April 4, 2024 [Vol. 42, No. 40]

Mayor Michelle Wu, BHA's Kenzie **Bok Celebrate Grand Opening of 34 East Springfield Street**

CITY OF BOSTON, BHA, MPZ

On March 27, Mayor Michelle Wu joined Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok to welcome home the new residents and celebrate the opening of 34 East Springfield Street, a 100% affordable

veteran housing community located in the heart of Boston's South End neighborhood. The house warming celebration marks the transformation of a formerly vacant, four-unit Boston Housing Authority Public Housing property into five deeply affordable, one-bedroom apartments for formerly homeless veterans

"Today, we're here to celebrate a win for Boston's homeless veterans, and to welcome five new residents into their homes," said BHA Administrator Kenzie Bok, "This project restores a historic South End Brownstone and gives its residents

Continued on page 4

Community Music Center of Boston Purchases a New Building in Nubian Square

SUBMITTED BY CMCB

On April 5, Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) announced a new 13,000 square foot building in Roxbury. It will offer beautiful performance spaces, updated classrooms, excellent acoustics, and

and future students.

CMCB's new space in Nubian Square will allow more students to participate in the organization's wide range of individual lessons, group music classes, and arts and cultural events. In alignment with the

improved accessibility for existing organization's mission of creating equitable access to excellent music education and arts experiences. CMCB's Nubian Square location will ground the organization's work in a neighborhood where it has long-

Continued on page 4

This story of a parrot and human soars

Beyond Words, d'Arbeloff Women in ence Production, presented Central Square Theater, abridge, through April 14. atalyst Collaborative@MIT duction. 617-576-9278 or

> BY JULES BECKER Contributing Writer

Is there another love besides the romantic humankind? For Irene Pepperberg, "Biology is my love and birds." Considering chemistry just numbers and data entry, the Brooklyn-born, M.I.T. and Harvardeducated Jewish scientist (currently an adjunct research professor at

Continued on page 6



Stephanie Clayman as scientist Irene Pepperberg and Ion Vellante as the parrot Alex in "Beyond Words" at Central Square Theater. Photo courtesy of Maggie Hall.

LOCAL NEWS

for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Margarita Muñiz **Academy Celebrates New Chapter**



eft to right: Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción president and CEO Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado addresses the crowd during The Calderón Library Ceremony

Vanessa Calderón-Rosado School Library Dedication

SUBMITTED BY MMA

On Thursday, March 21, the Margarita Muñiz Academy (MMA) celebrated the grand opening of its new school library. The library was dedicated in honor of Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO and president of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) and one of the academy's founding members.

Continued on page 2

NEWS FROM...

Pilot Block Neighborhood Association

Love Your Block Clean Up Saturday, April 20. Starting at 9:00AM

Meet at Harriet Tubman Park

Join the Pilot Block community as webeautifytheneighborhood during this city-wide community service event. During past Love Your Block cleanups, volunteers have helped give our parks, sidewalks, and alleys

a good spring cleaning. Tools and refreshments will be provided!

April Stoop Sit Friday, April 26. 6:00 - 8:00PM 185 & 187 Warren Avenue

Mingle with your neighbors at our

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Left to right: Margarita Muñiz Academy Headmaster Dania Vázquez and Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción president and CEO Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado.

The event was

attended by

special guests

and dignitaries.

including Mayor

Michelle Wu

and Alondra

Bobadilla, the

First Youth Poet

Laureate of

Boston.

IBA

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The event was attended by special guests and dignitaries, including Mayor Michelle Wu and Alondra Bobadilla, the First Youth Poet Laureate of Boston. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments and a music performance by talented students from the school's MMA music program.

"The grand opening of the The Calderón Library is a testament to the enduring legacy of one of Boston's most dedicated educators and community leaders," said Margarita Muñiz Academy Headmaster Dania Vázquez. "As we celebrate this milestone, we are reminded of the critical role that access to resources, like this state-of-the-art library, plays in the academic and personal growth of every student walking through our doors. We are deeply

inspired by Dr. Calderón-Rosado's vision and grateful for the path she has helped pave at Margarita Muñiz Academy."

This event not only marks a new chapter

for the academy, Boston Public Schools' first dual language high school, but also pays tribute to the dedication and contributions of Dr. Calderón-Rosado to Boston's Latino community. Together, the academy and Dr. Calderón-Rosado demonstrate the power and possibility of fostering access to education for all individuals.

"I am honored to have my name included as

a part of the legacy of work being done at Margarita Muñiz Academy to support our city's bilingual students and students who are English Language Learners. This new library, and the stories held in its books are symbolic of the power of possibility-el poder de la posibilidad-that lays before each student. As they move forward in their time at the academy, they will use this space to access the knowledge to imagine and create their futures, whether in education, careers, or civic leadership," said Dr. Calderón-Rosado.

