South Ender Co-Chairs Heroes in Health Care Gala

Submitted by VNA

Loriann Meagher of the South End is serving as co-chair of the 13th annual Heroes in Health Care Gala, on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental, 776 Boylston St., Boston, to benefit VNA of Boston.

The Gala is VNA Care’s signature fundraising event and has raised millions in essential funding for VNA of Boston’s charitable care programs, as well as for palliative care.

Continued on page 3

A Romp with Sherlock

By Jules Decker

Sherlock Holmes fans know that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle killed off his famous super sleuth in the tale called “The Final Problem.”

Readers of the famous fictional adventures especially know that great public demand led Doyle to bring the legendary detective back to life in the story “The Adventure of the Empty House” with the explanation that he had faked his own death.

The late theater critic and Sherlock aficionado Charles MacNeice was clearly so addicted to Holmes—and who is not—that he tried his own hand at a stage parody entitled “Sherlock’s Last Case” (1954; 1987 on Broadway).

Continued on page 2

Guest Opinion

BPS Students To Northeastern:

Be a community leader for excellent public schools

Submitted by

Dr. Stephen’s Youth Programs Organizing Team

Northeastern University students and community organizers invited over 100 K-12 students and their parents from St. Stephen’s Youth Programs to spend time on their campus and learn about Boston’s PILAT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program.

During the field trip, students had opportunities to envision what their dream school would look like, drawing ideas from film programs to sports to cafeterias and other standard elements of a school that many of their own schools lack. Students shared about books they would like to see at their schools and what their dream future jobs could be, and parents shared hopes they had for their children.

Along with BPS parents and Northeastern students, they wrote

Continued on page 4

Vote!

State Election
Tuesday, November 6
Information at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/
Mr. Hossein Kashani
a teacher in Sufism and a representative of Dr. Alireza Nurbakhsh-Master of Nimatullahi Sufi Order
will be visiting Boston from Friday October 19th to Monday October 22nd 2018. Those who would like to meet him, are welcome to contact us:
House of Sufism
84 Pembroke Street, Boston, MA 02118
(617) 536-0076
Nimatullahisufiorder@gmail.com

Dog Lady
Continued from page 1
anything capable of electrocuting, strangling, suffocating, poisoning or otherwise harming
him. Get it? Crunchy cords taste like chicken to a puppy. Keep puppy away from anything you
don’t want him to eat. Also, invest in suitable dog chew, such as indestructible rubber Kong
toys or bully sticks. Offer an alternative instead of chewing – a raw and lazy method.

Please, do your research. Get a crate (preferably in your eave) and read about crate training. Keep your puppy crated so you can train him properly. Also, you have to trust this guy fully before you let him roam.

It’s a good start to write “Ask Dog Lady” but please, read much more about dogs and their training. And spell the name of your dog’s breed correctly, which is a sign of respect. The correct name is “Shih Tzu.”

Dear Dog Lady,
I have a rescue dog, Millie, and she won’t take a treat from my hand. She will eat one off
my shoe, my knee, the floor or anywhere else but she won’t accept a treat from my hand.
Do you think she fears human hands because of a traumatic experience? What should I do
to make things easier for her? Or does this matter? By the way, I look for your column and enjoy reading it very much.

—Harry

Pine Street Inn
Continued from page 1
the polls was especially important because they have a key perspective on housing and employment issues.

The Pine Street Inn conducted registration events on Tuesday and Wednesday at
to shelters in the South End and Jamaica Plain. Over the course of the past couple of days, Pine
Street Inn has registered 70 individuals to vote. If you’re 18 years old and a US citizen, you can vote in Massachusetts and a shelter address is accepted.

Pine Street Inn provides a comprehensive range of services, including permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, and employment services. On any given night, Pine Street Inn provides shelter to nearly 2,000 homeless men and women each day. Founded in 1969, Pine Street Inn is the largest resource for homeless men and women in New England.

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The result is a clever take-off that would not quite impress the likes of the villainous Moriarty, but does prove diverting on the Huntington Theatre main stage under the generally sharp direction of Maria Atcheson.

Doyle had killed off Moriarty, too, of course. There is no second life here for the iconic villain, but two Moriartys—one a letter and one in person—do arrive to challenge Holmes. The letter—complete with a vivid hologram republication and apparently from Sirineon Moriarty—promises revenge for his father's death.

