

## Ward 4 Democrats serve up a cool political event

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

A warm, sunny Sunday afternoon provided the ideal setting for the Ward 4 Democratic Committee's Ice Cream Social in Titus Sparrow Park on August 20. Ward 4 members, elected officials and candidates offered remarks and mingled with neighbors over ice cream with tasty



*Continued on page 3*

Committee members, candidates and Wu

## The Boston 'Free Speech' Rally: Even Trump Liked It

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The numbers said it all: 40,000 counter-protesters, 100 alt-right demonstrators, thousands of police and security forces, 33 arrests. On a warm Saturday afternoon, the Boston "Free Speech" rally became a happy celebration of just that, though it was clearly designed by the police and city authorities to prevent any direct confrontations with the alt-right advocates who sponsored the event. They were pretty much barricaded on the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common—seen some 100 feet away from the huge crowd that thronged the park to protest their presence, and not heard at all. Suppose you held a free speech protest in the park and no one could hear it? That is what happened on the Common on Saturday.

There was a scattering of confrontations between alt-right proponents and the protesters. One that I witnessed was a heated exchange



Photo courtesy Martha Rothenberg

between a seemingly dumbstruck alt-right advocate and some angry protesters that admonished him. That the alt-right advocate was followed by a news reporter and camera made the moment seem less spontaneous than one staged for multiple

impact. That didn't happen—people shouted, but no fists flew. Just a lot of angry words on one side and a surprisingly placid advocate on the other that made the moment seem

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## ASK DOG LADY



### Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

We have a family of five: my wife, our 10-year-old son, 15-year-old daughter, and 12-year-old son. For years, the kids bugged us about getting a dog. We kept throwing out

excuse after excuse until we finally caved in this summer. We were ready or so I thought. There is no denying we are all captivated by puppy Merlin, the half-Labrador, half-? we adopted from the North Shore Animal shelter this summer. My wife does most of the walking in the morning. When the kids are home they're supposed to take the dog out for a big romp every day. And they do. The problem we have is that everyone is Merlin's trainer. My daughter wants him to sleep with her, my wife wants to keep him in his crate in the kitchen. My son tells him to sit before feeding him; my other son just plunks down the bowl. I fear poor Merlin is confused because he leaves little puddles on the floor. What do you suggest?

—Frank

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## Mural Unveiling at O'Day Park

IBA's Youth Development Program hosted their Peer Leader Summer Graduation on August 18. The multimedia mural was unveiled.

*More Photos on page 4*



Photo courtesy of IBA's Twitter

## Boston Public School First Day Info

**Thursday, September 7:** Students in grades 1-12 report, including grade 1 in ELCs and EECs.

**Monday, September 11:** Kindergarten students report, including EECs, ELCs, and special ed.

Full calendar and more at [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org)



## Free Speech Rally

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like, well, fake news. Who knows where the footage ended up? Breitbart, perhaps?

Otherwise it was an overwhelming expression of liberal politics with a definite anti-Trump stance. It brought to mind the much larger event that happened in the park on the Saturday after Trump's inauguration, when more than 100,000 came to the park to protest the President's election. It was more a love-in than the contentious event many expected to happen. Much of the credit is due the diligence of the police and the shrewd planning of city officials that mitigated any friction. But you can't help but wonder why so

many of the alt-right didn't show up? Why the event never morphed into our greatest fears was due to the sheer one-sidedness of the crowd.

Even the President got it right in a confused set of tweets he sent out about Boston. At first he focused on the (few) confrontations between the police and protesters in his usual blunt manner. But soon after (and one wonders if perhaps someone stole his smart phone) he tweeted praise for the marchers. In a dramatic turn, Trump went on to "applaud the many protestors in Boston who are speaking out against bigotry and hate. Our country will soon come together as one!" He also wrote: "Our great country has been divided for decades. Sometimes you need protest in order to heal, & we will heal, & be stronger than ever before!"

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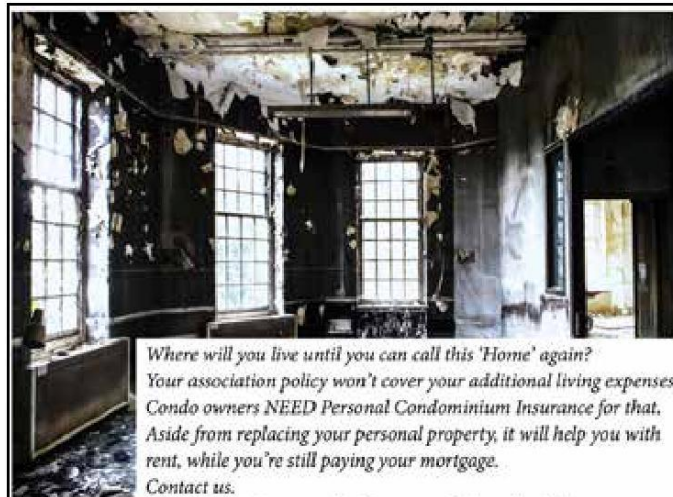
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Photos courtesy Martha Rothenberg