"I urge our supporters, corporate and community partners to continue to advocate for a holistic educational approach that validates and celebrates each student's full identity."

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MAKOM trancends

MAKOM, Vertigo Dance Company, presented by Celebrity Series of Boston at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre, Boston, April 5 and 6. Exploring the Creative Process, a lecture/demo hosted by Boston's Center for Jewish Culture at Vilna Shul, Boston, April 4. Celebrityseries.org; VilnaShul.org

Contributing Writer

Two years ago Noa Wertheim was researching polarities. "We all have them," the cofounder and artistic director of Vertigo Dance Company recently told the South End News. One essential way of dealing with polarities, she offered, is to find the "centerline of the deep place within us and connect." Now dancers from her acclaimed Israeli troupe (founded in 1992 by Wertheim and husband Adi Sha'al)-at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre in its first Celebrity Series of Boston appearance since 2016—are exploring that line and path to connection in a polaritytranscending 2022 work choreographed by Noa and sister Rina Wertheim-Koren entitled "MAKOM"-Hebrew for 'place.'

For Jerusalem-based Vertigo Dance, this evening-length exploration contains "spiritual things." Observing that "We have the space and time," Noa revealed that "We created many places in the piece." That creation involves quality-centered Tselem-Hebrew for 'image'-and Taynit-Hebrew for 'form.' That form entails the employment of an arclike wood structure by Zohar Shoef. Dancers in Dani Fishof-Magenta's minimal lighting will move around and under that construct in neutral-hued costumes designed by Sasson Kedem. "Everything is ecological," Noa stressed. To that end, branch-like props will create such key objects as platforms, ladders and a bridge.

"It's a bridge they (the dancers) are building through the show," Noa explained. Sometimes there will be a circle representing commu-



Vertigo Dance Company members in "MAKOM" — a Celebrity Series offering to be staged at Shubert Theatre. Photo courtesy of Vertigo Dance Company.

nity. "We have to support each other and be together. We should be one," she continued. "The circle can be like a folk dance," she added. At other moments, dance movement will suggest a Shevil—Hebrew for 'path.' That path may connect with the creation of "a bridge connecting between two different peoples." Some moves will connect "male and female, sunand moon and light and darkness. "To that end, a sequence in which two male dancers

lift a female one may signify a triumph over the harm of polarities.

"MAKOM" features Vertigo dancers Etai Peri. Sian Olles, Eden Ben Shimol, Micah Aimos, Ruth Ben David, Ilan Kolubovich, Shani Licht, Noa Israeli and Theo Samsworth. Ran Bagno provides original music. (American-born and Netanya,Israel-raised Noa,who studied at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, met her dancer husband at another Jerusalem troupe Tamar). Vertigo Dance, renowned for innovative choreography and technical precision, has committed itself to environmental sustainability. The company practices what it preaches. Adobe is used at the building, water is collected from the roof, and there is no plastic at its Jerusalem Vertigo Eco Art Village in the Ella Valley . "We are like a family," Wertheim concluded.

Letters Policy

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All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.

Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

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CMCR

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standing relationships. For decades, CMCB has provided support beyond its South End location through partnerships with community organizations and the Boston Public Schools—where we are proud to be the largest outside provider of arts education.

The original, South End location will remain in operation, and the new flagship location in Nubian Square is set to open in 2026.

"CMCB is a leading arts institution living its mission through an expansion to Roxbury," said Lecolion Washington, Executive Director of Community Music Center of Boston. "Owning a building in Nubian Square demonstrates our long-term commitment to the growth and success of this area. As we continue to evolve as an organization, we look forward to deepening our relation-

ships with members of this historic arts and culture community."

"Spaces and places for arts and culture are indicative of a thriving and stable community," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston. "With this purchase and renovation, CMCB is making a long-term investment in the creativity of Boston's young people and supporting equitable arts and culture programs throughout our city."

Investments in CMCB's ongoing Valuing All Voices Capital Campaign helped to purchase the facility. To date, the campaign is over 65% of the way to its goal.

"The Community Music Center of Boston is a place where anyone can explore music, and their Nubian Square location will create safe spaces for youth and young people to gather," said Taneshia Nash Laird, President & CEO of the Greater Roxbury Arts and Culture Center. "We look forward to being neighbors in this thriving cultural district."

A nonprofit organization founded in 1910, CMCB has been a South End fixture and cornerstone of arts education throughout Boston for more than a century. To learn more about CMCB's expansion and to sign up to receive newsletter updates, please visit cmcb.org.

Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) is an arts education nonprofit founded in 1910, with a mission to transform lives by providing equitable access to excellent music education and arts experiences. Over 2,500 students participate in our programs every week. We are proud to act as the largest external provider of arts education to the Boston Public Schools, supporting learner-centered and culturally-inclusive musical instruction for one of the most diverse school districts in the nation. Learn more at cmcb.org.

