

## Seniors protest program closing at USES Neighborhood Gala

By MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Guests arriving at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Avenue, for the United South End Settlements Neighborhood Gala beginning at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24 had to cross a picket line to enter the benefit, as participants in

the USES senior programs, their friends and relatives protested the end of senior services there, which is scheduled for June 30.

Guests greeted friends on the picket line warmly as the protesters carried signs reading "Save Our Seniors", "Seniors Lives Matter" and

"Seniors are the roots of the Harriet Tubman Center community" and chanted similar slogans. The closure of the senior programs is part of a shift in focus stemming from Vision125, a new strategic plan that has been in

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## USES forges ahead at Neighborhood Gala

By MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

This year's United South End Settlements Neighborhood Gala, which transformed the Harriet Tubman House at 566 Columbus Avenue into a fine-dining bazaar and glitzy dance club, celebrated the organization's 125 years of service to the community, unveiled a new direction for its future and surpassed the fundraising total of the previous year's Gala by an impressive margin while showcasing the South End's rich diversity of cuisine and providing a festive evening for guests.

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Frieda Garcia. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

## School of Fashion Design honors Faucher

SUBMITTED BY SFD

At the May 12 Commencement ceremony at the South End resident and couture fashion designer Daniel Faucher was recognized for 30 years of professional teaching at SFD.

Daniel Faucher is a 1982 alumnus of SFD, and the recipient of a 1993 SFD Distinguished Alumnus award. Daniel is also a recipient of both the Bonwit Teller Award and

the Designers Line Award.

After graduating from SFD, Mr. Faucher began his career at North End Fabrics Harrison Textiles as a fabric buyer and store manager. In 1985, after working for several prestigious design firms in Boston and New York, Mr. Faucher began designing under his own label, Daniel Faucher Couture, creating special

*Continued on page 4*



SFD President Dr. Denise Hammon, Chairman Peter M. Frasca of Lui & Frasca, P.C., and SFD Senior Instructor Daniel Faucher; photo by Jay Calderin for SFD.

## Pride is NOW

**Selected Boston Pride events. Visit [www.baywindows.com](http://www.baywindows.com) for the full list.**

7:30 pm Pride Night @ The Revolution  
Gillette Stadium, 1 Patriot Pl, Foxborough

### Friday, June 2

12 pm Flag Raising Ceremony  
City Hall Plaza, Boston

7:30 pm Metamorphosis Concert  
To Benefit the LGBT Asylum Support Network  
First Church Boston 66 Marlborough St, Boston  
Event organized by the Back Bay Ringers

8 pm Hedwig And The Angry Inch  
Shubert Theatre at the Bock Center, 265 Tremont St, Boston  
Use code PRIDE to book!

### Saturday, June 3

10 am-5 pm Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall  
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston

11 am High Heel Dash for Charity  
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston

### Sunday, June 4

10:00 am AIDS Walk Boston  
DCR Hatch Memorial Shell, Boston  
Event organized by the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts.

10:30 am-1:30 pm Keshet Pride Picnic and Field Day  
Larz Anderson Park, Goddard Avenue, Brookline

3-7 pm The Silver Party  
A Pride Dinner Dance for LGBT Seniors and Friends  
Brookline Holiday Inn, 1200 Beacon St, Brookline  
For more information, call 857 313-6590

Event organized by the LGBT Aging Project.

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## Pedestrian dies after being hit by car

### Crash at Tremont and Union Park

By SUE O'CONNELL

A man hit by a car on Monday night died from his injuries, according to the Boston Police. The crash

happened about 8:30 pm near 571 Tremont Street near Union Park.

The driver of the car involved in the crash stayed at the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to the police.

# Boston's new default speed limit is 25 mph.

# Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on all City of Boston roadways will be 25 mph.



## Protest Program

Continued from page 1

development since the fall of last year. USES will concentrate its focus on helping families with children to "disrupt the cycle of poverty", according to a blog post on the plan by USES president and CEO Maicharia Weir-Lytle.

