

Guest Opinion

Mark your calendar for September 4

**Epic LGBTQ advocate
needs your vote**

BY GARY DAFFIN
ARLINE ISAACSON
CARL SCIORTINO

Rewind to Massachusetts, 1985: two gay men who were foster parents had the kids abruptly removed from their home. The Boston Globe had learned about them, published a story, and ignited a firestorm. A new,

anti-gay policy was swiftly enacted. A Boston Globe editorial applauded the policy, claiming it provided "major 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,

Continued on page 4



Rep. Byron Rushing addresses the crowd. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Flashlight Walk in the South End

SUBMITTED BY
BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Tuesday, August 21, members of the Command Staff, Captain Sweeney, and officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) joined members of the community for another successful Flashlight Walk at Villa Victoria! Every walk strengthens our unabated relationships in



More photos on page 6

Photo courtesy Boston Police Department

South End News Endorsements

**In the Democratic
Primary on Tuesday,
September 4**

BY LINE 1
BY LINE 2

Dr. Jon Santiago for Massachusetts 9th Suffolk District

A drive through the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. was once a perfunctory com-

mute, 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 tourist look on helplessly.

Meanwhile, a trip down Harrison 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 health impact that poverty and inequality

Continued on page 2

Rushing meets with voters at Estragon

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

State representative Byron Rushing, who is running for re-election in the 9th Suffolk district, met with approximately 40 neighbors at an informal party at Estragon, 700 Harrison Avenue, on Thursday, August 16, one in a series of meet and greet opportunities Rushing has held across his legislative district.

Mary Bertin, a retired telecommunications professional who had a second career at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, is a resident of 700 Harrison Avenue and organized the party on Rushing's behalf.

Bertin listed economic development, affordable housing and police brutality as some of her primary concerns as a voter. She added, "Boston is a great center for academia, but there is much work to be done in elementary education. Another issue that is of great concern to me is the attack on women's right to choose."

Summing up her support for

Rushing, Bertin commented, "He has been on the forefront of every progressive issue that has come down the pike in the past 40 years."

In his remarks, Rushing began, "I am running for re-election because I really love this neighborhood. I really enjoy working for this neighborhood." He continued, "Most of the time, when I talk to someone in the neighborhood, it is about some big issue," specifically the need for affordable housing.

"[South End voters] are concerned about the streets, about crime and they are especially concerned about the number of people in the neighborhood who are suffering from the incredible disease of addiction." Rushing explained that many constituents have approached him about the challenge of getting people with addiction off the streets and into treatment. "Treatment has been an issue of mine for a long

Continued on page 2

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

Continued from page 1

time," Rushing said, pointing to his work on a treatment on demand bill in the legislature. He called the criminalization of drug addiction "as silly and outrageous as calling it a crime to be a diabetic."

Rushing called for more funding for treatment and for coverage of more than three weeks of addiction treatment; rather, treatment until the patient is cured.

Rushing also harkened back to his early days as a community organizer and his role in helping to acquire and run the African Meeting House as a historic site. He also recalled his leadership on LGBTQ rights and marriage

equality from the time of his first campaign for the legislature, and efforts to repeal antiquated laws that have been invoked in certain instances to discriminate against certain parties.

He specifically pointed to former Governor Romney invoking a 1913 law prohibiting couples from marrying in Massachusetts if the marriage would not be valid in their home state, a law originally enacted to discourage interracial marriage and revived by Romney to inhibit same-sex marriages.

Addressing racial and economic inequality, Rushing said, "In this country, even in Massachusetts, even in Boston, inequality exists based on race and economics. When we talk about opportunity, we have to talk about changing those structures to allow that opportunity to be real." Responding to a

question about education, Rushing advocated for quality public education for all students, regardless of geography and other factors, and said that involves two steps: agreeing upon educational stand and securing increased funding. "Students should not have better education because of the luck of the ZIP code draw. It means a lot of work and it means a lot of money," he said.

Rushing said that more revenue must be raised through taxes. "If we believe that we want to have public institutions in this country, we have to pay for them," Rushing said. Pointing to the failed millionaire's tax that was struck down by the Supreme Judicial Court "on process" and previous attempts at a

progressive income tax, Rushing said that work needs to be done and assured attendees that he and colleagues will be working on ideas and methods to increase revenue at the state level.

