

VNA Care's 13th Annual Heroes in Health Care Gala

Raises More Than \$250,000

VNA Care recently honored industry leaders while raising more than \$250,000 during the 13th annual Heroes in Health Care Gala at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

The Gala is VNA Care's signature fundraising event and has raised millions in essential funding for home health care provided by the 132-year-old VNA of Boston and end-of-life care provided by VNA Hospice & Palliative Care. The Honorary Gala Chairs and Presenting Sponsor of the event were Amy and Joshua Boger.

During the Gala, VNA Care presented Heroes in Health Care awards to Agios (accepted by Dr. David Schenkein, CEO); Thomas



Gala Co-Chairs Lori Meagher of South End and Linda Hope-Springer; Gala Committee Co-Chair Debra Angeloni; Dr. Mallika Marshall of Weston; and Gala Committee Co-Chair Renee Picard Walsh, Co-Founder of ClinLogica

A. Crosswell, President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan; and Dr. Joan Y. Reede, Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership of Harvard Medical School.

John R. Greed, president and CEO of Mutual of America, served

as Fund the Mission chair. Gala co-chairs were Lorian Meagher and Linda Hope-Springer. Gala Committee co-chairs were Debra Angeloni and Renee Picard Walsh.

For more information, visit <http://www.vnacare.org>.

Explore Home

Fun Home, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through November 24. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle & Here We Go, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Sorenson Center, Black Box Theatre, Wellesley, through November 18. Commshakes.org

A provocative Universe

BY JULES BECKER

In her acclaimed 2006 graphic memoir "Fun Home," Alison Bechdel struggled to understand her

Continued on page 2



(Left to Right) Marissa Simeqi, Amy Jo Jackson, and Ellie van Amerongen in SpeakEasy Stage's production of "Fun Home." Photo by Nile Scott Studios

**Local news
for and about Boston's
best neighborhood**

Mayor Martin J. Walsh invites
you celebrate the holidays with
your family, friends, and
neighbors!

*Enchanted
Trolley Tour
& Tree Lightings*

Mayor's 2018 Enchanted Trolley Tour

**Boston's festive
tradition of lighting
holiday trees**

SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the schedule for the 2018 Enchanted Trolley Tour, a Boston holiday tradition of lighting holiday

trees throughout the City. This year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will take place in neighborhoods throughout Boston on:

"I'm excited to kick off this holiday season by visiting neighborhoods throughout Boston with our trolley tour and tree lightings," said Mayor Walsh. "This is a great time for us to come together and celebrate our

Continued on page 3

Community Crime Alert

BPD Seeks Public's Help

**To ID Suspect Wanted
for Attempted Sexual
Assault in the South End**

SUBMITTED BY BPD

At about 12:28 PM, on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, officers

assigned to District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for an attempted sexual assault in the area of East Canton and Albany Streets in the South End. On arrival, officers spoke to the victim who stated that a male suspect approached and attempted to

Continued on page 3

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Theater

Continued from page 1

closeted father Bruce, his ongoing emotional conflict and his eventual suicide. The Beech Creek, Pennsylvania lesbian writer grappled with reliving painful experiences from her childhood, college years at Oberlin and full adulthood and reaching insight about them.

The Broadway musical adaptation of the same name (Off-Broadway, 2013) poignantly hit a nerve with theatergoers from all sexualities, won the 2015 best musical Tony and took home Tonys for lesbian book author-lyricist Lisa Kron and composer Jeanine Tesori among its well-deserved five prizes. Now SpeakEasy Stage Company, in residence at the Calderwood Pavilion, is forcefully presenting "Fun Home" as strong messages about maturing and understanding in the area's premiere local professional production of the show at the Boston Center for the Arts' Roberts Theatre.

As in the Broadway production at Circle in the Square Theatre, company artistic director Paul Daigneault is staging the SpeakEasy with an audience-involving configuration—here a thrust stage with theatergoers on virtually all sides at the Roberts for an intimate effect. That intimacy provides a perfect fit for Alison's memory narrative.

