South End News

October 7, 2021 [Vol. 41, No. 27]

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

A tense and powerful *Sound*

The Sound Inside
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through October 16. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com.

BY JULES BECKER

Mentor-protégé plays are not new. Think of Donald Margulies' perceptive drama "Collected Stories"—in which a well-respected teacher-short story writer comes into conflict with her student-author. A very different kind of conflict

Continued on page 2



Jennifer Rohn and Nathan Malin in SpeakEasy Stage's production of The Sound Inside. Photo by Nile Scott Studios.

Be Here Now Intrigues



Samantha Richert and Barlow Adamson. Photo by Mark S. Howard

JULES BECKER

Be Here Now
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through October 17. 617-585-5678 or lyricstage.com.

Deborah Zoe Laufer is clearly fond of eccentrics. In the playwrights' dramedy "The Last Schartz"—affectingly staged a while back by Gloucester Stage Company, middle sibling Simon sees his love of astronomy as a kind of launch pad for astronaut-based adventurousness. Laufer's intriguing 90-minute play "Be Here Now" gives sympathetic hearings to the very different drummers' beats of nihilist doctoral candidate Bari and garbage architectural wizard Mike.

Lyric Stage Company of Boston artistic director Courtney O'Connor

Continued on page 4

Owner of South End lodging house: shocked to hear guests are disrupting the block

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

After listening to numerous residents of the South End's Concord Square neighborhood complain about drug dealing, people on the front steps passed out on the front steps or angrily shouting at nearby residents, broken glass and cigarette butts tossed into neighboring yards, the CEO of the company that now owns the 16-room lodging house at 44 Concord Sq. declared himself stunned - and vowed to get to the bottom of it all.

"I don't like having people who are angry at us who feel that we've wronged them," Bruce Percelay of the Mount Vernon Co. in Allston said on September 28 at a Boston Licensing Board meeting on Zoom, which the board called to air complaints from the square's more permanent residents.

Percelay added, though, he wishes residents had contacted him or his company first before going to the licensing board with "an avalanche of complaints that I certainly literally knew nothing about."

"We're as transparent and as open a book as there is here in this business," he said. "Where there's smoke there's fire, I suppose. ... We want to solve this, we want to be a good neighbor."

Continued on page 3

Condos could replace restaurant row

COURTESY ADAM GAFFIN
WWW.UNIVERSALHUB.COM

A developer has filed plans to replace three restaurants at 1395-1405 Washington Street in the South End with a $23 million, seven-story condo building.

Two of the restaurants—the Gallows and Black Jack Pasta Kitchen—are already closed for good.

Developer Peter Georgantas says the new building, which will also include ground-floor retail space, "will fill in the huge gap that currently exists within the Washington Street corridor along this block by replacing what is currently a non-descript, anomalous, single story retail buildings flanked by existing (6) and (7) story residential buildings to the east and west."

Five of the units would be sold as affordable. The building would have no on-site parking.

More information here: https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/1395-washington-street

Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival

Boston Common
October 22

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground near the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets on Friday, October 22, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Adults and children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and participate in a wide range of fun and spooky family activities. Test your skills and courage to find your way out of the Haunted Fun House Maze, hop on the train hosted by Cabot Creamery Co-operative, and make your way over to our glow in the dark play space for some night-time fun featuring LED illuminated swings, seesaws, and cornhole. Join LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Boston to build a LEGO® pumpkin for our pumpkin patch and learn how to build spooky creatures with Lego Master Model Builder, Sean.

Continued on page 2

Online

Check us out online at
www.mysouthend.com
twitter.com/SouthEndNews
facebook.com/SouthEndNews