Rumors of the discontinuance began circulating in senior classes last month and were confirmed on April 27 meeting when Weir-Lytle and vice president of development Nikki Stewart met with senior participants. While USES leadership has begun working

with city and private agencies to relocate USES's senior services, continuation of the programming beyond July 1 has not yet been announced.

Lois Cato King and Debra Cato, represented their mother, 91-year-old Lois Cato, at the protest. The elder Lois Cato is a regular participant in USES senior programs, as is Cato King's mother-in-law, Joyce King, who is a member of the senior yoga class.

"This is one of the very few things she can do to get out of the house and still have a social life and creativity outside of the home," Cato King explained. "She was one of the early pioneers and we both came here as children."

Cato King got involved in the recycled-art program, which creates doll furniture, bags and other items that are sold to benefit USES children's programs, at her mother's urging. The elder Mrs. Cato has also benefited from USES's affordable home repair services for seniors.

Rachel Silva, who has participated in the USES senior programs since 2009, enjoys the exercise classes, the art class and is a member of the Platinum Singers. Reacting to the discontinuation of the senior programs, Silva said, "It's devastation. It's a tragedy. I am crushed; I am in mourning, as are a lot of other people. They didn't involve the community at all it was a decision made by the board and the Director."

Nan Donovan has been coming to USES senior activities since she moved from Revere to the South End 10 years ago, singing with the Platinum Singers and taking art and exercise classes. She described the USES elder activities as "Absolutely awesome. I made the best friends; I made so many wonderful friends here. As soon as I moved to Boston I started coming."

Detailing some of her personal highlights, Donovan said, "Clady's exercise group: she's amazing. If she doesn't kill you, she'll cure you."

The singing group, the meal site, just about everything." She added, "I'm 72 and I can get around, but there are so many seniors who come to the meal site here every day who are in their 80s or early 90s. They're telling them, 'you can go to Grove Hall or Jamaica Plain.' These people have lived here all their lives. They are not going to go to Grove Hall. I'm not going to go to Grove Hall." Donovan and other protesters cited the difficulty for elders with poor health, mobility impairments and cognitive decline to find their way to a new destination in another part of town. "We need a real senior center right here," Donovan said.

Inside the gala, Lisa Jenks, co-chair of the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association's scholarship committee and a neighbor of the Tubman House reflected on the picketing at the entrance. "I thought it was too bad that they decided to do that tonight, but I understand they wanted to get everyone's attention. I'm sure they feel badly that the program they love is being cut. It's unfortunate that it's the first thing you see when you come to a festive event, but it's really hard to make everybody happy. I understand why they did it."

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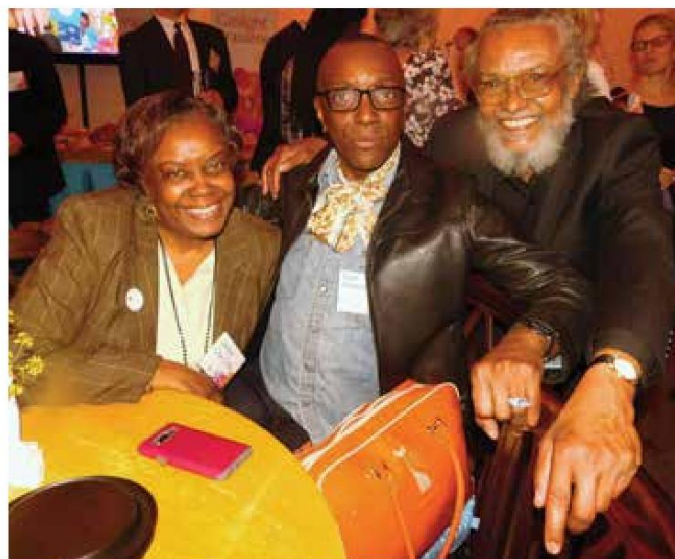
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(Left to Right) Jackie Cox-Crite, Dale Patterson, Byron Rushing. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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## USES Forges Ahead

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New beginnings often come with growing pains, and those were manifested in a demonstration that greeted guests to this year's gala, in which 18 people carrying signs and chanting "Save Our Seniors" protested the closing of USES's well-loved senior activities and services effective June 30, pointing out that there is no other senior center or program in the South End.

