South End News

January 2, 2020 [Vol. 40, No. 33]

Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the South End News business office

Local news for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Scenes from the noontime Mass on Christmas Day at the Cathedral

with Cardinal O'Malley presiding

More Photos on page 7



Photo by Patrick O'Conno

Best of 2019

Theater

BY JULES BECKE

Diversity dominated local and area theater this year. Both large and small stages embraced plays and musicals that focused on African-American, Hispanic, Jewish, LGBTQ and physically challenged characters and their goals and priorities. At the same time, 2019 saw the regrettable demise of two rightly acclaimed Boston companies, namely Zeitgeist Stage Company and Israeli Stage. Attention should be paid to

theirvery talented respective artistic directors David J. Miller and Guy Ben-Aharon. At the same time, the beloved Emerson Colonial Theatre continues to expand its lineup. The following is this critic's best of 2019 list of area theater—as always divided into large, small-midsize and visiting picks—

Large Stages

Birdy (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) Friendship, caring and deep love flew very high in CSC's wonderfully intense staging. Will Taylor was extraordinary as the adult Birdy.

Cabaret (Ogunquit Playhouse)
This fresh revival brought welcome
riffs to Kander and Ebb's landmark
look at anti-Semitism and hate
in pre-Holocaust Germany. John
Rubinstein proved especially heartwrenching as Jewish fruit seller Herr
Schultz.

Cymbeline (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) CSC regular Fred Sullivan, Jr. directed this rarely staged but intriguing play

Continued on page 2

Holiday Events fill South End with lights, color, song and fun



Caroling in Hayes Park. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Holiday music, Christmas trees, food and throngs of happy residents warmed up South End parks on the frosty weekend of Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8. The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) held its annual tree and wreath sale under bright sunshine on Saturday, December 8, with refreshments, live music and Santa on hand to greet shoppers as they bought their holiday

greenery.

B/FSNA spokesperson David Stone estimated 400 shoppers and browsers came by as Isabel Crespo and guitarist Skyler Hill set a festive mood in the square, resulting in the sale of 82 Christmas trees and 140 wreaths, and B/FSNA donated 9 trees to St. Stephen's church to be distributed to households in need. B/FSNA also donated wreaths to decorate Worcester Square.

Continued on page 4

Historical revision

Two iconic South End sites to be razed

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The proposed demolition and redevelopment of two South End institutions, United South End Settlements Harriet Tubman House and IBA's (Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción) Villa Victoria Center for the

Arts (VVCA) at 85 West Newton have been deemed by their respective owner organizations too damaged for their respective organizations to repair, and both are facing demolition and redevelopment, much to the consternation of some in the community.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency's December 12

Continued on page 3

Online

Check us out online at

www.mysouthend.com twitter.com/SouthEndNews facebook.com/SouthEndNews Online

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on January 8, 2020, at 9:30 A.M., in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with the Second Amendment to Development Plan for Harrison Commons and Harrison Court within Planned Development Area No. 59, ("Second Amendment"), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said Second Amendment would allow for the renovation and conversion of the existing Church and Link Buildings into a residential development with twelve (12) condominium ownership units, fifty-one (51) rental units, including six (6) deed restricted rental units, forty-five (45) off-street vehicle parking spaces in the adjacent James Court Garage and at least sixty-three (63) on site bicycle storage spaces.

A copy of the Second Amendment may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 952, Boston, City Hall, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton Executive Secretary

SIMPLY FREE CHECKING MAKES LIFE SIMPLE



OPEN ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT AND YOU'LL RECEIVE FREE:



Access to Allpoint® network with your EBSB ATM/VISA® check card



Online Banking, Bill Pay and e-Statements



Mobile Banking, People Pay and Check Deposit



Plus, get your FREE GIFT when you open any new checking account!



800.657.3272 EBSB.com

\$50 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. Other fees may apply, see schedule of fees for details. Free gift is awarded when account is opened. EBSB reserves the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Please note, in the event the value of the free gift exceeds \$10, the bank is required to report the gift value on form John-IT. he recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes. Bank rules and regulations apply. Ask a representative for details.



Member FDIC | Member DIF



Spencer Hamp (top) as Birdy and Maxim Chumov as AI in Commonwealth Shakespeare Company "Birdy" (Photo: Evgenia Eliseeva)

Theater

Continued from page 1

with great flair.

