

B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign Receives State-wide Award

BY LIZ STEINHAUSER
SR DIRECTOR
ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

On Thursday, March 28, the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign received the prestigious Peace MVP Award from the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. With the Peace MVP Award, the Mass Coalition recognizes significant and meaningful work by individuals and organizations to stop the scourge of gun violence in Massachusetts. The B-PEACE for Campaign is a

project of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and, while based in the South End, B-PEACE has a state-wide reach. Several other gun violence prevention organizations led by young people, including March for Our Lives-Boston, also received awards.

Massachusetts House Speaker Robert DeLeo presented the award to B-PEACE leaders at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley during the Mass Coalition's Annual Event. The Peace MVP Award recognizes B-PEACE's work over the last year, along with

fellow award recipient the Pioneer Valley Project in Springfield, to bring attention to the need for gun manufacturers to play an active role in ending gun violence.

The global headquarters of Smith and Wesson is based in Springfield and weapons manufactured by Smith and Wesson were used in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, along with other significant mass shootings in recent years. Smith

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B-PEACE Leader Nikkia Jean Charles and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School graduate and March For Our Lives leader David Hogg

South Ender Kharliyah Ortiz Honored

As Boston Harbor Hero at Save the Harbor's Destination Boston Harbor Gala

SUBMITTED BY
SAVE THE HARBOR/SAVE THE BAY

On Thursday, March 28, 500 corporate and civic leaders, elected officials, community partners, and

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay supporters gathered at the Seaport Hotel for Destination Boston Harbor, Save the Harbor's annual fundraising gala.

This event celebrated a year of on-the-water programming that connects millions of the region's residents and visitors to Boston Harbor, the Harbor Islands, the region's public beaches, and waterfront communities, and reflected on the investments and improvements in

access to clean water for all.

Each year, Save the Harbor recognizes men and women as Boston Harbor Heroes for their commitment to Save the Harbor's mission, the community, and the Harbor. Save the Harbor's Board Chair and National Grid's Vice President of Government Affairs for Massachusetts, Joseph Newman,

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South End Authors Book Festival returns with new faces, format

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The South End Authors Book Festival is back this year in an expanded edition, with 32 authors, four speakers and a musical performance. Participants include past and present South End residents, collectively offering a wide range of literary genres

and styles from history to humor, memoirs to mysteries; verse to visual art and more.

The festival will take place on Thursday, April 4 from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Harry Dow Community Room at Tent City, 130 Dartmouth Street. Fred Dow, son of the late Harry Dow, the first Chinese-American admitted

to the Bar in Massachusetts and a longtime advocate for immigrants and the poor, will speak in the room named after his distinguished father. Since the festival coincides with the 51st anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., there

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Swet Studio offers Aerial Camp for kids

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Swet Studio at 480 Tremont Street aims to strengthen children's balance, fitness and self-confidence with its upcoming Aerial Camp for ages 6 through 12 beginning on Saturday April 27. Students will be led

through a series of movies including spinning, swinging, stretching and inverting in a hanging silk hammock.

Swet Studio owner Silviya Mihaylova, who has experience as a youth sports coach, sought special

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Photo courtesy Swet Studio



Spring Clean UP

Rakes, brooms, bags, etc. will be provided by the City, but if you have your own that is helpful. Bring your own gloves, we'll see you there!

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I recently adopted a 10-month-old pit bull puppy and he's a major chewer. He wants our shoes, our feet, my computer chair—anything except his chew toys. I gave him a giant stuffed tiger, which he beat up (amongst other things) and that seemed to calm him for awhile, but I fear that it might feed his aggression in the long run. Was the giant tiger OK to give him or should I nip this chewing/destroying thing in the bud?

—Rowena

Dear Rowena,

Nip in the bud. You shouldn't be buying inappropriate things for your puppy to destroy such as giant stuffed animals. You do want to tame this chewing instinct, not stoke it. After all, you have a very powerful dog who is still in the puppy stage and learning right from wrong. You still have a chance to instill in him rules for proper behavior.

Throwing that giant stuffed tiger at your dog was akin to hurling a giant rib roast at him. It's fun for a hot minute and then you begin to see the chaos you caused. No more giant stuffed animals. Make sure you provide him with only safe things to chew—such as bully sticks, Kong toys, or indestructible toys (if any such things exist, ask at your local pet store). Always make sure you supervise him so he is not allowed to "destroy" anything that

belongs to you or to him.

