can speak to this. He quotes Alan Beck, a professor of animal ecology and director of the Center for the Humane Animal at Ohio State University, saying, “If you have an animal, you can understand better person.” There are lots of studies on this. But I don’t think the president ever seems to care about that.

Dear Dog Lady,

My dog, Spooly, has seen my heart come and go. My current (for the past year) beau got along wondrously with my dog for about six months. Then, Spooly began to act destructive while he was staying with my boy at his home while I was traveling for work. Theirs was an uneventful, harmonious relationship, and even uneventful on his couch. It became such a problem that Spooly no longer stays with my fellow while I travel, but with a friend (female and no problems). I love my guy, and I tolerate the dog despite the bad behavior. Any ideas on how to correct the problem and keep both of the loves of my life in the same picture?

-Beth

Dear Beth,

You have to be part of this picture too. When Spooly waddles home, you should immediately stop all things you’re doing by corners and dog-to-downs. As soon as he’s noticed, he must be noticed. If the animal bone were OK, staying with your family friend is a more successful strategy. It’s not any easier, but your companions won’t let friends mistreat the dog. When you leave your dog, arrange for a reliable professional dog sitter and pay for the service. Ask at your veterinarian’s office, the local dog store, or neighborhood dog walker for referrals. Use the app Wag or go to petfinder.com, the website of Pet Sitters International, a professional organization. You can search, visit www.southbay.com, or call your veterinarian.

Dear Alicia,

I was raised by parents who were breeders, so when I noticed that my friend’s Saint Bernard looked underweight, I mentioned it to my friend and added a “nono of your business” attitude that the veterinarian says she’s “true.” That was months ago and the dog’s spine and hip bones are very visible through her fur, her nose is always dry, and she doesn’t eat well. I’ve tried her food whenever I’m in the house, just dog food with warm water on it, and she simply won’t eat it. The owner says she doesn’t eat when food is offered to her. How do I get my friend to take her dog’s health seriously?

-Alicia

Dear Alicia,

We all know that mistreating our own business is the preferable course. However, in a case like this, you must ask your friend about her dog’s condition. She’s a feeder. Not a Bette Davis but, in the matter of a living creature’s health and welfare, your meddling is warranted.

You have credentials. Tell your friend you come from a family of Saint Bernard breeders. You know how a dog is supposed to look and be. She Bernard doesn’t look well. Point out the bone and brevet your. Arming yourself with names and contact information for a couple of well-respected veterinarians as well as information about breeds of prime dog food. Also, bring the contacts of the Saint Bernard rescue organization. Offer the information without judgment. Your friend may be ashamed of neglecting this animal.

Saint Bernard dogs are the size of a small horse. The breed requires much food, good exercise, and an owner who’s mature enough to handle their desire for attention. They are great dogs and renowned for helping children with disabilities. Your friends, however, may want to keep this a secret. A high-maintenance pet will be advertised if you provide this opportunity for a way out. Visit www.southbay.com or read the new blog, “Sherry Sargent” and “Dog and the City.”

Emerald Necklace Explorers

South End resident Ellie Cornish-Chou, with sons Dylan (left) and Landon, supported Party in the Park at “A Walk in the Park” Children’s Tea and Fashion Show at the Four Seasons on April 9. The event, which featured a fashion show with clothing from Komodo, and children’s activities from Zoo New England and others, was part of the Emerald Necklace Explorers Club, a party in the Park’s first-ever children’s programming. WOWPA’s C.J. Momenbshar served as the emcee for the day. This year’s Party in the Park luncheon, which benefits the Justin M. Leff Fund for the Emerald Necklace, took place on May 17 at Pinebank Promenade. For more information, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org.

USERS

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USERS is also trying to get the other older adult programs picked up by other agencies. I can’t imagine that it was an easy decision to make,” Garcia said. Joana Pontes, another longtime South Ender who served as Boston’s
Ari Cheatham

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David Moore, calling on wine, cheese and fruit while the band showcased tunes from Cheatham’s new release, a 7-song collection of standards and originals.

