MLK Day of Action
There are times when you must take a stand

BY LEE STEINHAUSER
St. Stephen's Youth Program

In a country increasingly divided by race, war, and wealth, people are desperately seeking leadership that speaks of love. This intersection of issues is not only what we are facing in Boston in 2019, it is also what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was facing when he stepped to the podium in Atlanta to give his 1967 speech often called, "The Three Evils of Society." King addressed the challenge of racism, poverty, and war with a message of love and unity. This is the message that was echoed in Boston on MLK Day, as volunteers came together to improve the library at the Blackstone School during the 2019 MLK Day of Action.

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BMC Turns TEDx

SUBMITTED BY BMC

TEDxBeaconStreet hosted its first healthcare-focused event in Boston on January 7 on the Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine campus – a hub of Boston’s medical innovation. With a group of 15 world-class speakers from around the country, the forum highlighted new perspectives and innovative ways to tackle the healthcare crisis, from policy reform and economic impact to a focus on what it means to be a patient and the social determinants of health at the forefront.

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Local news
for and about Boston’s best neighborhood

The Cake needs more time in the oven

Kellen McDonald, Chelsea Deluca, Kris Deforey in "The Cake" (photo: Mark S. Howard)

The Cake
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through February 9, 617-956-5010 or lyricstage.com

BY JUDE BECKER

Is baking an art? Certainly legends like Jacques Pepin and the late great Julia Child would wholeheartedly say that it is. Perhaps Della, the fictional practitioner in the Bekah Brunstetter play "The Cake" – now in its Boston debut at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston – would agree. The owner of the dog is not impressed.

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ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,
Good morning: I have just read your column and have a different slant on the woman who walks with the dog.

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Dog Lady
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Dear Clare,
Thank you for your letter, which is a great topic to start the New Year— even if you disagree with “Ask Dog Lady” for the mildewed advice. Dog Lady dispensed when dealing with a walking friend who does not pick up after her dog. Actually, Dog Lady realizes her initial response should have been stronger and uses your “take no prisoners” approach. Dog Lady would only add this: Pick up always and always pick up with a biodegradable bag so we don’t pollute the planet with dog poop wrapped in plastic. Dog Lady uses BioBags, a very good degradeable bag brand available through chewy.com.

Dear Dog Lady,
My parents have a Shih-Poo (cross between a poodle and a Shih Tzu) that has these bumps on her. The vet says these are sebaceous cysts. This doesn’t seem right. These bumps are small and circular and they break open and bleed. She is groomed regularly and they have tried washing her food thinking that it is she and are also on one of those dogs that are dander-less. My parents do give her human food once in a while. Any thoughts on what this may be?

— Eliza

Dear Eliza,
Shouldn’t the dog be called a Shihpoo? Actually, if you have to write “Ask Dog Lady” about blisters bumps on a cute little dog, you are barking up the wrong tree. Dog Lady is not a vet nor does she play one in any medium. You need to steer your parents to see a veterinarian pronto. Also, tell them to stop giving human food immediately. Find dog food that is anti-allergenic. Dog Lady recommends two brands: Solid Gold and Newman’s Own Organics. There are others, of course, but these two are dependably good. This little dog needs an intervention. You are in a great position to help.

Dear Dog Lady,
The other day, I was sitting at Starbucks and overheard a woman urging her friend to “walk your inner dog.” That got me thinking. Do all of us have inner dogs? If so, what are they telling us?

— Betsy

Dear Betsy,
Naturally, we all have inner dogs. (Can you what you would

Dog Lady says? These inner dogs tell us to finish everything in our bowl, snuff out possibilities, keep at the moment, and leave our mark all over the world. To “walk your inner dog” means to step out into the world confidently and happily, although “unkash your inner dog” sounds a more exaltant note. And this reminds Dog Lady to wish “Happy New Year” to all dear readers.

Write: askedoglady@gmail.com.

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Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association

The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., DH Police Station, 2nd Floor Community Room, 650 Harrison Avenue.

AGENDA

Join us for our next general business meeting. Bring your friends and neighbors, and participate in the discussions. Our agenda will include the following:

7:00 p.m. Welcome and announcements (BFSNA board).

7:10 p.m. Record keeping (Matt Mues). Treasurer’s Report.

Cake

Continued from page 1

Della’s Sweets—well-taught and skillfully designed by Matt Whiton—would certainly insist that any novice baker make sure to use all of the ingredients as she does and follow the directions.

Much as there are several fine elements in director Courtney O’Connor’s mixed-lyric stage effort, the lesbian couple’s wedding cake—centered play needs stronger consistency and more to say about the intersection of love and understanding with that baking.

Inspired by a case involving a baker’s unwillingness to create such a wedding cake, Brumetetter (“This Is Us”) 2015 play rightly presents its four characters—the couple Jen and Mary, and Della and her plumber, Brian—and Tim—as characters rather than types. Della in particular possesses a degree of unaffected charm that sometimes offsets her Christian fundamentalism-based bigotry. Speaking about her showcased Noah’s Ark cake, she points to what she claims are dinosaurs. She also naively believes that her confection could conquer ISIS as it amazes and governments struggle to do so. Meanwhile she hopes to win the Great American Bake Off and assure its (beard but unseen) handshake host (think of his counterpart on the Great British Baking Show).