Dear Dog Lady,

Our 13-year-old Westie (West Highland white terrier) Desmond has been a wonderful dog and a real pleasure to have around. Watching and wondering about his quirks takes up a large amount of our free time. Lately, he exhibits a strange behavior when his stomach is acting up which we don't understand. He eats from a compartmentalized food and water bowl set into a wrought-iron frame close to the floor. When his stomach is off, he walks over to his bowls with the food and water and refuses to eat anything. But he makes a sweeping motion with his head by moving his head and hitting the outside of the bowl so hard that he spills the water in the adjacent bowl. He will do this continuously until we pick his bowl up out of his reach. Have you seen this performance before or can you suggest a reason for it?

—Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

Maybe he's saying, "Get this stuff away from me." Senior citizen Westies inhabit worlds of their own design. Dog Lady's darling terrier lived long. He was 14 and ½ when his tender tummy acted up and he had odd rituals such as eating grass like a rabid cow and tongue-flinging brown rice all around the perimeter of his feeding area. The procedure you describe must have its roots in some primitive healing ritual—for example, when a dog moves its head back and forth in a sweeping motion, the animal tries to bury something. Desmond could be attempting to wipe out the root cause for his sour stomach.

As long as your dog is not wrecking anything or biting anyone, his behavior is basically benign. The fun part, as you have discovered, comes in trying to decode the performance. How sweet to have these inscrutable comic characters in our midst.

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B-Peace

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and Wesson guns are also the most frequently used weapon in crimes in Chicago, one of the few cities that tracks and makes public such information about gun manufacturers.

B-PEACE leader Ekran Sharif proudly received the award and speakers Anthony Pereira-Pomales and Maoly Lara Pena offered words of thanks and urgency. As Lara Pena said in her comments, "I care about gun violence because when I was six years old, I witnessed an accidental shooting. Three people, including my mom and a pregnant woman, were injured with one bullet. It was horrific to see. This had a huge impact on my life then and now... We think that the corporations that make the

guns have to be responsible about where the guns are sold and how they are used. We think that Smith and Wesson should be a leader in helping families like mine who are affected by gun violence."

More than 25 other B-PEACE leaders were part of the 400-person crowd, who applauded and gave the teens a standing ovation. Among those gathered was Mirna Ramos, mother of Jorge Fuentes, a young man who grew up in the community of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

He was shot and killed at the age of 19 in front of his home in September 2012. The B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign was started in the wake of the grief of this tragedy and strives to honor his memory by addressing the root causes of violence. Following the event, teens

presented the actual award to Ms Ramos who wept and hugged the young leaders.

In addition to the award ceremony, the night also included a speech by David Hogg, who graduated last spring from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Hogg has become a national leader on gun violence following the February 2018 shooting at his school, which caused the immediate death of 17 people and which has led more recently to the deaths of two more young people, who died by suicide due, at least in part, to the trauma of the incident.

Nikkia Jean-Charles, a B-PEACE leader, participated in a panel with Hogg along with a young leader from the Pioneer Valley Project. They fielded questions from Mass General Hospital physician Dr. Chana Sacks who asked the panelists questions such as why they

cared about gun violence, how they took care of themselves in the midst of their activism, and where they saw hope for solutions.

After the event, while taking selfies with Hogg and each other, B-PEACE and Pioneer Valley Project leaders expressed gratitude for the award recognition and a re-commitment to the campaign to engage Smith and Wesson CEO James Debney in productive conversations for solutions to gun violence. To find out more about the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign's work or to get involved in their next action, please contact bpeace@ssypboston.org.

For more information visit www.ssypboston.org or www.ststephensbos.org



(Left) (L to R) Mirna Ramos, holding photo of her son Jorge Fuentes, with B-PEACE leaders Ekran Sharif and Nikkia Jean-Charles. (Right) Teen leaders from the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign and the Pioneer Valley Project - Teen Voices United.

Harbor

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along with Save the Harbor's new President, Tani Marinovich, thanked the guests and introduced this year's heroes which included South End resident Khariyah Ortiz, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Youth Environmental Education Program Staff member, for the important role she plays in making Save the Harbor/Save the Bay the Boston Harbor Connection for the region's youth and families.

This year's event was particularly special as it included several tributes to the contributions and hard work of Patty Foley, who has retired after 20 years as President of Save the

Harbor/Save the Bay. Mayor Walsh began by reflecting on his work with Foley during his time serving in Massachusetts Legislature as the Representative from Dorchester.

He credited her with educating him about the challenges faced by the neighborhood beaches and being a tireless advocate for the investing resources for their improvement. Mayor Walsh also reflected on the threat posed by climate change and the need to work collaboratively with organizations such as Save the Harbor to ensure resiliency for future generations.

A video tribute included remarks from Paul Grogan of the Boston Foundation, Charlayne Murrell-Smith of the Boston Children's Foundation, Bill Delahunt of The Delahunt

Group, Ronda McCloud of JetBlue, Harold Sparrow of the Greater Hartford YMCA, Robert Travaglini of Travaglini, Eisenberg, and Kiley, Joe Newman, Tani Marinovich, and Bruce Berman of Save the Harbor and Foley's husband.

