

BOO!

The Brassard family of the South End —Drew, 13-month-old George, and Elisabeth—were among the thousands of residents and visitors who made their way to Boston Common for Halloween fun and activities on October 19 as Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Skating Club of Boston hosted the annual Fall Pumpkin Float at the Frog Pond. The celebration was presented by key sponsors Highland Street Foundation, HP Hood LLC, Polar Beverages, and the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. Media spon-



Photo: Jon Seamans

sor was Magic 106.7 with additional support provided by Boston Cares.

Hamilton lives up to the hype

Hamilton,
tour presented by Broadway
in Boston at Boston Opera
House, through November 18.
Broadway in Boston or
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BY JULES BECKER

In its own way, "Hamilton" has as much to say about the importance of immigrants to America as the Emma Lazarus verses on the Statue

Continued on page 3



The cast of "Hamilton." (Courtesy Joan Marcus)

Guest Opinion

What Question 3 in Massachusetts is Really About

BY JORGE BAPTISTA,

"An Act Relative to Transgender Anti-Discrimination" was enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature to protect and ensure that anti-discrimination protections exist for those who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming in public

spaces. The Act ensures that public accommodations are kept as public accommodations for all individuals and is not a bathroom bill as being framed by campaigns, organizations, and individuals opposing this legislation.

The Act does not endorse or

support sexual assault or violence against any individual in public spaces in any way, shape or form. Nor is its purpose to put women or children in danger or harms way. Unfortunately, groups opposed to

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Credit Concord Square Facebook Page

Concord Square Pumpkins Up

The annual Concord Square Annual Pumpkin Carving was held on Sunday October 28.



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

My new dog Tye, a golden retriever, arrived from Michigan about a month ago. I found him

on the Internet when I googled for a two-year-old dog. Tye had been used as a stud for a breeder. When he was retired after spawning litters of puppies, the breeder's family took him in as a pet for a few months before offering him for sale. He was shipped to me and I love having him. He is a wonderful dog, gentle, obedient, well-behaved. But he has one problem: Although the previous owners assured me Tye loves getting up and riding in the car, he will not jump into my car. I have to sit in the back seat and coax him before he finally leaps.

One guy at the dog park suggests

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DA candidate Rollins visits WSANA

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Former federal prosecutor Rachael Rollins, who bested four other candidates in the September primary to become the Democratic candidate for Suffolk County district attorney, came to the October 23 meeting of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) to introduce herself and her ideas, including her controversial proposal that would effectively decriminalize a host of offenses that are the crimes most prevalent in the South End.

Approximately 20 residents attended the meeting, which was held in a construction trailer at 750 Albany Street.

Rollins, a former federal prosecutor who also served as chief legal counsel for the MBTA and for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), asserted that between herself and her only opponent, independent candidate and former defense attorney Michael Maloney, "I am the only person in this race that has ever prosecuted a case."

She also claimed experience in civil rights law, having filed a lawsuit against the Boston Police Department (BPD) while practicing at Bingham McCutchen that has been in the federal court for almost 15 years. "The criminal justice system doesn't work the same for everyone," Rollins said.

"The biggest group of people it doesn't work for is the poor, and it doesn't matter what color you are. If you are wealthy, things work better for you: you get better lawyers, you are moved to the head of the line, your lawyer knows the clerk or the judge and things turn out better. I just want people to receive the same services whether they are in West Roxbury or Roxbury."

Introducing her proposal to decriminalize certain theft and drug offenses, Rollins said, "As a prosecutor, we believe that our toolbox has one tool, and that is jail. Now that the world is changing, I want more tools in our toolbox. We should have rehabilitation and diversion. We should have civil infractions and social workers for certain 'petty' crimes and incarceration for violent, serious crimes."

Rollins also says she would eliminate cash bail unless a suspect were a flight risk, and employ dangerousness hearings to determine whether a suspect is a risk to the community and find a solution. She added, "I want to make it clear that the reason I want to do this is to focus on violent crimes." She pointed to a Washington Post article that cited "hundreds and hundreds" of unsolved violent crimes in Massachusetts and said that Massachusetts has the highest racial disparity in the country in terms of resolution of violent crimes.

WSANA president George Stergios told Rollins that the reason he invited her to speak to residents is because the South End has "an enormous amount" of these crimes. Of the petty crimes on her list such as trespassing, larceny under \$250, drug possession and possession with intent to distribute, and receiving stolen property, Stergios said, "Now, when we call the police, it is an occasional priority."

