MLK Day of Action

There are times when you must take a stand

BY LIE STERNHAUSER
St. Stephen's Youth Poguide

In a country increasingly divid-
ed by race, war, and wealth, people are desperately seeking leadership that speaks of love. This intersection of times is not only what we are fac-
ing 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 chal-

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BMC Turns TEDx

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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 reform and economic impact to a focus on what it means to be a patient and the social determinants of health.

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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 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 filed her "take us prisoner" 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 degradable bag brand available through chewy.com.

Dear Dog Lady,

My parents have a Shepoo (cross between a poodle and a Shih Tzu) that has these bumps on her. The vet says these are vesicles that burst. This doesn't seem right. These bumps are small and circular they break open and bleed. She is grown regularly and they have tried weighing her food thinking that is it. She is also one of those dogs that are danderless. 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 called a Shihpoo? Actually, if you have to write "Ask Dog Lady" about blisters bumps in 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 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.

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Dog Lady says? 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" to all dear readers. Write: askdoglady@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 7:30 p.m., at 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-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’Connor’s mixed Lyric Stage effort, the载isial couple’s wedding cake-centered play needs a 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, Brummett (“This Is Us’”) 2015 play righty presents its four characters—the couple Jen and Macy and Della and her dumber husband Brian Tim—as characters rather than types. Della in particular possesses a degree of unafflicted 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 where armies and governments struggle to do so. Meanwhile she hopes to win the Great American Bake Off and annex its (beauti[but unseen]) homemade host (think of his counterpart on the Great British Baking Show).

Ultimately, though, Della’s greatest challenge is how to deal with the fact that Jen—the 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.” What all this comes to is laws about gays. At this point, an allusion in the play to Soolum and Gornora would have done well to bring in the cities’ clever hatred 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. The wedding day approaches, though, the plotting and Della’s decision-making seems less convincing. Is Della really open to change? Does Tim’s surprise for Della constitute genuine aipid pro quo or a predictable device? Notself-standing cake, can it serve as a real understanding between Della and Jen the if later the form that former hates her? These questions are likely to prove nagging for some theatergoers.

Under director O’Connor’s careful guidance, there should be no question that the pacing is sharp and the cast fantastic. Karen MacDonald—always one of the Hol’s premier actresses—is a standout. In body language and accent as well as a blend of family eating and cluelessness, she proves compellingly watchable as a kind of flawed Everyswoman. Fred Silverman, Jr. has all of Tim’s judgmental posture and courtesies. As master performers, they improve upon the couple’s otherwise somewhat conventional bedroom scenes. Chelsea Diehl captures Jen’s heart as well as her frustrations. Kris Sulmby finds all of Macy’s fire and feelling. Diehl and Sulmby have all the naturalness of soon-to-be 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 texture and more satisfying to the lose the title confection represents.
Legacies of racism, poverty and militarism, saying, “And there are times when you must take a stand that is neither safe nor polite nor popular, but you must do it because it is right.”

On Monday, January 20, members of the New England’s MLK Day of Action committee at the Blackstone Elementary School will be welcoming volunteers from the South End neighborhood, suburban churches and synagogues, professional groups and non-profit organizations, who will be working with students from Blackstone School to create a mural with inspirational messages on walls and windows. By the end of the day, there will be many more images of the school’s mascot, Shamrock the Shark, around the hallways of the school.

The Blackstone Elementary School’s Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Lauren Blonde, sees the day as just the beginning of a new community initiative. “MLK Day is an opportunity for volunteers and participants to bring to life our school’s guiding principles 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 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 Shawmut Avenue, sign up at tinyurl.com/SSYP2020. For more information, contact hsypboston.org.

To learn more about St. Stephen’s Youth Programs, visit www.ssbostongreg.org/np 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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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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