Among the photographs behind the band was Cheatham’s own portrait of a longtime friend and collaborator Lowe. Among the guests cheering Cheatham were Pauline Bilby and Harry King, president and vice-chairman of the board of Jazz.Boston. Three weeks later, Cheatham was back in the gallery, joining the Kirtir River Quartet on a five-song set at Jazz Week concert sponsored by Jazz.Boston, the first of Cheatham’s three Jazz Week gigs. At 72, the esteemed saxman and photographer is on a roll.

Cheatham has made his home in the Piano Factory since its earliest days in the mid-1970s as an artist-in-residence. A Chicago native who moved to Boston to study at Berklee College of Music, Cheatham not only made Boston his home but became an integral and active member of the Boston free-jazz scene, forming a band called Thing in the 1970s and becoming a founding member of the Jazz Coalition, a music advocacy group that preserved Jazz.Boston.

Cheatham’s wide-ranging contributions to the group, from writing grant proposals to organizing music-education programs and concerts at hospitals, homeless shelters and other institutions, helped earn him a Jazz Hero award, bestowed by Jazz.Boston and the Jazz Journalists Association in 2013. Now in his early 70s, Cheatham is far from slowing down; he is a member of the Arabella Orchestra and the Malandra Project, he continues to photograph music, and he was a featured member of the Jazz.Boston All-Stars at the Piano Factory, taking a few solos with Roskam’s quartet and playing harmonies alongside his friend. The 7:30 PM show featured River originals such as “Into the Shadows” as well as favorites “On Green Dolphin Street” and “Tisket, Tasket,” and “I Know You Love Me.” The band played surrounded by jazz Washburn’s bold, visually colored canvas of futuristic-looking human forms.

As Jazz Week continues, Cheatham will perform in the City Council chambers at Boston City Hall on Wednesday, April 26 at 11:00 AM at Jazz Uptown, a free concert to celebrate International Jazz Day. On Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 PM, Cheatham will perform with the Arabella Orchestra in Democratic Vista, a free concert at the MIT Kresge Auditorium in Cambridge.

For more details about Jazz Week events, please visit http://jazzboston.org/jazzweek/
Dinnerfest
Continued from page 1

last year’s event revenue, Victory Programs has a proud, 42-year history of standing on the front lines of emerging public health challenges impacting our community here in Boston. Every penny raised at Dinnerfest and the organization’s other signature events is put right back into services that benefit the most vulnerable members of our community.

This year the event coincides with the opening of New Jocelyn’s Home, a state-of-the-art, 24-bed women’s residential recovery program housed in a freshly renovated Victorian house in Roxbury. The opening of New Jocelyn’s Home represents the latest chapter in Victory Programs’ efforts to rebuild their women’s recovery services in the wake of the unexpected permanent evacuation and closing of the first Jocelyn’s Family House in October 2014 when the only bridge to Boston Harbor’s Long Island where the program was located was closed on short notice due to structural issues. Between the opening of New Jocelyn’s Home this year and the expansion of two other women’s residential recovery programs, New Victories for Waverly and Shepherd House, Victory Programs has built back 98% of the women’s residential recovery capacity it had when the bridge closed.

This year’s Dinnerfest Co-Chairs’ Tiffany Faison, Richard Gordon and Scott Keenan were instrumental in building relationships with participating restaurants and other in-kind donors to bring in high quality donations from some of Boston’s most coveted establishments. "Tiffany, Richard and Scott each brought their passion for our mission to their work as event cochairs," shares Sharna Helson, Victory Programs’ Special Events Manager. "That passion, paired with the deep ties each of them have established through years of working in the restaurant and entertainment industries here in Boston, really allowed us to take our auction prizes to a whole new level which paid off in record fundraising." Victory Programs once again tapped professional auctioneer Kathy Kingston to energize the crowd during the Live Auction and Fund-A-Need portion of the event. Members of the Imperial Court of Massachusetts and the Boston Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence volunteered at the event greening guests and selling raffle tickets.