In a follow-up email, Rushing said, "It was a successful event and provided everyone with a great opportunity to talk about our shared priorities for our community and on Beacon Hill... This event gave residents an opportunity to ask questions and discuss their priorities for the community, while I laid out my vision for activism in our communities and for progressive policy on Beacon Hill and told them how proud I am to have the opportunity to represent them."

Endorsements

Continued from page 1

can have on our neighbors. Santiago, an emergency room doctor at Boston Medical Center, is uniquely situated to offer solutions.

Voters are right to consider incumbent Representative Byron Rushing's 35 years representing the district. Rushing has been a pioneer on LGBTQ rights, civil rights, marriage equality, social justice, healthcare equity. But Santiago would bring a fresh perspective and vitality to issues plaguing the South End.

Ayanna Pressley for the Seventh Congressional District

South Enders are well aware of City Councilor Ayanna Pressley's work for fairness, justice and equality. Oh, and her attention to policy detail. Politicians know that the Boston City Council, due to its charter, does not wield a lot of power. Yet Pressley has managed to get quite a bit done. From just and equitable liquor license reforms, to championing women and girls, and victims of sexual assault and human trafficking.

The Boston Globe notes in their endorsement of Pressley that she "represents the present of the Seventh District and the future of the Democratic Party." The Seventh is a minority majority district, yet when it comes to who votes, it's not 55 percent of the registered voters in the district are white. The reasons for low minority voter registration are many, but one is the lack of visible representation. Electing Ayanna Pressley, the first African American woman elected to the Boston City Council would energize the district.

Incumbent Representative Michael E. Capuano has served the South End well, but Pressley is both of the district and for the district.

Jay Gonzalez for Governor

Reality check time. If you're a Democratic voter, hoping to replace ever-popular Republican incumbent Governor Charlie Baker, you've got to pick a candidate who

can bring the heat.

Jay Gonzalez is a progressive who's campaigned on single-payer health care, high-speed rail to Springfield, early education, K-12 education. Gonzalez shares a common background with Baker—a career in health care, experience in government finance, makes him the choice for Democrats to take on Baker in November.

Rachael Rollins for Suffolk County District Attorney

Voters have a bounty of choice in the Suffolk County District Attorney's race. The field of candidates in the Democratic primary are diverse, experienced, and progressive. All the candidates have plans to build community trust, offer treatment instead of jail, increase diversity.

Rachael Rollins brings best combination of experience. She's been a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a civil rights lawyer, and has managed employees. All skills essential to running the office of District Attorney.

Josh Zakim for Secretary of State

Same-day voter registration, automatic voter registration, weekend elections, no-excuse absentee voting and ranked choice voting. These are all options for voters that Massachusetts does not have, and ideas for which candidate Josh Zakim is advocating.

The office of Secretary of State also oversees the state's public records law, and Massachusetts often ranks as among the states with the worst public records law in the nation. The law has been on the books since 1851 and, compared to other states, we have less power to demand records from state and local agencies.

In 2014, The Boston Globe ran an article about Secretary of State Bill Galvin headlined "Secretary of State regularly keeps government records secret."

Galvin has been in office since 1995 and has had plenty of time to make progress on these issues. He hasn't. It is time to give someone else a shot.



Pet of the Week





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LEAGUE
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Meet **Jojo**, a quiet, sweet, affectionate lady looking for her forever home. She is a petite 4 year old spayed female boxer mix. Jojo loves being with her people, cuddling, hanging out watching TV, and getting attention from her people. She would do best in a home where someone will always be with her, she can go to work with her new owner, or to doggy day. Jojo suffers from severe separation anxiety and will likely need anti-anxiety medication, routine and structure for the rest of her life. If you think Jojo is the right fit for your home, please plan to visit her at our shelter today. For more information about **Jojo** or other adoptable animals at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact us at (617) 426-9170 or visit us online at arlboston.org.

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Community Meeting

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, September 10
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

980 Harrison Ave
Boston Water and Sewer,
2nd Floor Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since the 2016 launch of PLAN: Dudley Square, RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on that initiative. All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. RSMPOC meetings are held in the evening the first 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.

