

## Fruit, Flowers and the First Amendment

### Mayor's Coffee Hour draws peaceful protest

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Over a dozen protesters demanding more funding and more jobs in youth employment programs shouted down Mayor Walsh at the

South End Mayor's Coffee Hour in Peters Park on Tuesday morning, May 17. Marched out of the park behind the mayor and escorted by Boston Police Department (BPD) officers. The annual meet-and-greet sponsored by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department drew well over 100 attendees to Peters Park,

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Councilor Essaibi-George (Right) speaks

## Girls Night Out

### Saldare Spa raises funds for youth fitness

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

On Wednesday evening, May 11, music, food, spirits and friends filled Saldare Spa, 12 Clarendon Street, at a fundraiser for the youth fitness program, Girls on the Run. Attendees sampled the services and wares of Saldare's personal trainers, massage specialists and other fitness and aesthetic practitioners as well as healthful snacks from Australian bodycare/cosmetics/nutritional products company Arbonne; entrée dishes and sides from Fresh Meal



Jennifer Menzer (Left) and friends. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Plan; hard cider from South End-based Lookout Farms and wine from Wine Events, owned by Saldare partner Jennifer Menzer's husband,

*Continued on page 6*

## El Gato Con Botas in the South End

### A Spanish and English "Puss In Boots"

OperaHub continues its season-long exploration of Spanish language repertoire with its first touring production: Xavier Montsalvatge's family-friendly El Gato Con Botas, presented in collaboration with



(Left to Right) Samuel Bowen, Christina Pecce, Carrie Reid-Knox and Nyiko Ngoben. Photos courtesy of OperaHub

*Continued on page 2*

## Cathedral High School graduates the Class of 2016

The 86th commencement took place last Saturday morning, June 14 at a 10 a.m. ceremony at Holy Cross Cathedral. The 46 graduates, girls in gold and boys in green, filed into the church and took their seats in a reserved front section. Welcoming all was principal Helenann Civian and delivering the invocation was rector of the Cathedral, Fr. Kevin O'Leary. A number of graduates



The class of 2016 heads for the Cathedral for graduation on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

*Continued on page 3*

## Blackstone raises over \$12K

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

A relaxed, congenial atmosphere pervaded the back room at Stella on Thursday, May 12 as about 50 guests gathered to support the Blackstone Community Center and to salute outgoing BCC board president Carolyn MacNeil, whose



(Left to Right) Michlewitz, MacNeil, Rushing. Photo courtesy of Michele Maniscalco

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## El Gato

Continued from page 1

Puppet Showplace Theater and The Boston Conservatory Outreach Program.

OperaHub's General Director Christie Lee Gibson says, "When thinking about presenting accessible works, most opera companies focus on opera in English. This is a blind spot that fails to acknowledge the thriving Spanish-speaking communities we have in Boston and that are growing around the country. By using the original Spanish text and English supertitles incorporated into the set, we can present a work that is linguistically accessible in both English and Spanish. We hope that children and families new to opera

will attend; they will love El Gato's hilarious antics and adventuresome plot. Our goal is to bring communities together across neighborhoods and generations."

The production will feature an innovative visual landscape that is entirely portable. Set in a gilded age era shoe factory, the production includes a shoe-inspired design motif, and fantastical puppet characters built entirely from recycled footwear. The opera will be performed in Spanish with English supertitles. The first two weekends will feature a thirteen-piece orchestra conducted by Music Director Lina Marcela Gonzalez.

The opera's lighthearted libretto explores important themes such as the importance of loyalty and the rewards of following one's

heart, and offers subtle social commentary on social class and capitalism, relevant issues in America today. With a running time of just sixty minutes, the opera is short, has a story children can understand and enjoy which will also engage their parents, and tuneful music that is still mature and complex. El Gato Con Botas is ideal for the growing audience segment of parents looking to engage in cultural activities with their children.

The production's stage director and Artistic Director of Puppet Showplace Theater, Roxanna Myhrum says, "For me, Puss represents that innervoice that tells you that you have to take risks to make your dreams come true. Our production draws on the visual language of magical realism and uses found object puppetry to bring this point home, transforming everyday objects (particularly old shoes) into beautiful, dynamic puppet characters and scenery. We set the production in a Gilded Age shoe factory in order to show that even in the most destitute conditions, imagination can have a powerful transformative effect."

