

BUSM's Orly Leiva Selected to Minority Medical Student Award Program

South End Orly Leiva, a fourth-year medical student at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), has been named by the American Society of Hematology (ASH) as one of 22 medical students selected to take part in the 2017 Minority Medical Student Award Program (MMSAP).

The program encourages underrepresented minority medical students to pursue careers in hematology by supporting them as they implement their own hematology-related research project in the lab of a research mentor.

Under the guidance of his BUSM research mentor, Katya

Ravid, DSc, professor of medicine and biochemistry, Leiva's research will explore the mechanisms necessary for controlling lysyl oxidase (an enzyme vital to collagen fiber formation) in primary myelofibrosis, a disorder that leads to severe bone

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BMC Grows First Hospital-Based Rooftop Farm in MA

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is taking its reputation as the greenest hospital in the Boston area literally, as the once barren roof on top of its power plant building has been transformed into the largest rooftop farm in the city. The 7,000 square feet of

growing space, already flourishing with fresh produce, including arugula, bok choy, radishes, Swiss chard and kale, is expected to produce approximately 15,000 pounds of food

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Joys and worries

At Mayor's South End Coffee Hour

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The Mayor's annual Coffee Hour in the South End, held at 9:30 AM on July 18, took a unique turn this year, combining the usual kaffeeklatsch with residents featuring Dunkin' Donuts coffee and treats and potted plants with the grand reopening of the updated Monsignor Reynolds Playground at Washington and Malden Streets.

About 175 neighbors of all ages, including about 60 children from the Blackstone Community Center and



Photo by Michele Maniscalco

IBA kids' programs joined Mayor Martin J. Walsh to cut the ribbon on the refurbished playground and to air their concerns and frustrations

regarding rampant drug use, recent shootings, crime and vandalism

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Photo by Matt Morris, Boston Medical Center

Water Main Flushing Notice

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will begin Water Main Flushing in the areas of Roxbury and the South End July 23, 2017 through September 5, 2017

The boundaries for the areas being flushed are: Kneeland Street at Harvard Street to the north, Dudley Street at Shawmut Avenue to the south, Kneeland Street at Hudson Street to the east and St. Alphonsus Street at Smith Street to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents

and businesses.

Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC's 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC's Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website at www.bwsc.org.

Festival Betances Huge Success

This past Saturday and Sunday, Festival Betances brought the South End performers, parades, food, a greasy pole, and great music.

The annual event was hosted by IBA, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción.



Photo courtesy IBA

SUMMER FUN At Boston Center for Youth & Families

Connect online! www.boston.gov/BCYF
Facebook: [BCYFboston](https://www.facebook.com/BCYFboston) Twitter & Instagram: [@BCYFcenters](https://www.instagram.com/BCYFcenters)

BCYF Blackstone Community Center 50 West Brookline Street,
Summer Fun Stop at BCYF Blackstone Starting July