Indecent (Huntington Theatre Company and Center Theatre Group)- Rebecca Taichman reprised her Tony-winning direction of Paula Vogel's play-within-a-play probing of intrepid Yiddish writer Sholem Asch's daring —especially about lesbian love —in his drama "God of Vengeance.".

Moby Dick (American Repertory Theater)-Dave Molloy has made his world premiere musical reckoning as ambitious, wide-ranging and evocative in its own way as Melville's truly great American novel. (running through January 12 at the Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge)

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (Huntington Theatre Company) — Company artistic director Peter DuBois smartly developed the relationship of the two title characters—deep friendship and even love—in this savy revival.

Sunset Boulevard (North Shore Music Theatre)—NSMT made an artistic coup landing Alice Ripley (a well-deserved Tony for "Next to Normal") as Norma Desmond. At the same time, the big standouts here were Nicholas Rodriguez as ill-fated Joe Gillis and William Michals as Max von Mayerling.

The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley (Merrimack Repertory Theatre) Merrimack Rep strongly followed up its previous "Pride and Prejudice" adaptation "Miss Bennet."

Waverly Gallery (Shakespeare & Company)-Annette Miller was hauntingly strong as an aging matriarch struggling with dementia.

We Live in Cairo (American Repertory Theater)-Brothers Daniel and Patrick Lazour's world premiere musical combinessolid feeling and rich visuals—particularly David Bengali's projection and video design—in its exploration of post-Tahrir Square Egypt.

(Honorable mention-La Cage Aux Folles-Reagle Music Theatre, Crylt Out-Merrimack Repertory, Quixote Nuevo-Huntington)

Small and Midsize Stages

Becoming Dr. Ruth (New Repertory Theatre)-Anne O'Sullivan sharply portrayed the now-90 Jewish Renaissance woman—strong-willed matriarch, sex maven, lover of Israel and wartime spy against the Nazis—in Mark St. Germain's vivid one-person play. Jeffrey Petersen's Westheimer Manhattan set was a kind of character itself.

Caroline, or Change (SpeakEasy Stage Company)-Company artistic director Paul Daigneault brought new clarity to this thoughtful Tony Kushner-Jeanine Tesori musical about an undaunted African-American heroine and her both warm and complicated relationship with the Jewish family for whom she works.

Parade (Moonbox Theatre)- In an age of spiking anti-Semitism, the Jason Robert Brown musical resonated more than ever in this powerfully disturbing revival—arguably the best Hub show of the year—with Phil Tayler viscerally touching as scapegoated Jewish factory manager Leo Frank.

Photo 51 (Nora Theatre)-Scientific exploration and biophysicist Rosalind Franklin's struggle against male exploitation of her achievements clicked beautifully in this soaring revival.

The Little Foxes (Lyric Stage Company of Boston)-Returning guest director Scott Edmiston tautly captured the volatile family dynamics of this Lillian Hellman classic.

Ragtime (Wheelock Family Theatre)-Library and liberty harmonized in a cleverly designed edition of this E.L. Doctorow masterwork-based musical

The Return (Israeli Stage)-In the last and certainly not the least effort in a near decade of provocative stagings, founding artistic director and adaptor extraordinaire Guy Ben Aharon once again embraced controversy in a strikingly designed Israeli-Palestinian encounter.

School Girls: Or, The African Mean Girls Play & Choir Boy (SpeakEasy Stage)-SpeakEasy Stage trenchantly caught the very different insights—by turns humorous, rousing and painful—in the respective plays of

Continued on page 3

Historical

Continued from page 1

approval paves the way for New Boston Ventures' plan to redevelop 566 Columbus as a mix of residential ownership units, a community-oriented ground floor with an art gallery and café, and artist live/work housing.

Last month, the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) gave IBA 24 hours to produce a plan to secure 85 West Newton, either through restoration or demolition. Having spent over \$10 million already to renovate the building, IBA filed a hardship petition to the South End Landmark District Commission to demolish the building. SELDC discussed the matter at its monthly meeting on December 3 and again on December 12. The December 3 meeting became a marathon that ended after midnight, leading to follow-up meetings later

Opposition to the sale of the Harriet Tubman House, which was built in 1975, appeared soon after USES announced the sale of 566 in January, 2019. Organizations such as non-profit affordable housing advocates, Tenants Development Corporation (TDC), an office tenant at 566, decried the sale of the Harriet Tubman House, which is widely considered a pivotal site in African-American local history and which opponents fear will be replaced by luxury housing.

