Mel King celebrates 90 years with benefit for Tech Center

BY MICHELE D. MARISCALCO

On Saturday night, October 20, the atrium of the Harriet Tubman House at United South End Settlements was filled with music and well-wishers gathered to help community activist, educator, author, former elected official and visionary Mel King celebrate his 90th birthday, simultaneously supporting one of his many contributions to the city.

Guest Opinion

Take Action To Support Artists

Rally Against Artist Studio Evictions

BY CITY LIFE/VIDA URBANA

On Friday, October 26, at 2 pm at the Piano Factory building, 791 Tremont Street, Boston, City Life/Vida Urbana, a JP-based advocacy group, will be joining artists facing displacement from their studios at the Piano Factory, along with more artists who have been displaced from across the city. All community supporters are invited to attend.

For over 40 years, visual artists at the Piano Craft Guild building—commonly known as the Piano Factory—have contributed to the artistic and commercial value of this building and the surrounding neighborhood. In November of 2017, these artists were informed that

Halloween Happenings

Saturday, October 27, 2:00 PM
Join the Haunted Graveyard Tour if you dare!
South End Burying Ground
Washington Street between W. Newton and W. Concord St.
Have you ever walked by and wondered about the old, locked graveyard on Washington Street? Here is your chance to explore and learn about the beautiful and mysterious old burying ground that dates back to the beginning of the South End neighborhood. South End News writer Michele D. Mariscalco will offer the history of the burying ground as well as a few macabre stories from actual South End history. Admission is free and the tour is open to all ages.

Vote!

State Election
Tuesday, November 6
Information at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/

Local news for and about Boston’s best neighborhood

$2.1 million raised for pediatric care and research

SUBMITTED BY THE Hooke Agency

On Saturday, October 13, 2018, Mass General Hospital for Children (MGH) raised over $2.1 million in its 19th year of supporting pediatric health via its premier annual event, Storybook Ball. Jennifer & Mark Dolin and Sonja Kelly & Steve Tordone cochaired the event, which showcased the work of the Division of Child and Adolescent event.

Obituary

Lyn Elizabeth Ackerly

BY ROBERT NEUFI

Blackstone Park “citizen” and South End neighborhood spirit Lyn Elizabeth Ackerly passed away on Monday, October 1, at her home in the South End, at the age of 57. She was surrounded by friends and family.

She was loved by all on her street, on surrounding streets, in clubs, bars, restaurants, bookstores, and if she did observe a religion it

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Ackerty  
Continued from page 1

was with a book in her hand at the Boston Public Library, Copley branch, where she worked for years, tirelessly saving great, arcane books from being deaccessioned by those with lesser literary tastes.

She was a connoisseur of people, places, pets, poetry, politics, portraits, "pizzazz", plants, puzzles, and really crappy beer.

She loved all book genres—highbrow and lowbrow, Balzac parlor dramas to Highsmith crime sprees, secret histories and political gimnickery, from the great artists to the doo-
dlers, and was equally taken in by prose both poetic and plain.

Last book read was "Hangover Square" by Patrick Hamilton, one of her favorites.

She had a great memory for the Latin names of her garden plants.

And she loved her pets, which over the years were numerous:

Cats: Vivian, Monkey, PePe, Huckle-
berry, Alice, Dino, and Percy.

Dogs: Pancho (aka The Pickle), Pip, Moby, Maggie...and many more.

Even while lost to us, she is loved by us all, and will be forever remembered.

Guest Opinion  
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their studio spaces would be converted into luxury residential units and they would need to move out by January of 2019.

The Piano Factory artists are among many longstanding artist communities and workspaces currently being dismantled in Boston by increasing real estate development and policies that refuse to prioritize the arts. This rally is intended to call attention to this wrongfull pattern of displacing and evicting artists throughout the city, and to advocate for this to change.

Aggrovate will assemble at the back parking lot of the Piano Factory in front of the neon sign windows, and will then deliver 300 peti-
tion signatures to the building's management office to urge The Shoreline Corporation and building owner Simonen Brunner to agree to negotiate fair settlements with the Piano Factory's remaining visual artists who have made the building what it is today.

More information and petition at www.  dhu.org/piano_factorypetition

Halloween  
Continued from page 1

Saturday, October 27, 6-9PM

BCYF Curtis Hall Teen Halloween Party
Join us for a fun evening, including a DJ and pizza!
You must be 15 - 18 years old.
You must have a high school ID.
Dress code at 8:30 p.m.
Entry is first-come, first-served—capacity is 150 people.
BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center
20 South Street, Boston
FREE

Pilot Block Neighborhood Association
Annual Halloween Stoop-Sit & Decorat-
ing Contest

Thursday, October 29, 4-5:30PM

BCYF Tymus Community Center Hal-
looween Party
Youth ages 11 and under are invited to join us for a spooktacular good time!
650 East Fourth Street, Boston

Wednesday, October 31, 5-7PM

Ringgold Park Halloween Party 2018
Hosted by Friends of Ringgold Park
Ringgold Park is located in the Eight Streets area. It is between Waltham Street, Hanson Street, and Ringgold Street.

Get local and advertise your property in the South End News.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com.
King
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the community, the South End Technology Center at Tent City.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh; 9th Suffolk District state representative Byron Rushing and his wife, longtime community activist and former USES executive director Frieda Garcia; District 7 city councilor Kim Janey as well as her predecessor, Tito Jackson; South End Emporiums owner M. Dotta; and Jazz Boston board president, Pauline Bilsky and board member, Don Carson were among the well-wishers who numbered over 100, including four generations of the King family. Guests were treated to a buffet with various entrees, roasted vegetables, fried potatoes with onions and a beautifully decorated chocolate cake, the buffet prepared by student chefs from the culinary program at Madison Park Vocational High School and the cake created by a Madison Park culinary program alumnus.