Despite the party atmosphere, this fundraiser serves to address a real, ongoing need for additional resources for public services like those provided at each of Victory Programs’ 17 programs in Boston, Cambridge and Topsfield. Javier, a client from Victory House, Victory Programs’ first program established in 1973, moved to attend by sharing his personal story of addiction and recovery during the height of the event. Jonathan Scott, Victory Programs’ President and CEO shared his thoughts on this year’s Dinnerfest: "Just fabulous. The whole event, the results, the energy, the everything. We can ALL be incredibly proud for creating and sustaining this wonderful gathering of friends and supporters."

About Victory Programs

Victory Programs has more than 40 years of experience opening doors to hope, health and housing for individuals and families in need. Since its inception in 1975, the agency has expanded to 17 health, housing and prevention programs providing shelter and recovery services to more than 2,500 people annually. Victory Programs has a storied history of responding to emerging needs in the community—from being one of the first agencies in Massachusetts to allow HIV positive clients into its addiction recovery programs in 1981 to launching a mobile prevention unit in 2015 to reach individuals and families in the community and better serve their needs. Throughout its organizational growth, Victory Programs’ commitment to those struggling with homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS always remains its top priority.

South End Neighbors

Please join us for Boston’s annual spring cleanups!

FRIDAY, MAY 5 & SATURDAY, MAY 6

Register as a volunteer at: bit.ly/2017-sign-up

Questions? Contact the Love Your Block team:
417-351-3000 / www.boston.gov/loveyourblock / loveyourblock@boston.gov
Unveiling Vision125:
An Update from USES

BY MACHIA Z. WEBLYE
President and CEO

Last fall, I shared with you that United South End Settlements (USES) had commenced a strategic planning process to maintain its strong, high-quality programming while also addressing a significant need to overcome years-long financial difficulties.

I expressed that change was coming at USES, that the stakes were high, and that we’d be transparent as possible at every stage of the process. That change is here. Our Vision125 strategic planning process enabled us to do some deep, careful, and critical thinking about the future of USES and how best to focus our limited resources over the next several years. We are happy to provide you an update on our path forward.

We believe that as families stabilize, programs, as participants and volunteers, and through other networking and community building opportunities.

To achieve our new vision, we need to align our programs and operations to our new theory of change and renewed mission. This means we will work to transition our existing senior services programs to experienced organizations we believe can serve our seniors even better than we can while we explore how we engage seniors in the new model, shift the focus of our Workforce Readiness program from education to career preparation, and move from stand-alone vacation arts programming to agency-wide arts access for all of our youth.

These changes will happen at the end of our fiscal year – June 30 – allowing time for a thoughtful transition.

Ultimately, we envision our impact will have a positive cumulative effect on every member of participating families in our community. If families with children are more stable financially and enjoy increased economic mobility, they’ll be able to better support themselves in their lives as well, with more quality time and greater resources.

One of the things we’ve learned how to do well over the past 125 years is to revitalize our organization to continually meet the needs of the community through many eras of change. We’re innovating again, in the tradition of the settlement house movement, and our work teaching, inspiring, connecting, guiding, and caring for others in our community will endure.

It’s a privilege to be part of an organization that has weathered the winds of change for well over a century, and remains steadfast to a core mission that is rewarding and transformative for all whom USES touches. If you have any questions or would like to learn about ways to get involved, please email vision125@uses.org.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to continuing our partnership to support children and families, and keeping you updated as we make essential changes at USES to do so with more meaningful impact.
Get local and advertise your property in the South End News.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com.
D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO SOUTH END URBAN RENEWAL PLAN,
PROJECT NO. MASS. R-56 FOR PARCEL 30A

Public Notice is hereby given that the Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency will consider at its scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017, starting at 3:30 P.M. in the Board Room – Room 300, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square a proposed modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan regarding Parcel 30A. Said modification will create Parcel 30A and set forth the land use controls. This Public Notice is being provided in accordance with a certain "Conciliation Agreement" by and among the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; the BRA and others, dated as of January 16, 2001.

Teresa Polhemus
Secretary, Boston Redevelopment Authority