South End News

February 8, 2024 [Vol. 42, No. 36]

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LOCAL NEWS
for and about Boston's best neighborhood

A transcendent *Case*

A Case for the Existence of God, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, through February 17. 617-933-8600 or speakeasystage.com

Jesse Hinson (left) as Ryan and De'Lon Grant as Keith in "A Case for the Existence of God" at SpeakEasy Stage Company. Photo by Nile Scott Studios.

JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Sometimes a disarming play can be very compelling. A terrific case in point is Samuel D. Hunter's two-character drama "A Case for the Existence of God." Set in a cubicle inside a Twin Falls, Idaho small business in the present or recent past, Hunter's seemingly simple play deals with efforts to secure a loan with the help of a mortgage broker.

Continued on page 6

South End Cathedral

An overflow crowd filled the Cathedral on Saturday morning, February 3 for the Episcopal ordination of Bishop Christiano Barbosa, Boston's newest auxiliary Bishop of Boston. His parents and family journeyed to Boston from Brazil for the happy occasion. Photo by Patrick O'Connor.

Pine Street Inn Dedicates "Yawkey House"

SUBMITTED BY PINE STREET INN

Pine Street Inn, New England's largest homeless services organization, dedicated its Women's Inn shelter in Boston's South End today, unveiling "Yawkey House" in recognition of the Yawkey Foundation's transformational support. Leaders from both organizations, including Maureen H. Bleday, CEO and trustee of Yawkey Foundation, and Lyndia Downie, president and executive director of Pine Street Inn, celebrated the naming in a ceremony today, Jean Yawkey's 115th birthday.

The renaming of the Women's Inn as Yawkey House is in recognition of a $15 million gift, the largest single

Continued on page 4

From Left to Right: Pine Street Inn dedicated its Women's Inn in Boston's South End today by unveiling "Yawkey House" in recognition of the Yawkey Foundation's transformational support. (L-R): Lorn Davis, Chair, Board of Directors, Pine Street Inn; Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director, Pine Street Inn; Maureen H. Bleday, CEO and Trustee, Yawkey Foundation; Debra M. McNulty, Trustee, Yawkey Foundation; Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond, Trustee, Yawkey Foundation.

NEWS FROM...

More Than Words

Photo via shop.mtwyouth.org

Galentine's Event

Join us for a heartwarming evening of laughter, creativity, and connection at our "Galentines" extravaganza! More Than Words Bookstore, 242 East Berkeley St. Boston, Saturday, Feb. 9th 7-9pm. $50 per person.

Get ready for a delightful blend of fun activities designed just for you, whether you're celebrating with friends, family, or flying solo!

Make Your Own Charcuterie Board: Dive into the world of gourmet delights as you craft your very own charcuterie board. Mix, match, and savor the flavors that tickle your taste buds!

Continued on page 2

NEWS FROM...

Boston Centers for Youth & Families

February School Vacation Week is Coming

Our centers have lots of events planned for the February school vacation week and Black History Month. Check out our registration website, Boston.gov/BCYF-Registration and go to the "special events" tab to see what's planned. More is being added every day!

Youth Sport Fairs are Coming

Youth ages 9-14 are invited to two upcoming Youth Sports Fairs on Thursday, February 22 from 1-4pm at the BCYF Shelburne Community Center and Sunday, March 17 from 9am-12pm at the Carter Playground Bubble in the South End. Both events

Continued on page 2

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BCYF

Continued from page 1

will feature sports clinics and activities, information about upcoming youth sports programs and opportunities in Boston, and music, snacks, and free giveaways. Registration is strongly encouraged. tinyurl.com/Sports-Fair.

Help Us Plan a Girls Sports Summit

We want to hear from you! This year, Boston Centers for Youth & Families is diving deeper into Girls Sports Programming and planning a Girls Sports Summit for Boston girls 7 to 14 over April school vacation week (April 16-19, 2024). To make sure this event is a total success, we need input from Boston girls. Please take this survey at Boston.gov/BCYF-Girls.

Black History Month Partnership with NE Revs

The New England Revolution have launched the club's fourth annual "Touches for C.H.A.N.G.E." initiative which celebrates New England's Black History. As part of the intiative, Touches for C.H.A.N.G.E. has raised over $70,000 for the purchase of new soccer equipment and many hours of youth-oriented programming at multiple BCYF locations. Learn more below.

BCYF Lifeguard Preparedness Academy

Our in-person course provides the time you need to learn the hands-on skills to become certified as a professional lifeguard with the City of Boston. Open to ages 16 and older, swim lessons and video tools will improve your swimming skills as will water skills development, refinement and conditioning. Walk-ins are welcome. Offered January to May, 2024. Visit our website, below, to sign up or email Nadine. Jesionek@boston.gov.