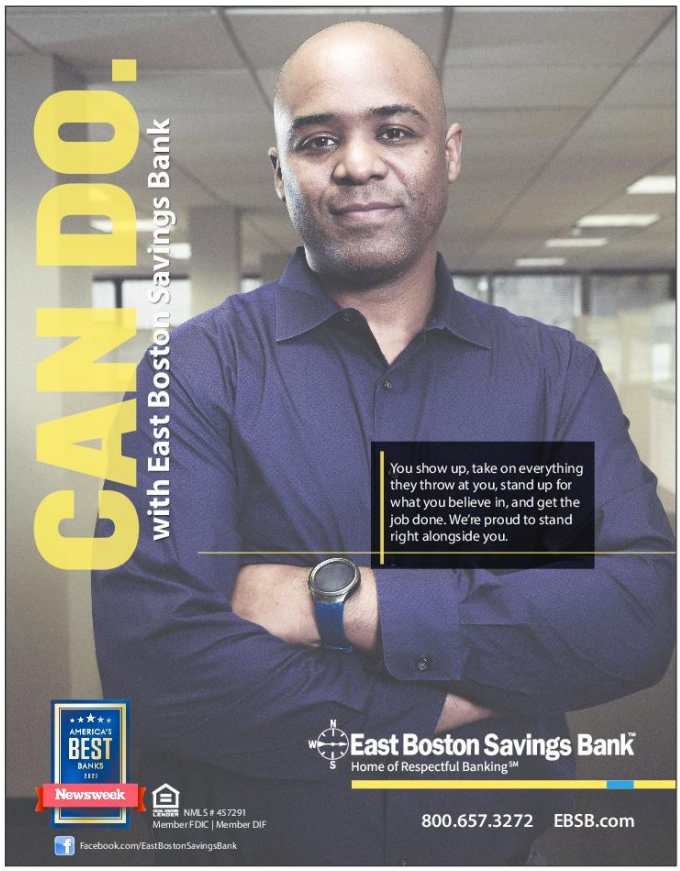
Online

Angel's Painting, Inc.

Residential / Commercial

"When it comes to painting and carpentry, we're the Angels you've been looking for."

Cell: (781) 640-5590
Office: (508) 270-6841
Tim@angelspainting.net
www.angelspaintinginc.com



Sound

Continued from page 1

characterizes Adam Rapp's Tony-nominated two-character play "The Sound Inside" (2018 at Williamstown, 2019 on Broadway).

Here a professor-novelist and short story writer faces the challenges that evolve as she meets with an unusual student who has begun writing a short novel of his own. Those meetings become a trenchantly tense drama now in a SpeakEasy Stage Hub premiere powerfully directed by Bryn Boice.

The teacher and student in question are a strong study in contrast. Bella Baird, a 53 year old single creative writing professor at a New Haven Ivy League school (Yale of course), lives in simple school quarters—kudos to Cristina Todesco for a fittingly austere gray and black scenic design.

Spirited and iconoclastic, the Illinois native thinks of French literary giant Honore de Balzac as she describes God as "a fat man with money who can still get it up" and describes herself as a hoarder of first editions of the works of Edith Wharton and Samuel Beckett. Unpretentious Baird speaks of her own novel "struggling to stay in print" and admits (to the audience who could be her class) that she published it about 20 years earlier.

Christopher Dunn, who could hail from the Victorian era, prefers penmanship to computer writing, hates Tweets and chooses to make unannounced visits to his teacher rather than schedule appointments.

Even so, the Vermont student likes her "Reading Fiction for Craft" class and has even read her novel and two volumes of short stories. Ambitiously he wants to include a scene inspired by Dostoievsky in his own work. Not surprisingly, Dunn is putting his novel on a Corona typewriter.

While Rapp's characters are very well delineated (as in his earlier stunningly harrowing two-person drama "Blackbird,") the twists and surprises in their relationship should make audiences give "The Sound Inside" a fully absorbed hearing. Adding substantially to that undivided attention are the 'scenes' from Dunn's own work in progress—a kind of novel-within-the-play.

Rapp's talent for crisp dialogue in the exchanges between teacher and student is matched by his deft development of the New York City meeting of student Billy and seemingly penniless yet mysterious stranger Shane in the student's novel ('novella' as Baird terms it).

Ultimately, the fortunes of Baird and Dunn prove as riveting as those of Billy and Shane. What will happen to the professor, who suffers from what she openly describes as a "constellation of advanced cancer tumors"?

How will the student's studies and writing fare? Also, what will come of Baird's special request to Dunn? Rapp makes the answers both compelling and haunting.

Jennifer Rohn and Nathan Malin prove as compelling as Rapp's fine play. Rohn has all of Baird's feistiness and subtlety. Her opening expository speech establishes both the professor's wit and her mysterious inner voice. Malin captures Dunn's engaging elusiveness and his intrepid individuality.