Under Vision125, a new strategic plan formulated over the past 6 months through talks with community members, local and elected officials and other stakeholders, will focus USES's efforts on helping young families and children to rise out of poverty and improve educational and employment prospects for the future and disengage from services to elderly South Enders.

Over 400 people paid \$125 per ticket to eat, drink, dance and hear about USES's

achievements and goals at the four-hour fundraiser. According to USES vice president of development Nikki Stewart, "Advance ticket sales were very good. We had to expand the size of the event this year because it sold out for the last two years, so we opened up a tent in the parking lot, which gave us capacity for about 120 extra people."

Guests at the gala included District 7 city councilor and mayoral hopeful Tito Jackson; state representative Byron Rushing and his wife, former USES executive director Frieda Garcia; District 7 city council candidate Deeqo Jibril and Boston Police Department officer Jorge Dias, a popular face in D-4 for his dedication and indefatigable generosity as Community Service Officer. Many South Enders were saddened when Dias was transferred to the BPD's school unit earlier this month.

USES president and CEO Maicharia Weir-Lytle and Stewart, both in evening gowns, greeted guests as they entered the atrium, where café and bar-style tables accommodated diners. Covered by a tent, the parking lot was

transformed into a buffet and dining area and disco with USES 125 spelled out in lighted letters and numbers beside the dance floor.

Nineteen restaurants and bakeries, including Gaslight, Haley House Bakery and Café, Bar Mezzana, House of Siam, Petit Robert Bistro, South End Emporium, Pain d'Avignon and others provided small bites such as buffalo cauliflower and grilled-eggplant crostini as well as salads, appetizers, entrees and sweet and savory breads. Death by chocolate cake from Above and Beyond Catering and vegan ice-cream sundaes created by FoMu lent a sweet note to the party and an open bar with beer and wine flowed throughout the event.

After more than 90 minutes of eating, drinking and socializing, José Massó, host of WBUR-FM's "Con Salsat" program, emceed the event. Starting at 7:45, there were remarks from Massó, Weir-Lytle, event co-chair Jacqueline Fantuzzi describing the scope and effects of poverty on South End children and families and USES's plans to help them "disrupt the cycle of poverty." A short video combined

remarks from Weir-Lytle on USES's mission and impact with reflections from neighbors who grew up participating in USES programs.

On the occasion of USES's 125th anniversary year, artist Bruce Bemis presented his portrait of Harriet Tubman to USES. Around 8:30, proceeds from the event: \$283,000, up 37 per cent from the previous year's ticket sales, were announced, along with a giving challenge promising a match from an anonymous donor of up to \$50,000 for donations made by the end of the evening. USES staff circulated with tablets ready to accept additional donations, and the event ultimately netted over \$400,000.

After the program, guests made their way to the tent to dance to the sounds of DJ Braun Tapper, who presented mixes of classic dance tunes by Donna Summer, Michael Jackson and KC and the Sunshine Band as well as recent favorites such as Bruno Mars's "Uptown Funk", making everything sound fresh.



(Bottom Left) Officer Jorge Dias, right. Photos by Michele Maniscalco



# A sensitive and strong Bridges

**The Bridges of Madison County**  
SpeakEasy Stage Company,  
Roberts Theatre, Calderwood  
Pavilion, Boston Center for the  
Arts, through June 3. 617-933-  
8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

Robert Frost wrote of two roads, but “The Bridges of Madison County” has traveled down three. First there was the best-selling but often slow-going 1992 Robert James Waller novel. Three years later, Italian-American housewife Francesca’s romantic adventure with crack National Geographic photographer Robert picked up speed thanks to a sharply modulated Meryl Streep performance and a Clint Eastwood film adaptation that veered away from the maudlin.