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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; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

BHA

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the housing stability and supportive services that they need to thrive here in Boston."

"As part of an effort to ensure that all of our veterans are stably housed, the Mayor's Office of Housing was pleased to partner with the Boston Housing Authority and MPZ Development, on the redevelopment of 34 East Springfield Street," said Sheila Dillon, Boston's Chief of Housing. "We want to extend a warm welcome to the veterans who are moving into these beautiful South End homes."

In May of 2020, affordable housing developer MPZ Development LLC (MPZ) was selected by the Boston Housing Authority to lead the redevelopment of 34 East Springfield Street. MPZ was tasked with balancing the principles of affordability, historic preservation, and accessibility through the design, development and construction process.

34 East Springfield is a 150-year-old brick rowhouse acquired by the Boston Housing Authority as Federal Public Housing in the

"As part of an effort to ensure that all of our veterans are stably housed, the Mayor's Office of Housing was pleased to partner with the Boston Housing Authority and MPZ Development, on the redevelopment of 34 East Springfield Street."

- SHEILA DILLON BOSTON'S CHIEF OF HOUSING 1980s and operated as public housing until a fire fifteen years ago.

"Today's grand opening of 34 East Spring-fieldSt. is a major achievement and represents a critical commitment to building affordable housing for veterans a trisk of homelessness," said Mathieu Zahler, Principal of MPZ Development LLC. "Through great collaboration, we have transformed a once vacant and blighted building into a place where its residents can not only live but thrive. I'm thrilled to deliver this project with our many project partners to the South End neighborhood and look forward to seeing the impact it makes within the community."

34 East Springfield Street was funded through a mix of state, local, and private funding sources, including HOME funding through The City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing. Other funders include the Neighborhood Housing Trust, The Boston Housing Authority and Dedham Institution for Savings and the purchase of State and Federal Historic Tax Credits by members of the Grossman Family. The units will be permanently affordable thanks to the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program which provides Project Based Vouchers for all five apartments, as well as ongoing supportive services for the residents.

34 East Springfield Street's residents enjoy immediate proximity and access to a wide array of community services including Boston Medical Center and other healthcare facilities, the MBTA Silver Line and nearby grocery and dining options.

"Iamblessed to be a part of this opportunity that is giving metheplatform to affordably live comfortably in a community alongside other veterans," said Anthony Magnole, a resident at 34 East Springfield St. "I'm incredibly grateful to leverage this chance to progress towards my goals."

The redevelopment was supported by the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association and the project abutters. The project abutters at 32 East Springfield Street collaborated closely with MPZ. with all three condo owners in the building agreeing to temporarily relocate for a period of time and to reconstruct 32 East Springfield's façade.

MPZ worked with The Narrow Gate Architecture, Epsilon Associates and ZVI Construction to meticulously preserve and restore important historic features of this mid-19th century Italianate-style rowhouse, which is included in the South End National Historic District. Simultaneously, MPZ made necessary and important modernization and accessibility updates to 34 East Springfield Street, allowing its veteran residents to live comfortably and sustainably in the 100% electric, solar-ready building with green upgrades included throughout.

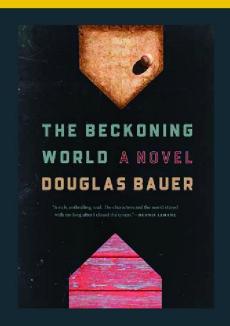
"This affordable housing development for veterans in the South End meets a critical need," said Doug Shaw, Executive Vice President & Senior Lending Officer at Dedham Savings. "As a community bank, Dedham Savings is proud to support such a project that further strengthens the local community."

"We're excited to see this vacant space come to life in such a meaningful way and are pleased to fund such an important project for the City of Boston," said Martin Connors, First Vice President, Commercial Real Estate Lending at Dedham Savings.

"The Grossman Family was thrilled to be a small part of this wonderful project which has restored beauty to a historic building, provided affordable homes for our valued Veterans, and proved that hard work by a passionate and committed developer who overcame many unanticipated challenges is well worth the time and effort required for the success of this project," said Louis Grossman, a historic tax credit investor.

"Collaborations like this between HUD, VA, the City of Boston and private sector partners like MPZ Development are helping ensure Veterans have a safe place to call home," said Vincent Ng, director of VA Boston Healthcare System. "That foundation combined with ongoing support from HUD-VASH staff can have a life-changing and lasting impact on Veterans' lives."

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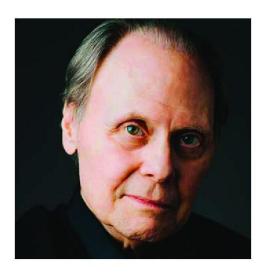
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket No. SU24D0461DR

Suffolk Probate

& Family Court

Kirsten Hetland Sullivan-Polk vs. Lee Sullivan-Polk

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN

This complaint is on file at the Court.

