South End News

November 29, 2018 [Vol. 39, No. 47]

South Enders attend High Hopes Gala

Christine Bray, Joel Lombardo and Teresa Fitzgerald, all South End residents, were among the 500 guests who attended Joslin Diabetes Center’s 15th Annual Black-tie High Hopes Gala at The Castle at Park Plaza on Saturday, November 3rd. Guests had the opportunity to mingle with former New England Patriots cornerback and Class of 2018 Pro Football Hall of Fame Finalist Ty Law. The evening was emceed by Kristy Lee of NBC 10 Boston and honored the Az[c]lo and Beethoven families of the Belfant Eye Institute for their generation of work in treating and reversing diabetes-related blindness.

Emma and Sarah Sabourin, young Joslin patients, ages 9 and 13, and diabetes advocates, received this year’s spotlight on Hope award, and Casey McNamara was named Joslin’s 2019 Merritt Levin Youth Ambassador. As ambassador, the 18-year-old high school senior will take an active role in enhancing diabetes awareness.

The event raised more than $1.3 million for Joslin’s High Hopes Fund which directly supports the Center’s greatest efforts to identify breakthrough advancements in diabetes research and in providing world-renowned clinical care. The event was also attended by Dr. Peter Amenta, president and CEO of Joslin Diabetes, and his wife Edna, along with Jeni Ross of the TJX Companies and U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Friends of the Public Garden Kick Off Event

On Tuesday, November 15, 2018, the Friends of the Public Garden gathered at Marc Hall Design in the South End to celebrate the commencement of the planning for its spring gala, the Green and White Ball, which will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel Boston on Friday, April 26, 2019. Friends Board Chair Leslie Adam welcomed guests, while co-chairs Ashley

Celebration Of Life Thanksgiving Dinner

For The HIV/AIDS Community

Submitted by Boston Living Center

In 1988, a holiday tradition was born during the height of the AIDS epidemic when a founding member of the Boston Living Center, Peter Daniel Clark, and a group of friends living with HIV/AIDS came together for a modest meal to celebrate an

ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Honoria Colline

Dear Dog Lady,

My girlfriend brought him home when she was living alone and working a lot. At that time, she never should have gotten a dog. She left him home alone all day in a crate with pep pads when she went to work and never socialized him with other dogs for the first two years. He was never house trained and still pees and poops in the house. We’re thinking of moving in together but I’m not sure I want to live with this dog. I would like him to train him. My suggestions?

Robert

Dear Robert,

Yes, Robert, you can help. Devote yourself to house-training. The Chihuahua needs you, as you have clearly expressed your concern for the skittish innocent. The dog sounds like a scared, nervous creature who has not been properly socialized, loved or trained. No wonder the little guy jumps on your lap. He senses a friend. The careless way the girlfriend has treated this dog should be a clear indication of how she could treat you.

Dear Dog Lady,

I have an 11-year-old labrador retriever mix who thinks he is two.

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Enchanted Trolley Tour
takes a new track
Santa and the Mayor will visit Worcester Square

By Michele D. Mandolfo

After 56 years, Worcester Square Association’s WSAN Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will no longer be a strictly local affair as it moves to Saturday, December 1 at 4:00 PM instead of its customary date on the first Sunday in December and becomes part of the three-day, citywide Mayor’s Enchanted Trolley Tour.

Likewise, the event, which has taken place in previous years at Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) Plaza at 535 Tremont Street, and the BCA will host an alternate holiday event in mid-December. According to BCA communications manager Paula Diogo, South End/Bay Village liaison Fuila Shairi contacted the BCA in October to say that the Enchanted Trolley Tour would be stopping at a different location this year, possibly Worcester Square, and BCA received confirmation of the Worcester Square location via a press release from the city in mid-November. The Mayor’s Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment sponsors the Mayor’s Enchanted Trolley Tour. According to a city government source, the change of venue from the BCA to Worcester Square stemmed from resident requests.

Aramark, WSAN’s tree lighting party will offer food and beverages from a variety of local purveyors including Café Quarrito, which will again supply its popular pizza, minnie, a raffle offering cash prizes and gift certificates from local businesses, and music by the Yvonne Albert Quartet. An outdoor change will be the arrival of Santa. In past years, red-bejeweled, bright-eyed East End Street resident and Greg Jackson has arrived on a Boston Fire Department truck, cheerfully greeting residents and listeners to children’s Christmas wishes. This year, the Mayor’s trolley tour will visit Santa and Mrs. Claus along with elves and other North Pole designs.