The third incarnation, a recent musical collaboration (on Broadway in 2014) between Tony Award winners Marsha Norman (“The Color Purple”) and Jason Robert Brown (“Parade”) may straddle the line between Francesca’s emotional voyage and her family’s Mid-West trips. Still, Brown’s lush score—his second Tony winner—carries the heart of the story even when Norman’s spare book seems to understate it. Under Bevin O’Gara’s strong direction for SpeakEasy Stage Company’s vocally rich Boston premiere, Jennifer Ellis as Francesca and New York talent Christiaan Smith as Robert give full expression to the show’s spirited excursion.

Supplementing that spirit from the start is a design team that enhances Brown’s score and sometimes seems more vivid than Norman’s book. A wide space between the striking large triangles of Cameron Anderson’s disarmingly unadorned set could be signifying Francesca’s openness to a more exciting life and symbolically allowing for the life-changing entrance of Robert. Annie Weigand’s lighting signals the ups and downs of Francesca’s daily life and



(Top) Francesca, family & Iowa townspeople. (Bottom) Jennifer Ellis and Christiaan Smith. Photos by Glenn Perry

those of her farming husband Bud and Robert. David Reiffel’s sound design adds significantly to the show’s atmosphere. Garrett Herzig’s projections evoke the waters by Francesca’s na-

tive Napoli, Robert’s travel by way of Chicago and Cleveland to Iowa and later Francesca’s

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## Fashion

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occasion apparel. Mr. Faucher is one of the few practitioners of couture dressmaking and creates one-of-a-kind ensembles for his clients in his South End atelier. His collections are seen routinely at the Ritz-Carlton, Boston Harbor, Four Seasons and Colonnade hotels in Boston, and have graced the pages of such publications as Women’s Wear Daily, Boston Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Boston Herald and New England Bride.

At the School of Fashion Design, Mr. Faucher teaches pattern making, construction, and draping at all levels. He tells his students, “everything in life is a learned skill, and putting in the time and effort is all that is required. Developing those skills happens over time, and everything can be learned.”

On May 11, the School of Fashion Design presented “Collection 2017,” their annual fashion show of student fashion designs. Students and models presented work at two separate sold out seatings in the School of Fashion Design’s gallery space at 136 Newbury Street in Boston.

The evening featured over 60 student designs in daywear, millinery, leather, and eveningwear.

“Our annual year-end fashion show is both our culminating student experience, as well as the launching point of our graduating students’ promising design careers,” said SFD President Dr. Denise Hammon. “If you were in attendance at the SFD fashion show, you were seeing the next generation of fashion professionals coming out of Boston.”

Mr. Faucher plays a vital role in producing the annual fashion show, from guiding students through the critique process, preparing them for judging, selecting models, curating the show lineup, directing back stage, serving as Master of Ceremonies, and much more. Collection 2017 was curated by SFD expert faculty and a panel of industry professional judges. Faculty advisors included Mr. Faucher, Margarita Grimes, and Lisa Taranto. Collection 2017 judges were Jane Conway Caspe, SFD Board of Trustee and owner of Wildflower Concierge of Nantucket; Gina deWolfe (’09), Owner & designer of deWolfe Leathers; Betsy Jenney of Betsy Jenney Boutique; and Firas Yousif, Owner & designer of Firas Yousif Originals.

Founded in 1934, the School of Fashion Design is the only educational institution in New England dedicated exclusively to the study of fashion design. The School of Fashion Design is a fully licensed fashion studio school offering a two-year Certificate in Fashion Design. Students may elect to pursue the two-year program on a full or part time basis, or take individual classes on a Continuing Education basis. New semesters begin each fall, spring and summer. SFD also offers teen workshops in fashion design throughout the year.

