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

By Lee Sternhauser
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 2020, 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.

Volunteers 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 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 13 world-class speakers from around the country, the forum highlighted new perspectives and innovative ways to tackle the healthcare crisis, from policy reforms and economic impact to a focus on what it means to be a patient and the social determinants of health.

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The Cake

The Cake

BY JULES 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 Delia Bruno, writes, "The Cake" – now in its Boston debut at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston – would agree. The owner of the bakery Bistro would write, "The Cake" – now in its Boston debut at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston – would agree.

Continued on page 4

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

Good morning: Have you read your column and have a different slant on the woman who walks with the dog friend who refuses to pick up after her dog. I cannot imagine even continuing to walk with her and her dog.

I would tell her I would meet her socially without the dogs but until she picks up after her dog, I just can’t be her dog friend. Sorry but it’s the way I feel as a dog owner. I don’t even like walking my dog and seeing someone has left dog feces without picking it up is just terrifying. I mean it’s not even a matter of respect for the environment, leaving it behind is downright disgusting.

— Clare

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Dog Lady

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Dear Clara,

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 wilderness guide. Dog Lady dispenses advice 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 used her “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 digestible bag brand available through chewy.com.

Dear Dog Lady,

My parents have a Shetsee (cross between a poodle and a Shih Tzu) that has humps on her. The vet says these are vestiges that burst. This doesn’t seem right. These humps are small and circular they break open and bleed. She is griped regularly and they have tried switching her food thinking that it is it and also that any 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?

— Ezra

Dear Ezra,

Shouldn’t the dog be called a Shihpoo? Actually, if you have to write “Ask Dog Lady” about bleeding humps on a cute little dog, you are basing wrong, the poor dog. Dog Lady is not a vet nor does she play one in any medium. You need to steer your parents to a new veterinarian pronto. Also, tell them to stop giving human food immediately: First 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 dependable good. This little dog needs an intervention. You’re 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. (C’mon what else would Dog Lady say?) Those inner dogs tell us to finish everything in our bowl, sniff 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 “unleash your inner dog” sounds a more exultant note. This reminds Dog Lady to wish “Happy New Year” to all dear readers.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com.
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., at the 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 discussion. Our agenda will include the following:

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

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

7:15 p.m. Public Safety update (BFD and Jonathan Abreu).

7:20 p.m. Introducing the Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association. The "Alexandra-Ball Neighborhood Association" is a brand-new organization formed to advocate for residents living on the other side of Mass Ave. from us, in the area bounded by Harrison and South Street and to Ball Street (next to Jim Rice Field) and the side of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission building. ABNA representatives will talk about concerns and issues in that part of the neighborhood and we'll discuss shared priorities.

7:35 p.m. Update from the City on "Mass/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 "Mass/Cass 2.0" initiative to address the challenges of homelessness and addiction in the South End, including heightened services for people afflicted with mental illness and with drug problems and services for people affected by mental illness and drug problems. Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions.

7:50 p.m. Introducing the focus on "Downtown Scarlet." Downtown Scarlet is a group of residents of the Downtown area who are concerned about the impact that development is having on the area and are working to preserve and improve the quality of life in the Downtown area.

8:00 p.m. Adjourn and clean up.

Letters to the editor:

Letters to the editor may be submitted electronically at letters@southendnews.com or mailed to South End News, 305 N. Washington St., Boston, MA 02114.

Deadline for letters is the Thursday prior to publication.

Letters must be no longer than 300 words. Use of out of town addresses and telephone numbers is acceptable. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements which may be harmful to fellow citizens. Deadlines are listed on the Thursday prior to publication.

Letters should be sent to letters@southendnews.com.
legions 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 21, 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 nonprofit 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 luncheon 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 Unafraid Educators and the Student Immigrant Movement, along with tenants 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 learning 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 compass 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, Shwumnut the Shark, around the hallways of the school.

The Blackstone's Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Blonde, sees how the day builds a unique 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 petitions can be found at bit.ly/NoICEinBPS.

St. Stephen's Youth Program's Teen Organizer, Nikhia 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 peace the way King taught," said Jean-Charles. "I want to be part of the new 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 Shwumnut Avenue, sign up at tinyurl.com/SSYPmlk2020. For more information, contact hs@ssyboston.org.

To learn more about St. Stephen's Youth Program, visit www.ssbostondego.org/dynpb by 419 Shwumnut 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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