Boice gives full voice to the loneliness and warring urges in both Baird and Dunn. For its part, SpeakEasy Stage has built up the kind of theater cred that brought Rapp's strong play to the Hub even as the Tony Awards approached.

Next spring this standout company will stage the actual 2021 Tony Award winner "The Inheritance" (a gay epic treatment of "Howard's End" by gay Latino dramatist Matthew Lopez). Boston theater buffs should expect that premiere to resonate as lyrically as "The Sound Inside."

Fall-o-Ween

Continued from page 1

Enjoy exciting acts from the Boston Circus Guild with performances by an aerial artist and stilt walker between 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Skating Club of Boston. Key sponsors are LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Boston, the Farm Families who own Cabot Creamery Co-operative, HP Hood LLC, Dunkin', and L.L.Bean. The media sponsor is Magic 106.7. Additional support provided by Perfect Parties and the Boston Circus Guild.

This free family-friendly event will also include glow-in-the-dark games, children's crafts, scarily delicious snacks and refreshments provided by Cabot Cheese, Dunkin', and HP Hood LLC. Join Harvard University's Stress & Development lab for fun games focused on learning about the brain and how we think. A monster mash of activities will include a visit from the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, the Mass Audubon Society, an art activity with the Mayor's Mural Crew, and other fun fall and Halloween activities.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, register for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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

South Enders Honored at Storybook Ball

SUBMITTED BY MGHFC

The South End's Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, will be honored at MassGeneral Hospital for Children's Storybook Ball during a reimagined virtual evening on Thursday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Kleinman is stepping down as Physician-in-Chief of MGHfC after 43 years of outstanding service to the hospital. Throughout his storied career, Dr. Kleinman has impacted countless patients, families and fellow clinicians.

His wife, Martha Kleinman, will be spotlighted as Honorary Co-Chair, recognizing her dedication to the Storybook Ball committee for over two decades.

Since the event's inception in 2000, Storybook Ball has raised more than $32 million, allowing MGHfC to provide extraordinary care to its patients and families; to recruit and support the best physicians; and to advance research that will transform clinical care worldwide.

Led by Co-Chairs Fiona and James Benenson of Brookline and Rachel and Bill Motley of Dover, the 22nd anniversary of Storybook Ball includes speeches, patient stories and tributes.

The event showcases the Pediatric Infectious Disease program at MGHfC, which includes a highly expert group of infectious disease clinicians, researchers, microbiologists and pathologists who provide multidisciplinary care and expertise for children with some of the rarest and most complicated infections in the world, including those that trigger neuropsychiatric illness.



The South End's Dr. Ronald and Martha Kleinman will be honored at this year's virtual Storybook Ball.

Visit storybookballboston.org to learn more.

Mount Vernon

Continued from page 1

Residents say they have long co-existed, happily even, with the lodging house, which Mount Vernon bought about seven years ago. In 2018, one resident said, she even rented some rooms there for out-of-town guests coming to celebrate her daughter's graduation from Boston Latin School. Other residents talked of sitting on their stoops - a popular Concord Square pastime in nice weather - and chatting with people staying there.

But residents said that Mount Vernon no longer runs the lodging house in its traditional fashion as a place for young professionals to stay for a month or two after getting a job in Boston and that, especially since the pandemic, it now runs it as an Airbnb, catering to people looking for very short stays, a fair number of them "shady characters" who are into drug use or sales, which, they say, threatens to turn the block of brownstones into an extension of Mass and Cass. Lodging houses are exempt from the city's ban on investor-owned short-term rentals.

One resident spoke of people "staggering out of there stoned out of their minds or otherwise somehow impaired."

Another resident, who lives right next to the lodging house, says he now regularly finds broken glass and cigarette butts in his yard after nights of "screaming and yelling," that he and his wife have to keep their windows shut to keep out the cigarette and marijuana smoke wafting from the building and that he now has concerns just "taking my kids out there after the dark to hang out in our yard" - and when he goes on business trips.

"It's the first time I've felt uncomfortable in the South End," he said.

Another resident said she was sitting on her stoop with her four-year-old son last month, just enjoying a nice day, when a woman pulled up and started "pulling a lot of stuff out of a car." The woman saw her and yelled "What the hell are you looking at?"

"We don't expect suburban Pollyanna whatever," but neither is Concord Square an extension of Mass and Cass, another resident said.