Collection 2017 corporate sponsors included Intercontinental Estate Corporation, Lui & Frasca, P.C., Fabric Place Basement, Dependable Cleaners, Threads Magazine, Denise Hajjar, Anna Nieman Couture, Kao Design Group, Tallulah & Poppy, Propel LLC, Alice Walk, Agathon Associates, and Siagel Entertainment. The show was professionally photographed by Tracy Aiguier Photography. Ticket sales and sponsorships of the fashion show support scholarships and programs for SFD students.

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### Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]  
Sue O’Connell [ext. 215]

### Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O’Connell [ext. 215]  
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

### Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps  
danielj.raps@gmail.com

### Contributing Writers:

C.D. Hermelin  
Michele D. Maniscalco  
Jack Maypole, MD  
Dog Lady

### Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]  
jcoakley@southendnews.com

### Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

### Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

### Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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PO BOX E14,  
Boston, MA 02127  
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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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

# PRIDE

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## Sunday, June 4

3 pm The Boston Gay Men's Chorus "Anything Goes"

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus celebrates its 35th Anniversary with 175 singers on stage, a 20 piece orchestra and Special Guest Tony award winner Sutton Foster. The repertoire includes a new commission from Gwyneth Walker, a mashup medley of eleven songs from five of Leonard Bernstein's best known works favorites as part of the Bernstein Centennial celebration along with songs from "Anything Goes."

www.bgmc.org. Performance at Symphony Hall. Pops style seating on the main floor will be available.

6:00 pm Pride Remembrance Memorial  
New England Holocaust Memorial, 98 Union St, Boston

## Monday, June 5

6 pm Political Forum  
Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, 210 Morrissey Blvd, Boston

6-9 pm OPEN Networking Event  
Empire restaurant, 1 Marina Park Drive, Boston

10 pm Heels for Hope  
Help raise funds for BAGLY, a youth-led adult supported social organization committed to social justice, creating, sustaining, and advocating for programs and services for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

7 pm -midnight Drag Bingo, Pride Edition  
With Mizery and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm Triple Threat: Julie Beckham, Beverly Beckham, and Lauren Beckham Faclone with Brian Patton  
Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

## Tuesday, June 6

6:30 pm Pride Lights @ the Boston Center for the Arts  
Celebrating and remembering those we lost to HIV/AIDS  
The Plaza at Boston Center for the Arts, Tremont St, Boston

8-10 pm Stump Trivia, The Pride Edition  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

7 pm Drag Divas Give Back  
Boston's Legendary Drag Queens come together to raise money for Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm Triple Threat: Julie Beckham, Bev-

erly Beckham, and Lauren Beckham Faclone with Brian Patton  
Napoleon Room,  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

10 pm Paradise Pride  
Paradise Cambridge, 180 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

## Wednesday, June 7

5 pm Pride Arts Oscar Wilde Tour of LGBTQ-themed art at the MFA  
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston

7 pm Lecture on LGBT art at the MFA  
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston

8 pm Atomic Karaoke Pride Edition  
Boston Gay Men's Chorus After Party  
Hosted by Jonathan Brett, Stevie Psychone, Violencia, And Qya Cristal  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm Broadway Hump Day with Brian Patton  
The Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

## Thursday, June 8

6-8 pm Pride 9-TO-5  
Comcast, the City of Boston Eastern Bank host a conversation about issues and trends affecting the LGBTQ workforce. Moderated by Sue O'Connell, host of The Take on necn, and co-publisher of Bay Windows.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

10 pm #YAASSS! It's Pride  
Hosted by Penny Tentiary, Yune Neptune, Neon Calypso & Qya Cristal with special guests JUJUBEE, HONEY DAVENPORT, DESTINY, TEASHA. Music by Begbick.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8pm Michael Chapman, Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm -12 am Boston Bear Pride 2017: Bears Bare It All  
Paradise Cambridge, 180 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge  
All money raised at this event will be donated to the Mass Trans Political Coalition, MITPC and Boston Pride's Community Fund.

