South End News

November 7, 2019 [Vol. 40, No. 29]

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Local news for and about Boston's best neighborhood

Scenes from a South End Halloween

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Once again, South Enders did not need to travel to Salem or even Beacon Hill for Halloween fun, as colorful and imaginative Halloween decorations, events and costumes filled every corner of the neighborhood from about mid-October through October 31. The festivities began on Saturday, October 26 with the Haunted Graveyard Tour, a visit to the normally-locked South End Burying Ground and a talk on the

Continued on page 4

Upton Street. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

South Enders Attend StoryBook Ball

Fundraiser for MassGeneral Hospital for Children

Submitted by MGHfC

Jennifer and Mark Dolins of Chestnut Hill and Andrea and Justin Rosen of Charlestown co-chaired the Toy Story-themed event, which focused on gastrointestinal health and disease in children. The Pedi-

Continued on page 7

Dr. Ronald and Martha Kleinman. Photo credit: Matt West

Female mariachi band celebrates Día de los Muertos

At South End concert

By Michele D. Maniscalco

Approximately 250 people filled the Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Avenue, on Saturday afternoon, November 2 for a concert celebrating Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) by performer and music educator Veronica

Continued on page 2

Photo by Michele D. Maniscalco

Ellis is Wonderland

Ellis CEO Lauren Cook and Mike Scannell, Ellis Board Member and Recipient of the Ida B. Eldredge Vision for Boston Award

Ellis is Wonderland, a benefit for the programs of Ellis was held on Thursday, October 24. Ellis, a South End-based nonprofit, has strengthened working families with high quality early education and care for children since 1885. Serving over 300 children per year, Ellis is committed to the healthy development of infants, toddlers, and preschool children, and supporting elementary and middle school students to reach their full potential.

ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

My dog Theo, a wire-haired terrier, is my genius on four legs. Theo is four-years-old and he already knows all of the key canine commands: Stay, Come, Sit. There is no question I have control of my dog. Now, I want him to get a graduate education. I want to teach Theo tricks – such as jumping through a hoop, or fetching specific objects when I say their names, or ride a skateboard, or any of the things that viral video You Tube dogs do. Would a conventional dog trainer be able to help me and Theo?

—Thad

Dear Thad,

If Theo has an aptitude to learn, you can teach him anything, provided you repeat, and repeat and repeat

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Dia de los Muertos

Continued from page 1

Robles and her all-female mariachi ensemble.

Tickets to the performance, which featured colorful, traditional costumes, makeup, music and dance, cost $5.00 with proceeds benefiting Robles's Veronica Robles Cultural Center in East Boston, which teaches Latin American music and dance styles to children and adults.

The performance was part of the Neighborhood Arts program, a collaboration between the Celebrity Series of Boston and Union United Methodist.

Robles sang and played the Mexican vihuela, an instrument shaped like a small guitar with a deep body and five strings. Dancers from the Cultural Center twirled gently in a couple dance, followed by a dramatic procession and dance with candles atop their heads.

In keeping with her mission as a performing arts educator, Robles led the audience in singing, dancing and clapping, teaching simple movements and providing lyric sheets for audience participation.

Robles's vocal performance was vibrant and expressive throughout, and about halfway through the show, she shared memories of her late mother and teenage daughter before launching into Colombian composer Omar Geles's "Los Caminos de la Vida."

The show concluded with a singalong of the traditional ballad, "Cielito Lindo." After the concert, Robles signed autographs and posed for pictures with audience members.

While most Latin Americans and other Catholics remember the dead in solemn religious observances in the triduum All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day from October 31 through November 2, the Mexican Día de los Muertos celebrates the return of the dead with vibrant makeup and garb, processions, altars and food and gifts to remember departed loved ones.

Robles sings and plays *the vihuela*. Photo by Michele Maniscalco.

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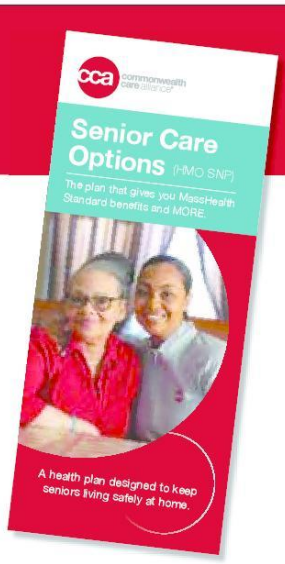

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Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

and repeat. With dogs, repetition is the mother of invention – and reinvention.

Google "dog trainers" and you'll find pages and pages of trainers in your area. You will have to do your own research to find one that teaches "tricks." However, in Theo's case, you are probably the best trainer of all. The terrier is attached to you, loyal to you, attentive to you and because of this unalterable bond, you are the best teacher. Heck, Dog Lady taught her dear dog to catch treats in his mouth while she was sitting in front of the TV watching "Judge Judy."