On December 16 from 3:30-4:30 PM, the BCA will partner with the Ellis Square Neighborhood Association (The Ellis) on its in the past with the Enchanted Trolley Tour to host the first annual South End Winter Celebration. The Winter Celebration, which will comprise entertainment, concessions, holiday craft activities and special guests, will be an indoor/outdoor event on the BCA Plaza and in the Cyclorama. Next door at 541 Tremont Street, The Beehive will host a holiday sing-along and Italian-style family dinner from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM.

This is one of those occasions outside the wheelhouse of “Ask Dog Lady.” You decline to mention whether these dogs are neutered or intact. If you’re asking about the elderly lab, we’d be buying a pet. If neutered, there’s no reason why these two dogs couldn’t get along, provided you introduced them properly, continue the same behavior and not let the Basset female paw you. You will, of course, make sure she is spayed.

“Ask Dog Lady” keep a handle as a constant matter on your playing field, which means every dog is in a good role. Please understand its irresponsible not to spay or neuter your pet.

Harmon (Beacon Hill), Amanda Pratt (Beacon Hill), Jessica Schmitz (Beacon Hill) and Lisa Laffie (Beacon Hill) introduced event partner Marc Hall, who gave guests a sneak peak of his inspirations for next spring’s event – the rose.

Works with rose varieties from all over the world, Marc has his team discover the making of three spectacular arrangements and excited the guests about what it is to come at Boston’s most anticipated springtime gala.

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Public Garden
Continued from page 1

Dear Melinda,

This is one of those occasions outside the wheelhouse of “Ask Dog Lady.” You decline to mention whether these dogs are neutered or intact. If you’re asking about the elderly lab, we’d be buying a pet. If neutered, there’s no reason why these two dogs couldn’t get along, provided you introduced them properly, continue the same behavior and not let the Basset female paw you. You will, of course, make sure she is spayed.

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Friends Of The South End Library

SUBMITTED BY MARLENE NIENHUIS

Our final speaker of the 2018 season on Tuesday, December 11 is the acclaimed foreign-policy journalist (and South End resident) Stephen Kinzer, who will present his analysis of what the United States’ future relationship with Iran and Syria could be. Kinzer, a former New York Times bureau chief in, among other places, Istanbul, has been hosted by South End Writers several times before; once, to discuss his riveting book, The Brothers, about the impact of the policies of former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and his brother, former CIA director Allen Dulles; and before that, to talk about his reporting trip to Iran, just before the nuclear deal was signed.

Kinzer will be introduced by the esteemed WBUR’s Open Source radio host, Christopher Lydon. The event is free. Seating is limited.

South End Writes
Tuesday, January 15: Jean Diver. When the Spirit Calls, a Healing Odyssey: Joan Diver and her husband, Collin, former South End residents, were featured in the Pulitzer prize-winning book about the 1976 school integration crisis in Boston by E. Anthony Lukas, Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families. This is Diver’s first book.
Tuesday, February 19: (date may change too later one in March): Suzanne Berno. The Dogs of Littlefield. Berno, the fiction editor of The Harvard Review, won the UK’s Orange Prize for a previous novel, A Crime in the Neighborhood and is the acclaimed author, too, of The Ghost at the Table and A Perfect Arrangement.

Local Focus
Visual artist Marianne Kinzer’s work will be on display in the Tremont Street window in December. She works from her South End studio at 46 Walbum Street. Her art has been exhibited in community centers and galleries abroad (Germany and Turkey), and in the U.S., including a solo show at the Stone Library in Orleans, MA. She has been invited to exhibit at the Jake Reilly Art Gallery, the South End; the Tomor Center for the Arts, in Truro, MA; the Waterview Art Gallery in Provincetown; and at the Watson Institute in Providence, RI. Kinzer regularly participates in South End

Celebration
Continued from page 1

other year of life. Each year the tradition has grown to include more members of the HIV/AIDS community for a sumptuous holiday gathering at the Hotel Convenion Center.

On November 20, 2018, amid the glamorous backdrop of the sumptuously decorated ballrooms at the Hyatt Convention Center, members of the Greater Boston HIV/AIDS community gathered with friends and loved ones to continue a tradition during back 30 years, the annual Celebration of Life Thanksgiving Dinner; nearly 600 guests in all. Originally a humble gathering of friends living with the AIDS-related immune deficiency since 1988, the dinner serves as both a reminder of those lost to the epidemic and an opportunity for those who continue to survive, and to thrive, despite serious illness. This year’s event featured entertainment by DJ Olfa, Wooly Moya, and World Premier Band, a resource fair with more than 30 nonprofit organizations and community groups, a traditional sit-down Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings including delectable pies donated by Community Services, and guests gifting containing winter gear donated by Bank of America, Building Impact, Temple Beth Amudah, and United Way. Each year, tables at the event are set with lavishly, one-of-a-kind centerpieces donated by generous and talented individuals, businesses, and community groups, and open guests are greeted by volunteers ready to help them to their tables and see to their needs during the meal.

