We All Fall Down, Passover Dysfunction

If you are searching for a play that sharply focuses on the Passover Seder, “We All Fall Down” is not your stage Afikomen (the hidden matza that brings children a reward after they find it). Although Lila Rose Kaplan’s family dramatically finds the... Continued on page 3

News from...

East Berkeley Neighborhood Association

The February Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 pm at Project Place, 1145 Washington Street, Boston.

Monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month.

Obituary

Skip Rosenthal, at 68

When he left in 1979, he was working as a social worker for Jewish Vocational Services, with a second job as night watchman in a Chelsea funeral parlor. He had been associated with Gay Community News for years, had a hand in the advertising and technical end of at least one other gay publication, and managed a gay bar in downtown Boston. Laid off from JVS that fall, he became determined to find meaningful, independent work, which turned out to be a South End community newspaper.

Involved as editor from the beginning, my next visit consisted of the weeks prior to the first issue of... Continued on page 4

Pressley disrupts Eurocentric aesthetic about hair

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley revealed she has the autoimmune disorder “alopecia areata” that has rendered her hairless. Pressley revealing her bald head publicly opened the troubling conversation about black hair – especially for African American females. Our children across America are being humiliated and punished because of racial rules and policies that discriminate against their hair texture and natural hairstyles. Last year the video of an African... Continued on page 4

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

Dear Dog Lady, I live in the neighborhood next to a designated area. My neighbors often have their dogs in the street, which is not allowed. Is there a way to handle this situation? — citrus

Dear citrus, There are laws in place to keep dogs on leashes and in designated areas. If you are concerned about the welfare of your neighbors’ pets, consider having a conversation with them about the importance of keeping their pets safe and within the rules. — Fatty

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6154-0120
Theater
Continued from page 1

fictional Stein preparing for and finally beginning the iconic Jewish event, a singular dysfunction proves the rule at the Westchester County home.

Vérité director Mélia Bensussen and a talented Huntingdon Theatre Company cast try to give Kaplan’s effort—now in its Hub premiere at the Caldwell Pavilion—real emotional intensity, but her somewhat affecting play suffers from an identity crisis all its own.

Where the hula hoops were slaves to the Pharaoh (Ramos II), the Steins look to be prisoners to general assimilation as “We All Fall Down” begins. Judy Gelber’s stage-encompassing and well-detailed scenic design reveals a spacious but as yet unprepared pre-holiday home and a family with a relatively low bar for conducting their seder. Daughter Ariel is practicing a yoga routine while her sister Sammi observes that they never have a seder and repeatedly laments that her non-Jewish fiancé David—who is supposed to be bringing the centerpiece brisket—remains stuck in heavy traffic on Route 95.

Father Saul, a retired teacher and author of a work on the American Revolution, has more to say about an intended summer trip to Alaska with wife Linda than about Passover. His older sister Nanci—who has vivid memories of meeting Linda at a meeting of young Communists—does not exactly help when she mentions some people seeing the seder as “an evening of Zionist propaganda.” Periodically leaves are removed from the long family dinner table as invited couples send their regrets.

With such a seder, why are the Steins having a family seder after all? Linda—who has pushed to return to this Passover tradition—ostensibly sees it as a chance for a needed family reunion and even still-writing Chasidah gifts. Much later the anxieties expert will reveal serious motivation for which the play does gradually provide some foreshadowing.

Anxiety expert Linda does try to live up her seder with fidget puppets representing the ten plagues; and including the colorful boa her daughters wore at school events. As for the text of the Hagada, ironically Ester—her non-Jewish graduate student assistant—appears to be the only participant who actually reads Hebrew fluently. Elie Bordner as Ester notes later in a beautiful rendition of 'Mishkhatamah’ (‘The Poor Questions’).