Dear Dog Lady,

We rescued a tiny little puppy named Newton. He was a six-week-old male who was abandoned with his sister on the side of a busy street. He is now a 110 pound, nine-month-old Lab/retriever/red bone coon hound mix according to the DNA test we got.

Newton is a happy dog, always smiling and always running. He gallops constantly. I cannot wear him out. He will fetch a ball for an hour. He will get into the lake near our home (we recently retired here) and swim laps merrily for an hour as long as I am on the sidelines cheering him on. Here, we have an invisible fence around our five-acre lot and he runs and runs and runs. We also have a pet door so he can go outside and gallop at will. He is not in a crate.

Recently he came running toward me and went right into my knee, hyper-extending my leg backward and rearranging my kneecap. I have been limping and in pain for two months. How do I wear him out? How do I get him to stop way before he hits me? He is so darn happy all the time. I hate to think what life would have been like for him if we were still in our city penthouse.

—Janet

Dear Janet,

Sounds as if Newton's law rules in your home. Set some limits for your galloping pup. Get him a crate, keep him contained and learn about crate training (many good Websites for this). Newton probably has too much freedom and he doesn't yet know how to contain himself. Teach him. Newton and his sister were taken away from their birth mother much too soon. Puppies need eight weeks, optimally ten weeks, before they're mature enough to leave the natal nest. Newton is a wild child. Ask your veterinarian for a referral to a trainer or a behaviorist.

Working with a trainer, you must teach Newton the basics: Sit. Stay. Come. You do this by exerting your control, by keeping him in a crate and monitoring his behavior when he is free. Dogs like rules. Newton needs to know who's in charge and what is expected of him.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Halloween

Continued from page 1

history of the graveyard as well as other spooky tales from South End history with South End News reporter, Michele D. Maniscalco.

A pleasant, sunny day greeted the event, which drew about 50 attendees. On October 30, Project Place welcomed about 60 children from the neighborhood and client families to a late afternoon Halloween party that offered a head start on trick or treating at Project Place offices, followed by a craft hour, refreshments and a Haunted House. with crafts and refreshments.

Blackstone Community Center set the mood for Halloween with its October 30 movie night, a screening of the animated Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) tale, "Coco." Youth worker Sunseray Burris handed out free popcorn and sold small treat bags outside the third-floor auditorium.

Despite dire predictions, Halloween weather was unusually mild, with the rain holding off until after the 8:00 PM end of trick or treating. Titus Sparrow Park and Ringgold Park pre-trick or treat parties October 31.

Villa Victoria. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Adults as well as kids donned costumes while sitting on stoops waiting for trick or treaters or escorting their children. While the conventional wisdom is that dinosaurs are extinct, they apparently resurrected for Halloween night, and they roamed singly and in groups on Halloween night.

The other Admissions scandal

Rev. Irene Monroe

The College Admissions scandal involving wealthy parents highlights the length at which some will go to assure their children's entry into elite schools—like former "Desperate Housewives" actress Felicity Huffman and "Full House" star Lori Loughlin who (allegedly for Laughlin) cheated, bribed, lied, and laundered money.

While it is easy to dismiss this group of wealthy parents as depraved, morally bankrupt and awash in white privilege, Joshua Harmon's timely and satirical drama "Admissions" illustrates the length at which high-minded, politically correct and supposedly "woke" white liberals will go to get their children into top-tier colleges and universities, too.

Charlie, a graduating senior at a tony New Hampshire boarding school, gets wait-listed for Yale, a school he has dreamt of attending since a small child. The news of being wait-listed flings Charlie into a temper tantrum that both shocks and appalls his progressive parents when his tirade turns into a racist rant. Charlie states he has better grades and SAT scores than his childhood best friend, Perry, who is biracial and is accepted to Yale.

"How the FUCK did Perry Peters get into Yale, and Charlie Mason get deferred?… It's so— I'm sorry, but it's so unfair–I am drowning over here, ok? I am— Because I am not one of those. I get that there are entitled white men who assume they get a seat without having to do anything to earn it, but I'm actually one of the people working really fucking hard to earn a seat, and every time I get close, it's like, ew! Not you! No one wants you here, fuck off."

While Charlie doesn't grasp fully how white privilege works at unbalancing a level playing field and disrupting any chance at fairness, his father, Bill, the school's headmaster, rails back at his son's sense of entitlement:

"Life is not fair. It's miserably unfair, but it's not little white boys in private schools in New England who have it so bad. Look at Fortune 500 CEOs. Look at Congress. Look at– White guys run everything. Why is that Charlie? Is it because white men are genetically predisposed to be geniuses?"

