South End News

October 10, 2019 [Vol. 40, No. 27]

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Local news for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Lion King a rite of passage for all

Disney Presents The Lion King,
Citizen Bank Opera House, through October 27. 800-982-2787 or BroadwayinBoston.com

By Jules Becker

Ensemble number,"The Lion King" photo courtesy of Broadway in Boston

It may be no accident that Julie Taymor directed the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical "The Lion King."

While the gifted Brookline native (an innovative revival of "The

Continued on page 3

Photo by Rosabri Mejia

SRO For Barnet

By Michele D. Maniscalco

lSouth End author, historian and co-founder of the South End News Alison Barnet spoke to a standing room-only of over 60 people at the South End Branch Library, 685 Tremont Street, about her new book, "Once Upon a Neighborhood: A Timeline and Anecdotal History of the South End of Boston."

Wearing a T-shirt bearing the logo of bygone Washington Street landmark, Hite Radio and TV, Barnet talked about the writing process, read passages from the book and answered questions, and afterward sold and autographed copies of her new work, selling out her on-hand inventory.

Because some people could not be admitted to the room due to lack of space, there are tentative plans for a second book talk by Barnet at the South End Library on the evening of Tuesday, October 15. This date is not confirmed at press time. Please check for confirmation at 617/536-8241, at https://www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org/ and on the South End Community Board on Facebook for further details on the additional book talk for "Once Upon a Neighborhood."

Fellow South End historian Russell Lopez introduces Barnet. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Pill Man comes to Methadone Mile

By Rosabri Mejia

Stand at the intersection of Mass Ave. and Washington Street long enough and you'll see a lot of unusual things. But even there, Frank Huntley and Pill Man stood out.

The Worcester man and his creation - a model made mainly of old opioid bottles with a skull for a head - have been traveling New England to bring attention to the opioid crisis and to show people with

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City unwraps Mass/Cass 2.0 plan to clean up Methadone Mile

Courtesy Adam Gaffin
www.universalhub.cub

Mayor Walsh today released details of a plan to clean up Methadone Mile and Newmarket Square through additional resources and workers aimed both at "deconcentrating" addicts and homeless people by getting more of them into treatment and shelters - some outside those areas - and through faster cleanup of the needles and other detritus they leave behind and stepped up police presence.

Walsh is also asking local churches, residents and businesses to help - churches by providing more resources to shelter and aid addicts, residents and businesses by forming a new volunteer group to watch over local kids as they walk to schools in the area.

Central to the plan is the idea that addiction is a public-health issue, not a criminal one:

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Coming home

A historic piano returns to its South End birthplace

By Michele D. Maniscalco

On Friday, September 20 at 7:00 PM, the Piano Factory Gallery committee held a party for a very special homecoming: the donation of an 1874 Chickering square grand piano built at the Piano Factory, 791 Tremont Street, in its original incarnation as the Chickering and Sons Pianoforte Manufactory.

The email sent to members of the Gallery's mailing list teased that a historic surprise dating back to 1874 was in the offing and beckoned recipients to the gallery for the unveiling.

Members of the Piano Factory Gallery committee, including exhibition coordinator Erik Grau, curator Marcie Bilodeau and archivist Thom Donovan were joined by several friends and residents to

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Online

Piano

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celebrate the piano's return to its birthplace. Grau's spouse, Nicholas Pearson, coordinated the transfer of the piano from the home of the donor, a South Ender who was moving from her Pembroke Street home, to the gallery.

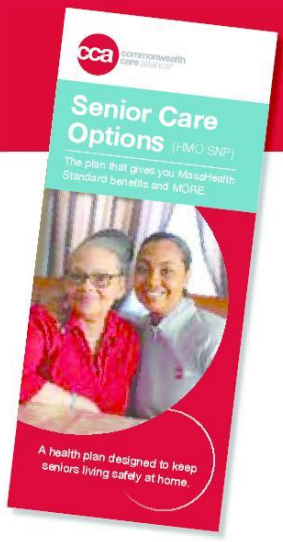
Donovan believes the seed for the gift was planted when he responded to a Facebook post in the spring offering a free Chickering piano. Donovan said, "I contacted them and said, 'I am the historian at the Piano Factory and we would be glad to talk to you about it.' I exchanged a few texts with the woman, and I never heard back. What I heard tonight is that someone contacted the South End Library, and Erik and Nick know someone who works there, and they connected the dots." Grau said he received a phone call in late July from the piano's owner, who had been referred to him by a friend who works at the South End Branch Library. Grau said, "She said, 'I have a Chickering Piano and I want to see it go home.' I said, 'We don't really have a budget for buying pianos,' and she said, 'I want to donate it.'"