The event also serves as the largest fundraiser of the year for Victory Programs’ Boston Living Center, New England’s largest community and resource center for people living with HIV/AIDS, and up to two guests, corporate partners, individual donors, volunteer fundraisers, and community partners give generously of their time, money, and resources. This year’s Evening’s Sponsor, Walgreens, also offered free slots for guests during the resource fair and sent a team of volunteers to help serve dinner. The event has already raised more than $135,000 for the Boston Living Center, with additional donations expected in the coming weeks.

The Celebration of Life includes the presentation of two awards, the Peter Daniel Clark Award, named for the founder of the Celebration of Life, who passed away due to AIDS-related complications in 1992; and presented by his sister, Debbie Fullman and Roseanne Clark; and the Brenda Bellizeare “BIG” Better It Gets Award presented to a member of the Boston Living Center selected by the membership at the Center.

2018 Peter Daniel Clark Award: Dawn Fukuda, Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS at the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Dawn has made working toward the spread of HIV/AIDS her life’s work. Prior to working at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dawn worked for AIDS Action Committee and Jordan Hospital. She has a long history of advocacy work and of promoting prevention services. Dawn maintains strong relationships with members of the community, providers, and advocates working to shift light on the current rate of HIV/AIDS in the Commonwealth.

2018 Brenda Bellizeare “BIG” Better It Gets Award: Wilson Valencia, Boston Living Center Member.

The recipient of the Brenda Bellizeare “BIG” Better It Gets Award is selected by members of the Boston Living Center from their peers to honor someone who’s personal journey has been an inspiration to others and who has shown a commitment to continuing that journey. Wilson was selected by his fellow members for his helpful nature, positive outlook, and welcoming personality.

The Celebration of Life relies on more than 200 volunteers, including special “THPS” Servers who also engage in peer-to-peer fundraising with a minimum goal of $500 each leading up to the event and notable “VIP” Servers including elected officials, community leaders, and longtime agency friends. This year’s notable volunteers included, but are not limited to:

• Monica Velez-Lupi – Executive Director of Boston Public Health Commission, volunteering
• Ray Magliozzi – Founder of popular NPR show “Car Talk,” longtime volunteer at the Celebration of Life
• Eliot Tischman – Jordan’s Furniture, longtime volunteer at the Celebration of Life
• Deborah Becker – Senior Correspondent and Host, WBUR, volunteering
• Tiffany Faison – Chef and Restaurant, volunteering
• Margaret Tracey – Director, Boston Ballet School, volunteering
• Massachusetts State Representatives Russell E. Holmes, Adrian Madaro, Anton Michlewitz, and David M. Rogers

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Man fights many battles

Emile Griffith was a legendary fighter, but his inner bout may have been the most important one of his life. The Black St Thomas, American Virgin Islands boxer (1936-2013) went on championships stretching from welterweight and junior middleweight classes to middleweight class yet his most formidable conflict may have involved his sexuality. Griffith nevertheless determined to transcend prejudice and homophobia and lived a life of fulfillment.

Actually, Clapp explained, the play’s Albert is a composite of Howie and Gil. “I know that Michael has taken certain liberties,” he admitted. Still, Clapp called the part “a great supporting role.” Quite simply, he offered, “He [Albert] ended up taking care of him [Emile].” In the play, Albert stresses the need for Griffith to be strong and tough and to never bend. At the same time, “The whole play,” he noted, “is framed as the day that Emile met Benny Paret Jr. He [Emile] basically tells his whole life story through his memory.”

The story moves between old Emile, who puts a shoe in the refrigerator, and Young Emile, who meets eventual partner Luis at a gay bar. For his part, Bosse-native Luis finds Young Emile exciting and patiently cares for the dementia-stricken 70 year old Emile, who has trouble putting on shirts and jackets as well as doors.

At some moments, Young Emile embraces his sexuality (speaking of liking both men and women) with joy and acceptance—particularly with Luis, an impish, vulnerable Luis feels that the Devil controls his impulses. During the weight-in scene, Paret taunts Griffith with the epithet ‘maricon’ (Spanish slang for ‘faggot’). That gay bashing probably contributed to an ultimately lethal 123 pound Griffith pummeling from which Paret died 10 days later.