What remarkably sets that narrative and "Fun Home" apart is the musical's trio of Alisons—namely eight year old Small Alison, 18-19 year old college student Medium Alison and the 43 year old much wiser adult simply identified as Alison. Throughout Alison's memory odyssey, she moves around the sprawling set design—vividly detailed by Cristina Todesco—that represents the Bechdel's Pennsylvania home as well as Bruce's funeral home—referred to by the Bechdel children as Fun Home—and Medium Alison's Oberlin dorm room.

Frequently an observer as well as a family member, Alison analyzes her respective experiences as Small Alison and Medium Alison to gain insight about her formative years and full realization of her sexual orientation. The adult daughter—in Kron's smart book and Bechdel's memoir—unflinchingly deals with her mother's angst and awareness of her husband's sexual orientation as well as her father's disturbing attraction to young men, even among his high school students.

Kron's inspired book has humor sometimes making its way into even serious passages. Perhaps the most amusing stretch is Small Alison and her brothers' lively collaboration on an inventive 'commercial' in a standout number entitled "Come to the Fun Home."

Director Daigneault first-rate cast captures the musical's singular blend of caring and candor. Amy Jo Jackson has all of Alison's gradual awakening about herself and about her father and their respective sexualities. Todd Yard sings vibrantly as Bruce—particularly on the striking solo "Edges of the World"—and does well demonstrating his early affection for Small Alison though he could do with more of the vulnerability Michael Cerveris evoked in his riveting Tony Award performance. Laura Marie Duncan finds mother Helen's pain and heartache—especially on the impassioned

solo "Days and Days."

Marissa Simeqi finds Small Alison's spirit and wonder as Small Alison—especially on her telling solo "Ring of Keys." Ellie van Amerongen catches Medium Alison's naiveté as a college newcomer and feeling for fellow student Joan—played with fitting warmth by Desire Graham—in the clever solo "Changing My Major." Frequent SpeakEasy music director Matthew Stern conducts with great heart. Designer Karen Perlow brings nuance to Alison's striking perceptions.

Alison Bechdel takes emotional and sexual fact-finding to a new musical plateau. Audience members will likewise find much to explore in SpeakEasy's curiously comforting "Fun Home."

If you have seen Caryl Churchill's 2002 identity-questioning drama "A Number," you will probably find the prolific London dramatist's 1997 "Blue Kettle" and 2015 "Here We Go" your theatrical cup of tea. The former one-act play has 40 year old mystery man Derek looking to con diverse women into believing him to be their biological son adopted at birth, while the latter brings up the post-funeral memories of five distinctive women about a man known in different ways to all of them. Commonwealth Shakespeare Company has brewed up a very flavorful twosome in the intimate Black Box Theatre of Babson Arts' Sorenson Center.

Director Bryn Boice—who brought real fire to Actors' Shakespeare Company all-women gender-bending staging of "Julius Caesar"—is tautly directing these 45-minute efforts. She has called the former a "puzzle for the brain" and the latter a "puzzle for the soul"—a distinction vividly clear in Churchill's language and the crisp performances of her five-performer ensemble. Look for word play with the title of the first play—for example a Dutch painter identified as Van Blue.

Ryan Winkles has all of Derek's elusiveness with potential mothers as well as his girlfriend Enid, played with sharp attitude by Sarah Mass. He also stands out in shoeless wheel-chair seated Man's highly poetic second play monologue—one that may call to mind Samuel Beckett as it evokes images of mortality as well as speculation about Hell and Purgatory. Siobhan Carroll, Maureen Keiller and Karen MacDonald do well as a variety of females in the first play, and all three join Mass and Winkles no less as the women in the second. Siobhan Carroll as a caretaker undresses and dresses Man—quietly suffering save for an ache-filled moan as he is lifted for the hauntingly repetitive process.

Cristina Todesco's elegantly spare set—including white cubes combining to form such pieces as seats and a couch for Derek and Enid—properly matches Churchill's tight dialogue. Jen Rock's lighting enhances the surreal nature of the scenarios.

Identity and especially death are always uncomfortable and provocative issues. Churchill makes them theatrically challenging, and Boice and company make CSC's double bill both arresting and ultimately haunting.

