IBA caps 50th anniversary year with gala benefit

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Inauguramos Bisnis en Acción (IBA), the non-profit organization that founded and operates the Villa Victoria affordable housing complex, cast center and a host of services for all ages, brought an elegant and jubilant close to its 50th anniversary.

Rain fails to dampen South End voter turnout

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Lines were reported at polling stations across the South End as voters cast ballots for U.S. House and Senate seats, Governor, state senate and other state-level positions on Tuesday, November 6. Two changes of the guard were officially ratified in the general election, namely the September 4 primary upset of city councilor at large Ayanna Pressley over longtime incumbent Michael

Gov. Charlie Baker Wins 2nd Term in Massachusetts
But challenger Jay Gonzalez wins Boston.

State-Wide Final Results
BAKER and POLITO 581,953 66%
GONZALEZ and PAFREY 505,325 54%
Total 2,385,278
Results from Secretary of State

City of Boston Final Results
GONZALEZ and PAFREY 110,187 50.55%
BAKER and POLITO 107,108 49.45%
Write-in Votes 665 0.31%
Total Number of Precincts: 255 Precincts
Reporting: 100.0%
Total Votes: 217,960 Number of Uncast Votes: 5,177
Results from City of Boston Election Department

South End tricks and treats

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Halloween across the South End brought out plenty of witches, superheroes, tigers, clowns, princesses and the like, as well as houses, cars and trees festooned with cobwebs, skeletons, colored lights and the occasional mist machine, including one house decorated with a politically-themed tableau inspired by current political leaders and the midterm election.

A few family groups were decked out in themed costumes this year, with one family spotted in front of Café Quioto, 137 Harrison Avenue, dressed as "The Incredibles" and a mother and her little girl strode "Tremont Street, both dressed as bunnies. Tita Sparrow and Ruggold Parks once again held an early evening Halloween gathering for children, although the Boston Fire Department’s Engine 22 firehouse at 700 Tremont Street was not open to trick or treaters as it has been in previous years.

One South End townhouse was cleverly and elaborately decorated as the “Capitol Hill Lunatic Asylum”, with figures of President Donald Trump flanked by Russian president Vladimir Putin and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, all clad in hospital gowns and scrubs.

Below, figures of White House Kellianne Conway in a nurse’s cap and presidential press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in scrubs stand over a chained Statue of Liberty holding a sign that reads, “Help Me Vote,” The house attracted many visitors, photographs and some local news coverage.

More Photos on page 4
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year with a formal, gala fundraiser held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate at UMass Boston on Saturday night, November 3.

Approximately 350 guests, many in black tie and evening gowns, enjoyed passed appetizers and buffet-style treats from an array of popular Boston chefs and eateries; an open bar with beer, wine, cocktails and soft drinks; anniversary cake and desserts; remarks by elected officials and other prominent Bostonians and music by Eric Germain and his Orchestra. WCVB veteran reporter Jorge Quiroga hosted the event.

While eating, socializing and dancing took place in the spacious lobby and corridors of the Institute, a slideshow and remarks commemorating IBA’s history and achievements and a video to IBA’s 50 for 50, a roster of Boston Latinos who have contributed significantly to the local community and the city. Tickets cost $250, and according to event spokesperson Kate Dugle, the preliminary fundraising total is $450,000, "as a culmination of year-long efforts," Dugle said. "IBA will dedicate all funds raised to providing some affordable housing, as well as promoting economic mobility, artistic enrichment and educational opportunities for the city’s most vulnerable citizens."

Guests included South End residents as well as neighborhood and citywide public servants including Mayor Martin J. Walsh; city councilor at-large and U.S. House representative-elect Ayanna Pressley; 9th Suffolk District state representative-elect Jon Santiago, M.D.; District 2 city councilor Ed Flynn; Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) commissioner William Morales; and Mand Housing director of community services Thadeus Miles; and Boston Police Department (BPD) D4 community service officers Javier Pagán and his former D4 partner, Jorge Díaz. Governor Charlie Baker delivered his congratulations on IBA’s anniversary and accomplishments via video.

The evening began at 7:00 PM with a toast cocktail tribute by Eric Germain’s ensemble while guests arrived and socialized. Around 7:45 PM, guests were called to the lobby for introductory remarks by Quiroga, Walsh, Pressley, Edward M. Kennedy Institute president Mary Grand and Goya Foods director of public relations, Rafael Tom.