We're Hiring Lifeguards

Part-time, and full-time lifeguard positions are available. Great pay and benefits! Visit our website Boston.gov/Lifeguard-Jobs to learn more and apply. Boston residency is not required.

Galentine's

Continued from page 1

Build Your Own Bouquet: Not only can you 'buy yourself flowers' you can tap into your inner florist and assemble a beautiful bouquet that's as unique as you are. It's a chance to express your creativity and craft the bouquet that's perfect for you.

Blind Date with a Book: Embark on a literary adventure with a mystery book waiting just for you. Let serendipity guide your reading journey – who knows, you might discover your next favorite author!

Hot Chocolate Happiness: Warm up your winter evening by creating your own hot chocolate stirrer. Stir up some magic and cozy vibes in every sip!

Cheers to Friendship: The fun doesn't end there! Join us at the cash bar from 7-9pm to raise a glass and toast to friendship. Whether it's your go-to drink or a delightful discovery, let the good times flow!

Exclusive 1/2 Off Sale: As a special treat, attendees will have access to our 1/2 off sale presale. Dive into a treasure trove of books and merchandise at irresistible prices!

This event is tailor-made for the young at heart, aged 20-35, seeking a memorable Galentine's celebration. Don't miss out on this enchanting evening filled with laughter, creativity, and the joy of literary discoveries! Reserve your spot now for a night to remember. #GalentinesAtBostonBookstore #CelebrateLoveAndFriendship

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USES CEO Jerrell Cox Accepted Into YW Boston's LeadBoston Program

SUBMITTED BY USES

United South End Settlements (USES) today announced that CEO Jerrell Cox has been accepted to participate in YW Boston's signature leadership initiative, LeadBoston. The competitive program accepted more than 40 local leaders and changemakers annually who aim to analyze the root causes of diversity, equity, and inclusion challenges over 11 months.

The program is comprised of in-person discussions, networking, classes, and development workshops. With over ten years of experience directing youth programs, fundraising, staff development, and executive leadership at USES, Cox is prepared to bring his unique perspective to the cohort.

"I feel so honored to be a part of LeadBoston—and eager to get to work," he said. "The opportunity to collaborate with this exceptional group of leaders throughout the year is an incredible privilege. I look forward to representing USES as I connect with different teams throughout Boston, working through the challenging questions, conversations, and solutions that drive positive change and equity throughout the city."

Among those joining Cox in this year's LeadBoston cohort are Akiba Abaka, director of good trouble for the Boston Children's Chorus; Anna Beninger, vice president of diversity, equity & inclusion for Liberty Mutual Insurance; and Barsha Gautam, VP, branch manager of Eastern Bank. Each of these organizations is a current partner within USES's community and work.

YW Boston is an organization that helps individuals and companies reflect and change policies, practices, attitudes, and behaviors to create more inclusive environments. Their mission is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Jerrell Cox. Photo via www.uses.org.

Cox's social justice and inclusivity work began early in his career when he became USES's out-of-school-time director in 2009, managing the After School Site and Camp Hale programs. He then served as Camp Hale's director for ten years, leading the camp's programming through a significant turning point as it developed a girl's program at the historically all-boys camp.

In 2020, Cox was promoted to vice president of development and external relations, working to secure critical resources during COVID-19 that ensured the organization could continue providing top-quality programming to children and families. As CEO, Cox continues to align USES' work and mission with programs that offer families opportunities, resources, and support that promote social equity.

For more information about USES, please visit www.uses.org.

Yawkey House

Continued from page 1

commitment in Pine Street's history, from the Yawkey Foundation in December 2021. The Foundation's commitment to advancing Pine Street's mission to end homelessness by making permanent housing a reality for the most vulnerable individuals, will considerably advance Pine Street's vision of "a home and community for everyone."

The gift is enabling Pine Street to create 400-500 new units of permanent housing over five years, an approximately 40% increase in its total units. The grant has already led to material improvements at the Women's Inn, including the replacement of more than 300 deteriorating windows with new, energy-efficient windows that bring in additional natural light, and a renovation to the shelter lobby.

The Yawkey Foundation is a leading philanthropic organization and a valued partner to Pine Street. Its support spans more than 35 years and has included Foundation staff volunteerism.

Jean Yawkey began personally funding Pine Street Inn in 1988, with a special commitment to supporting the critical needs of women facing major life challenges. The Women's Inn opened in 1980 to serve a growing number of women experiencing homelessness. Pine Street supports more than 1,300 women each year through its street outreach, shelter, workforce development and permanent supportive housing.

