

## Aspire Spring Gala raised over \$2.6m for autism programs

SUBMITTED BY MGHFC

On April 5, 2018, Mass General Hospital for Children (MGHFC) kicked off Autism Awareness Month with its 18th annual Aspire Spring Gala at Four Seasons Hotel Boston, raising over \$2.6 million to support Aspire, a highly successful, therapeutically-based program of the Lurie Center for Autism. Nearly 850 supporters attended the lively cocktail reception that featured a luxury box game with one-of-a-kind prize packages, such as tickets to a live taping of Dancing with the Stars in Hollywood and a meet-and-greet



Continued on page 3

(Left to right) Terry and Tom Hamilton and Bryan Rafanelli

## South Ender recognized by Jimmy Fund

SUBMITTED BY  
DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

South Ender Maggie Dombroski was one of the three organizers the Expect Miracles Foundation golf tournament and was recognized for raising over \$800,000. The evening allowed attendees to meet and mingle other Jimmy Fund supporters. The Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night is a yearly celebration. Roughly 200 attendees are invited each year honoring those who have raised \$5,000 or more for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Those who are invited are recognized for reaching fundraising milestones, starting new tournaments and celebrating large fundraising increases in revenue

Continued on page 5



South Ender Maggie Dombroski, Frank Heave, Cassidy Billings (l-r) organized the Expect Miracles Foundation golf tournament and were recognized at the yearly Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night on Thursday, March 1st for raising over \$800,000. Photo by John Deputy.



Art blogger Deborah Lee. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

## Unique Technique

South End artist  
gets her hands dirty

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The Piano Craft Gallery, 793 Tremont Street, hosted an opening reception on Friday, April 6 for "Create What You See", an exhibit by Romula, a South End-based artist with a compelling backstory and an unusual style. Romula, a self-taught artist who applies paint to canvas

with her fingers, welcomed about 75 family, friends and members of the art community.

Using her fingers and hands to paint hearkens back to her first love, sculpture, allowing her to "mold the paint to the canvas," as she states on her web site. Romula's paintings range from vividly colored and pulsing with movement, such as "The Purple Pool Table" and "The

Continued on page 2

## Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction

Victory Programs hosts its 28th annual Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction at City Winery, 80 Beverly Street in Boston on Sunday, April 22, 3-6 PM.

Tiffani Faison, Richard Gordon, Scott Kearman are this year's event co-chair, and honorary co-chairs are Attorney General Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

The Dinnerfest RED Party + Auction is a signature fundraiser for

Victory Programs' 19 health, housing and prevention programs in Boston, Cambridge and Topsfield. Victory Programs serves more than 2,400 individuals each year, including families facing homelessness, people living with chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS and those in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction.

For more information visit [www.vpi.org](http://www.vpi.org)

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## Technique

*Continued from page 1*

Neighbors" to the softly colored, swirling, impressionistic lines of "Love of the Sun"; some works are rich with gilt and others muted with light earth tones.

Greeting guests and fielding inquiries about the artist's works was Romula's mother, framer Mary Savino, who worked with her husband and Romula in the family's longtime business, Friendly Framers on Hanover Street in the North End. Rounding out the family presence was Romula's daughter, actress Mila Savino, 27, who commented, "I'm really proud of her. She's wanted to create art her entire life."

Romula's artistic and tactile inspiration began at age four, when she attended the Pompeii exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), the clay-clad corpses frozen in their last moments igniting a desire to create and to help others.

Soon Romula began sculpting in clay soon after, and one of her childhood creations, a graceful evocation of her grandmother in red clay, sits atop a mirror in the exhibit. Romula, who was homeless for a time before settling into her current Massachusetts Avenue residence, merges her creative and helping drives through charitable events such as her 2012 showing at Weston's Jar Home and the sale of her "Shades of Amber" at the MFA's "Spoonful of Ginger" benefit, which raised funds for the Psoriasis

Foundation and the Joslin Diabetes Center respectively.

Romula's friends, fellow South Enders Dan Mouhot and fellow artist Sasja Lucas, helped install and stage the exhibit, taking a personal and homey touch that reflects the atmosphere of the works. For example, the clay sculpture sits atop a mirror; the painting "A Boy and A Girl" hangs above a piano draped with colorful fabric and two smaller canvases, "The Bar" and "The Beach", lean against a table with wine glasses perched above.