Please come join your neighbors and the City of Boston to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

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Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugy.undemir@boston.gov

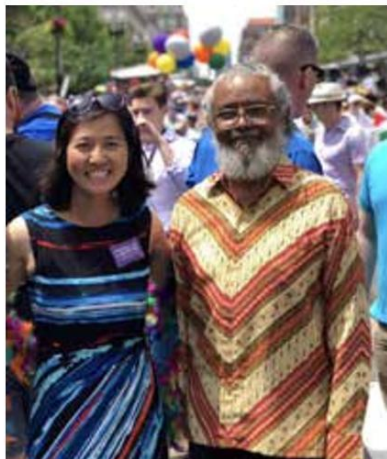
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Thriving Colors

True Colors Theater, Boston.
Auditions, September 11, 5-8 p.m. Theater
Offensive film screenings September 12, 19
and 26. truecolors@theateroffensive.org.
617-661-1600, x311.

BY JULES BECKER

Cultural options are thriving this season in the Hub for LGBTQ youth and adults alike. Josean Ortiz, TTO Community Programs Manager, spoke with great pride of Theater Offensive's Out! Hood Series, a Latinx queer film series screened in Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain and at the South End's Villa Vittoria Center for the Arts. Director of Programs Nick Basso, who directed True Colors Theater efforts during eight recent seasons, outlined the process and planning of the young play development and performance group.

The Out! Series, Ortiz explained, features at least one event per month. In fact this September boasts three 7:30 p.m. screenings: "Extra Terrestres" from Puerto Rico September 12, "Sin Vagina, Me Marginan" from Peru September 19 and a documentary from the United States about famed queer singer Chavela Vargas September 26. Free and open to all, these films will have English subtitles. A drag queen host will provide Latinx musical flavor at each screening. For example, Ortiz noted, "local queer artist Laurie Gutierrez will play the viola gamba and the violoncello with two or three members of her baroque ensemble."

"Extra Terrestres" (2016)—written and directed by Carla Carina—chronicles the intimate journey of iconic urban movement figure Vico C. The film stretches from Vico's childhood to international renown. Carina also means to have the perceived as a metaphor for all human beings. "Sin Va-



True Colors Troupe, Courtesy The Theater Offensive

gina, Me Marginan" (2017)—written and directed by Wesley Verastegui—combines comedy and drama in a film involving a transgender operation. The Chavela documentary—a co-direction of a Latin-American director and an American counterpart—looks at the life and artistic travel of one of Mexico's most iconic singers, as well as the inspiration of bi-sexual lover and influential painter 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 call backs 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 performances. 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 Dorchester's Codman Square Health Center will focus on "LGBTQ people of color and their relationship to their faith" (Basso). November 9 Dorchester trans artist-composer Isaiah Blake will perform songs.

Continued on page 5

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 Titus Sparrow Park on West Newton Street in the South End.

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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 voted onto the Board of Directors of United South End Settlements.

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

"Aaron brings a significant amount of ex-

ecutive leadership to our Board of Directors," said USES President and CEO Maicharia Weir Lytle. "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 Maicharia and the rest of the board to help USES realize their vision for continued success."

"As an organization and board working to engage people across a diverse community, it's crucial for our board to bring a wide variety of strengths, skills and community connections," said USES Board Chair Julia Johannsen. "Aaron has an incredibly reputation for helping organizations grow and thrive, and we're so pleased to have him on our board team."

Miller joined the 18-member board in August, 2018. Members of the board are elected to terms of three years.

South End Calendar

Saturday, September 8

ParkARTS Watercolor
Blackstone Square, South End, 12
noon - 2pm

Budding artists ages nine and up are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for its popular fall series of ParkARTS Watercolor Painting Workshops during the month of September. The series of free workshops is just one of the many offer-

ings of the 22nd annual ParkARTS program sponsored by Holly and David Bruce.

The workshops welcome artists of all skill levels to create their own greenspace-inspired masterpieces with instruction and materials provided. This fall's featured instructor is Julie Jones. Ms. Jones has a BFA in Fine Art from Montserrat College of Art as well as a custom painting business called The Artist Touch where she transforms rooms with faux and specialty painting, murals, hand painted furniture, refinishing, and more.