Ultimately, though, Della’s greatest challenge is just to do about the cake that Jen—the daughter of her best friend—would like for her upcoming wedding to African-American Mac. While the gregarious baker claims “I don’t see color,” she unequivocally does have a serious problem with sexual orientation as does Tim—who admits he “can’t pick and choose” what comes to laws about gays. At this point, an allusion in the play to Soulom and Gornora would have done well to bring in the city’s “Clear Hate” initiative to address the challenge of homophobia and discrimination in the South End, including heightened services for people afflicted and better mitigation of public safety and quality of life impacts on residents. As always, questions and comments will be welcome.

Note: The City of Boston’s Maus/Cass Task Force (an advisory group to the City, representing services providers, institutional stakeholders and residents in the South End/Newmarket and environs) had its first session in December and will meet monthly going forward. BFSNA has a seat on this panel and we’ll discuss shared priorities.

7:35 p.m. Update from the City on “Maus/ Cass 2.0” (Chief Marty Martinez). City of Boston Health & Human Services Chief Marty Martinez will be back to discuss progress to date on the City’s “Maus/Cass 2.0” initiative to address the challenges of homelessness and addiction in the South End, including heightened services for people afflicted and better mitigation of public safety and quality of life impacts on residents. As always, questions and comments will be welcome.

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MLK
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leges of racism, poverty and militarism, saying, “And there are times when you must take a stand that is neither safe nor popular, but you must do it because it is right.”

On Monday, January 20, members of the St. Stephen’s community along with dozens of partner organizations will be following King’s example by taking a stand during their tenth annual MLK Day of Action. Close to 200 volunteers from the South End neighborhood, suburban churches and synagogues, professional groups and non-profit organizations will come together with Blackstone School faculty for a morning of work projects to shower love (and some paint) on the school. There will also be projects to improve St. Stephen’s after-school program space.

Following a lunch of tasty food, stimulating conversations about King’s legacy, and inspirational words from City Councilor Ed Flynn, there will be a teach-in focused on the issues faced by immigrant students in the Boston Public Schools. Trainers from Unafrail Educators and the Student Immigrant Movement, along with teens from St. Stephen’s, will be equipping participants to work together to ensure immigrant BPS students both feel safe and are safe.

The Blackstone Elementary School is just this sort of loving community, a place where all students feel safe and can focus on learning and academic achievement. This is largely thanks to the dedicated work of the school’s administrators, teachers, and staff, many of whom will be coming to the MLK Day of Action on what would otherwise be a day off from work. Teachers and volunteers will be beautifying classrooms. Parents of students will be sorting through donations for the school’s companion closet of clothes, food, and hygiene products. College students will be painting murals with inspirational messages on walls and canopies. By the end of the day, there will be many more images of the school’s mascot, Shwanmut the Shark, around the hallways of the school.

The Blackstone’s Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Blonde, sees her day builds a safe community of love: “MLK Day is an opportunity for volunteers and participants to bring to life our school’s guiding principle of Ubuntu, which means ‘I am because you are.’ We are all connected because we value equality and we want our students to succeed,” said Blonde. “We are honoring King’s legacy with what we will do on this day,” she added.

Recently, it became public that BPS has shared the information of more than 130 students with Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE), jeopardizing these young people’s safety and futures. To help our schools be safe havens for students, trainers will be asking participants to sign and spread a petition that will ask BPS to have clear communication with families before their information is shared with the Boston Police Department, which often leads to reports to ICE. The petition also requests more training for administrators and Boston School Police, among other demands. The petition can be found at bit.ly/NoICEinBPS

St. Stephen’s Youth Programs Teen Organizer Nikki Jean-Charles is among those excited to be part of the MLK Day of Action. She believes caring for students by making their classrooms sparkle is one of the right things to do. So is taking a stand to protect immigrant students.

“I want to surround myself with a community that is ready to learn and spread the way King taught,” said Jean-Charles. “I want to be part of the next generation of leaders, educating others to build a better future and continuing the fight for civil rights.”

To join this community of leaders at the MLK Day of Action, which starts at 9:30am at the Blackstone Elementary School, 380 Shwanmut Avenue, sign up at tinyurl.com/SSYPMLK2020. For more information, contact hello@ssypboston.org.

To learn more about St. Stephen’s Youth Programs, visit www.ssyboston.org or drop by 419 Shwanmut Avenue.

We are grateful for the Massachusetts Service Alliance, which is helping to fund and support the MLK Day of Action.
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feeling patient outcomes. The event featured speakers from BMC and BUMC as well as from Johns Hopkins, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the US Digital Service and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. All talks were recorded and will be shared on the TEDx platform.

**Community Meeting**

**PLAN: Nubian Square**

**Nubian Square Workshop**

Monday, January 27
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
980 Harrison Ave
2nd Floor Training Room
Roxbury, MA 02119

**Event Description**
The January PLAN: Nubian Square workshop will build upon previous PLAN: Nubian workshops and will focus on the Campus High Urban Renewal Plan, which Crescent, Malcolm X & Putnam, and P3 are all a part of. We will discuss the history of the urban renewal plan, how it impacted the area, and how it is discussed in relation to PLAN: Nubian Square. We will also be discussing the urban design guidelines for Crescent Parcel, and Malcolm X and Putnam Parcels.

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 urban renewal and urban design guidelines.

**Contact:**
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Boston Planning & Development Agency
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