Neighbors worry that Rollins's plan not

to prosecute may result in these crimes being taken even less seriously and the incidents will increase. Rollins responded that the decision whether to arrest for these crimes lies with BPD, not with the district attorney's office. She said, "This list is overwhelmingly crimes of poverty, homelessness and addiction."

Rollins acknowledged that these are "petty crimes, but they are only petty when they are not happening to you. I get that." She reiterated that she intends to divert petty-crime offenders prior to arraignment and reserves the right to prosecute repeat offenders. Stergios told Rollins that he invited her to speak to residents because the South End has "an enormous amount" of the petty crimes on her list such as trespassing, larceny under \$250, drug possession and possession with intent to distribute, and receiving stolen property. Stergios said, "Now, when we call the police, it is an occasional priority."

Neighbors worry that Rollins's plan not to prosecute may result in these crimes being taken even less seriously and the incidents will increase. Rollins responded that the decision whether to arrest for these crimes lies with BPD, not with the district attorney's office, and reiterated that she intends to divert petty-crime offenders prior to arraignment and reserves the right to prosecute repeat offenders.

Rollins told the group that she has begun discussing the list proposal with law enforcement leaders including BPD commissioner William Gross and Boston Police Patrolmen's Association president Michael Leary. "We didn't agree on everything, but I am excited that we are starting the conversation."

South End Forum president Steve Fox described the Forum's efforts to seek solutions for homelessness, addiction and poverty, and said, "We realize we cannot arrest our way out of the Methadone Mile crisis. One of the things that concerns us the most is the open-air drug market at [Mass. Ave. and Melnea Cass Boulevard] which makes the homeless increasingly vulnerable and causes enormous problems for the neighborhood."

In response, Rollins asked what residents would say is working or not if they could speak to the district attorney. WSANA member Andrew Brand said he "loved the idea" of not giving a criminal record to a first-time offender on a petty crime, and inquired about Massachusetts General Law section 35, which allows a judge to commit an individual involuntarily to a drug or mental health treatment facility chosen by the judge or family if the person poses a risk to him/herself or others. Brand said there is a "pretty high bar" to invoke section 35 and wondered if there were some way to make it easier to use that mechanism to get people to treatment. Rollins said she drives by the Methadone Mile area frequently, and the problems of the people there are "personal" to her.

Rollins said mental health issues underlie much drug abuse, and lamented that mental health practitioners are increasingly avoiding patients who are not self-paying due to the burdensome paperwork. "You have to be wealthy to get mental health services," Rollins said. She continued, "I intend to be a

WSANA

Continued from page 2

squeaky voice to say, "Mayor, we need more money for opioid abuse and mental health." Rollins wants to create more treatment centers, whether by rebuilding the Long Island Bridge or by building on abandoned parcels.

With respect to immigrants in her jurisdiction, Rollins would end U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to the DA's office's databases, and if ICE agents are seen detaining or arresting someone near a Suffolk County courthouse, she would personally intervene to have the person returned to Suffolk County.

Coming back to local concerns about Methadone Mile, Brand said that while the neighborhood generally has not had much violent crime, it is now increasing, with two stabbings and two shootings, including a fatal shooting, on Mass. Ave. In recent months, "and it's likely to get a lot worse." Rollins noted that the area has three or four police jurisdictions, including 2 BPD districts, the state police and the MBTA, as well as three city councilors.

Fox asked a question about the "broken window theory," a criminological approach originated in New York that states an atmosphere of rampant crime and anti-social behavior begets more crime and negative behavior. Fox also asked how to broach Rollins's

proposal to residents. Rollins wants people held accountable, but not always in terms of incarceration. She gave the example of a judge in South Boston who sentences young people to community service, such as shoveling snow in front of the place where they shoplifted. She conceded that this approach may not work for mentally ill or drug-addicted offenders.

WSANA member Bob Minnocci spoke of a friend whose credit card was stolen, and the perpetrator charged \$40 to pay his phone bill. The victim went to D-4 station to report the theft, but was told they would not take a report. Addressing the anecdote, Rollins said, "That is a problem," but acknowledged that if there were heavy police activity at the

time, that might explain it. She would prefer to have a report taken to gather information on the perpetrator in order to decide whether to prosecute or pursue diversion. Speaking to concerns about her petty crime proposal, she assured the group, "I am not a dictator. What I promise you is that after I win on November 6, I will come back here and we can talk about what my ideas are, and you can tell me what you think is good, bad or inappropriate."