Three pianists from the gallery, Pearson, treasurer Diane Sundstrom and clerk Fredericka King visited the donor to see the piano. Pearson coordinated the piano's transfer from the Pembroke Street home to the Piano Factory gallery, which is in the lower level of the building. The move required permitting for a crane to remove the piano from the donor's third-story residence.

"There was a Volvo that did not get out of the parking space this morning, so the piano was dangling over the Volvo. Luckily, the piano did not fall and crush it," Grau noted. The piano was successfully transported to the gallery on the day of the reveal party. The move cost approximately $1,400. After the piano receives some necessary maintenance and tuning, the committee plans to host performances of music from the time of the piano's construction.

Commenting on the unexpected and historically significant gift, Grau said, "It was a surprise. We hadn't planned on anything like this, but when it comes along, you have to take it. What I've been thinking about for the gallery is, how are we preserving the history of the building? What have previous tenants done and how are we using this space in the future with more contemporary exhibits? We need to strike a balance so that everyone is included. It's a community gallery; everyone needs to be involved."

(Right) Marcie Bilodeau, Nicholas Pearson, Haley Neville, Erik Grau.
Photos by Michele Maniscalco



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Theater

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Music Man" among others) is the product of a Jewish secular home, her staging seems to possess a kind of biblical continuum—starting with ruling lion Mufasa and ending with his son Simba. Mufasa's scheming, villainess brother Scar clearly resents the latter's position as king of beasts—calling to mind Esau's lingering resentment of Jacob's better blessing from Isaac. Simba's rescue of his fellow lions and the other creatures around them may somewhat suggest Noah's bravery with the world's animal kingdom.

Taymor certainly captured the majestic tone and celebratory feel common to the bible. All of these elements are richly on display in the visually exquisite tour of "The Lion King" at the Citizen Bank Opera House.

The Elton John-Tim Rice collaboration's opening "Circle of Life" procession of animals and birds—both on stage and down the aisles—remains one of the great sequences in modern musical history. As always, give kudos to Taymor for the kaleidoscopic beauty of the costumes here and throughout the show.

Under James Dodgson's taut musical direction, drums and other percussion instruments—perched at all times in the upper box seat areas on both sides of the house—fire up the ritual-like movement of the performers evoking such striking animals from elephant and rhinoceros to zebra , giraffe and of course the title ruling creatures.

As fans of the fine Disney animated film and the long-running musical know, Simba will undergo a rite of passage during which he learns about the joys and the sorrows of life's circle-particularly his growing love for childhood friend and also maturing lioness Mala as well as the great loss of Musafa.

If the Roger Allers-Irene Mecchi book proves as simply plotted as always, do not worry. Young and grown-up theatergoers alike will continue to be blown away by the musical's stunning visuals and Steve Canyon Kennedy's often properly explosive sound design.

They will also give themselves up to the persuasive ensemble and individual performances. At the performance this critic saw (some cast members change from performance to performance), Mukelisiwe Goba displayed an impressive belt as herald-like Rafiki. Gerald Ramsey demonstrated the right paternal caring and majesty as Mufasa, while William John Austin was commandingly menacing as his brother Scar with rich vocal resonance.

Jared Dixon moved convincingly from an insecure heir to a forceful new leader, and Nia Holloway captured his betrothed Mala's inner strength. Tony Freeman caught Timon's amusing delivery and Ben Lipitz captured Pumbaa's quirkiness—especially on the now iconic duo "Hakuna Matata."

Greg Jackson evoked advising Zazu's wisdom and good intentions. Ensemble performers danced Garth Fagan's snappy choreography in sync with occasional flips and consistently high kicks and leaps.

"The Circle of Life" is a lavish celebration of nature and an ode to an animal family. As climate change increases, it also provides a sub-textual lesson about respect, love and the pricelessness of life. At the same time,the stellar tour will have you virtually dancing out of the Opera House.

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Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

Walking my dog Baxter one day, I ran into a woman with some sort of adorable spaniel. Baxter was off the leash (we were in a safe area away from a road) and he started to approach the spaniel when its owner called out: "I'd put your dog on a leash because my dog is passive-aggressive." I couldn't get to Baxter in time and he was closing in on the spaniel whose tail wagged exuberantly when he saw my dog. The two dogs started sniffing each other with no incident as tails wagged madly. I asked the spaniel's owner, "What does 'passive-aggressive' mean in a dog?'

She told me she didn't know but a dog trainer had used the term. She said she had been taking her dog to the trainer for a few months. I knew I was being rude but I couldn't help commenting: "I think that dog trainer is stealing your money because this dog seems nice and friendly." Actually, the woman agreed with me. "Yeah, I wondered what passive-aggressive meant but the trainer seemed to think it was a serious problem in dogs."