## Ward 4

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toppings while children romped in the playground and others lounged in the grass, with attendance totaling approximately 100. Ward 4 Democrats chairperson Andrea Olmstead and one of her predecessors, city council president Michelle Wu, greeted attendees, and city council candidates Corey Dinopoulos, Ed Flynn, Michael Kelley and Kora Roberta Vakil for District 2 and Kim Janey for District 7 had the chance to introduce themselves to the crowd as well. State representative (9th Suffolk) Byron Rushing and his wife, community activist Frieda Garcia; District 7 city councilor and mayoral candidate Tito Jackson; former Boston election commissioner Jovita

Fontanez; and Mark Carrig and Carol Blair of the Chester Square Neighborhood Association were among the guests. The event was truly all ages, including the youngest attendee, Wu's six-week old son, Cass.

South End resident Marc Cooper's small, local creamery, Coop's, donated much of the ice cream and the hot fudge. Wu's staff provided soy ice cream and toppings, which included marshmallows, jimmies, sliced almonds and coconut in addition to providing logistical and promotional support for the event.

Ward 4 Democratic Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept 19 at 6:00 PM at the South End Branch Library, 685 Tremont Street.



(Bottom Left) Carol Blair, Michelle Wu. (Center) Al Desta, Michael Kelley. (Bottom Left) Kim Janey waits for ice cream. Photos by Michele Maniscalco

## Dog Lady

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Dear Frank,

*Somebody in your family must become Merlin's Alpha dog. You up to the task? After all, you are concerned enough to write Ask Dog Lady. Too many cooks have spoiled the dog. It's terrific that everybody in your family wants to take part in Merlin's care. However, a single Alpha chief should coordinate Merlin's education. This leader will not necessarily be the one Merlin chooses (dogs always find their leader in a pack). For now, someone must step up.*

*Call a family meeting and discuss. On the agenda? The care and feeding of Merlin: Who walks? Who feeds? Who housetrains? Who teaches him to sit and stay? Who bunks with? Everybody can take part but one person oversees and watches out for Merlin and coordinates the care and feeding of the dog until Merlin can be trusted not to leave piddle puddles around the house.*

Dear Dog Lady,

*I grew up with dogs, but took in a rescue cat 13 years ago, my Maggie. She has been with me through thick and thin, and when my boyfriend left me, she climbed up on my lap as I cried. "Guess it's just you and me, girl!" Animals sense when something's wrong.*

—Stephanie

Dear Stephanie,

*Companion animals of all species provide ridiculously simple comforts in times of stress and woe. Thanks for sharing this cat story.*

Dear Dog Lady,

*I adopted Griselda, a nine-pound female spayed rat terrier mix, from the MSPCA about one month ago. She's two or three years old. I leave her home with Gus, my five-year-old male rat terrier, for about nine hours a day from Monday to Friday. The little female is left in a crate and, on most days, she messes in the crate while I am gone. She has also had two to three accidents outside of the crate. Those*

*were my fault for not keeping closer tabs on her. There have also been two or three times when the crate was clean at the end of the day. She does not mess anything during the night. Am I expecting too much too soon from her?*

—Patty

Dear Patty,

*Yes, you're expecting too much and you're not giving Griselda a chance to be successful. By keeping her in the crate for nine hours at a stretch without a break, you assume your rat terrier has a bionic bladder and bowels. You give her little choice but to soil her new digs.*

*You should hire someone responsible and trustworthy who can come in and take your dogs out during the day. The break will do them a world of good.*

Dear Dog Lady,

*When my daughter and son-in-law and their Cairn terrier, Benjamin (Ben), moved into my home, the terrier had the habit of peeing whenever someone new entered the*

*house. Two of my friends, with dogs themselves, started bringing treats for Ben. They would give the treats to him as they entered my home. Ben stopped peeing because he was looking forward to the treat. To this day, when a visitor comes to my house, I give him/her a treat to give to Ben. This diversion may also be tried to stop the barking. (Of course, treats can be cut in half so that the dog does not gain weight.)*

—Elanor

Dear Elanor,

*With dogs, distraction is the mother of reinvention. Your friends were so clever to divert Ben from any anxious peeing with yummies. Enough treats and positive reinforcement from visitors causes Ben to forget he ever felt nervous. Dogs are smart but their attention usually spans from one furry critter and yummy comestible to the next. The trick is for humans is to stay one step ahead of the dog.*

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## Mural Unveiling

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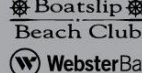
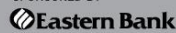
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# Harriet Tubman: on the right side of history

Recent tragic events in Charlottesville involving white supremacists purportedly in anticipation of the removal of a statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee; as well as debate in other cities and towns about the removal of statues that commemorate those individuals who fought in this nation's Civil War in the 1860's has received much media attention and focus.

The truth is that we are a deeply divided nation...in my opinion, it is only when we acknowledge and confront these realities that we as a nation can truly begin the journey towards real reconciliation and progress.