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An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Kirsten Hetland Sullivan-Polk 50 Columbia Rd

Apt #2 Boston, MA 02121

your answer, if any, on or before 05/07/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

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

Date: March 15, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probat

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Beyond Words

Continued from page 1

Boston University) decided early on to make her life's work the study of animal cognition—especially with regard to parrots. The remarkable result of her research and laboratory work—chronicled in Laura Maria Censabella's affecting new play "Beyond Words"—is the unique relationship between Pepperberg and an African gray parrot she named Alex.

The world premiere in question—lovingly directed by Cassie Chapados at Central

"Beyond Words"

is a worthy

tribute to Irene

Pepperberg's

lifelong

dedication

to avian

accomplishment.

Square Theater—demonstrates both her pioneering contribution and the real mutual love she shared with her remarkable subject.

Censabella traces Pepperberg's achievement back to the 1977 beginning of her three-decade investigation of Alex—whose name she explains as "Avian Language Experiment" but later adjusts to "Avian Learning Experiment." Despite

a series of formidable obstacles—among them chauvinistic scientists, underfunding, tenure track and full professorship issues, low expectations and dismissal of her work as a circus project, she ultimately proves herself a resilient researcher with the determination of a world-class hurdler. Along the way--audience members learn, sometimes as Pepperberg addresses them directly—that she has employed careful protocols and intensive experiments in developing Alex's knowledge and cognitive capabilities.

What makes "Beyond Words" an especially moving chronicle is the fact that the playwright has an actor—here the very talented Jon Vellante— bring Alex to vivid life as the parrot learns colors, shapes, numbers and materials—eventually reaching the cognitive level of a five year old. Designer Qingan Zhang complements the learning with multi-colored walls and stage floor that include geometric

shapes. Costume designer Sandra Zhihan Jia dresses barefoot Vellante as Alexina properly gray outfit with dark red material at back to represent a kind of tail.

Throughout the informative two-act play (about two hours with one intermission), Vellante—sometimes on tiptoe—moves around a white construct on wheels that bears a large surface where Alex responds to experiments involving shapes, colors and materials. At times audience members briefly applaud Alex's correct identifications. Along the way, Alex learns to count to eight, his vocabulary grows to 150 words, and the insistent parrot

repeatedly asks for water, corn, cherry and even kiwi. As Alex becomes famous, Vellante's sometimes showy Alex briefly dances a vogue for photographers. Theatergoers are likely to warm to the parrot and appreciate his cognitive awakening as much as Pepperberg does in Censabella's notably empathetic play.

In the strong Central Square Theatre cast, Stephanie Clayman cap-

tures all of Pepperberg's warmth and patience with Alexas well as hertenacity in overcoming setbacks and reversals in her work. Clayman and Vellante have very persuasive moments as the scientist and her subject during experiments. Humor and touching understanding inform a moment when Pepperberg and Alex come very close to each other. Versatile Bill Mootos captures husband Dr. Rick Pepperberg's mixed feelings about his wife's efforts and Dr. Howard Towers' professional slickness especially vis-à-vis Irene. Karina Beleno Carney catches colleague Dr. Lourdes Acevedo's enthusiasm about her work with Dolphins and her solidarity with Pepperberg during her professional struggles.

"Beyond Words" is a worthy tribute to Irene Pepperberg's lifelong dedication to avian accomplishment. Scientists and laymen alike should endorse her transcendent vision after seeing the richly sensory staging at CST.

PBNA

Continued from page 1

first stoop sit of 2024. All are welcome - join us on the stoop(s) for snacks, drinks, and conversation!

Annual All Member Meeting Wednesday, May 1. 6:00 - 8:00PM

Union Church - 485 Columbus Avenue Enter through the side door on W Newton Street

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owners, and businesses in the PBNA area, join our annual membership meeting to hear about the latest updates in the neighborhood and have your voice heard on key issues.

PBNA Membership

PBNA is a diverse community and membership is inclusive. Everyone who lives in our boundaries is automatically a member and welcome at any and all events.

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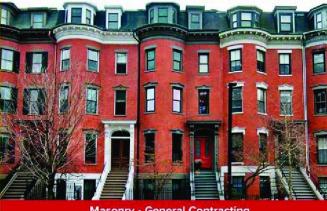
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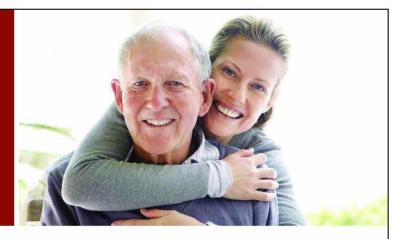
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