Opponents also challenge the legality of the sale based on stipulations made for the Tubman House's use at the time of its construction. USES, which led to prohibitive costs required for necessary remediations in the building, and that the \$700,000 annual cost of maintaining 566 is financially threatening to USES's mission and programming. As recently as December 9, a community meeting of over 100 attendees held in the atrium of 566 was met with a protest outside the building.

On December 12, Maicharia Weir-Lytle, president and CEO of USES; David Goldman, principal of New Boston Ventures and Jonathan Garland, founder and president of Garland Enterprises, testified at a lengthy BPDA meeting on December 12 that included approval of redevelopment of 566 Columbus. The sale will reportedly yield \$16.5 million for USES, and the new building will include 66 mixed income residences, including 11 artist live/work spaces; an artgallery that will be open to the public; 5,000 square feet of commercial space, half of which will be dedicated to community non-profit groups at below-market rent; and 42 parking spaces. USES spokesperson Emma MacDonald said in a statement that USES has moved its operations to 48 Rutland Street, and "New Boston Ventures has generously offered relocation services to all six non-profits in [566 Columbus].'

Eighty-five W. Newton St., built in 1899 as the All Saints Lutheran Church and parish house and acquired in 1980 by IBA for use as an arts/cultural space and pre-school, was under renovation beginning in 2017 when IBA was informed of major structural problems threatening the roof and steeple. IBA's hardship petition to demolish the arts center cites the poor condition of the building and the prohibitive cost of rehabilitation. In a written statement, IBA CEO Vanessa Calderón-Rosado said, "For over two years, IBA has been working with the South End Landmarks District Commission (SELDC) to discuss the redevelopment plans for 85 West Newton Street...We have approached the future of the building with the utmost respect and sensitivity to the character of and contributions to the South End district. For over five decades, we have preserved many historical buildings, and continue to do so currently with the rehab of the W Newton/ Rutlandapartments... Over the years, we have invested in capital improvements and fixes to the building. Two years ago, we began with a 2-phase plan to renovate it. As it turns out, we encountered profound structural deficiencies. The building currently poses a threat to public safety and has been condemned by ISD. We have very carefully studied and evaluated different options to preserve the building and, through expert consultants, have determined that it is not feasible for us to rehabilitate the property due to its current structural condition. To move forward with a historic restoration would threaten the financial future of IBA and hinder our ability to expand affordable housing, as well as provide a wide range of critical services and programs to our residents and low-income families across Boston. Due to the impossibility of this restoration and the financial hardship that such restoration would impose into IBA's assets, we have submitted a hardship application to the SELDC and requested permission for the careful removal of the entire building.

After the packed-house monthly meeting discussed 85 W. Newton on December 3 two more meetings dedicated solely to 85 W. Newton took place on December 12 and 17. According to SELDC spokesman Rory Cuddyer, 25 to 35 members of the public attended the December 17 meeting, and at IBA's re-

Continued on page 4

Theater

Continued from page 2

Jocelyn Bioh and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

The Smuggler (Boston Playwrights Theatre)- A new Ronan Noone play is always a special occasion-particularly (as here) with a tour de force one-person performance by gifted Billy Meleady

The Stone, The Seagull (Arlekin Players Theatre)-Arlekin Players has established itself as not only a showplace for Russian stage gems but also a singular venue for envelopepushing fare. The company demonstrated these strengths in these stellar productions.

(Honorable mention: All's Well That Ends Well, Actors' Shakespeare Project; Ben Butler, Gloucester Stage Company; I Hate Hamlet, Titanic Theatre Company; My Fascination with Creepy Ladies, Anthem Theatre Company; Trayf, New Repertory Theatre)

Visiting Theatre

Come From Away (Broadway in Boston) Dear Evan Hansen (Broadway in Boston) Hello, Dolly! (Broadway in Boston) Passengers (Les Sept Doigts de la Main,

The Lion King (Broadway in Boston)



Where will you live until you can call this 'Home' again? Your association policy won't cover your additional living expenses. Condo owners NEED Personal Condominium Insurance for that. Aside from replacing your personal property, it will help you with rent, while you're still paying your mortgage. Contact us.