8 pm -1 am Latinx Pride  
Black Pride, If You Can Feel It, You Can Speak It  
Milky Way, 284 Amory St, Jamaica Plain

10 pm -2 am Pride Queeraoke  
Midway Cafe, 3496 Washington St, Jamaica Plain

## Friday, June 9

6:00 pm Boston Dyke March  
Event organized by the Boston Dyke March Committee.  
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston

7 pm Paint for Peace Boston  
Liquid Art House, 100 Arlington St, Boston

7:10 pm nPride Night @ Fenway Park  
Red Sox vs. Detroit Tiger  
Fenway Park, 4 Yawkey Way, Boston

8:00 pm Joe Posa as Joan Rivers in "The Bitch is Back"  
Nationally acclaimed Female Impersonator Joe Posa and Tony Tripoli, Executive Producer of Fashion Police and the late Joan Rivers head comedy writer, join forces to bring their 90 minute show to Boston's Club Café in celebration of Boston Pride and in remembrance of Joan Rivers' birthday.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8:00 pm DJ Barry Harris  
Club Café is honored to welcome legendary DJ Barry Harris to Boston for XO Friday! Pride Edition.  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm Lauren O'Brien & Paul Anthony  
The Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

9 pm -1 am Official Dyke March After Party  
Milky Way, 284 Amory St, Jamaica Plain

## Saturday, June 10

Pride Services

10 am, Union Methodist  
485 Columbus Avenue  
Boston, MA 02118

11 am, Old South Church in Boston  
645 Boylston St. Boston

11 am, Arlington Street Church,  
351 Boylston Street. Boston

11 am Pride Arts Performance: and all the men and women merely players  
Created and Composed by Beau Kenyon  
Choreographed by Michell Chassé  
BPL Composer-in-Residence, Beau Kenyon, presents a reimagining of Shakespeare's As You Like It in the form of a performance installation, entitled and all the men and women merely players. Featuring new music by Kenyon as well as choreography by Michelle Chassé, the piece will begin in DeFerrari Hall before dispersing throughout the McKim and Johnson Buildings with a final culminating piece in the Courtyard. Total running time is approximately 70 minutes.  
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St, Boston

11 am-7 pm Boston Pride Festival  
City Hall Plaza, Boston

12 noon-7 pm Festival Bar  
Across from the stage at City Hall Plaza, Boston

12 noon-7 pm Boston Pride Concert  
City Hall Plaza, Boston

12 Noon Boston Pride Parade  
Copley Square to City Hall Plaza, Boston

12 Noon Latinx Pride Latinx Pride Parade  
Float and Contingent  
Copley Square, Boston

1:30 pm-7:00 pm Chandler Street Block Party 2017

21+, positive ID required for entry, Donation \$15 - cash only

Chandler Street between Berkley Street and Tremont Street. Event entrances located on BOTH Berkley Street and Tremont Street. Presented by AIDS Action Committee and The Trophy Room/Chandler Inn

The rain or shine outdoor block party features great local DJs Darrin Friedman and Ian Diver. Beer, soft drinks and food available for purchase. The event proceeds benefit AIDS Action Committee, New England's oldest AIDS services organization, as well as supporting a number of the amateur LGBT sports organizations in Greater Boston.

2-7 pm Esme Women's Block Party  
Entrance at the corner of Tremont and Lagrange St, Boston

2pm-2am Pride Day Dance Celebration  
Saturday, June 10th, 2PM to 2AM DJ Brian Halligan 2 to 5pm, DJ Stevie Psychone 5 to 9pm, DJ Susan Esthera 9 to 2AM  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

6-10 pm Youth Pride Boston Pride Dance  
City Hall Plaza, Boston

8 pm Niki Luperelli, Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

8 pm -2 am LUSH Pride Party  
Machine Nightclub, 1254 Boylston St, Boston

10 pm Main Event ft. DJ Abel  
House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St, Boston

## Sunday, June 11

10:00am Pride Brunch  
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, 217 Stuart St, Boston