Finally, former Massachusetts Senate President Robert Travaglini and former State Senator Jack Hart reflected on their work with Foley through the Metropolitan Beaches Commission which was first created in 2006 to report on the challenges and needs of the region's state-owned beaches. Travaglini, Hart, and Susan Tracy of The Strategy Group and Save the Harbor's Board of Directors then asked attendees to consider a gift to the Patty Foley Legacy Fund.

Marinovich thanked everyone for their support, for making 2019 the most successful Destination Boston Harbor ever with more than \$750,000 raised for continued advocacy for, and programming on, Boston Harbor, the harbor islands and the regions beaches.

Save the Harbor would like to thank all of our sponsors, silent auction donors, and supporters including presenting sponsor Wells Fargo for the support of the important work we to restore and preserve Boston Harbor for future generations.

You can find a complete list of the 2019 Destination Boston Harbor Donors and Sponsors here: <http://blog.savetheharbor.org/2019/04/our-funders-and-supporters.html>

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South Ender Russell Garrett in James And The Giant Peach

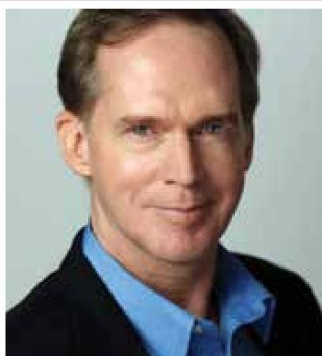
Russell Garrett will play the role of Centipede in Roald Dahl's *James And The Giant Peach*, playing April 12 through May 12 at Wheelock Family Theatre in Boston.

Garrett was previously seen in Wheelock Family Theatre's *Alice as The Mad Hatter* and *The Secret Garden* as Uncle Archibald. He also directed and choreographed *WFT@BU's* hit production of *Mary Poppins*. He has appeared extensively on tour and on Broadway in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, 42nd Street, *Show Boat*, *My Fair Lady* and others.

In Boston he has appeared as *The Interlocutor* in *SpeakEasy Stage's* award-winning *The Scottsboro Boys*, eight years as *Bob Cratchit* in *North Shore Music Theatre's* *A Christmas Carol*, *Emperor Joseph II* in

Amadeus at New Rep, and several shows at Greater Boston Stage Co. including *42nd Street*, *Dames at Sea*, *How to Succeed...*, and *Something's Afoot*. Russell comes directly from *Sierra Repertory Theatre* in CA where he directed *A Chorus Line* as well as played the director, *Zach*, and will follow *James* with an appearance in *SpeakEasy's* *The View Upstairs*.

Roald Dahl's *James And The Giant Peach* features music and lyrics from the creative team behind *The Greatest Showman* and *Dear Evan Hansen*, and tells the story of young orphan who goes on a fantastical quest, traveling on a giant peach with five oversized insects to find that love goes beyond differences, beyond one's very species, and gets at the core of who each are. Press Weekend for



South End Resident Russell Garrett

James And The Giant Peach is Fri April 12 at 7:30pm, Sat April 13 at 2pm and 7:30pm, and Sun April 14 at 2pm.

More information at www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org

Book

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will be remembrances of his life as well.

Returning authors include Alison Barnet, neighborhood historian and author as well as founding editor of the *South End News*; Gabriel Valjan, author of the successful "Roma" series of international thrillers; Mel King, lifelong South Ender, author, community activist and former state legislator, and Piano Factory resident and artist Thom Donovan, whose publications include "Yes, Pun Intended", a collection of verbal and visual humor and "Lennon at Sea", a graphic novel about John Lennon's burst of creativity during his final years.

Lorenz Finison will present "Boston's Twentieth-Century Bicycling Renaissance: Cultural Change on Two Wheels", the follow up to his 2014 book, "Boston's Cycling Craze, 1880-1900: A Story of Race, Sport, and Society".

Charles Caizzi will return with "Just So You Know", his first book of humorous yet straightforward reminiscences of his South

End upbringing, as well as his new work, "Just for the Fun of it". First-time participants include Julia Glatfelter, whose children's art book, "The Little Glass Treasure House" is inspired by her tenure as a former teacher at the Children's Art Center on Rutland Street, and GrubStreet's Christopher Castellani, whose new novel, "Leading Men", published last month, intertwines literary jet-setters Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams and the setting of the Italian Riviera with characters of his own creation in a tale of love and loss.

This year's festival will also welcome Anthony Sammarco, who recently added to his extensive series of slim yet informative histories of Boston's neighborhoods and people.