Rollins faces Michael Maloney, an independent candidate for Suffolk County DA, on November 6.



(Left) George Stergios, Rachael Rollins. Photos by Michele Maniscalco



Hamilton

Continued from page 1

of Liberty. The evidence is clear—both from the 2015 Broadway original and the strong tour at the Boston Opera House—that its subject is the kind of Founding Father that always fully defended equality and wholeheartedly supported immigrants. Tellingly, a rousing cheer erupted at the Opera House after the assertion "Immigrants—we get the job done." Sublimely the cast of "Hamilton"—both at the Richard Rogers Theatre and on tour—largely includes Hispanic and African-American descendants of immigrants—in the original New York cast even a black Jew named Daveed Diggs, whom this critic saw powerfully play both Thomas Jefferson and French hero Marquis de Lafayette.

Significantly, Miranda gives time to the dream of freedom and the ideal of a black regiment. At another key moment, Hamilton

counters Jefferson's complaint about money spent to assist New York by reminding the cocky Virginia slave holder that his state's burgeoning economy depends upon slavery.

If Hamilton is unrepentantly outspoken, his nemesis Burr comes across as deliberately cagey. The latter talks less and does not let people know where he stands. Fairly envious of the man who established America's very solid financial status, Burr observes, "The man is nonstop." Hamilton accomplishes a great deal thanks to that tirelessness. Miranda—with a vivid book and an exquisitely eclectic score of rap, hip hop, rhythm and blues, jazz, pop and folk—beautifully captures his subject's commitment to the Constitution and the nation.

Andy Blankenbuehler evokes the dynamics of the American Revolution and the debates and understandings of historical figures in his often stylized but always sharply delineated choreography. History buffs and general theatergoers will welcome the musi-

cal's observation that James Madison, often seen as the father of the Constitution, only wrote 29 of the pivotal Federalist Papers while Hamilton wrote 51.

At one point, Hamilton speaks of building something that will outlive him—an eye to the future that ought to be a wake-up call for those leaders who do not seem to worry about the impact of climate change on their children and future generations.

Director Thomas Kail has built up a terrific touring ensemble for this deserved 11 Tony Award winner, effectively as good as the cast this critic saw in New York. Edred Utomi (substituting for Austin Scott) has the right combination of gutsiness, self-confidence and occasional vulnerability as Hamilton. He delivers "My Shot" with fitting bravado. Nicholas Christopher moves convincingly from frustration to fiery purpose as Burr. He brings an impressive belt to Burr's ambition on "The Room Where It Happens." Hannah

Cruz captures Eliza Hamilton deep love for her husband as well as her inner conflict about Alexander's shortcomings.

Sabrina Sloan shares fine harmonies with Cruz as her insightful sister Angelica Schuyler. Paul Oakley Stovall catches George Washington's authority and mentoring. Bryson Bruce catches Lafayette's panache and Jefferson's attitude. Peter Matthew Smith is a hoot as buffoonish King George. Kudos go to Paul Tazewell's handsome costumes, David Korins' smartly evolving scenic design and Howell Binkley's often surreal lighting.

Miranda's Hamilton protects the outsider and the disenfranchised. His musical lives up to the hype surrounding it and more. Call it a brilliant, totally absorbing fact check about America in an age of outrageous campaign promises and Orwellian doublespeak. Vote for "Hamilton" and enjoy.

South End News

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Boston Lyric Opera's recent Opera Gala Raises \$370,000

Boston Lyric Opera's recent Opera Gala 2018, held at City Winery Boston. The Gala welcomed more than 200 guests for a VIP

dinner and a post-dinner party, all to the sound of tenors, sopranos, basses and mezzos singing opera's biggest hits. The Gala raised \$370,000

for BLO's education programs in Boston and throughout Eastern Massachusetts.



(Left to Right) Andrew Sherman and Russell Lopez, of Boston's South End, at the cocktail reception during Boston Lyric Opera's Opera Gala 2018 at City Winery Boston. Photo: Above Summit Photography

Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

Tye is a Michigan-bred dog, raised with big American vehicles; my little '15 Toyota Prius unnerves him. Could this possibly be?

—Anne

Dear Anne,

Your dog park pal has a point, a very good one. If Tye was brought up riding around in ginormous Dodge Rams, Cadillac Escalades, Ford Expeditions or F-150 trucks, the confused dog must indeed be nervous confronting the miniscule back seat of a Prius. Dogs are such creatures of habit and what is imprinted on them as pups lasts a long time.