"We are deeply grateful to Jean and Tom Yawkey and to the Yawkey Foundation for their unwavering support and partnership. For over 35 years, they have stood by our side, ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals among us receive the support they need to move forward with their lives," said Lyndia Downie, president and executive director of Pine Street Inn. "The Foundation's recent transformational commitment is helping us significantly expand our permanent supportive housing. Naming this building Yawkey House reinforces the impact that the Yawkeys, especially Mrs. Yawkey, had on those who faced major challenges in their lives. What a fitting way to honor her on her birthday."

"During their lifetimes, Jean and Tom Yawkey lived their charitable values by quietly helping individuals gain access to basic human needs: food, medical care, emergency shelter, and a home of one's own," said Maureen H. Bleday, Yawkey Foundation CEO and trustee. "Our trustees see this critical work happening every day with empathy, patience, kindness and expertise — by Pine Street Inn's heroic team offering direct services to Greater Boston's most vulnerable individuals. Jean Yawkey was a champion for women, and we have no doubt that providing this beautifully renovated building, which provides hope, support and dignity - and having it named as 'Yawkey House' - would have been among her proudest, most humbling moments over a lifetime of philanthropy."

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Boston Public Library
South End Branch

Join us for a community meeting to discuss plans for the South End Library

WHEN: **Monday, February 12, 2024**
6:30 to 8:00 PM

WHERE: **Virtual**
Scan QR code or follow link:

https://bit.ly/bplsouthend

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Case

Continued from page 1

A stressed out father hopes an acreage purchase will persuade a judge to allow him shared custody of his young daughter. Under the careful SpeakEasy Stage Company guidance of multiple talent Melinda Lopez (actress/writer/director), this deserving 2022 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award winner proves as much of an affecting look at male friendship and human bonding as at a potential transaction.

Do not be fooled by Cristina Todesco's wisely spare scenic design—a simple office cubicle featuring desk file drawers and two chairs. Hunter's 90-minute no-intermission play—with scene changes smartly indicated by Elmer Martinez's lighting and Aubrey Dube's sound design—richly explores the evolving terrain of human connection with the kind of striking insight this gifted playwright displayed in his earlier "The Whale." Here a deep connection initially appears to be unlikely as loan-seeking Ryan wants no middleman—which a mortgage broker Keith effectively is—and questions whether people are as much of a priority as business to him.

As Keith works with Ryan, common denominators are revealed. Both men have not only attended the same high school—even some of the same courses—but also share the fathering passion—with Keith fostering a toddler of his own named Willa and looking to adopt. Willa and Ryan's Krista also go to the same Sunshine day care and easily play together. As the very different men grapple with their respective challenges, Ryan reflects that they share a specific kind of sadness.

Eventually that sharing includes respective truth telling and whiskey (with dialogue and action indicating time at unseen Keith's place and the playground, for example). Straight Ryan has no negative reactions about Keith being gay. In fact, Ryan displays genuine empathy when Keith experiences a very stressful moment and even offers to hold Keith for a while. He goes as far as "offering to be physically close" with Keith.

Ultimately, the possibility of real bromance and deep mutual caring becomes as important to both men as the fate of their individual parentings. Will their friendship become as significant to Willa and Krista as Ryan and Keith's own narratives about their respective parents? Playwright Hunter provides a stunning and moving closing response.

From start to finish, De'Lon Grant as Keith and Jesse Hinson as Ryan make the men's respective journeys from acquaintance to real platonic male love equally moving. At the same time, Grant and Hinson capture the sometimes humorous exchanges as Ryan struggles to understand mortgaging terms. Grant catches Keith's ongoing concern for Willa and heartfelt openness to helping Ryan. His outburst as Keith suffers a personal defeat is very haunting. Hinson finds all of Ryan's self-deprecation and vulnerability as well as his remarkable feeling for Keith.

The provocative if mysterious title of Hunter's play may seem grandiose to some theatergoers. Still, the intriguing relationship of Keith and Ryan—rivetingly captured at SpeakEasy Stage—turns "A Case for the Existence of God" into a spiritually transcendent call for mutual understanding and love.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. SU14P0630GD

In the interests of: Steven T Stacy
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **3/4/2024.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 29, 2024 *Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate*

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. SU20P1894GD

In the interests of: Azizbek Dalimov
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by the **Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **2/21/2024.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 24, 2024 *Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate*

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. SU21P2442GD

In the interests of: Hoa Huynh
Of: Boston, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:Expand the powers of a Guardian.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the Court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/20/2024.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 24, 2024 *Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate*

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

In the matter of: XiaoJie Zhu
Of: Boston, MA

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **XiaoJie Zhu of Boston, MA** requesting that the court enter a ecree changing their name to **Jay Brooke Bian**

Docket No. SU23C0568CA

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **02/29/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 01, 2024 *Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate*

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