South End News

March 29, 2018 [Vol. 39, No. 12]

South End welcomes the March for Our Lives

BY MICHELE D. MARZACHELLI

Tens of thousands of people, from children to grandparents, marched, chanted, carried signs and called for gun control reforms at Saturday, March 24’s March for Our Lives, held in concert with marches across the US inspired by the shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida that claimed 17 lives.

Boston was one of dozens of cities in the US and 800 around the world.

From Springfield to Boston to Washington:

Youth Lead Movement to End Gun Violence

BY SABAN D’ANNUNZIO, Sr. Director of Youth Programs

On Thursday, March 14th, young leaders from around Massachusetts stood in front of the State House and called for gun control reforms.

Easter Happenings!

Saturday, March 31

The Titus Sparrow Park Egg Hunt starts at 9:30 am, and will be open to kids of all ages. Also, some fun activities. Organized by a partnership of Friends of Titus Sparrow Park, The Little League Club, and The YMCA. The park is located on West Newton St. between Columbus and Huntington Avenues, next to the Southwest Corridor Park.

Rodriguez convicted for South End rape

Faces trial for third

COURTNEY ADAM GAPPEN, www.rhodeislandlive.com

A Suffolk Superior Court jury on Friday convicted Eduardo Rodriguez, 32, on two counts of aggravated sexual assault and on single counts of kidnapping, armed robbery and indecent assault and battery for an attack on a woman at Glenmont Street and Greenwich Park in the South End on Aug. 21, 2016, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office reports.

Suffolk Superior Court Judge Maureen Horgan sentenced him to 30 to 35 years in state prison, followed by 10 years of probation. Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of life.

According to the DA’s office, Rodriguez faces trial later this year for a third rape, committed just hours after the South End attack.

Romeo & Juliet

BY JULES ROSS

“Romeo & Juliet” is arguably the greatest love tragedy, one that John Conkro’s NROA ballet version captures in both story and spirit. Conkro’s rich conception ranges from the humor of Mercutio, Berowne and Romeo toying with Juliet’s Nurse and attending the Capulet ball as masked cryptic figures to Juliet’s emotional abuse by her dominating, patronizing, vulnerability and red flag of the title lover.

At the same time, the masterful dance storytelling vividly depicts the bustling life of the town—especially the street vendors and a few scenes from the Capulet ball.

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Theater

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Ballet is doing full justice to this narrative classic in an exquisitely danced revival at the Open House.

Director Bournonville’s staging and Gabriel Heinz’s conducting are as masterful as the ballet itself. Bournonville brings grace and flair to the first act Capulet ball and ups the townspersons’ tumbling second act martini and survival clowning. Heinz expertly captures the haunting passages as well as the soaring ones in Prokofiev’s exquisite music.

In solo, pas de deux, trio and ensemble, solists, principals and the full corps demonstrate the kind of high-caliber technique and strong synchronization that distinguish the likes of American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet.

Opening night Paolo Agostini as Romeo and Maya Vargas as Juliet (with alternates through the run) danced with both great heart and technique in the ill-fated lovers. Agostini had all of Romeo’s spirit and adventurous nature — in his electrifying turns and leg fortissimos. Vargas and Agostini’s Romeo and Juliet blended naturally, her ongoing vulnerability and his blossoming with Romeo. Their pas de deux moments were exquisitely moving in their Earnestness, and Aiko Iwasa and Maya Vargas’ bravura and impressively high. Aiko displayed the right protection as Berenice artfully uses Romeo’s retreating against Tybalt for the killing Mercutio. Dann captured Mercutio’s anguish before he relents with a trio of townswomen and danced with striking playfulness even as Romeo’s lady friend moved closer and closer to death. The trio perfectly fulfilled Charybdis’s dance combinations.

Mano Bennett was a standout as Nurse Lady Capulet, especially when she displayed the broad gruffness of the nurse over the top grief for Tybalt — going so far as to cling to her dead kinman and reject any consolation. Pavel Gavrichk captured Lord Capulet’s ongoing distress at the ball and his rigid and monosyllabic manner with Juliet. Erin Neitzel caught Tybalt’s volatility and deep, urgent compassion. Raymond Letierus danced with the right combination of formality and tenderness as an unrequited suitor Paris. Elizabeth O’Hara had the right variety of emotions and moves as Nurse supported romance embracing Juliet. Lawrence Knox demonstrated singular agility and engaging presence as Cornwall King.