As we walked away, I heard the woman command the spaniel to go potty by using a word supposed to trigger the poop. The word was "bicycle." I have no idea if it worked or not but I wondered if the dog trainer planted that one too. Can dogs be passive aggressive? And can dogs go on demand?

—Carly

Dear Carly,

No and maybe. The lesson here: Thoroughly vet a hired dog trainer before you sign up for a pack of lessons. Really, the trainer can throw around any psychobabble he or she wants to describe your dog. What you have to learn is how best to bond with your pet so you can be the dog trainer. A teaching professional trains you, not the dog. He or she can share general lessons but doesn't live with your dog every day and know its warp and woof. As for the buzzwords to trigger a poop or pee, Dog Lady has heard this is possible but never saw

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Methadone Mile

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The City of Boston is committed to preserving the safety, health, and dignity of its residents and all persons engaged with its services in all its programs and activities, and across all departments and agencies. We also believe that with respect to the opioid epidemic, public safety begins with public health. That means prioritizing the health of both residents and those struggling with substance use disorder, and, where possible, diverting people away from the criminal justice system and into treatment. Decreasing criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods remains a high priority. Additionally, the City of Boston acknowledges that substance use has historically been criminalized in communities of color rather than treated as public health issues. We believe that following evidence-based practices, and embedding these practices in all City departments engaged in this work, is necessary to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

The plan starts by discussing details of how to help the drug addicts and homeless people who now congregate in the area:

The plan calls for the city to hire eight additional street workers to try to connect people on the street with the services they need. At the same time, the plan also calls for those workers to try to get people into programs closer to where they're from, to reduce the number of people congregating in the area. A separate Boston Police outreach unit would be expanded from two to five officers and a sergeant.

Five public buildings in Methadone Mile will be equipped with naloxone kits to revive opioid users who have overdosed. Training of local first responders, treatment programs, businesses and community groups in how to prevent overdoses will be stepped up; a city team targeted at helping people who have overdosed will increase its visits to them.

To help draw people away from the area, the city will create three new stations where addicts can exchange used needles for clean ones outside Methadone Mile.

At the same time, the city will begin monthly testing for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases at three existing locations inside the area. And it will step up programs aimed at women.

A task force of city agencies and the Pine Street Inn will "create a targeted list of 40-60 unsheltered persons to be prioritized for assessment, referral and placement." The Boston Public Health Commission will work more generally on getting homeless people into shelters or home - which will include financial aid to get people into housing, as well as "transportation aid to reconnect with family or social support systems" outside of the area.

Among the proposals to "deconcentrate" people from the area:

Work with faith community to expand low-threshold day programs that provide welcoming environments, address basic needs (food, clothing, access to bathrooms, etc), and create referral opportunities.

Increase referral to low-barrier overnight drop-in programs outside the Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard area, where vulnerable people can be safe and get off the street.

Work with City and non-profit partner agencies to explore expansion of additional low-barrier night time drop-in programs in other

city neighborhoods.

To clean up the area, the plan calls for the city to hire two new fulltime workers to find and remove needles and syringes and add more drop boxes where people can deposit used needles.

A city water truck will flush streets every day at 5 a.m. in Worcester Square, Mass/Cass itself, Harrison Avenue between Melnea Cass towards East Newton Street and Dudley and Andrew Square. Also, the city DPW will hire four new workers for a "special operations team" aimed at cleaning up the streets around Mass Ave. and Melnea Cass, and will assign more hokeys to patrol the area. On Mondays and Thursdays, police and the city Mobile Sharps Team will sweep the bus depot below Reed Street every Monday and Thursday.

Boston Police would dedicate four officers and a supervisor between 7:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. to the area from Worcester Square to Mass Ave. and three officers and a supervisor to Southampton Street and Mass Ave. 24 hours a day. A two-person cruiser would patrol the areas around the Orchard Gardens and Mason schools and Clifford Park 24 hours a day. The BPD bicycle unit, meanwhile, would focus on Worcester Square, Mass and Cass and Harrison Avenue, along with Blackstone, Franklin and Ramsay parks. Two bicycle cops would be stationed specifically to the Dudley Square area.

Residents will also be called on to help out. One goal is:

Implement a coordinated neighborhood clean up twice a year through Love Your Block and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

The parks department will do two daily needle sweeps of Clifford Park, at 8 a.m. before schools start and at 2 p.m., before they get out. Also:

Institute Safe Corridors initiative to help maintain school properties and playgrounds are safe and free of dangerous debris. Safe Corridors would be a formalized volunteer effort to maintain safety around schools in hotspot areas. The program would be a collaboration between the City, businesses and community members and would aim to provide extra support and welcoming route for students traveling to and from school. Volunteers would opt to patrol routes around schools at the start and end of the school day or to keep watch from their homes or businesses.