The party had a warm, family atmosphere, with daughter Pascalla King acting as emcee and King’s youngest son, Jomo, also known as DJ Pasha, set a lively tone for the party with upbeat 70s and 80s hits including "Hot Houses Sisters’ "We Are Family," Kool and the Gang’s "Celebration" and Manti Diab’s "Sou": Makossa.

In acknowledgment of his achievements as the driving force behind the establishment of affordable housing at Tent City; a former state legislator and candidate for mayor of Boston; an MIT lecturer; and the founder and coordinating head of the South End Technology Center, King was honored in words and song.

In his remarks, Walsh lauded King for his leadership in housing and in teachivity, and Janey said she was "honored" to have known King all of her life, because her great grandmother was a neighbor of the King’s. She said that King’s run for mayor of Boston, for which she volunteered as a young gal, taught her lesson for her own electoral career. Janey said it was inspiring to see a "strong, beautiful black man" running for the city’s top office. Singer Danielle Ruffin serenaded King with one of his own poems, “I Want You to Sing My Song,” which she set to music, and artist/vocalist Veronique Anne Epiter saluted King with an emotional rendition of “You Raise Me Up,” made popular by Josh Groban.

When King took the mic, he described the Melvin H. King Fab Lab at Madison Park, a fabrication studio that teaches students to operate “machines that create machines,” such as 3-D printers, and praised the mayor for helping to obtain $250,000 for the program. At the end of his remarks, King led guests in chanting “Teamwork makes the dream work” and “Love is the question and the answer,” the latter the title of his 2003 book of poetry.

At $90 per ticket, the benefit raised over $10,000, and according to Pamela King, Eastern Bank provided a $10,000 grant to the Tech Center. Fundraising will continue toward a goal of $34,000 for the technology center’s operations and programming.

For more information on the South End Technology Center, please visit http://www.tech-center-enlightenboston.tv.

(Left) Singer Danielle Ruffin serenades King. (Top Right) Danielle Ruffin. (Right Center) King blows out the birthday candles. (Bottom Right) Mayor Walsh, Pamela King, Kim Janey. Photos by Michele Maniscalco
Psychiatry at MGH.

In the theme “101 Dalmatians,” Rafanelli Events transformed Back Bay’s Castle into the iconic streets of London and brought to life a story of community through black and white visuals inspired by the beloved poppies.

Co-Chairs Sonja Kelly and Jennifer Dolans kicked off the evening’s program, which also featured Peter L. Slavin, MD, President, Massachusetts General Hospital; Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, Physician-in-Chief, MGH.

Timothy E. Willens, MD, Chief, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Allan M. Goldstein, MD, Surgeon-in-Chief, MGH.

On stage to share their story was the Rehns family, whose son Jett (11) has been receiving treatment and guidance at the MGH Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry since he was diagnosed at age four with bipolar disorder.

The evening with about 500 black-tie guests included dinner, a live auction, dancing with DJ Chris Ross and games, where winners took home prizes from luxury brands like Blank Label, Bloomingdale’s, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Mervelle, North River Outfitter, Oliver Thomas, PUMA, Rue La La, Shreve, Crump & Low and Tuscan Kitchen.

Since 2000, the Step book Ball has raised $20 million for research initiatives and patient care programs at MGH. Proceeds from Storybook Ball over the past decade have allowed MGH to provide extraordinary care to the youngest patients and their families; to recruit and support the best physicians, surgeons and researchers; and to speed the development of new technologies and cutting-edge research that can transform clinical approaches locally and globally.
Rosie’s Place Raises $950,000

Rosie’s Place raised a record-breaking $950,000 at its annual fundraising luncheon, Funny Women...Serious Business, Tuesday. This amount was a 16% increase over our 2017 event!

The program was co-chaired by Susan Worrick and WCVB’s Karen Holmes Ward and featured video stories of three women whose lives were transformed by Rosie’s Place, introduced by local storytellers Hannah Thompson, Kate Merrif, Vanessa Welch and Latoya Edwards. Award-winning Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat was the featured speaker. The proceeds from the event benefit the 12,000 poor and homeless women Rosie’s Place help each year.

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South End Resources

IRA's Youth Development Peer Leader Program is looking for tutors!
IRA Youth Development Programs is looking for academic support tutors for our team between 3-6pm Monday-Thursday.
They range from 9th-11th grade, with most being 9th graders. We open our space early, so they can drop in and do homework, and they would benefit from supportive adults to assist with that work. The program is taking place in the gallery at the Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, which is right next to O'Day Park at 85 W. Newton Street. We're putting a renewed focus on the academic success of our peer leaders, the majority of whom are Villa Victoria and South End residents.
If you or someone you know may be interested in committing even just one hour a week, please reach out to IRA's Youth Coordinator, Taeisyi Djejesus, at tdejesus@ihaboston.org or call 617-339-4755.

Fall Clean Up at Titus Sparrow Park

Saturday, October 22, 9AM-12N
200 West Newton Street, Boston

THE TAKE
WITH SUE O'CONNELL
SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY...
SO DO HER GUESTS
WEEKDAYS
@ 7 & 8 PM

THE SOUTH END WRITES / THE LIBRARY INVITES

“Lopez understands that none of us is ever just one thing — and that life is one long and very precious balancing act.” — Boston Globe

Tuesday, October 30, 6:30 PM

Come and meet Melinda Lopez, award-winning actress, educator and inaugural Mellon playwright-in-residence at the Huntington Theatre; author of Sonia Flew, Becoming Cuba and Melas; now working on producing an adaptation of Federico Garcia Lorca’s Yerma.

The event is free. Seating is limited. We serve refreshments.

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