617-437-9400 • www.jjbodner.com • 8 Clarendon St. Boston



come Restricted Artist Homeownership Op Factory at 46 Wareham 46 Wareham Street, South End, MA 02118 www.46WarehamLottery.com

# of Units	# of Bedrooms	AMI	Price
1	1 Bedroom	80%	\$186,400
1	2 Bedroom	80%-100%*	\$288,700

Household Size	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$63,500	\$79,350
2	\$72,550	\$90,650
3	\$81,600	\$102,000
4	\$90,650	\$113,300
5	\$97,950	\$122,400
6	\$105,200	\$131,450

Households may request an application to be sent by email or mail from: Monday, January 6, 2020 - Wednesday, January 15, 2020, through the following methods: To complete the application online, please visit: http://bit.ly/46Warcham
To have a hard copy of the application sent to your mailing address, please call: 781-992-5304

ations will also be available in person on the following dates and times

Date	Time		
Monday, January 6, 2020	10:00AM - 2:00PM		
Tuesday, January 7, 2020	10:00AM - 2:00PM		
Thursday, January 9, 2020	3:00PM - 7:00PM		
Friday, January 10, 2020	10:00AM - 2:00PM		
Saturday, January 11, 2020	10:00AM - 2:00PM		
Location: Lobby - 46 Wareham S	Street, Boston, MA 02118		

Applications can be completed online by January 22, 2020

Completed printed, signed, paper applications can also be mailed to Maloney Properties

Postmarked no later than January 22, 2020

aloney Properties, Inc., Attention: 46 Wareham Lottery, 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley MA 02481 Postm. Maloney Properties, Inc., Attent

Selection by lottery. Asset, Use & Resale Restrictions apply. Preference for BPDA Certified Artist to purchase. Preference for Boston Residens. Preference for Households With at least One Person Per Bedroom.Preference for First-Time Homebuyers. For more info or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call, Maloney Properties, Inc. at 781-992-5304 [US Relay 711] [Email: 46Wareham@madoneyyroperties.com]



Equal Housing Opportunity

Holiday

Continued from page 1

Blackstone Innovation School, Leggat McCall and the South End Business Alliance (SEBA) made donations to support the event. Stone was not able to provide the specific amount of proceeds from the sale at press time, but called the tree and wreath sale a "significant annual fundraiser." After dark, the Enchanted Trolley Tour brought Mayor Martin J. Walsh, District 2 City Councilor Edward Flynn, state representative Jon Santiago, Mix 104.1 FM's Fast Freddy and special guests, Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves to entertain and hear Christmas wishes at

Blackstone Square.

A couple of blocks away, the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held its annual tree lighting beginning at 4:00 PM, with Penni Layne and the Wonder Boys filling the air with jazzy renditions of holiday classics; food and drink including pizza from Café Quattro, Mike's City Diner, Blunch, Jaho Coffee and other localestablishments; a raffle benefiting WSANA and a local charity offering gift certificates and experiences from Toro restaurant, Orinoco: A Venezuelan Kitchen, Bar Lvon, Flour Bakery, Olympia Florist, Barre 3, Boston Duck Tours and more, with a top prize of \$500 cash.

The centerpiece of the occasion as usual

was the lighting of a tall, majestic tree in the middle of the square, followed by a visit from Santa, who listened to the children's gift requests. WSANA president George Stergios estimated attendance at approximately 200 people. did not have a fundraising total from the raffle at press time, and the group will choose a beneficiary for part of the proceeds at its January meeting.

On Sunday, December 8, about 20 neighbors of all ages, joined by councilor Flynn and his family, gathered in Hayes Park for a caroling party sponsored by the Friends of Hayes Park. The Friends group provided a leader of song, song books, hot cider and baked goods to warm carolers' bodies and spirits.



Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202] Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215] sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager: Daniel J. Raps danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: Michele D. Maniscalco Dog Lady

Display Advertising: Jeff Coakley [ext. 202] jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising: classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings: sencalendar@southendnews.com

© 2020 South End News Inc. PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127 (617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

The South End News is a copyrighted publication. Any stories or photos contained herein may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of the publisher. The **South** End News will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy. South End News is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors, except for the cost of replacing ads that have typographical errors caused by our negligence.

www.southendnews.com Facebook.com/SouthEndNews

South End News is published every Thursday.





<u>Letters policy</u>
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;



Caroling in Hayes Park. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Historical

Continued from page 3

quest, discussion of the hardship petition will continue at the January 7, 2020 SELDC public meeting.

Local historian, author and South End News founding editor Alison Barnet reflected on the coming demolition of 85 W. Newton and 566 Columbus in a recent phone interview. Barnet said, "[566] has been an important social services site in the community," recalling not only the family and children's activities which remain the thrust of USES's mission but the senior activities, including weekday lunches, art program, dance and

fitness classes formerly offered there.