Mouhot and Romula met by chance last year at the Parish Café and "immediately clicked," Mouhot said. Upon seeing her painting, "The Neighbors", Mouhot exclaimed, "That's my neighborhood!" and felt a connection to her work. His own artistic impulses rekindled, and he left the corporate world to work again in film, having started out as an animator. The son of a filmmaker, Mouhot is working on a documentary about his ancestor, French explorer Henri Mouhot, who discovered the ruins at Angkor, Cambodia.

Artists in attendance included illustrator/humorist Thom Donovan, the Piano Factory's resident historian; fellow Piano Factory denizen James de Crescentis and Deborah Lee, an artist, art educator and blogger from Cambridge.

Gallery hours are Fridays from 6:00-8:00 PM, Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon-5:00 PM. For further information, please visit [www.pianocraftgallery.com](http://www.pianocraftgallery.com)

## Aspire

Continued from page 1

with Def Leppard this summer at Fenway Park.

This year's theme, "Light Up," produced by longtime partner Rafanelli Events, shed light on living with autism through an interactive lighting installation with "a-ha moments." In honor of Aspire and autism awareness month, Boston's beautiful Zakim Bridge was lit up in blue.

To further light up public awareness of autism, MCHFC debuted a "Five Questions About Autism" video (available now for viewing at [www.aspiregala.org](http://www.aspiregala.org)), which shares a deeply personal look at what it is like to live with autism. After the video, the Executive Director of Aspire, Scott McLeod, PhD, thanked event attendees and stressed the importance of their support. "We are just facilitators in helping these young people unlock their full potential. All of the characteristics that our participants

displayed in that video—confidence, poise, honesty, eloquence—are already inside these incredible young people. Aspire simply provides the pathways that allows them to share each with the world."

Aspire helps children, teens and adults with high cognitive autism spectrum disorder or a related social profile develop the skills necessary to live full, independent lives. Programs include a summer camp for children, an Excursions and Explorations group for teens and a young adult internship program. The program also consults to area schools and conducts professional development workshops that train professionals and parents on meeting the complex needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.

The 2018 Aspire Spring Gala Committee included Stephanie and David Long, Timothy Sweeney, Terry and Tom Hamilton, Ann Marie and Daniel Cross and Kim and Eric Karofsky.



(Top) Martha and Dr. Ronald Kleinman (Bottom) Sarah Christensen

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## Crime Report

SUBMITTED BY  
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Robbery in the area of East Concord Street

At about 11:00 PM on Saturday, April 7, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for a robbery in progress in the area of East Concord Street. Officers were advised via 911 dispatcher that a male suspect had threatened to stab the victim with a needle before stealing the victim's cell phone. The dispatcher broadcast the suspect description and that he fled on foot toward Harrison Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue. While en route, responding officers observed Boston Medical Center Security officers stopped on Massachusetts Avenue near Albany Street with a male fitting the suspect's description.

The BMC Security officers advised that they had heard the broadcast and saw the

suspect, identified as 41-year-old Armando Cruz Jones of Boston, running across the BMC campus with a cell phone in his hand. Officers were able to positively identify Jones and recover the victim's property. Jones was arrested and charged with Armed Robbery. Jones will be arraigned at Boston Municipal Court.

### Officers Recover Firearm from Intoxicated Suspect in the South End

At about 9:05 PM on Sunday, March 25, 2018, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a radio call for a person with a gun at CVS pharmacy in the area of 285 Columbus Avenue. Responding officers were informed that a customer who appeared to be highly intoxicated was at the front counter of the store when a firearm fell from his pant leg onto the floor.

Upon arrival, officers observed the de-

scribed suspect standing just inside the main doors. Officers were able to secure the suspect without incident, however, as they did so, he threatened that he could have shot the officers if he wanted. Officers conducted a pat frisk and recovered a loaded black Desert Eagle firearm from his waistband. The officers observed that the suspect appeared to be unsteady on his feet and slurring his words, leading officers to believe he was intoxicated. The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Christopher Baker of Dorchester, did not have a license to carry. Officers arrested Baker and charged him with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Unlawfully Carrying a Loaded Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, and Threats to do Bodily Harm. During the booking process, Baker reiterated his threats to "take down" the officers. Baker will be arraigned in Boston Municipal Court.