For further information on other loca-

tions, the workshops and other ParkARTS programs, please call (617) 635-4505 or visit the Parks Department online at www.facebook.com/bostonparksdepartment or www.cityofboston/parks.

Tuesday, September 11

Fall Meeting of South End Forum
South End Branch Library, 6 pm
685 Tremont St, Boston
www.facebook.com/groups/SouthEndCB

Guest Opinion

Continued from page 1

firestorm after firestorm, pulling so many of his colleagues across the line to join us.

It would, in fact, take a Netflix series to cover all the stories, so we'll highlight just a few examples here. A small slice of Byron's life's work is enough to make our point.

You could bingewatch the story of the Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Law, but who has the time? We tried and failed for nearly two decades. Back then, we could be fired from jobs, denied public accommodations, denied a mortgage, evicted from our homes, all legally. When Byron arrived in the Legislature, he became a sponsor of the bill and a change-maker. He met personally with his colleagues, listened to them, and persuaded them. He delivered stirring oratory that moved people. He singlehandedly delivered votes – and in 1989, the bill passed.

Massachusetts was first in the nation to protect people living with HIV. While other states were pursuing criminalization, Massachusetts ensured confidentiality, made it illegal to discriminate based on HIV status, and provided state funds for prevention and care. Byron was an indispensable leader on all of these. He has continued to be an effective partner to this day, using his vast experience

with insurance law and regulation to pass a first-in-the-nation 2016 mandate that insurers cover treatment for HIV-related Lipodystrophy.

It would take at least a season, maybe two, but we'd like to watch equal marriage play out on Netflix. Before and after the historic court decision in 2004, we faced a barrage of "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) bills and constitutional amendments. It was an intense, 10-year battle. Byron was again a partner and key strategist, widely recognized as the most influential voice and persuader of his colleagues. It's one thing to vote the right way – and another to bring along all the votes it takes to win, especially on contentious subjects that will go on to change the world.

In 2008, we repealed the infamous "1913 Law" which prevented people from coming to Massachusetts to be married when their own states wouldn't recognize the marriage. (The law was originally enacted when interracial marriage was the issue and Massachusetts again was a leader.) Byron took on then-Gov. Mitt Romney who said he didn't want Massachusetts to be "the Las Vegas of gay marriage."

Today, the same people who tried so hard to repeal marriage equality are trying to enshrine discrimination against transgender citizens. Rep. Byron Rushing is an immovable obstacle to them. Byron cosponsored laws that banned anti-trans discrimination in

employment, housing, education and public accommodations. He was deeply engaged, negotiating details, persuading legislators to support the bill, and persuading leadership to take up the measures.

This November, we face a ballot question to repeal the transgender protection bill passed in 2016. We can't lose Byron's influence now.

On September 4, primary day, Byron faces a Democratic challenger. The two hold similar positions on things like the opioid epidemic, health care, housing, immigration. But there is a stunning difference between an unknown, freshman lawmaker and Byron's near-legendary experience and influence in our State House. While such a trade makes no sense at all, we are in a time when Democrats are attracted to "fresh faces" in local and national races. Sometimes this is a good thing. In this case, it could be tragic.

Could we really lose Byron? That's up to you.

Byron has stood with us through it all: Hate Crimes, the Student Civil Rights Bill, Anti-Bullying Laws, our Youth Commission which Gov. Romney tried to disband in 2006, the list goes on and on.

He has earned more than our support; he has won our gratitude and love. Please get to your polling place on September 4, and stand with our representative, Byron Rushing.

39/34

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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 actors will stage a reading

tour during December. Rewriting 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 auditions will be held prior to the last writing, rehearsing and touring, troupe members reselected do often repeated in the troupe.



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Boston Ward 5 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

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at First Church of Boston, (66 Marlborough Street).

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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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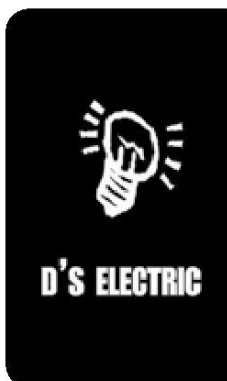
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