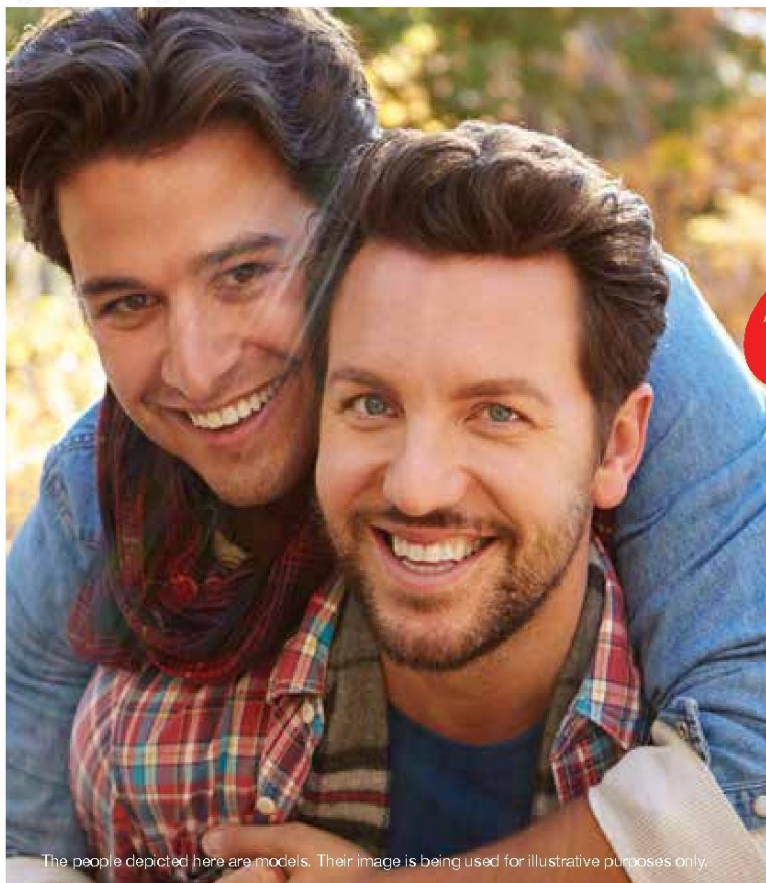
10 Mon-Fri, time TBD Ages: 8-14 This free drop-in program provides structured games, sport activities and arts projects for up to 50 children.

BCYF Blackstone Academy Enrichment Summer Program July 3-August 18 Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Ages: 5-12 Fee: Ages 5-6: \$140/week; Ages 7-12: \$115 Licensed camp. Safe, affordable summer program featuring field trips and

more. Breakfast and lunch provided.

Youth Connections Summer Program July 5-August 18 Mon-Fri, and Saturdays Times TBD Ages: 11-14 Fee: TBD Safe and affordable summer program featuring arts, field trips, recreation and more.

Swimming Programs Ongoing for all ages in our indoor pool.



The people depicted here are models. Their image is being used for illustrative purposes only.

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Coffee Hour

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around the South End.

Walsh was accompanied by administration officials including chief of health and human services Felix C. Arroyo, inspection services chief William “Buddy” Christopher, Boston Transportation Department commissioner Gina Fiandaca, Jim Greene, director of the Emergency Shelter Commission, chief of streets Chris Osgood and Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) commissioner Christopher Cook, whose agency coordinated the event. Boston Police Department (BPD) D-4 captain Wayne Lanchester, officer Richie Litto, officer Bernadette McCarthy and community service officer Mayan Tamang were on hand to lend neighbors an ear as well.

Sam Chambers, outgoing South End/Bay Village liaison, was on hand to assist Faisa Sharif, a South End resident who just took over the post. Chambers now works as a public information officer for the Mayor. City Council District 2 candidates Michael Kelley and Ed Flynn also attended, talking and listening to residents throughout the event.

While the Mayor’s Coffee Hour in the South End usually occurs in mid-May, this year’s event was scheduled for mid-summer. Asked about the departure in scheduling, the Mayor and Chambers cited the desire to combine the coffee hour with the re-opening of the playground.

After greeting guests and mingling, the Mayor gathered the children around to help

him cut the ribbon to the playground, which features new climbing and play equipment and a new, soft ground cover.

In his opening remarks, the Mayor announced funding for various improvements coming to the neighborhood, including renovation of the South End Library Park; street, sidewalk and signal enhancement along Harrison Avenue; updates to Titus Sparrow Park and renovation of the Carter Elementary School so that it can expand programs for children with disabilities. Walsh then launched into the issue that so many came to discuss: drug activity and homelessness on South End streets.

“It’s not because Long Island Bridge was closed. What we have is people hanging around the streets who do not live in Boston,” he began. Walsh said that his administration has housed 1,100 formerly homeless people in the past three years.

Walsh cited “major investment” over the past two years to add drug counselors and intake counselors to the city’s homelessness program; opening the tented day center behind Southampton Street shelter to give homeless people lunch, coffee and intervention; asking the hotels to put fences around their properties; and meeting with the directors of the two methadone clinics over his concern that methadone users are not seeking the counseling and other services they need to become sober.