El Gato Con Botas was written in 1947 by Spanish composer Xavier Montsalvate (1912-2002) and librettist Néstor Luján (1922-1995), based on the classic story Puss in Boots by Charles Perrault. The opera is directly influenced by the Spanish zarzuela

style of writing and premiered in 1948 at the Gran Teatro del Liceo in Barcelona, Spain.

The opera will premiere in Dudley Square's Hibernian Hall and the South End's Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, and subsequently tour to other venues and neighborhoods in the Boston area with high populations of native Spanish speakers without regular access to the arts in their community. Following its summer engagements, OperaHub's production will tour under the auspices of The Boston Conservatory Outreach Program, with a new cast directed by Nathan Troup, Associate Director of Opera Studies at The Boston Conservatory. OperaHub hopes to tour the piece to many more venues, both in America and abroad, in the coming years.

### Full Opera Performances:

June 16-19 at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury  
Thursday, 6/16 - 7pm  
Friday, 6/17 - 7pm  
Saturday, 6/18 - 10am, 3pm, 7pm  
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# Cathedral High

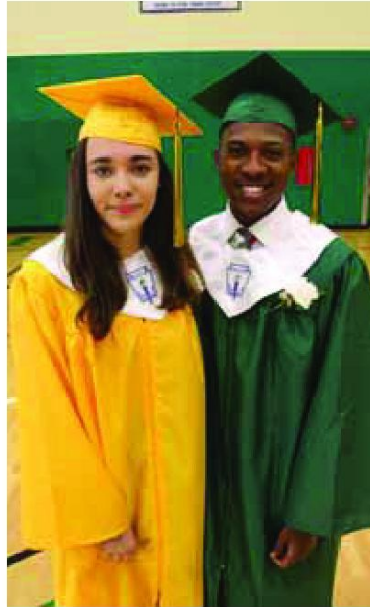
Continued from page 1

from the class of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966 attended and were presented golden jubilee diplomas from Paul Chisholm, chairman of the board of trustees and Dr. Oscar Santos, head of the school. Delivering the salutatory address was Francis P. Lubega and the valedictory, Taylor Marie Driscoll. Prior to awarding the diplomas, Dr. Santos addressed the graduates congratulating them on all their accomplishments over the past four years.

### The graduates

Deyama N. Achille, Richard A. Andujar, Kaylan A. Aus-

tin, Shantell S. Barrett, Aryonn M. Beal, Daijon M. Beasley, Donnell B. Berryman, Tariel A. Brown, Denico Campozano-Hill, Kayla M. Casiano, Taylor M. Driscoll, Steven German, Samoya S. Grey, Keiana B. Haughton, Noelle K. Holiday, Daniel Jean-Louis, Kimallay Jean-Pierre, Tharzon Laurore, Joshua Lopes, Francis P. Lubega, Jose A. Maizonnet-Ruiz, Jeremiah Mekonnen, Sabrina D. Michel, Sophia A. Molina, Tegla M. Nelson, Trevon D. Niles, Douana S. Offre, Kyle I. Ortiz, Martha E. Asigo Otuda, Justyn J. Owens, Richelene Pierre, Gabriel Richi, Moises A. Rojas, Andrew A. Royes, Matthew Samuels, Fares K. Sharari, Sadie La Shawn Stephens, Mario Thames, Derek Tyler, Yatta Voyard, Nzhangha I. Webster, Devin R. Welch, Leshawn M. Wideman, Brianna Williams, Karl C. Yared.



(Top Left) Cathedral grads battled the wind entering the Cathedral. (Top Right) Valedictorian Taylor Marie Driscoll and salutatorian Francis P. Lubega (Center Left) Cathedral High grads from the Class of 1966 attended the graduation exercises. (Bottom) Basketball stars graduating are Andrew Royes, Donnell Berryman, Deyarna Achille, Trevon Niles and Gabriel Richi. Both teams were Div. 4/south title champions last March and Deyarna helped lead the girls to the Div. 4 state title championship at Springfield College.

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<b>INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE</b>	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
<b>In the Estate of: Wayne R. Fette</b> Date of Death: May 2, 2015	
Docket No. SU16P0854EA	
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Timothy D. Stein of Boston MA, a will has been admitted to informal probate. Timothy D. Stein of Boston MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.	

<b>ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING</b>	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
<b>Williams, Gregory vs. Williams, Christine Ann</b>	
Docket No. SU16D0662DR	
Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s) to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for <b>Divorce 1B</b>	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
Pursuant to Supplemental Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on Defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.	
It is <b>Ordered</b> that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before <b>June 23, 2016</b> .	
If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.	
<b>WITNESS, Hon. John M Smoot, First Justice of this Court.</b> Date: April 19, 2016 <span style="float: right;"><i>Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate</i></span>	

<b>NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME</b>	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
<b>In the matter of: Annie Lucia Rojas Garcia</b> <b>Of: Boston, MA</b>	
To all persons interested in petition described:	
A petition has been presented by Annie Lucia Rojas Garcia requesting that: Annie Lucia Rojas Garcia be allowed to change her name as follows: Annie Lucia Mendez	Docket No. SU16C0157CA <b>Suffolk Probate and Family Court</b> 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: <b>Boston ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/02/2015</b>	
<b>WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.</b> Date: April 26, 2015 <span style="float: right;"><i>Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate</i></span>	

## Guest Opinion

# Increase Investment in Civil Legal Aid

SUBMITTED BY  
THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL  
ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

The Senate Ways & Means Committee recommended level funding of \$17 million for civil legal aid in its Fiscal Year 2017 budget issued today. It is significantly less than what MLAC requested, and falls short of what is needed to address the profound gap in access to civil legal aid that exists for low-income individuals and families in the Commonwealth. Given the great depth of unmet need among those seeking civil legal aid, and the significant return on investment yielded by civil legal aid funding, MLAC will continue to advocate for an increase in civil legal aid funding during the Senate budget debate next week.

"Civil legal aid is a practical and proven solution, both social and fiscal, to the Commonwealth's most challenging problems and it strengthens the resilience of families in need and the communities in which they live. It gives thousands of low-income residents, including children, access to legal help as families seek to stay in their homes when faced with illegal foreclosure or eviction. It helps victims of intimate partner violence and their children stabilize their lives and escape danger. It helps in overcoming barriers

to employment, education, or quality health care," said Lonnie Powers, MLAC Executive Director. "We work in close partnership with other community-based social service programs across the state. Ultimately, this work improves lives, strengthens communities, and saves taxpayer dollars."

MLAC disburses the state's civil legal aid funding to 14 civil legal aid programs across Massachusetts that assist low-income individuals and families in resolving issues related to basic necessities such as housing, employment, classroom accommodations for children with disabilities, and conflicts related to child support and custody, divorce, and domestic violence. Eligible residents are those with incomes below 125 percent of the federal poverty level, or an annual income of \$30,368 for a family of four.

This past February, MLAC released its annual Economic Benefits Report, which documented that services provided by MLAC-funded programs in fiscal year 2015 yielded at least \$35.1 million in savings or new revenue for the state.

State Senators Cynthia Creem and Will Brownsberger will file an amendment to increase legal aid funding by \$3 million. This additional funding is needed to begin addressing the significant unmet need among those who are eligible for and seek civil legal aid.

Currently, due to lack of funding, civil legal aid programs are forced to turn away more than 60 percent of those eligible for civil legal aid in Massachusetts who seek services.

The request for the increase in civil legal aid funding is based on a recommendation by the Boston Bar Association's Statewide Task Force to Expand Civil Legal Aid in Massachusetts, which issued a report in 2014 that clearly demonstrated the lack of access to legal representation faced by low-income residents of our state. The report called for an additional state investment of \$30 million in civil legal aid in Massachusetts, to be implemented in \$10 million increments over three years.

"Everyone, regardless of income, should have equitable access to our justice system. Unfortunately, that is not the case in our courts today," said Marijane Benner Browne, chair of the MLAC Board of Directors. "No one should be forced to fight an illegal foreclosure without an attorney. The complexity of legal issues related to overturning improperly denied access to health care and education requires assistance from an attorney. As we move forward, we must ensure that legal aid organizations across the Commonwealth have the resources they need to serve our most vulnerable residents."

# Help AIDS Action end HIV stigma

## Donate to this year's AIDS Walk

BY SUE O'CONNELL

A few weeks ago, Britain's Prince Harry gave an interview in which he expressed admiration for the work of his late mother, Princess Diana, in combatting the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS in the 1980s.

"She smashed the stigma around HIV on more than one occasion," Harry said. "It had a huge impact, and ... a huge impact on my life as well."

He may be biased, but Harry wasn't exaggerating. For gay people who witnessed the dawn of the AIDS epidemic—and the attendant hysteria—the most enduring image of Princess Diana is a photo taken in 1987 in which she is shaking the hand of a man who has AIDS. At the time, fear of contagion was so pervasive that doctors and dentists refused to treat AIDS patients. A few months after that photo was published, the home of Clifford and Louise Ray in Arcadia, Fla., was burned down by an unknown arsonist following a federal court ruling that allowed their three young boys, all hemophiliacs who had contracted AIDS through blood transfusions, to attend public school.

In that environment, a simple handshake from a woman who enjoyed international adoration sent a powerful message to the world that people with HIV or AIDS were not to be

feared. They deserved a loving embrace rather than scorn and ostracism. Diana would repeatedly reinforce those messages in the ensuing months and years by embracing AIDS patients of all ages and backgrounds during high-profile visits to hospitals around the world.

Thankfully, we've learned a lot since those dark days. Here in the U.S. science, research, medicine, and grassroots and celebrity activism brought the vast majority of us to our senses. And where facts and compassion failed to persuade and people with HIV or AIDS experienced blatant discrimination, the courts more often than not were on their side. Today people with HIV live, work, and attend school where they please. By law, they cannot be discriminated against because of their HIV status.

And yet, despite all that we know, the stigma around HIV remains as stubborn as the virus itself. Ask an HIV-positive gay man how his status affects him and you won't hear about aches, pains and opportunistic infections. More often than not he'll talk about the shame he felt upon being diagnosed, the fear of how loved ones would react to his diagnosis, and how hard it is to find a romantic partner. Shame, fear, and loneliness? Sure sounds like stigma. Whether we're HIV positive or not, some of us simply cannot shake the irrational belief that having HIV represents a moral failing.

The danger of this thinking is that the fear of being stigmatized makes people less likely

to get tested, less likely to undertake antiretroviral treatment if they do test positive, and less likely to be open about their status with sexual partners. In other words, it's a recipe for poor health and more HIV infections.

It is up to all of us to end HIV stigma. Those with doubts or fears about what it means to live with the virus or to love someone who is HIV-positive need to educate themselves. You have plenty of resources at your fingertips. Google it.

Another way to fight stigma is by supporting the work of AIDS Action Committee, an organization that has been fighting HIV stigma and discrimination since the dark days of the 1980s. When hospital staffers refused to enter the rooms of patients who lay dying, AIDS Action volunteers were there, offering care, kind words, and comforting touch.

The organization's Annual AIDS Walk and 5K Run takes place on Sunday, June 5. Believe me, there's nothing like the sight of thousands of people from all walks of life taking to the streets of Boston to support AIDS Action—and to support one another—to explode the fears and misconceptions about what it means to live with HIV in 2016.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell. The 5K starts at 9:50; the Walk starts at 10:00. Visit [AIDSWalkBoston.org](http://AIDSWalkBoston.org) for more information.

Get out there on June 5. Walk. Run. Hug some people. Smash some stigma.

37/19

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# Chang-Díaz Announces Neighborhood Office Hours

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz has announced neighborhood office hours for the spring of 2016. Office Hours will be held within each of the neighborhoods of the Second Suffolk District.

Senator Chang-Díaz encourages any resident or interested party to attend and discuss any community, regional, or statewide issue of concern. If you cannot attend these office hours and would like to speak with the Senator, please contact her office at 617-722-1673, email [schedule@senatorchangdiaz.com](mailto:schedule@senatorchangdiaz.com), or

stop by her State House office, located in Room 111 on the first floor of the State House for assistance.

Office hours will be held at the following times and locations. Please note that there are both morning and evening office hours. Any questions regarding the Senator's office hours can be directed to her Communications Manager, Christina Gregg, at 617-722-1673 or [Christina.Gregg@masenate.gov](mailto:Christina.Gregg@masenate.gov).

South End – Thursday June 9, 8:00AM-9:30AM, South End Buttery, 314 Shawmut Ave.

## Coffee Hour

*Continued from page 1*

with a host of city government and elected officials including police commissioner William Evans; BPRD commissioner Christopher Cook; Boston Transportation Department commissioner Gina Fiandaca; city councilors Bill Linehan and Anissa Essaibi-George and state representative Aaron Michlewitz, who represents the area surrounding Peter Park.

Business association leaders Jennifer Effron of Washington Gateway Main Street and Ted Pietras of the South End Business Alliance, as well as activists from the Massachusetts HUD Tenants Alliance (MAHT), who pressed the mayor for affordable housing creation across the city, bicycling activists and the youth-jobs protesters. Friendly BPRD staff set a tasty breakfast buffet of mixed-fruit plates from Whole Foods along with Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins and coffee and handed out lemon-yellow marigold plant at the end of the gathering.

The mayor began his remarks by talking about the city's efforts to keep the parks "up to code", but abruptly shifted focus when a young woman walked next to the mayor holding up a sign that read, "When I ran for mayor, young people and youth leaders asked me to commit to fully funding youth jobs. I said "YES" and have been running away from my commitments ever since" over his head. Walsh quickly turned to addressing youth-jobs funding, saying, "We're actually increasing funding for summer jobs initiatives as well in the budget in front of the city council right now."

A young man interjected, "That's a lie! There are no new jobs for youth this year; it's being level-funded at minimum wage. We need 14,000 young people to have full employment. We are asking for you to fully commit to your agreement you did in 2013 and right now there is no commitment." Walsh responded, "actually, the level funding is at the state house, it's actually less and the city has increased the funding each year that I've been mayor." The young man countered, "We

are asking for \$10.7 million to fully employ teenagers 14 to 19 years old and if you don't do that, we are going to shut it down," and began leading a chant of "If we don't get it, shut it down!"

The BPD officers then escorted the protest leaders behind the fence so that the mayor could continue speaking. He resumed detailing the city's summer jobs program, maintaining that the city has increased the number of youth summer jobs offered each year with a goal of providing 11,000 summer jobs for youth this year, funded by a combination of state and city allocations along with non-profit groups and businesses. He continued, "If we didn't have a successful summer jobs program, we wouldn't have cities like Louisville, Ky., Austin, Tex., Chicago and Los Angeles coming to us and saying, "How do you do your summer jobs?" He added, "I do want to thank our young people for advocating for summer jobs because it's their right and they do a good job at it. I know that some people view it as a shot, but I don't. They are advocating and I commend them for it."

Other city officials similarly praised the students for exercising their First Amendment rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. Earlier in the day, the mayor was at odds with city councilor Tito Jackson, who urged young people leave school early on Tuesday, May 17 in order to attend his 2:00 PM city council budget hearing. The mayor reportedly preferred that the meeting be rescheduled to later in the afternoon so that the students could stay in school. As he continued to speak, police tried to keep protesters behind the fence to avoid further disruption, and one young woman was heard to shout, "Don't touch my body!" Further details could not be obtained by press time from either the police or the protesters.

BPRD commissioner Cook presented a Dunkin' Donuts gift bag to a raffle winner as the event wound down, and the protesters followed him, escorted closely by police officers. As the event closed, BPRD workers handed out marigold plants to attendees.

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## Blackstone

Continued from page 1

four years as head of the BCC board have been transformative for the operations of the center. Attendees including state representatives Aaron Michlewitz and Byron Rushing; Office of Neighborhood Services liaison Sam Chambers; Boston Police Department District 4 community service officer Jorge Dias and Javier Pagan nibbled appetizers and sipped drinks, bought raffle tickets and listened to remarks both sobering and inspiring from BCC alumni, city and elected officials.

BPD officer Frank Williams, who founded the volunteer Boston Police Tennis Program for youth, was the jovial emcee of the evening. Williams spoke fondly of growing up in the South End and visiting the BCC regularly, learning chess, the Dewey Decimal System and other essential life skills during the days of Mayor Kevin White.

"In terms of being a South Ender, the Blackstone Center was so meaningful for me because it was a place I could go after school every day. There was a lot going on back then: drugs. Different drugs than we have now, and people got hurt. It was a place where if you were a kid, you could go there and



(Left to Right) BPD Officer and emcee Frank Williams, Carolyn MacNeil, Rep. Byron Rushing, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

be safe," Williams said. Jamory Lewis, a 19 year old who grew up in the Cathedral (now Ruth Lillian Barkley) Apartments, said, "I grew up going to the Blackstone Center since I was five years old. I am 19 now and next year I will be going to UMass Boston majoring in forensic science, and I wouldn't be saying that if it weren't for the Blackstone Center. I grew up in the Cathedral Apartments and growing up there was kind of rough, but Blackstone was my escape. It's been an escape for a lot of kids, and a lot of them end up going off to college. I'm lucky to be one of them." Lewis participated and worked in the summer camp and played in the basketball league.

Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), which provides funding for the BCC, was represented by commissioner William Morales, who gave a spellbinding address, drawing on his own harrowing experiences as a youth to illustrate the importance of BCC's youth programs. "This is about providing kids with that camp opportunity because if they don't go to camp, they fall through the cracks. They find themselves lost, and we wind up spending more resources to bring them back." Morales recounted his own troubled youth, saying, "My greatest crime was dropping out of school at 14."

He recalled being stabbed twice and shot once at 15 and receiving one of the first mandatory-minimum sentences under the Warren bill when he was 17. A hush fell over the room as he related the fatal shooting of his brother, who had been fired on by BPD officers, after which his mother said, "I thought this would be you." "I made a commitment to change that expectation for my mother," Morales said. He continued, "It was through volunteering, through service, it was about making amends to my community that this career of youth work began." Ending on the high note of his success led smoothly into MacNeil's honors from Mayor Walsh's office, delivered by Office of Neighborhood Services liaison Sam Chambers and a resolution recognizing her service from Beacon Hill delivered by Michlewitz and Rushing. MacNeil's South End Soccer co-founder, Caroline Foscatto, was at her side beaming as MacNeil, clearly touched, accepted the accolades.

Through attendance, raffle ticket sales, and a Fund the Future auction that sold sponsorships for BCC's summer camp, youth programs and sponsored youth memberships, the center raised \$12,500. A good time was had by all.

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### Girls Night Out

Continued from page 1

Jeffrey Menzer, Co-owner and personal trainer Susan Reardon commented, "We had a wonderful turnout, with 74 of our 85 invited guests showing up. Some individuals bought anywhere from one to five tickets."

The event, with tickets gently priced at \$5, raised approximately \$500 for Girls on the Run and also showcased Saldare's range of healthy-lifestyle services. "It was great to have folks come in and check out our space and meet some of our amazing staff as well as learn more about the services

that we offer," Reardon said in a follow-up e-mail.

Fitness gurus Menzer and Reardon, whose business partnership grew out of a deep friendship and commitment to exercise, nutrition and a holistic approach to good health, have been in business together for approximately two years and apparently are just as good a match in business as they are in friendship.

"Things are amazing. We are having our best year in Saldare history!" Reardon wrote. Since opening, the two have tweaked and expanded their offerings. "We've introduced Reiki and some specialized body therapies. There has not been any demand for anything we haven't expected. We try to cover all facets of health, wellness and a healthy lifestyle."

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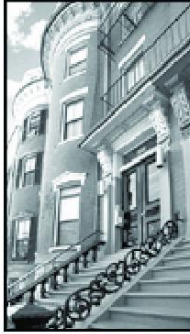
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