## Boston, other marathons say trans women can compete as women

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—In 1967, a Boston Marathon official nearly dragged a woman off the course after she managed to enter the men's-only race. Five decades later, race officials aren't as concerned about gender boundaries. They're now publicly acknowledging that transgender runners can compete using the gender they identify with.

"We take people at their word. We register people as they specify themselves to be," said Tom Grilk, chief of the Boston Athletic Association, the group behind the race. "Members of the LGBT community have had a lot to deal with over the years, and we'd rather not add to that burden."

At least five openly transgender women are signed up to run the storied 26.2-mile race through Boston and its suburbs April 16. And while they aren't the first, their presence helped bring clarity to the race's stance on transgender runners.

In the past, it was uncertain how they would be treated. Some simply signed up and ran, while some were too afraid to try, said Amelia Capin, a transgender woman from Jersey City, New Jersey, who is registered for this year's race.

"It's kind of murky how people handle it," said Capin, who also leads a social media group for trans runners. "We are such a small percentage of the population that we generally just fly under the radar."

The issue drew attention in March after a blogger wrote about three openly transgender women signed up for Boston. Grilk said there wasn't much debate—runners should qualify and compete using the same gender, he said, but otherwise they won't be challenged.

That flexibility contrasts with the 1967



Amelia Capin works out while preparing to run the Boston Marathon during an early morning jog in Jersey City, N.J. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

case of Kathrine Switzer, who escaped the grasp of a marathon official who found out she entered the race using her initials, K.V. Switzer. While the same official also went after male rule-breakers, it still became known as a landmark moment in the fight to include women in sports.

Questions about how to define and verify gender have rankled officials at the highest level of sport for decades. But at the amateur level, the topic has surfaced more recently as a growing number of trans athletes look to compete without masking their identities.

Several other major marathons said they have no official policies but are taking a similar approach to Boston. Organizers of the Chicago, New York City, London and Los Angeles marathons all said they honor the gender that runners submit during sign-ups.

"We want to be inclusive and sensitive to all of our participants," said Carey Pinkowski, Chicago Marathon executive race director. "At this point, we don't feel that we need to

require legal or medical records or anything along those lines."

But there's still a wrinkle: Many races, including Boston, New York and Chicago, require runners to show IDs with the same names and genders as their application forms, which can be an obstacle for trans athletes who haven't legally changed their personal information. Race officials said they haven't fielded complaints but will monitor their policies to make sure they're inclusive.

In elite competition, debate has mostly focused on transgender women, who typically require surgery or medication to lower their testosterone levels. Olympic officials issued new rules in 2016 saying trans women can compete if their testosterone levels stay beneath a certain limit, and many professional races now follow similar rules.

Although the stakes are lower for Boston's amateur runners, it can still be a thorny issue.

Continued on page 5

39/14

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## Editorial

# President Trump reminded us that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

BY SUE O'CONNELL

The trauma of sexual assault is serious and long-lasting. But it's hard not to laugh at the absurdity of President Trump, who's been publicly accused of sexual assault by at least 16 women and who gleefully confessed to it, recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Newsweek's Onion-esque headline perfectly encapsulated the weirdness: "Facing sexual misconduct allegations, Trump declares sexual assault awareness month."

Maybe we'd all be better off if Trump just ignored Sexual Assault Awareness Month—just as he ignored LGBT Pride Month last June, but I digress. The Donald's disdain for the LGBT community is a subject for another editorial.

Though the #MeToo movement has dislodged many a predator (hello Harvey, Kevin, Steve, Charlie, Matt, etc.), it has yet to catch up with the Pussy-Grabber-in-Chief. We can't force him from the White House just yet, but we can keep taking action to change the culture in which sexual harassment and assault thrives.

First, some background. With a few exceptions, the #MeToo story has been framed almost exclusively as one in which women are the victims. But this problem is ubiquitous. The LGBTQ community experiences sexual harassment and assault at alarmingly high rates. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey revealed that 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

The US Centers for Disease Control's 2010

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey revealed that 61 percent (!) of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical assault, or stalking by a romantic partner, compared with 44 percent of lesbians and 35 percent of heterosexual women. Thirty-seven percent of bisexual men, and 26 percent of gay men, experience rape, assault or stalking by an intimate partner, compared with 29 percent of straight men.