Boston, prior to, and during the Civil War was a center of abolitionist activity and there are numerous reminders of the sacrifices made by Boston citizens during the Civil War.

Among those are Doric Hall when you will leave the 1798 Bulfinch Front and enter the 1895 Brigham addition to the Massachusetts State House. The small hall contains a Daniel Chester French bronze statue of the Massachusetts Civil War hero, William Francis Bartlett.

The next, larger room, built largely of Pavonazzo marble, is called Nurses' Hall because of the statue of an Army war nurse. Sculpted in 1914 by Bela Pratt, it was the first statue erected in honor of the women of the North after the Civil War.

Across from the State House is the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial by famed French sculpture Augustus Saint-Gaudens which commemorates the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry which was featured in the film "Glory". The infantry regiment in the Union Army during the American Civil War nicknamed the "Swamp Angels" was one of the first official African-American units in the United States during the Civil War.

Lesser known to many Bostonians is a statue of another Civil War luminary. Located in a quaint park in Boston's historic South End neighborhood stands a 10-foot bronze statue of

famed abolitionist and freedom fighter Harriet Tubman. Created by artist Fern Cunningham. The statue has the distinction of being the first on city-owned property to honor a woman; the park is also near the original location of the Harriet Tubman Settlement House which Tubman during her life allowed to bear her name.

Tubman's statue is depicted standing erect in front of a small group of tired and frightened looking people of African descent. Her expression is steadfast, resolute and unafraid. In one hand, she clutches a Bible as her other hand extends outward, pointing the way toward freedom. Also located in the park is a statue "Emancipation" created by acclaimed Harlem Renaissance sculpture Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, commissioned by Massachusetts native son the great WEB DuBois to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the of Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln. The park also has the distinction of being the only park in the country with sculptures by African American female artists.

'Mother Moses' - a name given to Tubman by famed Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (himself commemorated with a statue on the Commonwealth Mall) led many of her people out of bondage into freedom - was also a spy for the Union Army during the US Civil War.

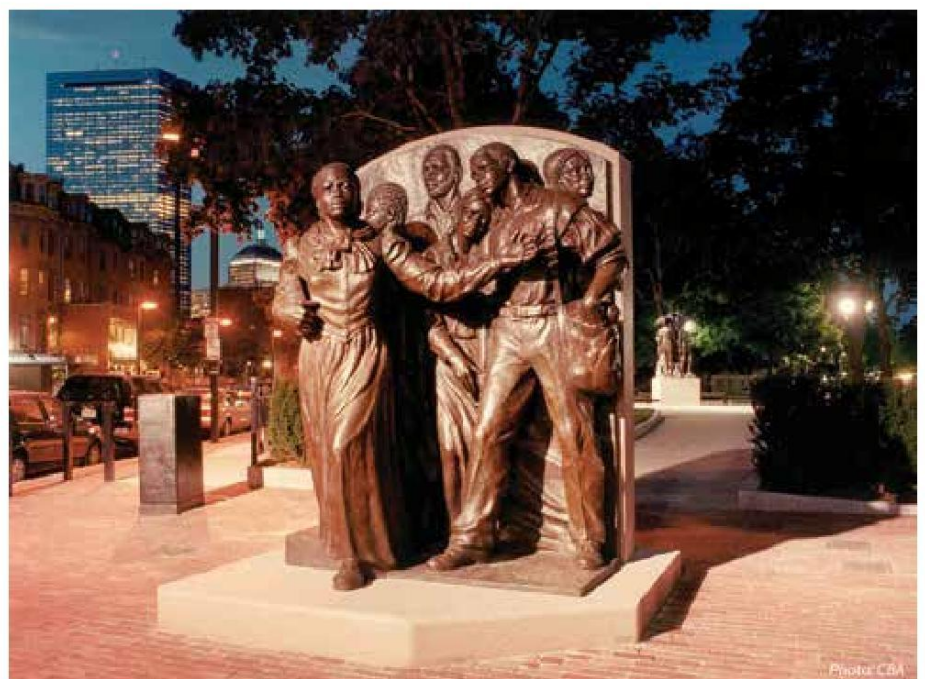
New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu stated in a speech entitled "The Cult of the Lost Cause" about the removal of Confederate statues in New Orleans:

"The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered".

So how is the Tubman statue different from those of Confederates who fought in the Civil War?

Tubman, who spent the first 28 years of her life enslaved on a Maryland plantation before escaping, and who risked her newfound freedom to liberate other enslaved people by following the North Star to many represents that which is at the core of America's idealized American ideal, starting with the young nation's War of Independence from Britain; and that is its rejection of an absolute and tyrannical monarch... and a quest for freedom.

The city of Boston in choosing to commemorate Harriet Tubman was on the right side of history as evidenced by its celebration of Harriet Tubman and all that her statue in Harriet Tubman Park represents and that is the concept of freedom and equality for all.



Harriet Tubman Park, South End, Boston

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