The official brunch of Pride weekend in Boston!  
Proceeds benefit Boston Pride's programming,

11 am Pride Brunch Buffet  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

11 am Stronger Together Rally  
Boston Common, Boston

1-9 pm Back Bay Block Party  
St James Ave, at Berkeley St, Boston

1-8 pm JP Block Party  
Perkins St, at Center St, Jamaica Plain

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## Madison County

Continued from page 4

wartime back story. Mark Nagle's costumes reflect the change in Francesca as she begins to wear more fashionable clothes and shoes instead of her previous sensible ones as she awaits each visit from and meal with Robert

Ellis and Smith display real chemistry during each rendezvous. Ellis wisely understates Francesca's Italian accent as an Italian-American who immigrated to Iowa after World War II—a la Streep in the film. Her moving narrative about her Italian former boyfriend Paolo and her impulsive sister make the standout song "Almost Real" a high point and as memorable as the most lyrical numbers in the exquisite Adam Guettel score for the recent musical "Light in the Piazza." Ellis stunningly captures Francesca's deep inner life, her passion for Robert and her undying devotion to her family.

For his part, Smith proves both sensitive and strong—the latter as both a good-looking hunk (particularly in an evocative love-making scene) and a confident man with articulate views. He moves with an ease that fits Robert and the right authority as the photographer takes shots of a bridge. Possessing a deeply resonant voice and rich tone, he beautifully captures Robert's enduring feeling for Francesca on the late second act solo "It All Fades Away." His duets with Ellis are equally

affecting—notably on the first act-closing "Falling into You." Smith is a true find for SpeakEasy Stage.

"Bridges" admittedly makes fewer demands on its supporting cast as its farming scenes are more like afterthoughts and the second act Indiana State Fair opener is relatively brief, Misha Shields lively choreography here notwithstanding. Even so, Christopher Chew—always a big talent—tries in his considerable way to make Francesca's relatively conventional but essentially worthy husband more than a type, particularly as he brings fine feeling to Bud's solo "Something From a Dream." Most appealing among the featured players are Kerry A. Dowling as Francesca's remarkably loyal and non-judgmental neighbor Marge and Will McCartahan as her nonchalant yet philosophical husband. Katie Elinoff has the right combination of tenacity about farming and vulnerability as a young woman, while Nick Siccone makes Michael properly unpredictable at the fair and singular in his career views.

Call "The Bridges of Madison County" an unusual triumph for SpeakEasy Stage. After all, take away Norman's so-so book and the show's mild Mid-Western ambience and what do you have? Thanks to inspired design and shimmering Ellis and Smith, the answer is stunning visuals and a pair of musical leads unmatched thus far this year.

## PRIDE

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Sunday, June 11

1:30 pm Pride Arts Performance: and all the men and women merely players

Created and Composed by Beau Kenyon  
Choreographed by Michell Chassé

BPL Composer-in-Residence, Beau Kenyon, presents a reimagining of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in the form of a performance installation, entitled and all the men and women merely players. Featuring new music by Kenyon as well as choreography by Michelle Chassé, the piece will begin in Deferrari Hall before dispersing throughout the McKim and Johnson Buildings with a final culminating piece in the Courtyard. Total running time is

approximately 70 minutes.

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St, Boston

5 pm ANTHEM Pride Edition

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6:30 Tea with the Dame

The Napoleon Room  
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston

10 pm Pride Finale

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BOSTON  
REDEVELOPMENT  
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PUBLIC  
NOTICE

### D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO SOUTH END URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, PROJECT NO. MASS. R-56 FOR PARCEL X-32

Public Notice is hereby given that the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BRA") will consider at its scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2017, starting at 3:30 P.M. in the Board Room – Room 900, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square a proposed modification to the South End Urban Renewal Plan regarding Parcel X-32. Said modification will facilitate the development of the Melnea Cass Apartments. 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.

Brain P. Golden  
Director

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