Boston Ballet introduced the pleasures of Capulet’s “Romeo & Juliet” to US dance buffs in 2003. The company’s meteoric rise under the masterful direction of artistic director Mikko Nissinen makes the current revival a landmark event and dance magic to be seen.

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Easter
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Sunday, April 1
Ringgold Park
The Annual Egg Hunt, 11am sharp. Please bring your own baskets for children to collect candy-filled eggs. The park will be divided into
sections by age. Kids will also have a chance to shake hands with a life-size bunny. Ringgold Park is located in Boston's historic South End, in the Egleston Square area. Visit www.ringgoldpark.org for more information.

South End Library
The Eleventh Annual South End Library Easter Egg Hunt will take place in Library Park 11:00am, rain or shine. We heard the Easter Bunny can't wait! Many eggs have been filled by FIOZEL volunteers with chocolate, poems and a knock-knock joke. There's a separate area for the very young. We have some baskets for those who can't find the ones from last year. We offer refreshments and baked goods. 655 Tremont Street.

Crime
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At the time of the rapes, Rodrigues was on probation for a 2007 rape, for which he had received a sentence of 8 to 10 years. His new sentence will begin only after he finishes a 15-year sentence for violating the terms of his probation by getting arrested for a new rape — the DA's office reports.

According to the DA's office, "During the course of a last week's jury trial, prosecutors presented evidence and testimony to prove that at approximately 12:30 a.m. on Aug. 22, 2016, Rodrigues was riding a black bicycle on the south side of the road walking in the area of South End Park and Claremont Street. Rodrigues threatened the victim with a knife and forced her to walk with him to Carter Playground, where he sexually assaulted and robbed the victim of her phone and approximately $250.

The victim was treated at Brigham and Women's Hospital and underwent a sexual assault examination.

Boston Police detectives linked Rodrigues to the attack through the GPS monitoring device he was ordered to wear as a condition of his probation for his earlier conviction. Those GPS records placed him at Carter Playground at the time of the assault and showed his movements to and from the location — including a stop in an alley where police later found the clothing, Rodrigues had worn at the time of the assault. Security cameras along his path also captured him riding a bicycle. Boston's police chief says he rode the bicycle he was observed riding at one he borrowed from a family member that day.

Police say drunk guy's loaded gun fell down his pants at South End drugstore

Boston Police report arresting a Dracut, Mass., man on a variety of charges last night after a worker at the CVS on Columbus Avenue told police he saw a man on the street with a loaded .45-caliber handgun in his pants. An officer said that he was able to secure the suspect without incident, however, as they did so, he threatened that he could not shoot the officers if he needed to. The officers observed that the suspect appeared to be under the influence of drugs and was otherwise uncooperative. Police say the suspect was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, unlawful possession of a large capacity firearm, unlawfully carrying a loaded firearm and threats to do bodily harm. Police said that during booking, Baker threatened to "take down'' officers.
March
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the world marching for change on Saturday. U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, congressmen Stephen Lynch of South Boston (D-9th), Rep. Michael Capuano (D-7th), Mayor Martin J. Walsh, and recently elected city councilors Kenji Jenny and Ed Flynn were among the elected officials who took part in the event, which began at Madison Park High School and culminated in a rally at the Boston Common.

Among the speakers at the rally were federal judge Loretta M. Preska and Emma González, survivor of the Douglas High School shooting. The march followed Tremont Street to Sagamore and turned onto Columbus Avenue. The first marchers arrived at the Columbus Avenue overpass above the Matt. Pique shortly before 1:00 PM and the last marched passed by the same spot around 1:40 PM, packing the streets and the sidewalks on each side of Columbus Avenue as they headed toward the final rally at the Boston Common. Attendance estimates ranged from 50,000 to 100,000 for the event.

Around the intersection of Berkeley Street and Columbus Avenue, about 100 people waited along both sides of the street to cheer on the marchers, some with signs showing their support. There were no counter-protesters in evidence.

Norman Parker and his daughter, Jennifer, Parker of而后 holds hands supporting the marchers. Norman Parker said, "It's incredible. You go online and there are people who want to put them down because they are kids and it's ridiculous. Look what they're doing." Former South End News writer and founder of Milk Street's Little Free Library, Lydia Walshin and husband Ted Oshinsky stood across the street.