Albert stuck with volatile Griffith, who of course never intended to throw killer punches. Regarding the co-manager’s approach to the boxer’s career, Clapp reflected, “He [Albert]’s taking care of him but he has to be sort of cold in the way he does that.”

That coldness involves Albert’s pragmatic take on Griffith’s sexual orientation. Speaking of the “dark side of their relationship,” Clapp said, “Albert was in denial about Griffith’s sexuality. He said that part of his (Griffith’s) life could not be part of his boxing life. For Howie, in this world, a man is a man. He’s not intending to be cruel but it’s a survivor thing.”

Under the guidance of Broadway director Michael Greif (“Rent,” “Dear Evan Hansen”) gifted actor John Douglas Thompson (Louis Armstrong in “Satchmo” and several title roles — Othello, for example — in Shakespearean tragedies) plays Emile, and Kyle Vincent Terry Young Emile. Victor Almanzar is Emile’s partner and caregiver Luis, Starla Benford plays Emile’s caring mother Emileka and Kristal Joy Brown his wife Sadie. Stacy Boyce has the role of boxer Paret. Look for body language and fight choreography from movement coordinator Maiya Reid.
An evening with Michelle

By REV. IRENE MONROE

First Lady Michelle Obama swept into Beantown Saturday as part of the national book tour promoting her memoir “Becoming” that was held at the TD Garden. The evening before the event, my spouse and I were gifted tickets to the show.

OMG, the event was simply magical. And, the audience was wildly excited.

Michelle Norris, a former NPR host, interviewed Michelle Obama. The two Michelle’s had a fascinating time jollying and laughing, making us all privy to their intimate conversation.

Michelle conveyed a universal message of hope. However, her message of self-empowerment to women-young and old-spoke a truth across generations, centering it as the theme for the evening. Walking into T.D. Garden, mothers had daughters in tow, and both carrying “Becoming.”

Michelle Obama’s concept of “sweee” is connected to one of the many messages in her book. The idea grabbed my attention, not only in the delightfully relatable and meaningful way she conveyed the concept, but it also caught my attention in ways she shared examples from her life.

“Sweee,” is about embracing flexibility. “Sweee” is the ability not to be tethered to a perceived and rigid trajectory of your life, but rather it is about being open to life’s journey, and at times merely living in the question about what to do in your life. (And, do I know about the latter)!

“And so, I promised to know at 20 what you were for the rest of your life. Michelle told the audience. Michelle stated that we’ll have many lives and chapters in our lifetime because we’re always discovering, evolving, and journeying into “becoming.”

For example, Michelle shared with the audience that in her late teens and 20s, she had mapped out a straight and perceived unerring path for her life—college, law school, job— ... to achieve happiness and success. She disclosed, however, to the audience she offhered being a lawyer all the while it was one of the many check-boxes on her achievement list, all the while quite miserable.

Her candidness on the topic has inspired others.

“Being that Mrs. Obama’s path was not straight, it’s just been inspiring to know that my path may not be straight either but I will be successful.” Alana Underwood, a senior at Berklee College of Music told the Boston Globe. Underwood was one of the twenty young girls chosen as part of the Black Girls Rock program to visit with the First Lady.

The book in her promotional tour takes the audience into the interior of her life from a happy working-class childhood growing up in a multicultural community on the South Side of Chicago, through her Ivy league education, a plum job at a corporate law firm and to the White House. The book like the tour dispenses advice and inspirational self-help.

Michelle’s stop at the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester was to inspire future generation of young leaders often not thought of such.

“We were reading your book as if you wrote these stories about us,” a woman told her.

Also, the book, as well as the tour, reintroduces Michelle. Several biographies have been written about Michelle Obama, all by white men and women authors, except for “American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America” and “Becoming.” Their depictions of Michelle, while not intended to be damaging, are, nonetheless, stereotypes.

Deceased Caribbean American, feminist, writer and filmmaker, Jamaica Kincaid, once stated: “If I didn’t define myself for myself, I would be crushed into other people’s fantasies for me and eaten alive.”

During the her signing years of Michelle’s tenure in the White House as well she time on the campaign trail she was teased as an “angry black woman,” a racial hope for any sister who speaks truth to power.

For example, during the campaign trail Michelle, candid and excited about the enthusiasm sweeping the country about Barack’s run for presidency, was assailed by Republicans as unpatriotic and angry.