"This is the very first time in 25 years that we've ever seen this level of disjointed operations in a lodging house," Stephen Fox, chairman of the South End Forum, which represents neighborhood groups across the South End, said. "There's something fundamentally wrong with this particular location," he said, adding that might be because it's no longer run as a lodging house but as "a night to night hotel."

Percelay acknowledged that Mount Vernon, like other companies with rooms to let, dramatically lowered rates last year just to try to bring in some revenue during the pandemic. "We lived through something in the pandemic that was brutal," he said. The company, which also owns the Revolution Hotel on Berkeley Street, was "getting crushed."

"I can hear the anger in your voice," he continued. "If you knew us better you'd know we don't play games. This fortunately is somewhat of a foreign experience for us."

"We're not mind readers," he said, and residents need to contact him or Mount Vernon to discuss the issues. "We need to know there's a problem," he said.

Residents retorted that maybe if Mount Vernon, which does not have a full-time staffer at the lodging house, had done what they did and installed cameras on their property, they would know what the problems are.

Licensing Board Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce tried to end the hearing on a positive note. "It sounds like we have a very active community here and an operator who takes pride in his reputation and his job," she said, urging the two sides to keep talking.

Get local and advertise your property in

the *South End News*.

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

Roger Wellington Named Pine Street Inn's Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

SUBMITTED BY PINE STEET INN.

Roger Wellington has been appointed to Pine Street Inn's newly created position of Senior Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, where he will oversee the organization's strategy, policy and practice around DEI efforts.

Roger has been with Pine Street for over 30 years, most currently as Director of the organization's iCaterBoston social enterprise.

"I am honored to be the first person to take on this critical role, and pleased that Pine Street's leadership and board are investing in the organization's DEI initiative - it's the right thing to do and the right time to do it. This is an exciting opportunity, not just for myself but for all of my peers, our guests and our community at large. I look forward to implementing initiatives that will benefit everyone connected with Pine Street and beyond."



Roger Wellington

Be Here Now

Continued from page 1

must share Laufer's fondness as her staging of the latter's Hub premiere makes Bari and Mike's unexpected connection and evolving romance a winning company opener.

Initially making that connection and developing that romance look to be Herculean labors for the unlikely couple. Bari sees no serenity in yoga with her fulfillment center co-workers Luanne and Patty, calls herself an atheist, despairs of "hard economic times," refers to Schopenhauer and speaks of everything ending in grief.

At the same time the non-tenured teacher believes that "nothing matters" and struggles to write her dissertation on nihilism for eight years with no success. Complicating her life even further are collapses that may be seizures.

All of these challenges notwithstanding, her thinking and philosophy of life begin to change after she is paired up by Patty with her cousin Mike. At first, Bari jumps to the erroneous conclusion that Mike is a 'loser' when he picks up a stroller and a wicker basket that have been abandoned.

In reality Mike is a MacArthur Foundation grant recipient, regarded as a genius for transforming discards into unusual residences—with one actually bought for $10,000 and installed in a museum. Adding to the distinctiveness of Mike's construction of nearly 300 houses is the help of his pet crow Hubbel—who brings over wood (a demonstration of the intelligence of the bird).

Bari's seizures may continue, but rectangles of light–much in blue and red—attend her relationship with Mike. "We're connected," she admits. As they kiss and become more intimate, her nihilistic philosophy fades and she realizes that he is an essentially nice guy.

Eventually he reveals a disturbing truth about what happened to his late wife and child, but Bari understands that he is trying to hold things together. Ultimately, her new understanding about Mike, love and what is important in life brings her to an appreciation of what human fulfillment can be.

Under O'Connor's sharp direction, Samantha Richert captures the inspiring character arc that takes Bari from despair to hope and self-esteem. Her seizures are fully convincing, as is her elation over visions of color and connection with Mike.

Barlow Adamson finds all of Mike's likeable eccentricity and his touching self-searching. Shani Farrell has Patti's tough love and caring. Katherine C. Shaver is properly naïve and supportive. Kudos go to Janie E. Howland's well detailed fulfillment center and Karen Perlow's poetic color visions.

Director O'Connor observes in her playbill note how this story and Bari resonate with her own life. "Be Here Now" may seem a 'small' play to some demanding theatergoers, but Bari and Mike's respective journeys to real existence should ring true—especially with the rise of anxiety and depression in the age of COVID-19.

Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com

41/27

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

© 2021 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 other Thursday.

Letters policy

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; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

bpda | **Virtual Public Meeting**

1395-1405 Washington St.

Thursday, October 21
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/39L1nNy
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 753 6365

Project Proponent:
Georgantas Design + Development

Project Description:
The BPDA is hosting a public meeting for the 1395-1405 Washington Street project located in the South End. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and take public comment on the Small Project Review Application. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. The proposed project consists of the development of a 6,938 square-foot lot located at 1395-1405 Washington Street in South End. The project proposal is to raze the existing one-story commercial space and to construct a new 7-story building that will include thirty-five (35) residential units with a common residential entry lobby and commercial retail spaces at the ground floor. Additionally, forty (40) bicycle storage spaces are provided at basement floor.

mail to: **Caitlin Coppinger**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4280
email: caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

In the matter of: Hannah Hayden Freeman

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been presented by **Hannah Hayden Freeman** of **Boston, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Hannah Hayden England**

Docket No. SU21C0384CA

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

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2021**. 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: September 15, 2021 *Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate*

Your Neighborhood.
Your Website.
MySouthEnd.com

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

SERVICE GUIDE

MASONRY



CONSTRUCTION • GENERAL • REMODELING

The Dependable Handyperson

Fine Painting and Refinishing
Small Repairs and Renovations
Deck and Garden Work

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

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

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

SERVICE GUIDE

ELECTRICAL

D'S ELECTRIC

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

Spring 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
- Excellent references and competitive rates

Cleaning by Judy
617-895-7472

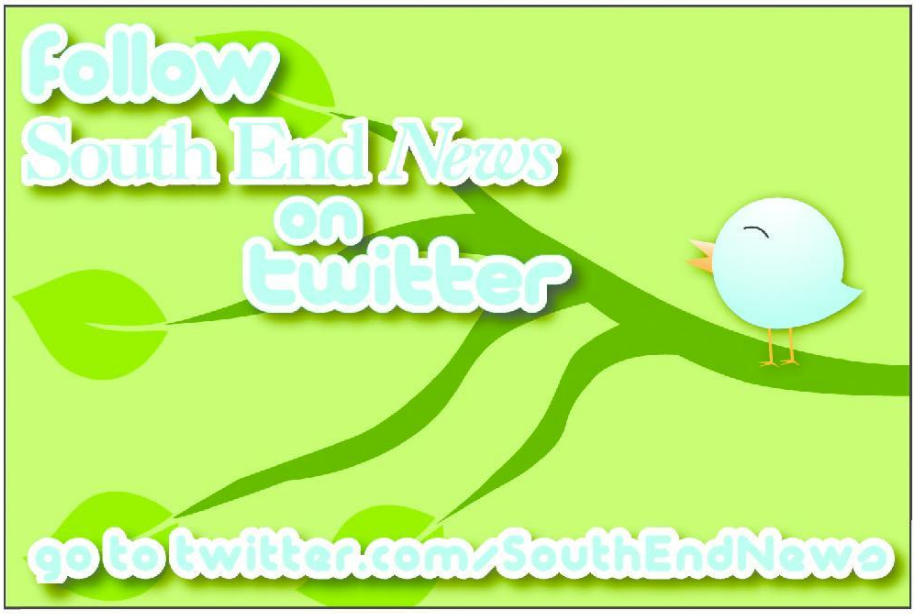
custom wedding invitations
event invitations
wedding programs
wedding menus
escort cards
save - the - dates



lynn graham designs
www.lynngrahamdesigns.com • info@lynngrahamdesigns.com

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

Find us on Facebook



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.

JJBodner

Insurance Agency of Boston

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

LAW OFFICES
Donald E. Green, P.C.

Everyone is going GREEN!

For all your legal needs, call the Law Offices of **Donald E. Green.**

We concentrate on personal injury matters as well as criminal defense, civil rights, immigration matters, wills & trusts, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, real estate and sexual harassment claims.

Please call **Attorneys Don or Annette Green**
at **(617) 442-0050** or
email dgreen@donaldegreen.com
or agreen@donaldegreen.com

After more than 30 years in Dudley Square we have moved.

Washington Park Mall (less than a mile from our previous location)

330 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Roxbury



Don Green

Annette Green

