South End News

January 16, 2020 [Vol. 40, No. 34]

Local news for and about Boston's best neighborhood

MLK Day of Action

There are times when you must take a stand

> BY LIZ STEINHAUSER ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH PROGRAM

In a country increasingly divided by race, war, and wealth, people are desperately seeking leadership that speaks of love. This intersection of issues is not only what we are facing in Boston in 2020, it is also what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was facing when he stepped to the podium in Atlanta to give his 1967 speech often called, "The Three Evils of Society.'

King addressed the chal-

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Volunteers improve the library at the Blackstone School during the 2015 MLK Day of Action

The Cake needs more time in the oven



Karen MacDonald, Chelsea Diehl, Kris Sidberry in "The Cake" (photo:Mark S. Howard

Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through February 9. 617-585-5678 or lyricstage.com

BY JULES BECKER

Is baking an art? Certainly legends like Jacques Pepin and the late great Julia Child would wholeheartedly say that it is. Perhaps Della, the fictional practitioner in

the Bekah Brunstetter play "The Cake"-now in its Boston debut at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston-would agree. The owner of

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BMC Turns TEDx

TEDxBeaconStreet hosted its first healthcarefocused event on January 7 on the Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine campus - a hub of Boston's medical innovation. With a group of 15 world-class speakers from around the country, the forum highlighted new perspectives and innovative ways to tackle the healthcare crisis, from policy reform and economic impact to a focus on what it means to be a patient and the social determinants of health af-

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& Surgery.

ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

Goodmorning: I have just read your column and have a different slant on the woman who walks with

the dog friend who refuses to pick up after her dog. I cannot imagine even continuing to walk with her and her dog.

I would tell her I would meet her socially without the dogs but until she picks up after her dog, I just can't be her dog friend. Sorry but it's the way I feel as a dog owner. I don't even like walking my dog and seeing someone has left dog feces without picking up and that person is nowhere to be seen. Picking up after your dog is a matter of respect for the environment; leaving it behind is downright disgusting.

-Clare

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Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

Dear Clare.

Thank you for your letter, which is a great topic to start the New Year- even if you disagree with "Ask Dog Lady" for the milder advice Dog Lady dispensed when dealing with a walking friend who does not pick up after her dog. Actually, Dog Lady realizes her initial response should have been stronger and likes your "take no prisoners" approach. Dog Lady would only add this: Pick up always and always pick up with a biodegradable bag so we don't pollute the planet with dog poop wrapped in plastic. Dog Lady uses BioBags, a very good degradable bag brand available through chewy.com.

Dear Dog Lady,

My parents have a Shepoo (cross between a poodle and a Shih Tzu) that has these bumps on her. The vet says these are veins that burst. This doesn't seem right. These bumps are small and circular they break open and bleed. She is groomed regularly and they have tried switching her food thinking that is it she is also one of those dogs that are dander-less. My parents do give her human food once in a while. Any thoughts on what this may be?

Shouldn't the dog be called a Shihpoo? Actually, if you have to write "Ask Dog Lady" about bleeding bumps on a cute little dog, you are barking up the wrong tree. Dog Lady is not a vet nor does she play one in any medium. You need to steer your parents to a new veterinarian pronto. Also, tell them to stop giving human food immediately. Find dog food that is anti-allergenic. Dog Lady recommends two brands: Solid Gold and Newman's Own Organics. There are others, of course, but these two are dependably good. This little dog needs an intervention. You're in a great position to help.

Dear Dog Lady,

Dear Betsy,

The other day, I was sitting at Starbucks and overheard a woman urging her friend to "walk your inner dog." That got me thinking. Do all of us have inner dogs? If so, what are they telling us?

Naturally, we all have inner dogs. (C'mon what else would

FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. SU19P2690GD

Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667

Boston, MA 02114

- Betsv

RESPONDENT

In the matter of: Mary Sackon Of: Boston, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons a Suffolk Probate and

on has been filed by DMH C/O Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Mary Sackor is in need of a Guardian and requesting that DMH C/O Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the ap-sory, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this cou-

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written apparance at this court on or before 1000 A.M. on the return date of 02/06/200. This day's 1010 Is beeing date, to a decline date by which you have to file the written appearance, by raw dight to the prilion. If you fall to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your otherway must file a written affidavit string the specifs facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days often the external for the string and the specifs facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days often the external fact.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named a elections about personal affairs or financial affairs are short. The above-named persons of the force of the program only make this request on behalf of the dave-named person cannot afford a lowyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probat

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Dog Lady say?) These inner dogs tell us to finish everything in our bowl, sniff out possibilities, leap at the moment, and leave our mark all over the world. To "walk your inner dog" means to step out into the world confidently and happily, although "unleash your inner dog" sounds a more exultant note. And this reminds Dog Lady to wish "Happy New Year" to all dear readers.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com.