Holiday Calendar

Holiday Tree Lighting Events

BY SOUTH END STAFF

Monday, November 26, 5:00-6:00pm

Copley Square Tree Lighting
Appearances by Santa, Rudolph, and Frosty, plus music by local music groups.

Tuesday, November 27, 7:30-8pm

Faneuil Marketplace: Giant Christmas Trees and Blink! Light Show

The "Big Tree" at Faneuil Hall Marketplace is by tradition the biggest decorated tree in the Northeast.

Thursday, November 29, 6-8pm

Boston Common Holiday Tree Lighting
Near the Visitors Information Center on Tremont Street
Join Boston Mayor Martin Walsh as joins

Santa and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to light the tree, a special gift to Boston from Nova Scotia. Be sure to stay for the special fireworks display over the Common.

Thursday, November 29, 8:30pm

Commonwealth Avenue Mall

North End Tree Lighting

Friday, November 30, 6-8pm
The corner of Cross and Hanover Streets.

December 1 - 31

31 Nights of Lights

Prudential Tower displays lights of a different color each night to bring awareness to non-profit organizations.

Trolley

Continued from page 1

neighbors, our city, and our communities. I encourage all to attend this weekend of family-friendly celebrations."

For the 23rd year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees while bringing holiday spirit to children across Boston. The event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa, holiday performances, tree lightings, and more.

"Bank of America is proud to continue

our support of Mayor Walsh's Enchanted Trolley Tour, a long standing tradition that brings joy and excitement to neighborhoods and families across the City," said Miceal Chamberlain, Bank of America Massachusetts President. "We thank the City of Boston for all they do to provide our customers, teammates, and communities the power to give back and make a difference during the holiday season."

The Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment is committed to producing fun, free public events for Bostonians and visitors to the City and this year will collaborate with Bank of America, which is sponsoring the 2018 Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour

Crime

Continued from page 1

sexually assault her. The victim further states that she was able to fend off the suspect.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male in his early twenties, about 5'6" to 5'8" tall, with a medium build. Suspect was wearing a blue 3/4 length jacket with white lettering on the back, a shirt with the number 24 displayed on the front, blue jeans, black shoes and a baseball cap. The suspect was last seen fleeing the area on foot through a nearby alleyway.

The Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is encouraging anyone with information about the suspect to come forward and contact the Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit at (617) 343-4400.

Community members wishing to assist

this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

If you're a victim of a sexual assault that either has or has not been reported to police and would feel more comfortable seeking confidential advice from a non-law enforcement agency or representative, the Boston Police Department encourages you to call the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) at 1 (800) 841-8371. BARCC provides free and confidential counseling, case management, legal and medical advocacy services to survivors in the greater Boston area. To learn more about BARCC, please click on the enclosed link: www.barcc.org.

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South Ender joins Mount Auburn Hospital

Dr. Caroline Jouhourian to Gastroenterology

SUBMITTED BY MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL

Valerie E. Stone, MD, MPH Chair, Department of Medicine for Mount Auburn Hospital is pleased to announce Caroline Jouhourian, MD, has joined the Hospital's Division of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Caroline Jouhourian received her Medical Degree from Drexel University

College of Medicine in Pennsylvania. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and a Fellowship in Gastroenterology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Jouhourian is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Dr. Jouhourian lives in the South End of Boston.

Mount Auburn Hospital was founded in 1886. A teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, its mission is to deliver healthcare services in a personable, convenient and compassionate manner, with respect for the dignity of patients and their families.



Dr. Caroline Jouhourian



BY REV. IRENE MONROE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Thanksgiving: The original hate crime

Thanksgiving is an excellent time to give a closer look at the rising escalation of hate crimes in America—its origin and its legacy.

America's origin of hate crimes can be traced with the treatment of Native Americans and how America celebrates Thanksgiving. For many Native Americans, Thanksgiving is not a cause of celebration, but rather a National Day of Mourning.

The Pilgrims, who sought refuge here in America from religious persecution in their homeland, were right in their dogged pursuit of religious liberty. But their actual practice of religious liberty came at the expense of the civil rights of Native Americans.

