Guest Opinion

Mark your calendar for September 4
Epic LGBTQ advocate needs your vote

by Gary Daffin
Arlene Isackson
Carol Sciortino

Revised in Massachusetts, 1985, two gay men who were foster parents had their kids abruptly removed from their home. The Boston Globe had learned about them, published a story, and ignited a firestorm. Anew, anti-gay policy was swiftly enacted.

A Boston Globe editorial applauded the policy, claiming it provided "greater benefits to children" by placing them with "normal" families. How things have changed.

If the past 30 years of LGBTQ progress in Massachusetts were optioned as a Netflix series, Rep. Byron Rushing would be among the lead characters. When the first anti-gay vote took place about foster and adoptive parenting, we lost big.

Only 50 out of 160 representatives voted with us. Rep. Byron Rushing was one of them.

Hit the fast-forward button.

Today, Massachusetts is the undisputed national leader on LGBTQ equality — and Byron has played an essential, irreplaceable role in making it so. Not just by voting with us. Not just by sponsoring bills and leading. But by year after year,

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Flashlight Walk in the South End

SUMMITTED BY
Boston Police Department

On Tuesday, August 21, members of the Command Staff, Captain Sweeney, and officers assigned to District 1-E [South End] joined members of the community for another successful Flashlight Walk at Villa Victoria. Everyone who strengthens our unshakable relationships.

More photos on page 6

Photo courtesy Boston Police Department

South End News Endorsements

In the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, September 4

By: Aneel Sehgal

Dr. Jon Santiago for Massachusetts 9th Suffolk District At-large through the intersection of Mass Ave and Melrose Cas Blvd. was once a perfunctory community, but is now a heartbreaking trip. Victims of the country’s opioid epidemic are herded from one side of the street to the other, as commuters and tourists look helplessly.

Meanwhile, a trip down Harri son Avenue or South Washington Street may have once been gritty, but is now a gleaming example of the neighborhood’s gentrification. Both areas of the South End exemplify the challenges our neighborhood faces. Income inequality, opioid addiction, managing growth while protecting affordable housing are issues that need immediate attention and strong leadership.

Dr. Jon Santiago has made these issues the centerpiece of his campaign. Elected officials and government leaders are turning to doctors for assistance in battling addiction and to reduce the local impact that poverty and inequality

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Get ready to VOTE!

The State Primary is Tuesday, September 4. Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. The deadline to vote by absentee ballot is August 31 at 5 p.m. Absentee ballots are available now. Visit www.sec.state.ma.us or www.boston.gov for more information.
Rushing finished page 1

Pet of the Week

Most Jago, a quiet, sweet, affable little boy looking for his forever home. He is a pit bull-type boy with a soft spot for people and other animals.

Lady

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Boston Animal Care & Adoption Center
16 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02110
Open Tuesday - Saturday, 1-6:30 PM
Closed Mondays and Holidays

Community Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, September 10
560 Harrison Ave
2nd Floor Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description
The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSOPC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. The 2016 launch of the Plan Dudley Square, RSOPC meetings include progress reports on projects, and RSOPC members are held the evening in the first Tuesday of the month in the Roxbury Water & Sewer Commission hearing room. Free parking is available in the BWS parking lot.

Contact:
Randy Johnson
Boston Planning & Development Agency
30 City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02204
617.635.4191
rj510@boston.gov

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Thriving Colors

By Julia Becker

Cultural options are thriving this season in the Hub for LGBTQ youth and adults alike. Josie Orta, TTO Community Programs Manager, spoke with great pride of TTO’s Off-Off-Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Off-West End Festival. This year, Orta curated a line-up of films, events, and performances that explore the LGBTQ+ experience.

The 15th annual TTO Festival features a diverse array of films and events, including a screening of the documentary “Extra Terrestrial” on September 11th at the True Colors Theater. The film explores the journey of a woman who emigrates from the Dominican Republic to the United States to escape violence and find a new life.

The festival also includes a performance by the “Gay Men’s Chorus of New England,” which will be held on September 12th at the Plaza Theatre. This event is open to the public and is sure to be a highlight of the festival.

In addition to these events, Orta is excited about the upcoming screening of the film “Boca Raton,” which follows a young woman as she navigates the complexities of love and identity in modern society.