News from...

Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association

The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., D4 Police Station, 2nd Floor Community Room, 650 Harrison Avenue.

AGENDA

Join us for our next general business meeting. Bring your friends and neighbors, and participate in the discussion. Our agenda will include the following:

7:00 p.m. Welcome and announcements (BFSNA board).

7:10 p.m. Record keeping (Matt Mues): Treasurer's Report.

7:15 p.m. Public Safety update (BPD and Jonathan Alves).

7:20 p.m. Introducing the Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association. The "Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association" is a brandnew organization formed to advocate for residents living on the other side of Mass Ave. from us, in the area bounded by Harrison and Shawmut avenues and over to Ball Street (next to Jim Rice Field) and the vicinity of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission building), ABNA representatives will talk about concerns and issues in that part of the neighborhood and we'll discuss shared priorities.

7:35 p.m. Update from the City on "Mass/ Cass 2.0" (Chief Marty Martinez). City of Boston Health & Human Services Chief Marty Martinez will be back to discuss progress to date on the City's "Mass/Cass 2.0" initiative to address the challenges of homelessness and addiction in the South End, including heightened services for people afflicted and better mitigation of public safety and quality of life impacts on residents. As always, questions and comments will be welcome.

Note: The City of Boston's Mass/Cass Task Force (an advisory group to the City, representing services providers, institutional stakeholders and residents in the South End/ Newmarket and environs) had its first session in December and will meet monthly going forward. BFSNA has a seat on this panel and members and residents should let us know of any questions or concerns they'd like raised there.

https://www.facebook.com/blackstone-

to bring in the cities' clear hatred of strangers as a factor as striking as the usual homophobia explanation.

Brunstetter does provide balance with considerable dialogue about both Jen's complicated family dynamics and Macy's back story. As the wedding day approaches, though, the plotting and Della's decision-making seem less convincing. Is Della really open to change? Does Tim's surprise for Della constitute genuine quid pro quo or a predictable device? Notwithstanding cake, can there be a real understanding between Della and Meg if the later fears that the former hates her? These questions are likely to prove nagging for some theatergoers.

Under director O'Connor's careful guidance, there should be no question that the pacing is sharp and the cast first-rate. Karen MacDonald-always one of the Hub's premier actresses—is a true standout. In body language and accent as well as a blend of family caring and cluelessness, she proves commandingly watchable as a kind of flawed Everywoman. Fred Silverman, Jr. has all of Tim's judgmental posture and coarseness. As master performers, they improve upon the couple's otherwise somewhat conventional bedroom scenes. Chelsea Diehl captures Jen's heart as well as her frustrations. Kris Sidberry finds all of Macy's fire and feeling. Diehl and Sidberry have all the naturalness of soon-to-be newlyweds.

Near the end of the play, Della quotes the First Corinthians observation that "Love is always hard." In that light, "The Cake" needs stronger texture and more satisfying attention to the love the title confection represents.

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THURSDAY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SOUTH END NEWS?

HEAD OVER TO

MySouthEnd.com

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<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;

Cake

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Della's Sweets- well-detailed and vividly designed by Matt Whiton-would certainly insist that any novice baker make sure to use all of the ingredients as she does and "follow the directions."

Much as there are several fine elements in director Courtney O'Connorwell-mixed Lyric Stage effort, the lesbian couple's wedding cakecentered play needs a stronger consistency and more to say about the intersection of love and understanding with that baking.

Inspired by a case involving a baker's unwillingness to create such a wedding cake, Brunstetter ("This Is Us")'s 2015 play rightly presents its four characters-the couple Jen and Macyand Della and her plumber husband Tim—as characters rather than types. Della in particular possesses a degree of unaffected charm that sometimes offsets her Christian fundamentalism-based bigotry. Speaking about her showcased Noah's Ark cake, she points to what she claims are dinosaurs. She also naively believes that her confection could conquer ISIS where armies and governments struggle to do so. Meanwhile she hopes to win the Great American Bake Off and amaze its (heard but unseen) handsome host (think of his counterpart on the Great British Baking

Ultimately, though, Della's greatest challenge is what to do about the cake that Jen - the daughter of her best friend-would like for her upcoming wedding to African-American Macy. While the gregarious baker claims "I don't see color," she unequivocally does have a serious problem with sexual orientation as does Tim-who admits he "can't pick and choose Bible" when it comes to laws about gays. At this point, an allusion in the play to Sodom and Gomorra would have done well

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MLK

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lenges of racism, poverty and militarism, saying, "And there are times when you must take a stand that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but you must do it because it is right."