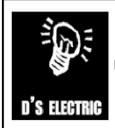
Barnet also pointed out that 566 Columbus holds a unique place in local history in that it was the first big commission for Donald Stull, who was one of only a dozen black architects in the United States when he designed the building, which opened in 1974. Barnet also cited as significant the ground-floor mural to the next to the building's entrance, which commemorates community leaders and historic spots, such as the legendary Hi-Hat nightclub, which once stood at the 566 location. Barnet also expressed concern about how the new construction at 566 will meet community needs and will not fit in with the surrounding aesthetic. "[566] is not the greatest

looking building, but look at Zero Worcester Square and the Lucas at the Holy Trinity Church. Those two buildings are terrible."

Barnet is also skeptical of the reasons behind the 566 sale, and is disappointed that the site of so many social service activities will soon be home to upscale housing units. Conversely, she feels that while the 85 W. Newton building is pretty, it is not that significant historically or aesthetically, and she feels IBA has acted in good faith in trying to find ways to preserve the building. "I believe that nothing can be done to save [85 W. Newton], and I respect that. I would hate to see a war between IBA and the neighborhood people.'

Service Guide Ads Get Results. For more information please call: 617.464.7280

SERVICE GUIDE



PROVIDING QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES to the BOSTON AREA

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL FREE ESTIMATES 24 Hour Service

Dedicated to Customer Service since 1971

617.542.2000 www.ds-electric.com

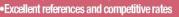
Mass License #14580A

Cleaning

For All Seasons

Trustworthy cleaning services to meet your needs

- Houses, apartments and commercial
- Schedule that works best for you, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
- All routine housework, plus special clean-up jobs
- Owner supervised cleaning crew and ensures quality





Cleaning by Judy 617-501-9645

Animals make People better!



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

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com



South End News is now on facebook!

facebook.com/southendnews



Service Guide Ads Get Results. For more information please call:

617.464.7280

SERVICE GUIDE

The Dependable Handyperson

FINE PAINTING AND REFINISHING SMALL REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS DECK AND GARDEN WORK

Call Jean at 617-236-1795 dependablehandy@aol.com



McDonnell Roofing, Co. **Roofing Specialist**

Fully Insured Slate and Copper Work - Rubber Roof Systems Shingles and Gutters - Repairs - Lic. Contractor Reg. #100100

617-288-3448

Free Estimates • Over 40 years of experience McDonnellRoofingBoston.com



P. Stones Contracting, Inc.

Specializing in Historic Restoration, Brick Repointing, Brick, Block, Stone, Basement Floors, Caulking & Waterproofing.

Ornamental window sills, window headers and moldings, Fully Licensed and Insured, 15 years of satisfied customers and referrals.

> Office: 781-848-6922 • Fax: 781-848-6923 Cell: 617-592-0850 • pstonescontracting@hotmail.com

NSTRUCTION • GENERAL • REMODELING

BRUNO GUERRIERO CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Water Proofing Solutions Basements • Facades • Chimneys



COMPLETE MASON CONTRACTOR 1 Custom Brick, Stone Work & Brick Pavers ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR BASEMENT RESTORATIONS & ECEIVE ADDITIONAL 5% DISCOUNT

Brownstone Repair • Stairs Restored • Sea Walls • Storm Damage

BrunoGuerrieroConstruction.com • brunoguerriero10@gmail.com

REG# FULLY INSURED (800) 444-5476 • Bruno's Cell (508) 962-2722 FREE ESTIMATES

South End News is now on facebook!

facebook.com/southendnews



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

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com.

Christmas at Cathedral $Continued\ from\ page\ 1$

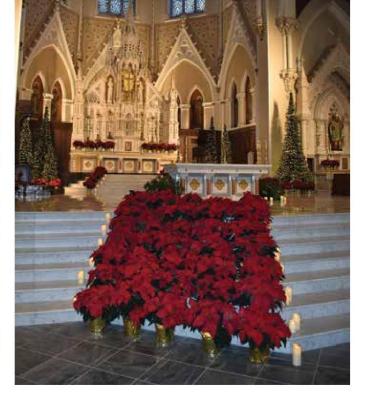












TWO SOUTH END LOCATIONS

House of Siam





Open for Lunch & Dinner
Come Experience our Beautiful Dining Room and the
Freshest Thai Cuisine in Boston

592 Tremont St. (near Dartmouth Street)
Take out is available from 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily
617.267.7426



542 Columbus Avenue 617.267.1755