Daughter Liza Moriarty asks Holmes to reason with her brother. Manowitz injects humor bordering on the absurd early on as Liza infuses her father into Holmes, her father trained her to use carrier pigeons to deliver mail. There is witty banter here and elsewhere, though there are moments when the playwright needs to articulate Holmes’ signature eccentricities without making him seem too oddly rational.

As always, Watson is consistently emotional. Manowitz colors that emotion with significant resentment about his Baker Street buddy's display of superiority with regard to the solution of their adventures. At one point, Watson rightly speaks of "the myth of Sherlock Holmes."

Hugh Landwehr’s painstaking scenic design for the famed 221B Baker Street, London residence of Holmes—and Watson’s except during the letter's married years—richly provides the tale’s 1897 Victorian England ambiance.

If there are occasional moments when the play could go on with faster pacing, Huntington Theatre’s trademark seamless set changes—here to a dark, dank and ominous dungeon and back to the study’s home—do a favor to the always imaginative detective, who giddily bounces and bounds a very unlikely captive in a dentist's chair. Eventually expert knowledge about chemicals will prove a key factor in the liberation of that prisoner.

Are the Moriartys involved? Will Inspector Lestrade—who seems to be even less of a player here than in many of Doyle's own tales—play an important part in the resolution of the case? Where will Holmes and Watson be in all of this? Manowitz’s revelations lack the remaining qualities of a Doyle gem like "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," but they do supply the necessary answers. This critic, of course, never provides spoilers about any of those answers.

One answer safe to provide is that Atken’s cast is first-rate. Rufus Collins has the right self-confidence and heightened attitude playing Holmes. Mark Zelizer is a standout capturing Dr. Watson’s stoic, astute and complex vis-à-vis Holmes and his godlike personality breakdown. Their buddy moments are perfectly convincing.

Anastasia Robinson’s charming as the sassy yet somewhat reserved Liza. Robinson and Collins’ early banter about her case has the right elegance. Antonio Bonnet Shun brings the right menace to the role of Sirineon. Malcolm Ingram catches Lestrade’s relative cluelessness. Philip S. Rosenberg’s muddled lighting has the right muddled light for the dungeon scenes.

In the later going, Watson is doubled Sir John and Holmes Lord Sherlock. "Sherlock's Last Case" may not invite real horror, but Atken and her stellar cast make the Huntington Theatre revivify a lively spoof.
The Martin Richard Foundation Hosts Autumn Service Day

Invites Community Members of All Ages and Abilities to Do More

On Sunday, October 21, from 11 am – 2 pm, The Martin Richard Foundation hosts Autumn Service Day, a family-friendly event that will bring the community together to do meaningful work supporting those in need. The day will include hands-on service activities, food, and live music while learning the importance of community service. Participants will learn how volunteering can create a ripple effect on communities, in turn, creating positive change for populations in need.

The event will be held at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street, Dorchester.

Guest Opinion

Continued from page 1

letters to the president of Northeasterners asking him to pay the full 2018 PILOT as well as the unpaid PILOT assessment for the last several years. Ekan Anwar, a Boston high school student, said: “My school is basically on Northeastern’s campus and we can see new buildings going up all the time. Northeastern is a school too, they should care about Boston Public Schools having enough money to educate their students well enough to attend Northeastern someday, but we don’t even have a cafeteria. We are calling on them to do the right thing by paying their full PILOT tax.”

According to the PILOT Action Group, “The current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program, beginning in 2012, covers 49 large nonprofit institutions with assessed property value of over $15 Million. Nonprofits are expected to pay 25% of their potential property taxes based on their 2016 tax assessment. Institutions can and do offset 90% of their payment with a “community benefit” that is supposed to target residents of the city. However, over $77 million of the requested PILOT contributions have been left unpaid, primarily for four universities: Northeastern, Boston College, Harvard, and Boston University.”

From FY2012-FY2017, Northeastern has failed to pay over $13 million in PILOT contributions. Northeastern just finished construction of a new $225 million science and engineering complex, while still finishing FY2017 with a surplus of over $66 million. In Boston, 70% of city income comes from property taxes, so a program like PILOT can have a huge impact in contributing to the city.