Be patient. Tempt Tye with high-test treats (such as dried liver chunks or pieces of boiled chicken) placed prominently on the back seat and always take him to a fun place. The dog park is a perfect destination. You can keep getting into the back seat and luring him

thither but you don't know if this was the car behavior of his previous family, which is why it resonates with him. So stay out the back seat, try treats, your best coaxing voice and, please, don't expect instant miracles. You have a good dog. One day he will jump into your Prius and never look back.

Dear Dog Lady,

I am actually a cat person but I like all animals. I just want readers to know two things not to say to anyone who has just lost a beloved pet. Number One on the list of upsetting remarks? "So, are you going to get another one?" Every pet has its own personality and has worked its way into your heart. It can't be "replaced" like an I-Phone. The other offensive remark is, "How old was it?" Well, sure, your passed pet may have had a long life, but are they ever really "old enough" when you love them so much? Would people say that about an elderly parent? I realize people in general mean well, but please just say you're sorry. Thanks for letting me vent.

—Diane

Dear Diane,

Dog Lady is glad a self-described "cat person" came to "Ask Dog Lady" to vent. And, really, why not? Dogs usually demand more attention but this column likes all companion animals.

You make good sense but, please, understand the best-intentioned people always fumble for the right words. Openly grieving pets is a new societal phenomenon. Many people are not so enlightened as to know what to say about a dearly departed cat, dog, turtle or whatever creature. Greeting card collections now include a selection of pet sympathy cards so you might peruse these for suggestions.

Please understand—anyone who offers compassion about a passed pet means very well. A sympathizer should not be judged for saying—or not saying—the "correct" thing.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com.

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

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BCA Announces New Board Chairman and Vice Chairs

SUBMITTED BY BCA

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) has announced the appointment of a new Board Chairman and Vice Chairs, increasing the size of its Board of Directors from 18 to 21 members. John GF Ruggieri-Lam is the newly appointed BCA Chairman of the Board. Molly McDonald returns for a second year as BCA's Vice Chair, and Juan Carlos Gonzalez will serve in his first year as Vice Chair. These new appointments come on the heels of the BCA recently announcing the purchase of the Calderwood Pavilion from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

The purchase of the Calderwood Pavilion allows BCA to become its trustee—to preserve and maintain this incredible building for both the artists that perform there and the audiences who visit.

"On behalf of BCA and the Board of Directors, I am thrilled to welcome John as the newly appointed Chairman of the Board, Molly as the newly appointed Vice Chair, and Juan Carlos as a new board member and Vice Chair," said Gregory Ruffer, BCA President & CEO. "We are confident that their perspectives, leadership, experience and passion for the arts will have a positive and meaningful impact on our commitment to arts in Boston."

John GF Ruggieri-Lam is an Attorney at Law and Founding Partner of the Law firm Dwyer, Ruggieri, Spino & Goncalves LLC. His firm focuses its practice on business, real estate development law and estate planning. John shares his excitement for being appointed

as BCA's Board of Directors Chairman: "I am thrilled to play a role in the growth, and enhancement, of BCA's mission in the months and years to come."

Molly McDonald, who is currently an Organization Effectiveness Partner for Biogen, Inc. and has over 10 years of consulting experience, commented: "Supporting workforce development for artists is critical to keeping our diverse culture in the South End and I am thrilled to be an active part of that effort." Previously, Molly has worked for Next Street Financial as Managing Associate Talent Management, Watson Wyatt as Consultant and Towers Perrin as Consultant. Molly moved to Boston from Chicago and has been a South End resident for the past nine years. Juan Carlos Gonzalez is Founder of JC Consulting, based in Boston's South End.

JC Consulting specializes in real estate renovations, relocations and exclusive private and corporate events. Juan Carlos added: "I am thrilled to be part of such a wonderful organization like the BCA, which is evolving every day with many talented artists. As a business owner, I look forward to continuing to support the BCA and other local organizations devoted to the arts and much needed social causes." Outside of his firm, Juan Carlos is active in the Boston arts scene, having sat on the host committee for the 2016 MFA Council Summer Party. Following on these successes, Juan Carlos initially assisted the Boston Center for the Arts as a Co-Chair for the BCA Ball 2017, and currently serves on the MFA Museum Council Steering Committee.

South End Calendar

Saturday, November 3

Health Fair 2018, Presented by Boston University School of Medicine student groups. Funded in part by the Massachusetts Medical 11am-3pm
Dog park at W. Newton and Washington Streets
Hot Topics In Your Health And Wellness. Bring your friends and family! We want to talk to you!

