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

BY LIE 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 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 challenges of poverty, war, and oppression.

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BMC Turns TEDx

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 15 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 needs more time in the oven

Kenny McDonald, Chelsea Deli, Kris Beatty in “The Cake” (photo: Mark S. Howard)

The Cake
Lyric Stage Company of Boston, through February 9. 617-586-5978 or lyricstage.com

BY JULIE 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

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ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Love, Life

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 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 fees without picking up and that person is nowhere to be seen. Picking up after your dog is 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 Eliza,
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 wilder 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 criticizes her “tuke no pooper!” 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 BioBagz, a very good disposable 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 humps on her. The vet says these are veins that burst. This doesn’t seem right. These humps are small and circular they break open and bleed. She is groomed regularly and they have tried watching her food thinking that it is she and are also 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,
I shouldn’t be the dog she called a ShihTzu? Actually, if you have to write “Ask Dog Lady” about bleeding bumps on a cute little dog, you are bunking 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 a new 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’re in a great position to help.

Dear Dog Lady,
The other day, I was sitting at Starbucks and overhead 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 we what would

Dog Lady say?) These inner dogs tell us to finish everything in our bowl, sniff out possibilities, keep 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. And this reminds Dog Lady to wish “Happy New Year” in all dear readers.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com.

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §§3-304
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
P.O. Box 927
Boston, MA 02114

In the matter of Mary Louise
61 Devon Road
Brookline, MA

REPRESENTEE
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by the Office of General Counsel of the Department of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, alleging that Mary Louise is a person incapacitated, and requesting that on the 16th day of February, 2023, the petitioner be appointed as Guardian for the person incapacitated.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The petition in the above-captioned matter is on file in the office of the Petitioner and may be viewed by any interested party upon request.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you do not, the court may order that the person incapacitated be appointed as Guardian as requested by the petition.

This notice of this proceeding may be published as required by law. If you do not object to this proceeding, the person incapacitated may be appointed as Guardian as requested by the petition.

WITNESS: Hon. Brian B. Dowie, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 9, 2023

Faith E. Arroyo, Registry of Probate

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**News from...**

**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 (BFSNA board).
- **7:10 p.m.** Record keeping (Matt Macs), Treasurer’s Report.

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**Cake**

Continued from page 1

Della’s Sweeties—well-detailed and visually 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’Connell’s mixed-lyric Stage play, the best couple’s wedding cake—centered around a stronger consistency and more story about the intersection of love and understanding with that baking. 

As inspired by a caker’s unwillingness to create such a wedding cake, Brummett (“This Is Us’) 2015 play righty presents its four characters—the couple Jen and Mac—and Della and her plumper friend Tim—as characters rather than types. Della in particular possessos a degree of unalfeched 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 well as win Government support for it. Meanwhile she hopes to win the Great American Bake Off and assure its (blessed, but unusual) handmade host (think of his counterpart on the Great British Baking Show). 

Ultimately though, Della’s greatest challenge is to do a cake that Jen—her daughter of her best friend—would like for her upcoming wedding to African-American Macy. 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 Bible” when it comes to laws about gays. At this point, an allusion in the play to the Solom and Gomorra would have done well to bring in the city’s clear threat of strangers as a factor in striking the usual homophobia explanation.

Brummett does provide balance with considerable dialogue about both Jen’s complicated family dynamics and Macy’s back story. Also the wedding approaches, though, the plotting and Della’s decision making seem less convincing. Is Della really open to change? Does Tim’s surprise for Delia constitute genuine piety or quos a predictable device? Notwithstanding caker, can future be a real understanding between Della and Meg if the later fear that the former hates her? These questions are likely to prove nagging for some theatregoers.

Under director O’Connell’s careful guidance, there should be no question that the pacing is sharp and the cast fantastic. Karen MacDonald—always one of the Hold’s premier actresses—is a true standout. In body language and accent as well as a blend of family caring and chuckleiness, she proves commanding, watchable and a kind of flawed Everywoman. Fred Silverman, Jr. has all of Tim’s judgmental posture and coarseness. As master performers, they improve upon the couple’s otherwise somewhat conventional bedroom scenes. Chelsea Dielh captures Jen’s heart as well as her frustrations. Kris Siddall finds all of Macy’s fire and feeling. Dielh and Siddall have all the naturalness of soap-opera newlyweds.

Near the end of the play, Della quotes the First Corinthians observation that “Love is always kind.” In that light, “The Cake” needs stronger virtue and more satisfying to the love the title confection represents.
MLK
Continued from page 1

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, member 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 an afternoon 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 brunch of tasty food, stimulating conversations about King’s legacy, and inspirational words from City Councillor Ed Flynn, there will be a teach-in focused on the issues faced by immigrant students in the Boston Public Schools. Trainers from U.S. Cared-for 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 compassion closet of clothes, food, and hygiene products. College students will be painting murals with inspirational messages on walls and cars. By the end of the day, there will be many more images of the school’s mascot, Shawaynnt the Shark, around the hallways of the school.

The Blackstone’s Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Blonde, sees the day builds a 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 Jeann-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 Jeann-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, 580 Shawmut Avenue, sign up at tinyLeoma.com/ ssypmlk2020. For more information, contact hannah@bostons.org.

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