Additionally, there are factors that can make it harder for LGBTQ people to report these crimes to police, or to receive the support and treatment that survivors need to heal from sexual assault. First and foremost, there is the fear of outing oneself to an employer, family members, or faith community. There is also the fear of being further victimized by law enforcement officers or health care providers who are transphobic or homophobic or both. (I know people find this hard to believe but, yes, health care providers can and do harm people in need of care due to bias. A 2014 study by Fenway Health found that 25 percent of transgender people in Massachusetts reported having been harassed or assaulted by staff in health care settings.)

Meanwhile, we need look no further than the allegations made against Kevin Spacey, former Fenway Health executive Dr. Harvey Makadon, and political spouse Bryon Hefner to see that men—gay and straight—are vulnerable to the same type of workplace sexual harassment and assault that women experience—along with the same trauma and rollercoaster of emotions

*Continued on page 6*

## Marathon

*Continued from page 4*

Boston is among few marathons where even nonprofessional runners have to meet strict qualifying times based on age and gender, and some runners spend years trying to qualify.

In response to the March blog post, some commenters said transgender women have an unfair physical advantage and shouldn't bump other women from qualifying.

Stevie Romer, a transgender woman from Woodstock, Illinois, says she registered for Boston as a woman because that's what she is. Although she hasn't done anything to lower her testosterone levels, Romer legally changed her gender, grew her hair out and started living openly as a woman more than a year ago.

"To be able to experience it as me was really, really important," she said. "I've been a runner since as long as I can remember. I love running, but I just happen to be transgender."

For trans women who do lower their testosterone levels, medical experts say there's no evidence of an athletic advantage.

"That's a misconception and a myth," said Dr. Alex Keuroghlian, director of education and training programs at the Fenway Institute, a health and advocacy center for the Boston LGBTQ community. "There's no physiologic advantage to being assigned male at birth."

Rather, trans women who take medication to lower their testosterone levels often face side effects like dehydration, sluggishness and reduced stamina—which can all spell disaster for marathon training.

Capin, the runner from New Jersey, said she had to overcome major setbacks during her transition. While taking testosterone blockers, her pace dropped by more than a minute per mile. Later she underwent surgery and had to take months away from training to recover.

All told, it took Capin three years running as an openly transgender woman before she qualified for Boston, a goal she set seven years ago. And although she knows some might not like it, she plans to run the race this month—and enjoy it.

"I just want to race for fun and take it all in," she said. "Actually running it is sort of a victory lap for what I've accomplished."

## Jimmy Fund

*Continued from page 1*

from past years. This year featured a patient speaker as well as a panel of Dana-Farber doctors to speak about their research and answer questions.

The Jimmy Fund Golf program is one of the oldest and largest charity golf programs

in the country. Now in its 36th year, Jimmy Fund Golf has raised more than \$122 million to support adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. From traditional golf tournaments and mini golf fundraisers to day-long golf marathons and country club member events, golfers of all ages and skill levels can conquer cancer through Jimmy Fund Golf.



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**Dean** is still a big puppy at heart and has done very well with structure and positive training and proven he's eager to learn! **Dean** doesn't always like to share his things (specifically yummy chews and food), so a home with no children would probably be best. If you think **Dean** might be a good match for you, please plan a visit to our shelter today or call 617.226.5602. The shelter is open Tuesday through Thursday 1-7pm & Friday through Sunday 1-4pm, excluding some holidays.

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## Editorial

Continued from page 5

that comes with sharing one's story publicly. In fact, the Washington Post reported this week that men account for nearly one in five complaints of workplace sexual harassment filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The article also notes, not surprisingly, that men are more hesitant than women to report the harassment, in part because of stereotypes that men shouldn't be bothered by such behavior or that they should be able to protect themselves from it. After reporting sexual violence, male survivors often don't know where to turn for support or treatment. The reality is that in many regions, their options are limited.

There are three things you can do to change the culture to make it truly unacceptable to sexually harass or assault someone.