St. Stephen’s Youth Programs as part of the PILOT coalition shares a deep appreciation for Northeastern University’s commitment to contributing to local communities and excitement around the support that they have shown in the past. They hope to see Northeastern continue to be a leader in Boston by committing to pay their full PILOT assessment. Students expressed awe at the facilities at Northeastern University’s state-of-the-art campus and are hopeful about the possibilities the future could hold for their school if Northeastern and other universities pay their PILOT commitment.

St. Stephen’s Youth Programs promotes equity in education, employment and opportunity through long-term relationships with young people and their families and communities. For more information visit www.ststephon.org.

Staten Island Advance

Letters to the editor:
letters@southendnews.com

Calendar Listings:
seedcalendar@southendnews.com

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 300 words, refrain from name-calling, should be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be harmful from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday’s paper. To send an letter: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02112; FAX (617) 464-7286; Email: letters@southendnews.com

Photos courtesy St. Stephen’s Youth Programs
Guest Opinion

USES Vision 125

SUBMITTED BY
Maureen E. Weir
President & CEO
Lytle/Jama Visitors
Board Chair

United South End Settlements (USES), founded in 1892, has served the rich, diverse, and ever-evolving South End community for over 125 years. Today, the South End is considered vibrant and welcoming by many. However, micro-segregation has created barriers that continue to mask the struggles of many of our neighbors.

The South End has the greatest wealth disparity in the City of Boston, with 41% of residents living in subsidized housing and 66% of children living below the poverty line. In our continued effort to deliver on the vision of our settlement house roots—an inclusive and welcoming community where neighbors come together and lift each other up — we began a rigorous strategic planning process in August of 2016 to align our limited resources with programs that have the most impact and outcomes for children and families living in poverty.

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God’s trans-affirming vote on Question 3

BY REV. IRENE MONROE

Across the country, there are epic battles in many states to either pass or not pass trans-gender bathroom bills. Here in Massachusetts, the bluest of states, we’re asking voters to “YES” on Question 3. Gender Identity Ant-Discrimination Veto Referendum, to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public places—such as hotels, restaurants, and stores.球注as a Bay State to vote “YES” on Question 3 has been taking place throughout the Commonwealth. After speaking at one of the rallies in Copley Square one Sunday morning, an onlooker asked me the following question: “Rev., are you a minister. How does the church and God feel about transgender people? Will they go to hell?”

Trans issues in our churches are not addressed enough. However, trans activism has taken place in both Catholic and Protestant churches and synagogues across Massachusetts. Sadly, Pope Francis has compared transgender people to nuclear weapons. His reason is that transgender people destroy and debase God’s holy and ordered ordination of creation. “Let’s think of the nuclear arms, of the possibility to annihilate in a few instants a very high number of human beings,” he stated in 2015 in an interview with the National Catholic Reporter. “Let’s think also of genetic manipulation, of the manipulation of life, or of the gender theory, that does not recognize the order of creation.”

With pronouncements like that, especially from a pope, it’s easy to think transgenders can’t be God’s people.

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Gala

Continued from page 1

provided by VNA Hospice & Palliative Care. The Honorary Gala Chair, and Presenting Sponsor of the event, are: Anna and Joshua Burger, John R. Greed, president and CEO of Mutual of America, is Fund the Mission Chair.

This year’s Heroes are Angies (to be accepted by Dr. David Scherberka, CEO); Thomas A. Corwell, President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan; and Dr. Joan Y. Reedem, Dean for diversity and community partnership of Harvard Medical School.

Meagher is the founder and executive managing director of LRM Consulting. In addition, she observed on the VNA of Boston board of directors for many years.

“Life has been involved with the Heroes in Health Care Gala since the event began in 2006, and we are grateful for her insights and support,” said Laura Wise, manager of fund development for VNA Care.

For sponsorship inquiries and more information, please contact Laura Wise, manager of fund development, at 617-856-8460 or visit http://www.vnacare.org/gala

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<td>$940</td>
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<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>$51,080</td>
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Monroe
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people are doomed to Hell.