Orta encouraged festival-goers to explore the festival’s website for a full schedule of events and to support the artists and organizations featured at the festival.

“Extra Terrestrial” (2015) — written and directed by Carla Cline — culminates the intimate journey of iconic urban movement figure Vico C. The film stretches from Vico’s childhood to international renown. Carla Cline also means to have the perceived as a metaphor for all human beings. “Sin Virginia, Me Margines” (2017) — written and directed by Wesley Verástegui — combines comedy and drama in a film involving a transgender operation. The film’s documentary — a co-production of a Latino-American director and American content producers — looks at the life and artistic work of one of Mexico’s most iconic figures, as well as the inspiration of bi-sexual lovers and influential painters Frida Kahlo. Vargas would sing while dressed in male attire.

Basso invited young performers from 14 to 22 to True Colors’ September 11 auditions. Actors who receive callbacks will be asked to prepare a two-minute original or creative piece — a poem, a song or a solo, for example — for their follow-up performance. Those chosen to join the 15-member troupe will be working on their own pieces and rehearsing twice a week for eventual staged readings.

October, November, and December will find Basso and company showcasing notable performers. An October 10 event at the great hall of Boston’s Codman Square Health Center will focus on “LGBTQ people of color and their relationship to their faith.” November, 9 Dorchester teens write and perform spoken word poetry. In December, a young woman from Brazil will perform at the Boston Improv Festival.

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MEMORIAL

Mary DeLoach
(September 24, 1941 - June 16, 2017)

In remembrance, the family of Mary DeLoach will be holding a memorial event on Sunday, September 9, 2018 from 2 PM to 5 PM at Tim’s Sparrow Park on West Newton Street in the South End.
Aaron Miller Joins Board at USES

Submitted by USES

United South End Settlements (USES) is pleased to announce that South End resident Aaron Miller, chief operating officer of digital media agency Catalina, has been elected to the Board of Directors of United South End Settlements.

Miller brings more than 20 years of operational and consulting experience to the USES board. Prior to joining Catalina, he was a partner at Bain & Company, and has held key product and operations roles at General Mills and CPW Latin America.

"Aaron brings a significant amount of executive leadership to our Board of Directors," said USES President and CEO Mauchinia Weir-Lyle. "We are thrilled to have him join our team as USES deepens its commitment to supporting families in our community and helping us to realize our long-term vision of impact and financial sustainability for USES."

A South End resident, Miller earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University, an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a master’s degree in international studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

"As a South End resident, I was immediately drawn to USES and the amazing work that they do to support children and families in our community," said Miller. "They have a lot of exciting plans for the future and I look forward to working with Mauchinia and the rest of the board to help USES realize their vision for continued success."

"Aaron's organization and board leadership will be crucial for our board to bring a wide variety of strengths, skills and community connections," said USES Board Chair Julia Johannsm.
Theater
Continued from page 3

November 30 and December 1 the Boston Living Center will showcase an event at a venue to be determined.

True Colors motion will stage a reading tour during December. Rehearsal of True Colors efforts will follow as part of the season. The writing, performing cycle concludes in May with another tour. While a new series of readings will be held prior to the last writing, rehearsing and touring, troop members selected do often repeat in the troupe.

Boston Ward Democratic Committee

VOTE SEPT 4!

Your Guide to the Primary Election:
WARD 5 Dems Endorsed Candidates

Jay Gonzalez – Governor
Quentin Palfrey – Lieutenant Governor
Josh Zakim – Secretary of State
Byron Rushing – 9th Suffolk State Rep.
Nick Carter – Governor’s Council, Dist. 3
Katie Forde – Suffolk Register of Deeds

Ward 5 Dems meet at 7PM on the third Tuesday of every month at First Church of Boston, (66 Marlborough Street).

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PLEASE CALL WITH ANY INQUIRIES
617-427-7745

Can’t wait until Thursday for the next issue of the South End News? Head over to MySouthEnd.com
Flashlight
Continued from page 1

Photos courtesy Boston Police Department

THE SOUTH END WRITES / THE LIBRARY INVITES

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 PM

Meet Iory Allison, author of the Glamour Galore Trilogy, an escapist gay literary saga set in Boston, Aruba and Provincetown, meant to make you laugh and reflect on the human condition.

The event is free. Seating is limited. Books are available for borrowing, sale and signing. We serve refreshments.

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