In what once seemed inconceivable—a black president the United States Michelle told a crowd before the Wisconsin primary that “For the first time in my adult lifetime I’m really proud of my country.”

In reflecting on how her image was misconstrued, at first, or, intentionally maligned, at some, Michelle told the Post, “I was female, Black and strong, which to certain people, . . . translated only to ‘angry.” It was another damaging cliché, one that she’s been forever used to sweep minority women to the periphery of even room.”

The book, as well as the tour, reintroduces Michelle to us as a private citizen. She wrote the book to start a conversation with America about empowerment and healing.

While Michelle’s tour will not reach everyone she hopes the message in her book will, resonating with so many unlikely people. For example, Michael Cohen, Trump’s former personal attorney who stated his boss repeatedly used racist and divisive language, said he hopes Michelle’s book will help unify the country.

I think it has the potential to do so.

News from...

United South End Settlements

SUBMITTED BY
Lena Johnson, Board Chair
Michael W. Walsky, President & CEO

We have an update on the United South End Settlements (USES) Vision 125 strategic initiative. As we shared at our most recent community meeting in October, we are exploring the creation of a new Harriet Tubman House at our existing 46 Railroad Street location, which will be a comprehensively campus for our programs. At the same time, we are seeking proposals for 566 Columbus Avenue to fund the expansion at Rutland, expand services to children and families, and secure our financial future.

We have finalized our Request for Proposals (RFP) for 566 Columbus Avenue. Any questions regarding the request for proposals should go to Michael Byrne (mbyrne@uses.org) or Tom Greeley (tgreeley@nkgc.com) at Newmark Knight. We are committed to an open and transparent process and are excited to share this with you.

The latest information regarding our strategic vision is available here on the Vision 125 site, www.uses.org/Vision125. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at vision125@uses.org or (617) 830-5261.

We greatly appreciate your continued interest and support, and will continue to keep you updated. We look forward to hosting another community meeting in early 2019.

Holiday Tree Lighting Events

SUBMITTED BY SOUTH END	

Thursday, November 29, 6-8pm
Boston Common Holiday Tree Lighting Near the Visitor Information Center on Tremont Street
Joint Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and Jordan Santa and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to light the tree, a special gift to Boston from Nova Scotia. Be sure to stay for the special fireworks display over the Common.

Friday, November 30, 6-8pm
Downtown Macy's
December 1 - 31
51 Nights of Lights
Prudential Tower displays lights of a different color each night to bring awareness to non-profit organizations.

North End Tree Lighting
Friday, November 30, 6-8pm
The corner of Cross and Hanover Streets.

Macy’s Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, November 30, 6-8pm
Downtown Macy’s

November 29, 2018 | South End Notes | Page 5
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South End Library
Continued from page 3

Open Studios. Our devoted FOSEL supporter, Reinhold Mahler, has put together a slide show of her work that will be featured on the flat screen in the window.

“Books Of Mystery And Suspense And Thrillers” will be featured in the Local/Focus window in January when winds are known to howl around Tremont Street. Selected by FOSEL advisory-board member, Nick Altschuler, a suspense writer himself, the stories are either taking place in or around Boston, or written by people from the area.
A list of titles will be provided.

The South End Library Holiday Concert:
The South End Library Holiday Concert with Pat Loomis and his Friends is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 PM. This year, a Special Guest is being booked, as well, perhaps even a vocalist. Pat Loomis will be there on the mic with Antonio Loomis, guitar, Jim Dower, piano, Cole Scott Rubin, bass, and Berny Benson on drums. A holiday dinner will be served, as always. This program is jointly funded by the staff of the library and FOSEL.

A New Window Project
The Friends of the South End Library is planning to use the large window to the left of the front entrance for regular displays of books that won awards for fiction, non-fiction, adults, young adults, children and illustrations. We hope to feature the Pulitzer, Heinz Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Awards, and also to feature prizes bestowed by groups like the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, the Lambda Literary Awards, Crime Fiction Awards, ForeWord Reviews and others. We welcome your suggestions.
The first display will be of the 2018 Massachusetts Book Awards, sponsored by the Mass Center for the Book and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts State Legislature.
The 2018 winners are: Fiction, Margot Livesey for her novel, Mercury, Non-fiction, June Kaempe for A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley; Poetry, Martin Espada for Vivas to Those Who Have Failed, Poems; Middle Grade/Young Adult: Lauren Walk for Wolf Hollow; Picture Book/Early Reader, Susan E. Goodman for The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial. More information at www.friendsofthesouthendlibrary.org. The South End Branch of the Boston Public Library is located at 685 Tremont Street.

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