311 will get a new entry for homeless encampments, which will mean a special city team responds both to get people living in them to shelters or treatment and will "remove any debris or hazardous materials from encampment site within 48 hours of alert."

The plan also calls for trying to make the area more attractive through a "welcome" kiosk at Mass and Cass that would include "signage demarcating Newmarket Square business district, creating a sense of place and information hub for business owners, residents, etc." as well as banners that would hang from utility poles along Melnea Cass Boulevard "creating a sense of place/identity for this area of the city."

40/27

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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

Dog Lady

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such magic in action.

Dear Dog Lady,

I love your column, "Ask Dog Lady," but you should advise the woman who wants to give holistic flea and tick prevention to her dachshunds not to give them garlic. In large doses, garlic is toxic to cats and dogs. Also, please let your readers know that homoeopathic remedies have not shown any effect in preventing mosquito-borne heartworms. I have the same concerns as you about giving my dog a monthly dose of poison to prevent worms of many sorts and fleas, but the threat of heartworm keeps me doing it.

—Kathleen

Dear Kathleen,

Yes, when it comes to preventing fleas and ticks, the devil of toxic medications can kill nasty bugs better than the deep blue sea of holistic remedies. Dog Lady loathes applying Frontline with its skull-and-crossbone-warnings but the alternative is a dog infected with heartworms or Lyme-disease-causing ticks. Do what's best for your dog in consultation with your veterinarian. According to the Pet Poison Helpline (petpoisonhelpline.com), do not feed your dog garlic, onions, and any vegetable in the Allium species such as chives and leeks. If ingested in large quantities, these plants can destroy red blood cells in canines.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com

Pill Man

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addictions they can start again.

"Pill Man came to Methadone Mile to open eyes and save life," Huntley, himself a recovering addict, said on a visit there the other day, summarizing his mission as an activist advocating for a drug-free society.

Wearing a black blazer, standing next to Pill Man, Huntley shared his story as a former drug user.

"My daughter was two when I started; she was 17 when I quit" - in the autumn of 2013, the Worcester resident said.

For 15 years, Huntley collected containers of opioids such as OxyContin and methadone, and used them to create a figure characterizing himself when he was a user. "I want to share my story and give them hope," he said.

"I was 120 pounds and I'm 180 [now]," he said.

"Drugs are making us die too young, way too young," he said. "It's a nightmare. We need to make sure these other prescription places, other pharmacies, other hospitals are educating us and we are not going to lose any more people."

His visit to Mass Ave. and Washington Street took him into Methadone Mile, the heart of the Boston area's opioid crisis. "I need to be here where I can educate people and show them that is not going to stop unless they wanted to stop. So now all I want to do is help and if I have to go to every city and every town, I'm going."

The presence of Pill Man in the South End did not go unnoticed. Drivers and pedestrians stopped at least for a few seconds to look at the bottle figure.

Ishtaiq Naqwi, the manager of a 7-Eleven in the area, said the opioid crisis is a daily struggle for him and his store. "People fight, come to the store and steal items, the police is involved, this is a hot spot," Naqwi said.

Pill Man "is a very good thing to do," he said.

Huntley said that recently he went to the White House on the International Overdose Awareness Day. Advocating on behalf of the families that has been impacted by drug abuse and educating the population. "I am going to put Pill Man on every corner I can and truly try to help families now. Because I lost my family for a lot of years and now all I want to do is make sure families understand what these drugs are doing to our families," he said.

Huntley even went to the headquarters of Purdue Pharma, the company that sells OxyContin. "I went to Stanford, Connecticut and I put Pill Man outside their doors, to show them that I wanted help."

Huntley said his goal is to go to share his story and show recovery is possible, in as many places as possible. "Please go get your life back. Please go get help. And if you want the help, there is help out there; but you have to want it."

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. SU19P1279GD

In the matter of: **Edgar D. Martinez**
Of: **Boston, MA**

RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Marie B. Martinez of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Edgar D. Martinez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Marie B. Martinez of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667
Boston, MA 02114

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/17/2019**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

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bpda | **Community Meeting**

PLAN: Dudley Square

Monday, October 21
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Boston Water and Sewer Commission
980 Harrison Ave, 2nd Floor Training Room
Roxbury, Massachusetts, 02119

Event Description

This open house style meeting will build upon previous PLAN: Dudley workshops and will focus on development objectives and guidelines for the Crescent parcels and Malcom X and Putnam parcels (Parcel A/B). We will spend time looking at original design guidelines for the parcels and will build upon the planning and engagement that has been done up until now.

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

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. PLAN: Dudley Square build on the visions presented in both the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and Dudley Vision.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary