

NEWS FROM...

Friends of the South End Library

SUBMITTED BY FOSEL

Upcoming Events

World Book Day

Tuesday, April 23, 1-5pm,
685 Tremont Street:

A pop-up event in the Library Park

In celebration of World Book Day, come out and grab free books as the South End Branch staff hosts, and find out the winner from the Book Madness Tournament. For more info email SOUTHEND@BPL.ORG

Author Talk: Doug Bauer
Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM,
BCYF Blackstone,
50 W. Brookline Street, 3rd Floor:

FOSEL's South End Writes series is back! Join us in person or via Zoom.

Doug will share his recent novel, The Beckoning World, set in the early 20th century featuring a coal miner whose baseball talent unexpectedly changes his life in wonderful and complicated ways.

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April 14th Proclaimed "Rosie's Place Day" in the City of Boston



SUBMITTED BY ROSIE'S PLACE

Mayor Michelle Wu has signed a proclamation making Sunday, April 14, 2024, "Rosie's Place Day" in the City of Boston in commemoration of the multi-service organization's 50th anniversary.

On Easter Sunday, April 14, 2024, social justice advocate Kip Tiernan, with four other volunteers and \$250 donated by friends, opened the doors

to Rosie's Place in the empty Rozen's Supermarket on Columbus Avenue in Boston's South End. It was the first women-only shelter in the nation. They chose the name Rosie's Place because it held no connotations and sounded like it could be a women's coffeehouse or favorite aunt's kitchen; "Rosie" is no one in particular, yet all the women Rosie's Place serves.

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Community Music Center of Boston

Purchases a New
Building in Nubian
Square

SUBMITTED BY CMCB

On April 5, Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) announced a new 13,000 square foot building in Roxbury. It will offer beautiful performance spaces, updated classrooms, excellent acoustics, and improved accessibility for existing and future students.

CMCB's new space in Nubian Square will allow more students to participate in the organization's wide range of individual lessons, group music classes, and arts and



Continued on page 4

Photo courtesy of Community Music Center of Boston.

Citizens Announces \$420,000 in Financial Empowerment Grants to Nonprofits

Several recipients in
South End

SUBMITTED BY CITIZENS

In recognition of Financial Literacy Month, Citizens today announced \$420,000 in financial empowerment

grants to support 13 Massachusetts nonprofit organizations as part of the bank's Citizens Helping Citizens Manage Money program. Through funding and volunteerism, Citizens will support local financial literacy partners that provide training to empower communities to achieve financial wellness and build brighter

futures.

"One of the most important things we do at Citizens is provide financial education and guidance to empower our customers, colleagues and communities to reach their potential," said Lisa Murray, Massachusetts

Continued on page 4

Mayor Wu, Boston Housing Authority Celebrate Major Upgrades To Historic Lenox Apartments In South End And Roxbury

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF BOSTON

On Thursday, April 4, 2024, Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Boston Housing Authority, Beacon Communities and Roxbury and South End residents

to celebrate the completion of significant upgrades to 285 affordable units at Lenox Apartments in the South End and Lower Roxbury.

The 13-building complex, a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom apart-

ments, was originally constructed in 1939 as the first public housing in Boston that had been designated to housing Black Bostonians and later

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Annette Green

Burn has some sparks



Kiki Samko as Anna and Victor L. Shopov as Pale in Hub Theatre Company of Boston staging of "Burn This." Photo by Tim Gurczak.

Burn This, Hub Theatre Company of Boston, at Plaza Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, through April 21. Pay-What-You-Can. 617-933-8600 or hubtheatreboston.org.

BY JULES BECKER
Contributing Writer

Lanford Wilson once shared an apartment with a modern dancer in Chicago. Not surprisingly the gay playwright set his 1987 drama "Burn This" in a similar situation. Here two gay men, advertising executive Larry and Bobby—the latter a dancer who died in a freak accident in the play's back story—and Anna, a straight dancer—choreographer, have been sharing a Lower Manhattan apartment with a loft. Emotional sharing and attempts at real connection dance their diverse ways through Wilson's no-nonsense and overlong yet sometimes moving play—compellingly performed by a strong Hub Theatre Company of Boston quartet in the intimate Plaza Black Box at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Hub Theatre—a company that always deserves attention for thoughtful and well-executed efforts ("The Book of Will," a recent example)—actually improves upon Wilson's mixed messaging about the chemistry between his characters—especially Anna's puzzlingly very different responses to ongoing writer boyfriend Burton and Pale, Bobby's enigmatic, hot-tempered brother. Boding well right from the start is Justin Lahue's smart apartment design. Seasoned theatergoers will call to mind David Miller's imaginative Zeitgeist Theatre designs (for "Spring Awakening" the play, for instance) on first looking at the striking black and white stairway leading to the unseen loft and the stylized dancer depicted on a side wall. Given the challenges confronting Anna in search of artistic satisfaction, the contrastingly simple kitchen and living room areas are fittingly spare.

Wilson, the author of such fine plays as "Talley's Folly" and "Hot I Baltimore," ought to have made "Burn This" as artistically tight as Lahue's design. Anna's grief about the loss of Bobby as a cherished friend and roommate as well as an apparently gifted dancer is very real, though the early description of her

nightmarish reception by his Houston family at the funeral and afterwards would have benefitted from a shorter back story in this two and a half hour work. Still, Kiki Samko makes Anna's pain and sadness palpable. At the same time, Steve Auger captures Larry's sensitivity and comfort for his roommate even as he brings singular timing and color to his character's defensive humor. In one of the best scenes in the play—the second act conversation between Larry and Burton, this very talented actor catches the ad man's insight about Anna's life and works as well as his affecting attraction to the handsome writer. Tim Hoover convinces as the well-to-do writer and does his best with Burton's unsatisfying romantic moments with Anna—who resists his pursuit of her commitment.

Fans of the late author's best efforts (he passed away in 2011) may wonder why vulnerable Anna responds initially to volatile if dynamic Pale—from V.S.O.P. brandy and actually named Jimmy—only to send this married father of two children away and later welcome him again. Should all theatergoers question her being inspired choreographically by their relationship and seeming to need their connection? Such reservations about Wilson's plotting aside, Samko and Victor L. Shopov as Pale have real chemistry. Samko convinces as an artistically ambitious dancer and as a conflicted woman. Shopov is properly blistering in his initial entry—especially as he agonizes about parallel parking and removes his ill-fitting new shoes. His evocation of Pale's softer moments is equally persuasive.

Wilson usually had a lot to say about the power of human connection though "Burn This" needed more consistent fire. The exploring dramatist spoke of a story becoming "a dangerous secret he (a writer) can't risk telling." Fortunately Daniel Bourque's sharp direction and his highly intent cast take inspired risks at the BCA for an appealingly dangerous revival.

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Kristian Espiritu, Damon Singletary

Photo: Mark S. Howard

MC Mass Cultural Council

BCC BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on April 24, 2024, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 779 and a petition for approval of the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 150, 1033-1055 Washington Street, South End, Boston, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said map amendment would amend Map 1P, South End Neighborhood District, by adding the designation "D," indicating a Planned Development Area overlay to the existing zoning of approximately 90,573 square feet (2.08 acres) of land (1033-1055 Washington Street) bounded by Washington Street to the east, private property and a parcel owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to the south, Shawmut Avenue to the west, and private property and a parcel owned by the Boston Planning and Development Agency to the north. Said development plan would allow for the construction of two mixed-use buildings (with an above-grade connection between the buildings on no more than three contiguous floors and positioned above the third-floor level) up to 150 feet in height containing an aggregate of up to 588,000 square feet of Gross Floor Area, with a two-level, underground parking garage containing up to 353 accessory vehicle parking spaces, and public realm improvements. The Development Plan includes parking based on a parking ratio of 0.6 vehicle parking spaces per 1,000 sf of Office/Lab or retail use, which equals the same 353 accessory parking spaces. The Proposed Project is expected to include a total of approximately 266 bicycle parking spaces for building tenants, visitors and guests.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to https://bit.ly/BZC_Apr242024. Copies of the petition, the Development Plan, and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2024. Please request interpreting services **no later than April 19, 2024**.

For the Commission
Jeffrey M. Hampton
Executive Secretary

CMCB

Continued from page 1

cultural events. In alignment with the organization's mission of creating equitable access to excellent music education and arts experiences, CMCB's Nubian Square location will ground the organization's work in a neighborhood where it has long-standing relationships. For decades, CMCB has provided support beyond its South End location through partnerships with community organizations and the Boston Public Schools—where we are proud to be the largest outside provider of arts education.

The original, South End location will remain in operation, and the new flagship location in Nubian Square is set to open in 2026.

"CMCB is a leading arts institution living its mission through an expansion to Roxbury," said Lecolion Washington, Executive Director of Community Music Center of Boston. "Owning a building in Nubian Square demonstrates our long-term commitment to the growth and success of this area. As we continue to evolve as an organization, we look forward to deepening our relationships with members of this historic arts and culture community."

"Spaces and places for arts and culture are indicative of a thriving and stable community," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston. "With this purchase and renovation, CMCB is making a long-term



Photo courtesy of Community Music Center of Boston.

investment in the creativity of Boston's young people and supporting equitable arts and culture programs throughout our city."

Investments in CMCB's ongoing Valuing All Voices Capital Campaign helped to purchase the facility. To date, the campaign is over 65% of the way to its goal.

"The Community Music Center of Boston is a place where anyone can explore music, and their Nubian Square location will create safe spaces for youth and young people to gather,"

said Taneshia Nash Laird, President & CEO of the Greater Roxbury Arts and Culture Center. "We look forward to being neighbors in this thriving cultural district."

A nonprofit organization founded in 1910, CMCB has been a South End fixture and cornerstone of arts education throughout Boston for more than a century. To learn more about CMCB's expansion and to sign up to receive newsletter updates, please visit cmcb.org.

Citizens

Continued from page 1

Market President at Citizens. "We hope to unlock opportunities for our communities and reduce the wealth gap by investing time and

"We hope to unlock opportunities for our communities and reduce the wealth gap by investing time and resources to support local financial empowerment programs that are giving people the confidence and tools to achieve their goals."

- Lisa Murray
MASSACHUSETTS MARKET
PRESIDENT AT CITIZENS.

resources to support local financial empowerment programs that are giving people the confidence and tools to achieve their goals."

This year's funding recipients in Massachusetts, include:

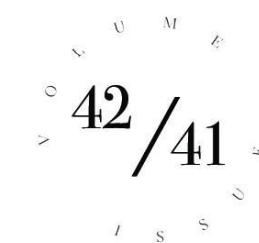
- Way Finders, Inc.
- Camp Harbor View Foundation, Inc.
- The Children's Museum
- Urban Edge Housing Corp.
- Economic Empowerment Trust Fund
- Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, Inc.
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc.
- Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, Inc.
- Interise Inc.
- Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship
- Dress for Success Boston, Inc.
- Junior Achievement of Boston
- Mothers for Justice and Equality

Citizens' Massachusetts funding is part of the bank's broader commitment to provide \$2.4 million to 137 nonprofits to expand financial empowerment programming in the communities it serves. The bank also announced the results of a teen financial

wellness survey, published in partnership with Junior Achievement, that demonstrates the need for expanded financial literacy programs.

According to the survey of 1,000 teens ages 13-18 conducted by Wakefield Research, money worries weigh heavily on American adolescents – 78% reporting they are currently stressed out about money and 74% sharing that their family's money situation is a barrier to achieving their future goals. The survey also demonstrated that there is a gap between services provided and the interest from teens to gain control of their finances – 77% of teens said they would be interested in taking a course to better understand how to manage money but only 42% said they had received lessons or courses in school.

Citizens Helping Citizens Manage Money is the bank's financial empowerment program dedicated to providing funding and volunteerism to support programs that give people the confidence and tools they need to budget, save, invest, and pursue their goals. As part of the year-round initiative, Citizens colleagues share their time and talents to deliver financial education training to support grant recipients programming.



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LETTERS POLICY

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

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Lenox

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became a focal point for the push to desegregate public housing. The renovations mark the most significant upgrades since Lenox Street's construction, and ensure the preservation and long-term affordability of the community as quality family housing.

"The transformation of Roxbury's historic Lenox Apartments demonstrates our efforts of making sure Boston is an equitable, accessible city for all walks of life," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We remain committed to preserving the history and character of this community as we invest in the well-being of Lenox residents."

The extensive upgrades to the community included brand new kitchens, bathrooms and in-unit washers and dryers. This major investment included the transformation of the community building which now includes a computer learning center, music room, fitness center, offices for management and the resident task force. In addition, accessibility, safety and security upgrades were made as well as overall ground improvements including a new playground, a

children's water play area, and bike share stations.

"For nine decades, the Lenox community has served to anchor housing affordability for hundreds of families in the South End and Lower Roxbury," said BHA Administrator Kenzie Bok. "This project has not only given those families better homes and a better quality of life, it has honored the community's legacy by securing its future."

"We are grateful to our partners at the Boston Housing Authority for championing the preservation and renovation of 285 family apartments serving the Roxbury neighborhood," said Beacon CEO Dara Kovel. "This investment significantly improves the quality of these homes and ensures long-term housing affordability for generations to come."

Built in the late 1930s, Lenox was the first public housing in Boston authorized under federal policy to serve exclusively Black families,

a designation that was challenged in the 1960s, when Melnea Cass, Boston chapter president of the NAACP, filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination citing Lenox as an example of segregation in public housing, leading ultimately to its formal desegregation in the 1980s. Lenox has

nevertheless always celebrated the history of the African American community in Boston. Its interior landscaped courts were named in honor of prominent African American Bostonians, including William Monroe Trotter, founder of the Boston Guardian newspaper and Boston Equal Right League; Dr. Andrew B. Lattimore, a physician

who practiced in the Lenox neighborhood; and Edward A. Ditmus, a distinguished veteran of the Civil War.

The community, management and maintenance space were reconfigured and fully

renovated to include new amenities designed to promote health, learning and interaction. The landscaping—originally designed by the distinguished Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm—was refreshed while continuing to honor the prominent Black Bostonians for whom the Lenox courtyards have been named.

"Congratulations to all the residents of Lenox Apartments who now have brand new apartment homes where they can live and prosper in the Roxbury community," said MassHousing CEO Chrystal Kornegay. "MassHousing was pleased to be a partner in this transformative effort by Beacon Communities and the Boston Housing Authority to improve and preserve this important affordable housing resource for many years into the future."

Funding for Lenox Apartments came together through a combination of federal and state LIHTC and historic tax credits. The Boston Housing Authority provided Section 8 Project Based Vouchers (PBV) in conjunction with MassHousing taxable and tax-exempt bond financing. Almost all units are restricted to households earning 50% Area Median Income (AMI) or below, making them deeply affordable.

"The transformation of Roxbury's historic Lenox Apartments demonstrates our efforts of making sure Boston is an equitable, accessible city for all walks of life."

- Michelle Wu
MAYOR OF BOSTON



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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, Section 5-304	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU24P0748GD
In the matter of: Ernest Pellegrini Of: Boston, MA	RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Ernest Pellegrini is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.	
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 5/6/2024. 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: April 8, 2024 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate</i>	

FOSEL

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More info at www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org

Ongoing, interim programming

- Thursday April 18th, 6-7pm, 111 W Concord St, rear entrance: Gentle Yoga (also May 16 and June 20). Registration required.
- Mondays & Wednesdays, 10am pickup at the South End

Library: Age Strong Shuttle Service to the Parker Hill branch of the BPL. Register at the website.

- Tuesday May 14, 2-3pm, FoMu Ice Cream, 655 Tremont St: The Scoop Book Club: Leave the World Behind, by Rumaan Alam.

More information at www.friendsofsouthendlibrary.org

New Library

A third and final public meeting has not been announced yet; we will spread the word as soon as it is.

Rosie's Place

Continued from page 1

Five decades later, Rosie's Place is much more than a shelter. Providing meals and groceries, education and expert employment, housing, legal and mental health support, Rosie's Place turns compassion into action, hope into help for more than 12,000 women every year.

As the proclamation states, "The inaugural women-only shelter in the United States, Rosie's Place has woven itself into the fabric of Boston's community, providing a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives."

"It is with gratitude and pride that we mark this milestone. I know the strength and generosity of this community that got us here will carry us through all that lies ahead on our path to justice for the women we serve. This year, we launched a five-year strategic plan that will enable us to address the critical needs of our community and grow our services by 25%. We are also broadening our behavioral health program to provide even more comprehensive help to our guests. So long as the inequities of poverty and homelessness continue, so too will our work," said Rosie's Place President/CEO Leemarie Mosca.

Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding. To learn more, visit rosiesplace.org.



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