Quite frankly, theatergoers—Jewish or non-Jewish—who are more than familiar with the seder and Passover themes are likely to question why Kaplan’s play resolves fairly early to complications like David’s delay or Linda’s best friend Beverly’s repeated description of Passover as a ‘Jewish Easter.’ These are the kind of facile elements likely to show up in television sitcoms. Also, a late straggle involving Linda’s concern for memory-weak Saul has much more poignancy than much of what precedes it.

Still, as members sometimes make up for problems in the play itself, Elanor Reina has all of Linda’s heart and vitality, Stephen Schnetzer convincingly struggles Saul—especially as he speaks about the nature of a seder. Lisa Vansyngel captures Sammi’s tenacity and Dana Stein Ariel’s spirit. Phyllis Kay catches Nanci’s vocal sharpness. Sarah Neshouse makes the most of the thin role of Beverly.

“We All Fall Down” speaks of a redemption that “is not yet complete.” Righteous, that observation could describe Kaplan’s play as much as the Steins and their experience of Passover.

East Berkeley
Continued from page 1

Essaihi-George to the February meeting. The council will discuss her current priorities, take your questions, and hear your concerns. Come for a informative and lively discussion.

- Business Spotlight:
  - Dr. James Sellman of Sellman Dental Designs. https://www.sellmandentaldesigns.com/
  - Member Brainstorming and Input opportunity: We will hold a brainstorming session to capture your priorities and interests.

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What’s important to you?
What would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?
What would you like future meetings to include?
- Seeking Volunteers
Good things only happen when people make them happen. At this meeting, we will discuss volunteer opportunities and ways for members to become more involved in areas that are meaningful to them!
- Event Coordination, Social Planning, Membership recruitment, and more!
- EBNA Board - Your 2020 board members:
  - President: Ken Smith, Vice President: Leslie Fine, Treasurer: Stuart Rossy, Secretary: Brad St. Amant; Members: Fran Ribas, Steven Berns, John Connelly, Almee Coolidge, Sarah Hutt, Geoff Palmer.

Welcome to our newest member Steve Berns! We are happy to have a diverse mix of residents, organizations, new and longtime residents, and representation from the new buildings in the New York Street area, as well as the “original” buildings of the neighborhood.

You may also join or renew as a member of EBNA at this meeting. Credit cards accepted.
Share this meeting info with your neighbors. Neighbors can subscribe to this email list here: http://eprofile.com/6GW5v_P

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Pressley
Continued from page 1

American high school wrestler forced to cut off his dreadlocks to compete. waat vital. The referee, who was white, stated "his hair and headgear did not comply with rules, and that if he wanted to compete, he would have to immediately cut his dreadlocks -- or forfeit."

Pressley, known for her signature Senegalese twists -- as her personal identity and political brand -- had been criticized as being "too ethnic" and "too urban." However, to young black girls, Pressley's hairstyle was both an inspiration and an affirmation to rock proudly.

Afro Americans women and girls endure some of the harshest punishments concerning our hair, thereby permitting racist workplaces, institutions and educators to discriminate against us without repercussion.

In 2017, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden, banned black twin Deanna and Maya Cook from playing after school sports and from attending their prom because their hair extensions to school, violating school policy. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey stepped in on the twin's behalf. Healey sent a letter to the schoolもらい stating that its policy "includes a number of provisions that are either unreasonably subjective or appear to effectively single out students of color."

In the black community, "Black Panther," the beauty of black unstraightened natural hair was placed front and center. Lupita Nyong'o as Nakia wore Bantu knots. Letitia Wright as Shuri donned individual braids and Davina Guiria flaunted a bald head. While many African American women today wear their hair in Afro, cornrows, locks, braids, Senegalese twists, wraps or bald, our hair -- both symbolically and literally -- continues to be a battlefield in this country's politics of hair and beauty aesthetics.

For example, in 2007, radio personality shock jock Don Imus insulted the Rutgers women's basketball team, calling them "some nappy-headed hoes." He struck a raw nerve in the African American community -- our hair. "Nappy" derogatorily referenced as a racial epithet, as Imus did, is the other half in the African American community.