On Monday, January 20, members of the St. Stephen's community along with dozens of partner organizations will be following King's example by taking a stand during their tenth annual MLK Day of Action. Close to 200 volunteers from the South End neighborhood, suburban churches and synagogues, professional groups and non-profit organizations will come together with Blackstone School faculty for a moming of work projects to shower love (and some paint) on the school. There will also be projects to improve St. Stephen's afterschool program space.

Following a lunch of tasty food, stimulating conversations about King's legacy, and inspirational words from City Councilor Ed Flynn, there will be a teach-in focused on the issues faced by immigrant students in the Boston Public Schools. Trainers from Unafraid Educators and the Student Immigrant Movement, along with teens from St. Stephen's, will be equipping participants to work together to ensure immigrant BPS students both feel safe and are safe.

The Blackstone Elementary School is just this sort of loving community, a place where all students feel safe and can focus on learning and academic achievement. This is largely thanks to the dedicated work of the school's administrators, teachers, and staff, many of whom will be coming to the MLK Day of Action on what would otherwise be a day off from work. Teachers and volunteers will be beautifying classrooms. Parents of

students will be sorting through donations for the school's compassion closet of clothes, food, and hygiene products. College students will be painting murals with inspirational messages on walls and canvases. By the end of the day, there will be many more images of the school's mascot, Shawmut the Shark, around the hallways of the school.

The Blackstone's Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Blonde, seeshow the day builds up a community of love. "MLK Day is an opportunity for volunteers and participants to bring to life our school's guiding principle of Ubuntu, which means 'I am because you are.' We are all connected because we value equality and we want our students to succeed," said Blonde. "We are honoring King's legacy with what we will do on this day," she added.

Recently, it became public that BPS has shared the information of more than 130 students with Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE), jeopardizing these young people's safety and futures. To help our schools be safe havens for students, trainers will be asking participants to sign and spread a petition that will ask BPS to have clear communication with families before their information is shared with the Boston Police Department, which often leads to reports to ICE. The petition also requests more training for administrators and Boston School Police, among other demands. The petition can be found at bit.ly/NoICE:inBPS

St. Stephen's Youth Programs Teen Organizer Nikkia Jean-Charles is among those excited to be part of the MLK Day of Action. She believes caring for students by making their classrooms sparkle is one of the right things to do. So is taking a stand to protect immigrant students.



SSYP staff person Latasha Scott with new friends at the 2019 MLK Day of \dot{A} ction at the Blackstone Elementary School

"I want to surround myself with a community that is ready to learn and spread peace the way King taught," said Jean-Charles. "I want to be part of the new generation of leaders, educating others to build a better future and continuing the fight for civil rights."

To join this community of leaders at the MLK Day of Action, which starts at 9:30am at the Blackstone Elementary School, 380 Shawmut Avenue, sign up at tinyurl.com/ $ssypmlk 2020. \ For \ more \ information, \ contact \ liz@ssypboston.org.$

To learn more about St. Stephen's Youth Programs, visit www.ssypboston.org or drop by 419 Shawmut Avenue.

We are grateful for the Massachusetts Service Alliance, which is helping to fund and support the MLK Day of Action.

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fecting patient outcomes. The event featured speakers from BMC and BUSM as well as from Johns Hopkins, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the US Digital Service and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. All talks were recorded and will be shared on the TEDx platform.



Marty Makary, chief of Johns Hopkins Islet Transplant Center and health policy advocate



THE SOUTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

6:00pm

at the South End Community Health Center 1601 Washington Street (3rd Floor), Boston, MA

Please confirm your attendance

RSVP at development@sechc.org Light refreshments will be served.





Community Meeting

PLAN: Nubian Square

Nubian Square Workshop

Monday, January 27 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

980 Harrison Ave 2nd Floor Training Room Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The January PLAN: Nubian Square workshop will build upon previous PLAN: Nubian workshops and will focus on the Campus High Urban Renewal Plan, which Crescent, Malcolm X & Putnam, and P3 are all a part of. We will discuss the history of the urban renewal plan, how it impacted the area, and how it is discussed in relation to PLAN: Nubian Square. We will also be discussing the urban design guidelines for Crescent Parcel, and Malcolm X and Putnam Parcels.

As with all previous workshops, feedback provided will be taken into consideration for incorporation into the RFP documents. Throughout the evening there will be opportunities for attendees to engage in dialogue with City and BPDA team members, regarding urban renewal and urban design guidelines.

Contact:

Muge Undemir Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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