Kicking off the night’s remarks, emcee Quiroga said, “It is fitting to celebrate IBA’s 50th anniversary here, because like Senator Edward M. Kennedy, IBA and Vanessa Calderón-Rosado have been an unstoppable force in support of families.” Recalling the members of the Emergency Tenants Coalition that fought in 1988 for affordable housing in an area that was slated for destruction under urban renewal, Quiroga said, “The tenants that stood up and stopped the highway are an inspiration to all of us.” Mayor Walsh announced that the city will release a housing report this week stating that 45 per cent of South End housing is income-restricted, and crediting IBA with the development and management of a significant portion of that affordable housing. Referring to Calderón-Rosado’s

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(continued) IBA 50 honorees, Jovita Fontanez and Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, center. (Right, Center) Jorge Díaz, BCYF’s William Morales, Javier Pagán. (Bottom Left) Ayanna Pressley. (Bottom Right) Jorge Quiroga & Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Photos by Michele Mariscaluc

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Halloween
Continued from page 1

Photos by Michele Maniscalco
Voter Turnout

Capuano for the 7th district House of Representatives seat and Jon Santiago’s victory for the 9th Suffolk District state house seat occupied by the retiring David. 

Other races yielded more expected results, with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren retaining her seat against Republican challenger Geoff Diehl, the hands-on election of governor Charlie Baker, a former real estate broker, and a narrow 51-49 victory for the state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage. 

Boston voters decided on three ballot questions: Question 1, which proposed a state-subsidized program for low-income families; Question 2, which would establish a volunteer commission to Massachusetts to advocate for a constitutional amendment to limit corporate donations; and a festival at the Four Seasons were auctioned off for $5,000. 

In a written statement, Miranda said, “My family and I are proud to support IBA and the incredible work they do for half a century for Boston’s largely undererved Latino community. This year, we have been particularly inspired by and thankful for IBA’s tireless efforts for those displaced from Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria who have found themselves so far from home. Here’s to another 50 years of progress, leadership, and meaningful change.” 

After the presentations, guests repaired to the lobby for cake and dessert, coffee and drinks while Erin Gormann and his orchestra ramped up the beat with driving salsa music, filling the dance floor until the end of the festivities.

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IBA

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long hours in her office and at Villa Victoria events. Walsh thanked “Vanessa’s husband and son for leading her to the community.”

In her remarks, Presley said, “IBA”s legacy in the word, “resistance.” We struggle to honor diversity. Diversity means shared power. Thank you for making resistance and resilience.”

She also noted that between 2014 and 2017, the Latino vote grew 71 percent, and 54 per cent of Latinos who voted in the 2018 primary were first-time voters. “I am not going to speak for very long because never let it be said that someone from Goia kept people from eating!” He added, “The thing that IBA and Goia have in common is that we both being people together.” After the well wishes, guests sampled the wares of chef José Dauré of Tanta; Brian Poe of the Tip Top Room, Rodney Marullo of Davio’s, Michele Rivera Sauce of the Ritz Carlton, Daniel Boniho of La Familia Central and others. Food offerings included traditional favorites such as tostones (fried plantain slices), guacamole and salsa and cream cheese bites, as well as novel treats including wagu-style coysters and purple carrot, red onion and goat cheese crostini. 

After the dining hour, guests entered the historic Senate Chamber to listen to remarks and view a slide presentation of IBA’s 50 for 50 honorees. The slide show included images of the original Emergency Tenants Council, 2018. 

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Support Boston Living Center
Celebration of Life

Submitted by BLC

The Celebration of Life is Boston Living Center's (BLC) biggest fundraiser of the year. BLC is New England’s largest community center for people living with HIV/AIDS.

This year's event will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 5:30 PM, at the Hyatt Convention Center, Boston.

The Celebration of Life serves Thanksgiving Dinner to the HIV/AIDS Community. Over the past thirty years, what started as a modest gathering of friends facing a then unknown epidemic, has turned into a community-wide event with more than 700 guests from the HIV/AIDS Community. Our Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner is free for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Celebration of Life is also the largest fundraiser for the Boston Living Center, thanks in large part to our dedicated TIPS Servers and their generous supporters. In addition to feeding a hand at the event itself, each TIPS server commits to raising at least $300 to support the Boston Living Center's unique services for those in New England living with HIV/AIDS.

Additionally, the top three fundraisers earn amazing prizes as a hearty thank you from Victory Programs: 1st Prize is 2 Roundtrip Tickets on JetBlue, 2nd Prize is a 3 Month Membership to Equinox, 3rd Prize is a 1-Year Membership to BlueBikes! Additionally, all TIPS Servers who reach at least the minimum fundraising goal of $300 will be entered into a raffle to win a $50 VISA Giftcard!

It's a great volunteer opportunity for both individuals and groups looking to make an impact this holiday season.

Ready to make a difference? Sign up today as a TIPS Server, start a TIPS Team, or become a "Virtual TIPS Server" to participate in the FUNDraising fun if you can’t join us for the event. Every dollar counts.

You can also make a difference by donating now. Visit www.bostonliving.com for more information on how you can help.

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