While many sisters today might use a hot comb on their hair, hot combs called straightening combs too, were around in the 1980s, and sold at Sears and Bloomingdale's catalogs to a predominantly white female clientele. Madam C.J. Walker, the first African American millionaire for her inventions of black hair products, didn't invent the hot comb she popularized its use by remediating the perceived "cune" of nappy hair with her hair-straightening products that continue to this day bring comfort to many black women.

Hair black hairstyles are not criticized when they are being appropriated by white culture, especially when white celebrities or models wear our coiffed styles. In 1979 actress Bo Derek donned cornrows in her breakthrough film "10." In 1990 "People Magazine" credited Derek for making the style a "cross-cultural craze." In 2018 when Kim Kardashian posted a photo of herself flaunting braids to Snapchat, she credited them as wearing "Bo Derek braids." Just last week at the meet's follow-in 2020/21 fashion show in Paris models presented creations by Comme Des Garçons wearing cornrows wigs.

Respected African American feminist author Alice Walker spoke about the constraints of hair and beauty ideals in African American culture. In her address "Oppressed hair puts a ceiling on the brain," Walker, at the women's historically black college Spelman in Atlanta in April 1987 stated the following: "I am going to talk to you about hair. Do not give a thought to the state of your hair at the moment. This is not an option...it occurred to me that in my physical self, there remained one last barrier to my spiritual liberation: my hair. I realized I have never been given the opportunity to appreciate, to look at my female self. Eventually, I knew precisely what hair wanted: it wanted to go, to be itself..." to be left alone by anyone, including me, who did not love it as it was."

In California, the CROWN ACT ("Create a Respectful and Equal Openness for Natural Hair"), a law prohibiting discrimination based on hairstyle and hair texture, went into effect on Jan. 1. Femininity and attractiveness are intrinsically linked to hair as a Eurocentric aesthetic.

Pressley, however, disrupts this notion because she's stunningly gorgeous and elegant -- with or without hair. "I'm not here just to occupy space," Pressley stated in The Root video interview. "I'm here to create it."

Letters to the editor:
southendnews.com

Dear Dog Lady, — Sara

Yes, big advice: You need to speak up for yourself and your dog. You must show your muscle on Hercules' behalf — and your own. If the manhandling of your little dog is not acceptable, then you have every right to demand your furend stop teasing the Panamanian around and begin treating the dog with care.

You should think about how these issues with Hercules reflect deeper divides in the relationship. If a discussion with your furend about treatment of the dog devolves into blame and defensiveness, you should broaden the conversation into the future for the two of you. It takes a big man to show kindness to a little dog.

Write: askdaglady@gmail.com.
Free Family Fun At Boston Common
Winter Fest February 20

Submitted by DPARD

Mayor Marty J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual Children’s Winter Festival on Boston Common in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation during school vacation week on Thursday, February 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other sponsors include XFINITY and L.L. Bean.

“Come join us for the Children’s Winter Festival with free, fun activities during vacation week for Boston Public Schools,” said Mayor Walsh. “The Parks Department has planned an event full of entertainment giving children and families an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the season on Boston Common.”

Attractions will include the 45-foot-long Toboggan Turn-even mountains adventure with twin roller lanes, the Snow Maze, and the Snow Tube at the Highland Street Foundation’s Kaiser Family Foundation Family Play Zone.

City Of Boston Kicks Off Free Winter Fitness Series

Submitted by the City of Boston

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) have announced the Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts from January 5 through May 1. The four-month-long series will offer free classes at 11 locations across the city.

Winter offerings include walking and snowshoeing at Franklin Park, yoga at BCYF’s Paris Street Community Center in East Boston, and Veronika B. Smith Senior Center in Brighton, strength training at BCYF’s Gallivan Community Center in Mattapan, Zumba Gold at BCYF’s Golden Age Senior Center in Charlestown, bootcamps at the ADNL Building at Town Field in Dorchester, and BCYF Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury.