Cheryl McMahon and Maureen Keiller in Speakeasy Stage's production of ADMISSIONS. Photo by Maggie Hall Photography

Charlie's parents are bleeding liberals who are not fully aware of how their white privilege, white power, white anxiety, and white guilt send mix messages to their son. While Charlie's dad runs the boarding school, his mother, Sherri, is the Head of Admissions. Both parents are dedicated to having diversity among its student body, until, that is, it impacts Charlie.

And, what parent doesn't want the best for their kid? The parents understand diversity more as a numbers game than as a systemic change that would bring real results. For example, Sherri admonishes a co-worker for having only three photos of students of color out of fifty-two in the Admissions brochure. And, Bill rejoices in a 20 percent increase in students of color compared to last year's 9 percent. Both don't see that adding more students don't change diversity, but instead, it cloaks the school's status quo.

The pivotal moment in the play is Charlie's solution to address his white privilege moving forward in life: to withdraw all his college acceptances, attend community college and donate his college tuition to endow a scholarship for a student of color at the school. The parents are apoplectic with rage at the decision. They, nonetheless, access their bevy of well-connected friends to overturn Charlie's decision.

"The central arguments of the play revolve around thorny questions about access and opportunity. "White liberal Americans want the world to look different and sound different, but do they really want things to be different?" Nathan Malin, who plays Charlie, told the Boston Globe. "The play asks the left to take a look at how committed you really are to this cause."

There are no actors of color in the play — a wise choice. "Admissions" is a mirror liberal whites need to see themselves. It leaves you understanding that good intentions concerning diversity isn't enough.

"ADMISSIONS" runs until November 30. Presented by the SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Roberts Studio Theater, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center of the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston.

40/29

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Assault Outside Jacques in Boston

Alleged Hate Crime

By Sue O'Connell

Michael Flowers is one of three queer men who say they were victims of a possible hate crime and assault at Jacques in Boston's Bay Village on early Saturday morning, according to multiple news reports and Flowers' Facebook posts.

The Boston Police are seeking the identities of men who were involved in the altercation. If you have information that might lead toward identifying the alleged attackers, call Boston Police Crime Stoppers at 800-494-TIPS.

Flowers, who is the organizer of the bi-monthly Fascination fetish gear and kink event at Jacques, and two other men say they were waiting outside the club for a ride when they were provoked with anti-gay slurs and beaten.

On November 4 the following was posted on the event's Facebook page:

"The [attackers] were attending the show upstairs and used anti-gay epithets, including the word f@gg0t during the assault...All three of the individuals assaulted are comfortable acknowledging this as a hate crime influenced by their identities and presentations as queer people. All three of individuals assaulted are currently safe and have support systems with which they are able to unpack the trauma associated with the event."

Flowers also posted that the assault began with jeers and taunts from the group before "the conflict escalated into a multi-person fight. I remember getting hit in the face several times. It is unclear to me how many times I was hit. At some point during the conflict, I noticed that [one of Flowers' friends] was on the ground and saw that he was getting kicked and punched repeatedly. I attempted to pull several of his assailants off of him unsuccessfully. After what I perceived to be about a minute, the fight broke up and the assailants fled. It was only then that I noticed [Flowers' other friend] and saw that the left side of his face was completely covered in blood."

Police Sgt. John Boyle told Boston Magazine that the Boston Police Department's civil rights division is investigating the incident.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Boston Police Crime Stoppers at (800) 494-TIPS.

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bpda

Public Nominations

PLAN: Dudley Square

Project Review Committee Nominations

Nominations Due:
Monday, December 2

Website:
bit/ly/PRCDUD1

Description

The Boston Planning & Development Agency and the Department of Neighborhood Development are seeking nominations of interested individuals to serve on a Project Review Committee for PLAN: Dudley Square's Blair Lot, Parcel 8, and Nawn Factory.

The PRC is tasked with reviewing proposals and making recommendations on a potential developer for Blair Lot, Parcel 8, and Nawn Facroty. The committee is made up of five Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee Members and up to ten members selected from a list of nominees provided by elected officials, local groups, and neighborhood associations.

For more information and to submit yourself or other individuals' names for the Project Review Committee, please visit bit/ly/PRCDUD1. We are asking that names be submitted through this link by December 2, 2019.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Muge Undemir at 617.918.4488 or at mugzy.undemir@boston.gov.

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One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

bpda

Community Meeting

PLAN: Dudley Square Workshop

Monday, November 18
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Boston Water & Sewer Commission
980 Harrison Ave
2nd floor Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The November PLAN: Dudley Square workshop will build upon previous PLAN: Dudley workshops and will focus on the affordability objectives outlined in the previous RFPs and discussed throughout the PLAN: Dudley Square process. We will spend time looking at what AMI levels are, how they relate to Boston and Roxbury's median income, and how this impacts affordability levels in Roxbury through the PLAN: Dudley RFPs.