The Pilgrims' fervor for religious liberty was devoid of an ethic of accountability, and their actions did not set up the conditions requisite for moral liability and legal justice. But instead, their actions brought about the genocide of a people, a historical amnesia of the event, and an annual national celebration of Thanksgiving for their arrival.

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Coles Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning of this U.S. holiday. And for the Wampanoag nation of New England whose name means "people of the dawn," this national holiday is a reminder of the real significance of the first Thanksgiving in 1621 as a symbol of persecution and genocide of their ancestral nation and culture as well as their long history of bloodshed with European settlers.

"It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience," reads the text of the plaque on Coles Hill that overlooks Plymouth Rock, the mythic symbol of where the Pilgrims first landed.

The United American Indians of New England (UAINE), a Native-led organiza-

tion of Native people supporting Indigenous struggles in New England and throughout the Americas, as well as the struggles of communities of color, LGBTQ communities, and people of various faith traditions and practices.

"Most pilgrims would have died during the harsh winter had it not been for the open arms of the Native Americans," Taylor Bell wrote in "The Hypocrisy Of Refusing Refugees at Thanksgiving."

America's legacy of hate crimes today is the consequence since the genocide of Native Americans.

The FBI, this month, released its annual hate crime statistics report. In 2017, 7,175 incidents of hate crimes occurred. Sadly it's a 17% jump from the year before.

Many folks who lived through the Black Civil Rights era say this era of Trump is as horrific if not worse than when unabashed Southern segregationists like Alabama's Bull Connor, South Carolina's Strom Thurmond, and Alabama's George Wallace were alive. Brian Levin, Director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism stated in an interview with the Southern Poverty Law Center that back in that era "there was a line that wouldn't be crossed with regards to over-the-top bigotry."

The lack of leadership from Trump and the Republican party have assisted in an indifference in not calling out bigotry. The Charlottesville mayhem that took place last summer is an example. The false equivalence of Trump's remark blaming "many sides" rendered the perpetrators as victims, too. And, by condemning counter protesters similarly as white supremacists and swastika-wielding neo-Nazis at the rally, Trump suggests both groups are at fault, and one is equally in the wrong as the other.

The hyperpolarized time we're in—both socially and politically—where the truth com-

petes with revisionist history contributes to the escalation of hate crimes. For example, Americans have not stopped fighting the Civil War. Boston-born White House chief of staff John Kelly sounded like a die-hard Lost Cause apologist when he told Laura Ingraham on her Fox News show that he viewed Confederate general Robert E. Lee as "an honorable man" and that "the lack of an ability to compromise led to the Civil War." Kelly's false equivalence minimizes the moral turpitude of the Confederacy's continuation of chattel slavery as a central pillar to their Southern way of life.

Hate, any would argue, is embedded in the very fabric of what makes America, America. The fissures and cracks targeting people because of gender, race, nationality, religious, sexual orientation, and gender identity, and party affiliation, to name a few, must stop.

I went this weekend to see the movie "The Hate U Give (THUG)." Deceased rapper Tupac said that Thug Life stood for "The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody."

We are the legacy of centuries of hate, violence, and discrimination. Thanksgiving should be a reminder of that.

It is in the spirit of our connected struggles for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that we not solely focus on the story of Plymouth Rock, but instead, as Americans we focus on creating this nation as a solid rock that rests on a multicultural and inclusive foundation.

And in so doing, it helps us to remember and respect the struggles that not only this nation's foremothers and forefathers endured, but it also helps us to remember and respect the present-day struggle Syrian refugees face as well as the ongoing struggle our Native American.

39/46

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Transgender Day of Remembrance

SUBMITTED BY BOSTON PRIDE

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was observed on Tuesday, November 20. TDOR memorializes trans individuals who have died because of transphobia and acts of violence against the trans community. TDOR was inspired by the vigil held for Rita Hester, a trans woman from Allston, MA, who was murdered in 1998, exactly 20 years ago on November 20.

Boston's transgender community remembers local victims Chanelle Pickett, Debra Forte, Monique Thomas, Georgette Hart, Diane Carter, Denise Pugliesi, Monique Rogers,

Lisa Daniels, Rita Hester, CJ Garber, Christa Leigh Steele-Knudsen, and too many more.

In 2018, 22 transgender individuals have already been fatally shot or killed by other violent means. We remember them all and #saytheirnames: Christa Leigh Steele-Knudsen, Vicky Gutierrez, Celine Walker, Tonya Harvey, Zakaria Fry, Phylcia Mitchell, Amia Tyrae Berryman, Sasha Wall, Karla Patricia Flores-Pavón, Nino Fortson, Gigi Pierce, Antash'a English, Diamond Stephens, Cathalina Christina James, Keisha Wells, Sasha Garden, Vontashia Bell, Dejanay Stanton, Shantee Tucker, London Moore, Nikki Enriquez, and Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier.

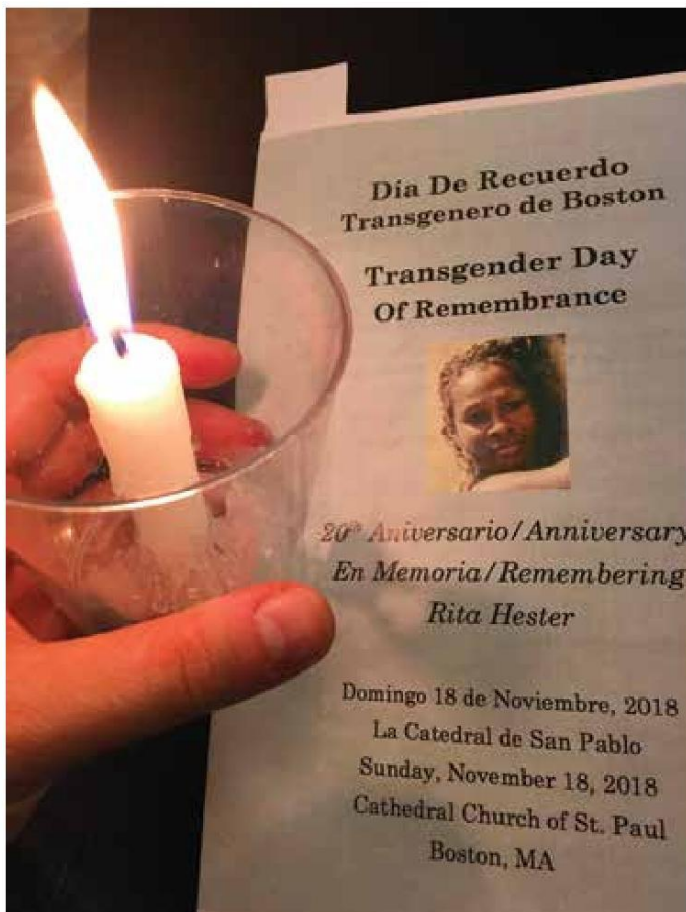


Photo credit Mason Dunn

Honor Roll

South End Students Earn Boston College High School Honors

The following South End residents achieved Honors for the First Quarter at Boston College High School.

Naod Zacharias, 2019, High Honors
Dylan Mullin, 2020, High Honors
Aldo Noury-Ello, 2021, Honors
John Mullin, 2022, High Honors
Lucas Rimmer, 2022, Honors

For High Honors an upperclassman needs a 3.8 QPA and all grades "C+" or higher. A Freshman needs a 3.6 QPA and all

grades C+ or higher.

For Honors an upperclassman needs a 3.2 QPA and all grades "C-" or higher. A Freshman needs a 3.16 QPA and all grades C- or higher.

Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men founded in 1863. The school enrolls approximately 1600 students from more than 100 communities in eastern Massachusetts.

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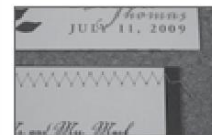
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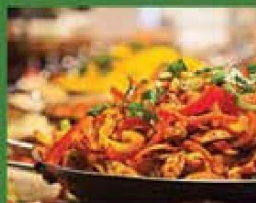
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