The program is tailored to the needs of residents and participants, including age-friendly classes for kids and older adults as well as those new to fitness classes. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active year-round thanks to the expansion of this program. Outdoor activities are weather permitting.

For more information including dates and times, please visit Boston.gov/winter-fitness. For information on cancellations, check Twitter at @healthinboston and @bostonparksept or call (617) 349-2393.

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Estate of Jean Marie Walsh
Date of Death: 3/19/2019

To all interested persons:

A notice of Petition for Formal Probate of Estate with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stephen E. Walsh of Saugus, Massachusetts, at the Probate and Family Court of Suffolk County, in and for the County of Suffolk. Further notice will be given in the manner provided by law in such cases.

Dated in Saugus, Massachusetts, on March 15, 2019.

You have the right to petition the Probate Judge of the Probate and Family Court to be held on 3/19/2019 at 3:00 p.m. at 800 Summer Street, Brookline, MA 02445, to object to the form of the notice that was given to you, or to request a change in the notice.

The Petitioner, Stephen E. Walsh of Saugus, Massachusetts, at the Probate and Family Court of Suffolk County, by and through his attorney, upon the same ground and on the same objection as is set forth in the Petitioner’s Notice of Petition for Formal Probate of Estate with Appointment of Personal Representative, has filed a Petition for Formal Probate of Estate with Appointment of Personal Representative.

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

Date: January 22, 2020

Felix O. Arenas, Register of Probate

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

In the matter of: Kevin Per Nathanael Staberg

Of: Boston, MA

To all persons interested in petition described

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been presented by Kevin Per Nathanael Staberg seeking that the court enter a decree changing their name to: Kevin Nathanael Scott

Docket No. SU200472CA

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Any person may appear for purpose of opposing the matter by filing an appearance at Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 8:30 a.m. on the return day of 3/6/2020. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: December 23, 2019

Felix O. Arenas, Register of Probate

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Family
Continued from page 5

ing maze, the Snowzilla Jr. inflatable winter-themed slide, a ride on the three-car Trackless Train, and hands-on games including Giant Connect 4, Buggy, Giant Hamster Race, Inflatable Skee Ball, and much more. L.L. Bean's Bootmobile will be on-site for a photo-op and their Outdoor Discovery Program will offer sledding and snowshoeing (weather permitting) or a Maps and Compass Challenge if there is no snow.

In addition, Disney is celebrating the release of FROZEN 2 available on Digital February 11 and Blu-ray™ February 25 with free giveaways and a chance to win a copy of the movie and XFINITY is providing a vintage 1960s Volkswagen bus converted to a photo bus so bring your best pose and let XFINITY's Photoshoots take your group's photo. The festival will also feature the Magic 106.7 street team with giveaways (while supplies last), activities with Disney's S.O.S. of Eastern MA, the Mayor's Moral Crew, New England Aquarium, a family Zumba class, and hot tea from DAVID’S TEA.

For more information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505, visit www.cityofboston.gov/parks or go to www.boston.com/boston-parks.

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TASTE OF THE SOUTH END
MARCH 24, 2020

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 February 12, 2020, at 9:30 A.M., in Room 900, Boston City Hall, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 725, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend “Map 6A/6B/6C, Roxbury Neighborhood District”, by adding the designation “LI”, indicating an Urban Renewal Area overlay district to the existing zoning of the parcels of land known as Parcels 57, 59A and 59B, in the South End Urban Renewal Area.

A copy petition and a map of the area involved 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
**Community Meeting**

**PLAN: Nubian Square**

**Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee**

**Monday, February 3**
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Roxbury, MA 02119

**Event Description**
The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since the launch of PLAN: Nubian Square, the RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on the initiative.

At this meeting, the BPDA will be providing a debrief on the P3 Development Process, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps for the process.

All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. For more information on the upcoming meeting, including the draft agenda and all materials from previous RSMPOC meetings, please visit bit.ly/thRSMPOC.

Please come join your neighbors to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

**Contact:**
M. Paige Underhill
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mpaige.underhill@boston.gov

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