Walshin commented, "I couldn't be more proud of the generation. We are here to support them and I am in awe of how much energy they have and how much creativity they have." Oshinsky added, "We have two young daughters marching in Chicago today, because they are out there visiting.

Similarly, elected officials who took part expressed pride in the young activists. State representative Aaron Michlewitz, who went to the rally at the Common, weighed in via email: "It was inspiring to see so many young people engaged in this important conversation and gives me great hope that we will see meaningful change in Washington and across the country.

Flynn, who also attended the rally, commented: "It was an honor - to be with thousands of young people, some students, some residents and concerned residents on Saturday for the March for Our Lives in Boston. We must work together as a community to support gun control laws that protect everyone. As a parent, I am always concerned about the safety of my children and all children in our schools. This must be the highest priority to ensure we have the toughest gun control laws possible and keep our children safe.

Jerry, who walked in the march, wrote: "Historically, young people have always been at the forefront of social justice movements. I am incredibly proud of our students here in Boston for standing up for what is right and demanding change. Inaction is not an option. Our children are being gunned down in our streets and in our schools. This must end."

Photos by Michele Mandelstein
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Springfield
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and Wesson headquarters in Springfield, where the assault weapons used in the Parkland, Aurora and San Bernadino shootings were produced.

Tens of thousands of busboys from Boston, car pools from Holyoke, and by foot from Springfield walked the quarter of a mile from Springfield Central High School. They led over 200 youth education, faith leaders, and allies in asking Smith and Wesson’s CEO, P. James Debney, to meet with students and become an industry leader in addressing gun violence in this country.

Boston student leaders Eleana Shafir said, “This gun war and Wesson (N.P.S) has never intended to be used by civilians.” We are here at Smith and Wesson to demand that executives from Smith and Wesson engage directly with us, specifically with youth leaders, about how their company will be part of the solution to end gun violence.

These students come from the urban neighborhoods in our state where gun violence occurs not only as a headline grabbing phenomenon, but as a fact of their daily reality.

But any effort toward solutions — and that are we all doing, post Parkland, if not seeking solutions? — must all be urban violence, too,” said Raman Shah, 17, a student at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers in Boston.

“We don’t see this in the current debate,” she said. “The death of a child in Springfield or Boston matters just as much as the death of any child from Parkland. The trauma of losing a loved one is just as great no matter if it’s Sandy Hook or Chicago.”

Their action at Smith and Wesson in Springfield is part of a national moment and movement against the gun violence that is nothing new for so many of them. Many of these young leaders were heartbroken and outraged when tragedy struck in Indianapolis and reverberated through the communities where Eric Doersch and other young people were walking.

Boston student leader Anna Frenette said, “As a child from Wesson, they have no right to make guns that will lead to more violence.”

While not new for the B-PEACE for Jog_FRAME leaders, the issue of gun violence has never captured the public’s attention in quite this way before. Last Saturday, these same B-PEACE for Jog_FRAME young people and adult allies were marching alongside hundreds of thousands of others in the streets in Boston and Washington, D.C.

At the Boston March for Our Lives, members of The B-PEACE for Jog_FRAME campaign showed up wearing the purple shirts and white buttons emblazoned with Jog FRAME’s face that they have been wearing in his honor for years.

In Washington, D.C., Anna Gonzalez’s powerful moving speech was particularly resonant for Boston teachers who had traveled there for the action. Gonzalez spoke about the urgency of taking action to end gun violence in our streets and in our schools, and how she saw students wearing her jacket on her way to the rally.

B-PEACE for Jog FRAME teenagers in local action and campaigns, email anna@bfyboston.org to get involved.

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Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letter should not be over 200 words.
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since last year’s launch of PLAN, Dudley Square the RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on the initiative. All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. RSMPOC meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) in the 2nd Floor Training Room. Free parking is available in the BWSC parking lot. PLAN: Dudley Square workshops are typically every third Monday of the month, location varies.
Please come join your neighbors and the City of Boston to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

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EXCHANGE SOUTH END
MONDAY, APRIL 9
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
540 ALBANY STREET
The Flower Exchange
Boston, MA 02118

PROJECT PROPOSED:
The Abbey Group

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Proposed redevelopment of The Flower Exchange site at 540 Albany Street with 1.6 million square feet of office, lab, biotech, biomedical uses with a 1.1 acre publicly accessible open space, ground floor retail and other activating uses, and 30,000 square feet of civic/cultural space. Meeting is an opportunity to learn about the project, the review and comment process, and proposed resourcing.

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