Building on the warm reception for Fred Dow's spontaneous comments at the previous festival, the organizers decided to invite Dow and several other South Enders to talk about their part in South End history. The Rev. Ralph Kee, one of the founders of the Emmanuel Gospel Center on San Juan Street, will talk about the history of the Center.

Tributes to Dr. King will include remarks

from Clennon King, a journalist and documentarian whose work focuses on the civil rights movement, will talk about Dr. King's life in Boston, and singer, artist and educator Veronique-Anne Epiter will perform "You Raise Me Up" to honor King in addition to promoting "Moon Fever", her book of poetry and prose.

The organizers also decided to expand the festival's scope by inviting authors of works in progress, such as Lisa Gordon, who is working on a history of Plymouth Hospital, a black hospital that operated on East Springfield Street from 1908 to 1920.

Explaining the decision, Barnet said, "To me, it is the spirit of the old South End; if they are interested, you include them." Many of the authors in the festival self-publish their works, and Barnet is troubled by the elitism toward them from some authors who work with publishing houses. "One time, a well-known author who shall remain nameless was invited, and he said, 'That's for self-published people.' I'm glad we have self-published people and works in progress. That's what it's all about."

Sweet

Continued from page 1

training and certification to teach aerial classes to kids, will teach the program.

The cost of the camp is \$425 for five two-hour sessions, and registration closes on April 24. Mihaylova said via e-mail, "The impetus, above all else, is to help kids learn to become balanced, both physically and mentally."

Sweet has taught aerial classes for adults from the beginning, and Mihaylova has

wanted to offer it to youth as well. Mihaylova continued, "It is fun, physical activity, something vital to a child's growth. The program will help educate the child to respond to verbal cues and training."

Part of the goal is to improve the child's proprioception, or sensory awareness of their body's position and movement through different spatial planes. Each class will conclude with a cool-down designed to calm the students and prepare them to transition to regular activities or for bedtime.

The aerial camp culminates in the fifth

session with a performance for family and friends at which students will demonstrate their newfound skills. "The camp is designed to provide the child with numerous original poses and sequences that promote self-confidence and encourage the enjoyment of meaningful, physical activity. Most of all, it will be fun!" Mihaylova said.

For more information on the *Aerial Kids' Camp* and other offerings, please visit sweetstudio.com, call (617) 670-0631 or e-mail info@sweetstudio.com.

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Buddy Dog Benefit Concert

On Saturday, April 6, The Women In Music Gathering (WIMG) a New England-based, intergenerational artist-alliance of women in music: singer-songwriters and performing musicians, will be singing to benefit the cats and dogs at the Buddy Dog Humane Society.

The performance will be 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, in the Napoleon Room at Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston.

WIMG will be joined by some out of town colleagues in this very special event. All proceeds to be donated to Buddy Dog.

Scheduled to appear: Mara Bettencourt, Kat Chapman, Mary Crowe, CiCi Eberle, Lotetta Hagen, Linda Marks, Tia McGraff, Colette O'Connor, Lori Zuroff.

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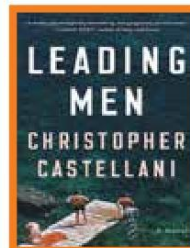
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"Leading Men casts a spell from the start" *New York Times*
"A seductive, steamy novel of Tennessee Williams and his lover" *The Boston Globe*

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 PM



Award-winning writer **Christopher Castellani** returns with his acclaimed new novel, *Leading Men*, about Tennessee Williams's life of love, desire, ambition and glamour in Italy in the 1950s.

The author will be introduced by Aaron Lecklider, a professor of American Studies at UMass, Boston, who wrote *Inventing the Egghead: The Battle over Brainpower in American Culture* (2013).

The event is free. Books are available for borrowing, sale and signing. Seating is limited. We serve refreshments.



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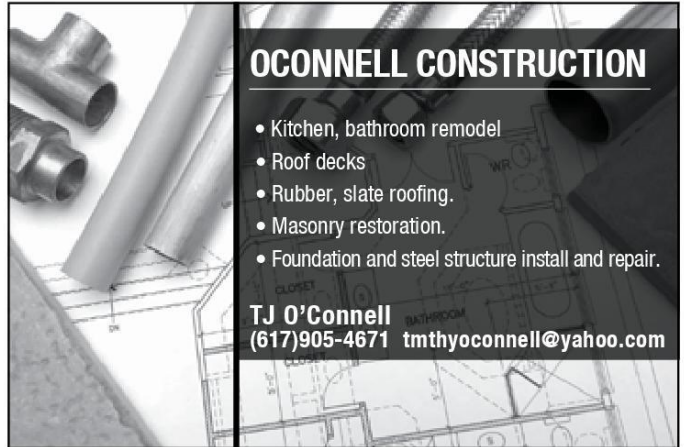
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