First, don't do it. If you ever find yourself wondering if you have behaved inappropriately or crossed a line, you have. Stop it.

Second, speak up when you see it happening. Be an active bystander. Last year, the MBTA and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) ran a public service campaign about how to be an active bystander and safely intervene when seeing someone being harassed.

Third, support BARCC. The Cambridge-based center is ground zero of culture change in Massachusetts regarding sexual assault. It has a 24-hour crisis hotline and offers free services to sexual assault survivors and their families including mental health counseling and help navigating the legal options available in the aftermath of an attack or a period of abuse. It's led calls to keep Steve Wynn's name off of the casino now being built in Boston. And its executive director, Gina Scaramella, frequently offers commentary for news coverage of sexual assault and writes regularly for The Hill and WGBH on the issue. Perhaps most important, BARCC is explicitly welcoming to LGBTQ survivors of sexual assault.

Since #MeToo swept the nation, though, BARCC has been under siege. As reported by Boston.com in February, calls to BARCC increased 110 percent this past December and January after the stories about Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey broke. Calls to the hotline are up more than 30 percent and requests for counseling services are up more than 40 percent.

You can support BARCC by participating in its annual Walk in the For Change on Sunday, April 22. Registration is \$30. If you don't want to do that, just donate.

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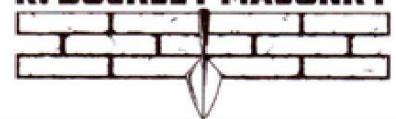
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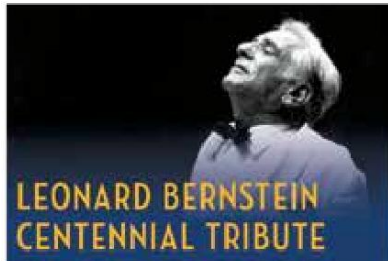
# Boston POPS

KEITH LOCKHART CONDUCTOR  
JOHN WILLIAMS CONDUCTOR LAUREATE

MAY 9-JUNE 16

*Celebrating Leonard Bernstein*

100 YEARS OF AN AMERICAN ICON



## LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Matthew Anderson, Aimee Doherty,  
Teresa Winner Blume, David McFerrin,  
Andy Tighe, special guests

Friday, May 11, 8pm

Saturday, May 12, 8pm

Thursday, May 17, 8pm

Tuesday, May 29, 8pm

Wednesday, May 30, 8pm



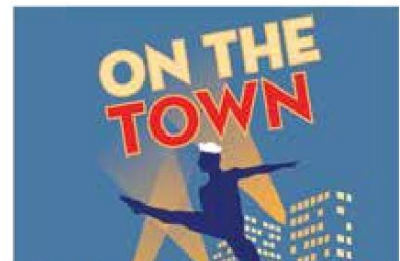
## THE BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS

Thomas Wilkins, conductor

Tuesday, May 22, 8pm

(Arthur Fiedler Night)

Friday, May 25, 8pm



## ON THE TOWN

Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Kathleen Marshall, director  
and choreographer

David Chase, music director

Thursday, May 31, 8pm

Friday, June 1, 8pm



## A BROADWAY CELEBRATION WITH SUTTON FOSTER

Keith Lockhart, conductor

Wednesday,

June 6\*, 8pm

Thursday,

June 7, 8pm



\*Featuring the Winners of the  
2018 Young Artists Competition



## DANCE TO THE MOVIES

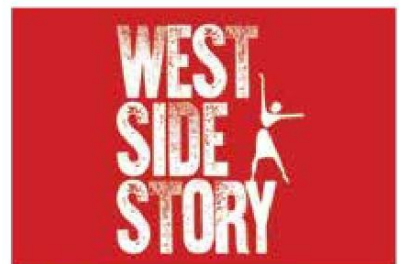
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Lesley Ann Warren, special guest

Haig Hovsepian, violin

Saturday, June 9, 3pm\*

Saturday, June 9, 8pm



## WEST SIDE STORY IN CONCERT

Keith Lockhart, conductor

Ali Ewoldt, Maria

Matthew Hydzik, Tony

Friday, June 15, 8pm

Saturday, June 16, 3pm\*

Saturday, June 16, 8pm

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\*3pm matinees are 50% off tickets for kids 17 and younger.



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