Freedom for All Massachusetts has been addressing the faith issue by working in collaboration with Action for Transgender Equality, a collective of clergy and faith-based institutions working as part of the "Yes" on 3 ballot campaign. Passage of the bill, sadly, hangs in the balance because voters are split on the issue although there is no link between discrimination rules and bathroom-related crimes in Massachusetts.

However, people of faith — who can be moved to vote "Yes" on Question 3 — want to know where they can find the Bible explanation as well as acceptance of transgender people.

The good news is that there are several trans-affirming stories in the Bible. My favorite story is about Philip the Evangelist and the Ethiopian eunuch conversion to Christianity in Acts 8:26-39.

We can deduce from this pericope that the teachings of Christ circulated widely across the world and Christ's teachings spread, at least one way, throughout the continent of Africa through the Ethiopian Eunuch. Travelling south from Jerusalem to Gaza, Phillip meets the Ethiopian Eunuch, a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia, in his chariot reading from a part of the scroll of Isaiah that theologians commonly refer to as "the Third Suffering Servant Song." The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled to Jerusalem to worship and was humbled, hence God tells Phillip to follow the Ethiopian to baptize him so that he can spread the good news of Christ.

While travelling down the road together, Phillip explained the tasks text and the Ethiopian asked to be baptized. When they came upon water, Philip baptized him.

Deceased John J. McNeill, a gay Jesuit priest, and theologian affirmed the story of the Ethiopian eunuch as "the first baptized gay Christian. This scripture reveals to many progressive biblical scholars that God welcomes and affirms gender variant individuals. Eunuchs were castigated, homosexuals, and intersex men. Today the terms could easily translate to mean sexual minorities, referring to LGBTQ individuals. The term means "the keepers of the hoth. These gender variant men served and guarded the women in royal palaces and wealthy households."

Also, the story of the Ethiopian eunuch highlights that the early beginnings of Christianity welcomed not only sexual minorities but also different races, and ethnicities. The Ethiopian eunuch is an example of a queer foreign black man as the first non-Jewish convert to Christianity.

During the "Trans Catholic Voices" breakout session at the Dignity US Conference in 2017, an African American transgender woman pointed out that Francis statements about transgender people of them as human dignity and perpetuates violence against them. The life experience for black trans is 32 years old. In her closing remarks, the African American transgender woman in "Trans Catholic Voices" asked for help from advocates and allies in the room that nearly brought me to tears.

"Trans lives are real lives. Trans deaths are real deaths. God works through other people. Maybe you can be those other people." In Jon Cross America restrooms were a hot button issue, as today, and a battleground for equal treatment. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on national origin, race, sex, gender, and religion. The law mandated desegregation of all public accommodations, including bathrooms.

The current administration is undermining the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect LGBTQ Americans. However, in February Trump’s administration revoked federal guidelines permitting transgender students from using "gender-appropriate facilities" which aligned with their gender identity.

How churches feel about transgender people was how Trump's administration treat transgender citizens must stop. "YES" on Question 3 is doing God's work which is the work of justice.

USES
Continued from page 5

The Vision125 strategic planning process, led by a team of Wellspring consultants, engaged over 100 stakeholders in exploration of the following questions:

- Who is our target population?
- What is our intended impact?
- How do we achieve this impact?
- How do we align our real estate to achieve our impact?
- What is our business model to achieve impact?
- What are our strategic priorities?

Over the past 125 years, USES has learned to reinvigorate its organization to continually meet the needs of the community through the lens of change. We believe that our mission is to help families stabilize and take advantage of opportunities for advancement, their children are better able to develop the skills needed for educational and workplace success in the 21st century, which will ultimately allow them to break the cycle of poverty.

In May of 2017, the board voted on USES's renewed mission — to harness the power of diverse community resources, in the cycle of poverty for children and their families. With this cornerstone, we are focusing on four priorities that are outlined in our Strategic Plan, evolving our programs model, changing the way we align our real estate to meet the community's needs. We believe that our mission is to help families stabilize and take advantage of opportunities for advancement, their children are better able to develop the skills needed for educational and workplace success in the 21st century, which will ultimately allow them to break the cycle of poverty.

Together, we have the capacity to set children up for a bright future. As we move forward in uniting community to strengthen families, our friends and supporters will be vital to our success.

If you wish to join our movement, you can read our Strategic Plan at www.uses.org/vision125/
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