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 the Affordable Housing 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.

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Storybrook

Continued from page 1

atric Gastroenterology and Nutrition programs at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) provide multidisciplinary care and expertise in gastrointestinal, liver, pancreatic, nutritional and feeding disorders in infants, children, and adolescents.

More than 500 guests came together at The Castle in Back Bay for the black-tie bash, enjoying dinner, dancing with DJ Chris Roxx, and carnival games like Operation and Bean Bag Toss, taking home prizes from local sponsors like Boston Symphony Orchestra, North River Outfitter, and PUMA.

Event planner Rafanelli Events channeled Woody, Buzz and Andy's gang to bring Toy Story to life, complete with classic arcade games at Pizza Planet and Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head-themed snacks. Boston's top folks like former Governor Deval Patrick, Herb Chambers, Chef Tiffani Faison, Jay and Christy Cashman, and over a dozen co-chairs from previous years, including Jennifer Nassour, Rebecca Seidenberg, and Simone Winston, came out to raise a glass to the two decades of this incredible event.

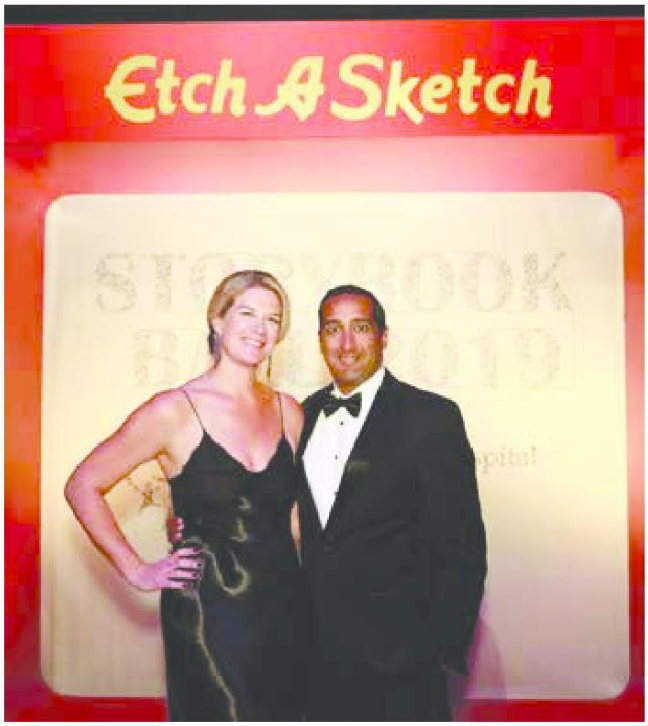
Co-Chairs Jennifer Dolins and Andrea Rosen kicked off the speaking program with a heartfelt welcome. Peter L. Slavin, MD, President, Massachusetts General Hospital, walked guests through the incredible advancements at the hospital over the past two decades thanks to the almost $30 million Storybook Ball has raised. Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, Physician-in-Chief, MGHfC, introduced a 20 Year in Review video, featuring now-and-then patient stories, and Allan M. Goldstein, MD, Surgeon-in-Chief, MGHfC, led a live appeal.

This year's featured patient, Liam Doherty (11), was on-hand with his family to share his story. Liam, who has been receiving treatment at the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center at MGHfC since he was diagnosed at six with Crohn's Disease, ranks his doctor, Pediatric Gastroenterologist Jess L. Kaplan, MD, as one of the most important people in his life. A boy with inspiring resilience and a positive attitude, Liam has raised over $40,000 in three years via a neighborhood lemonade stand to help find a cure for Crohn's, truly making lemonade out of lemons.

"There really is no preparation for somebody telling you that your child has a disease without a cure," said Liam's mother, Lauren Doherty, in the patient video. "But since day one I've really loved the level of care and attention that Liam was given at MassGeneral Hospital for Children."

After dinner, an animated live auction kicked off with comedian and actor Lenny Clarke, sports radio talk show host Rich Shertenlieb, and auctioneer Stanley Paine. Some of the highlights included a memorable dinner party prepared by Chef Tiffani Faison and Rafanelli Events; an adventurous trip to Ireland with skeet shooting, archery, and high tea; and a five-night Las Vegas experience, complete with a meet-and-greet with the band Aerosmith after their Deuces Are Wild show.

Proceeds from Storybook Ball over the past two decades have allowed MGHfC to provide extraordinary care to patients and their families; to recruit and support the best physicians, surgeons and researchers; and to speed the development of new technologies and cutting-edge research that can transform clinical approaches locally and globally.



(Top) Jo and Rahul Swani. (Bottom) Kerry Swords and Bryan Rafanelli. Photo credits: Matt West

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617.267.7426

542 Columbus Avenue
617.267.1755