- Why is vaccination important?
- How can I stay safe while biking in the city?
- What is the nutrition label telling me?
- Is it okay to "catch-up" on sleep over the weekend?

Tuesday, November 6

South End Forum Meeting
6-8pm
South End Library 685 Tremont Street
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Guest Opinion

Continued from page 1

the Act assert that supporting individuals who are transgender perpetuate and encourage violence in bathrooms, putting women and children in danger. This assertion is not supported by a recent study by UCLA's Williams Institute.

The opposition, including Andrew Beckwith from the "Keep Massachusetts Safe Campaign" and the "Massachusetts Family Institute" continue to use demoralizing language, casting trans and gender non-conforming individuals as sexual predators and those with evil intentions. This is the type of language LGBTQ+ individuals have had to face for too long and is still present in local, national, and global perspectives. This is not acceptable in a world where human beings have the right to be and live in public spaces.

The Massachusetts Family Institute, which supports the opposition of this important legislation, has continued to oppose marriage equality, and the 2015 Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision.

The current legislation does make sexual assault and other acts of violence and discrimination perpetrated against transgender individuals illegal in the Commonwealth. The Act protects those who have different gender identities. Voting "Yes" on Massachusetts' Question 3 would keep in place these protections for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in places of public accommodations.

Repealing this important legislation is not the solution to deal with sexual violence in bathrooms. More so, maintaining this law

creates safe spaces for all.

The fact that transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have anti-discriminatory legislation in place to ensure that their rights are protected has contributed to increased feelings of safety. Historically this is a community that has struggled with discrimination and police brutality.

Regardless of where you live or vote, we as citizens of the Commonwealth need to do more for our fellow trans and gender non-conforming community members.

This should not be a partisan political issue; nor should this be an issue of the "Left" or the "Right." For example, in 2016 Governor Charlie Baker (R) signed this legislation (bill S.2407) into law days after the bill came across his desk.

If you are a Massachusetts resident and are registered to vote, please consider a "Yes" vote on Question 3 to keep this legislation where it belongs, enacted to ensure public accommodations for transgender individuals.

We can ensure the safety of women and children without dehumanizing, spread fear, and assert stereotypes of those who have differing gender identities. Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals have been and will always be part of our communities. The least that Massachusetts residents can do is to continue to ensure safe spaces for these individuals.

There is no question that the implications of our support is vital to keep this legislation enacted. Whether as allies or as those who are trans or gender non-conforming, this is a human rights issue.

Jorge Baptista, MPH student at Boston University School of Public Health, jorgewb@bu.edu

Chang-Díaz Announces Neighborhood Office Hours

SUBMITTED BY
THE OFFICE OF SENATOR SONIA CHANG-DÍAZ

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz has announced neighborhood office hours for November 2018. Office Hours, held by Sen. Chang-Díaz and her staff, will take place within each of the neighborhoods of the Second Suffolk District.

These office hours are a great opportunity to discuss any community or statewide issues and hear about what's going on at the State House. Office hours will be held at the following times and locations. Please note that there are both morning and evening office hours.

South End – Tuesday, November 13, 9-10AM, ABCD South End, 554 Columbus Ave. Description: Join Legislative Director Amesto Reyes Hernández to discuss local issues and the upcoming legislation.

Roxbury – Tuesday, November 13,

5-6:30PM, Bruce C. Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street. Description: Sit down with Sen. Chang-Díaz and her Legislative Aide, Maia Raynor, to talk about what's going on in the neighborhood.

Jamaica Plain – Saturday, November 17, 11:30AM-12:30PM, Jamaica Plain Library, 30 South Street. Description: Grab your weekend page turner and talk about issues in the neighborhood with Legislative Aide Ethan Smith.

Those who cannot attend these office hours can contact Sen. Chang-Díaz's office at 617-722-1673, email Sonia.Chang-Diaz@masenate.gov, or stop by her State House office, located in Room 111 on the first floor of the State House for assistance.

Any questions regarding the Senator's office hours can be directed to her Communications Director, Joshua Wolfson, at 617-722-1673 or Joshua.Wolfson@masenate.gov.

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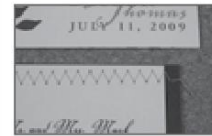
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THE TAKE
 WITH **SUE O'CONNELL**

**SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY...
 SO DO HER GUESTS**

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