Walsh added that he has been talking to state officials about re-opening shuttered drug treatment programs in Quincy and other communities as well as opening homeless shelters in other cities and towns. “I want to apologize



Photo by Michele Maniscalco

because people are angry; I can see it in your faces,” Walsh said. “You have every right to be angry, but I need you to help us.”

Bud Lariiev, a board member of Washington Gateway Main Street and the Chester Square Neighborhood Association, cited statistics quoted by the BPD that 80 per cent of those coming for services in the South End are from outside the city and the Commonwealth. Lariiev said that local business owners have told him they are adversely affected by the wandering addicts, and has heard of an

uptick in home sales around East Springfield Street. Lariiev also questioned the wisdom of combining the playground celebration with the coffee hour at which heavy topics such as drug abuse and crime were to be discussed.

A contingent of 30 to 40 members of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association told the mayor about their increasing uneasiness and fear at seeing drug transactions,

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Coffee Hour

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discarded needles, users injecting on the street and in the alleys, defecating, passing out and overdosing on a daily basis. WSANA board member Andrew Brand questioned the seriousness of the mayor's commitment to aiding South Enders.

"The neighbors were able to express their concerns to the mayor, but we haven't heard any city representative mention a single metric they were going to use to study the problem. The mayor was full of platitudes, but we've been talking about these things for years and nothing has happened. The amount of violence and gunshots has gotten worse. It doesn't give me confidence that they are taking the problem seriously."

He continued, "The Pine Street Inn is a national model for how to deal with neighborhood outreach. What we would like to see is

for the service providers in the Melnea Cass and Worcester Square areas to try to create that same neighborhood outreach model. It's partly a city issue, a state issue and a service provider issue and they all need to work together to serve addicts and help providers achieve their goals." WSANA president George Stergios added, "That's our message."

After more than an hour of meeting with guests and posing for pictures, Mayor Walsh departed around 10:45 AM. Afterward, Cook commented, "Today was very, very special. There were kids from Blackstone and IBA who developed a curriculum around community engagement. They got to come to this coffee hour not only to see adults who took time out of their schedules to engage with the mayor and the mayor was totally engaged with those adults. On top of that, the kids themselves got to interview the mayor on his priorities for the city. I think it's our job to take that experience and reinforce more positive experiences with the government over the year. That's how you



Photo by Michele Maniscalco

build citizenship."

Candidate Flynn said, "It's a great event, bringing people together, especially young people, investing in the neighborhood and giving them the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful

park like this. It's also great to see city officials here giving residents a chance to talk about their concerns; to talk to City Hall right here in the park."

BUSM

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marrow fibrosis and abnormal blood cell counts. It is hoped this research will allow for greater understanding of one facet of the disease.

As part of the program, MMSAP participants receive \$7,000 to help cover their research project and travel expenses to the 59th ASH Annual Meeting in December, where they will present their research findings during a special session. In addition, each student is paired with two ASH mentors: a

research mentor who oversees the project and a career-development mentor who guides the participant throughout his or her MMSAP experience.

In addition to this honor, Leiva was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honors Society. He also received the Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship Award, and the American Society of Hematology 2016 Hematology Opportunities for the Next-Generation of Research Scientists (HONORS) award, also under the mentorship of Ravid.

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BMC

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this growing season, most of which is going directly to BMC patients.

Close to 1,800 pounds of crops were harvested from the rooftop farm in June alone. BMC's Preventive Food Pantry received more than 960 pounds of the first yield, and the hospital's kitchens received 830 pounds, ensuring the food is widely distributed to cafeterias across campus and that it is used in patients' meals. Programs through BMC's Demonstration Kitchen have also given the BMC community opportunities to visit the rooftop farm and learn about cooking with fresh, seasonal ingredients. Later-season crops such as tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, summer squash, and peppers will be ready for harvest in mid-to-late July.

"Boston Medical Center provides outstanding medical care to patients every day, but we also know that the building blocks to healthy and happy lives include the food we eat," said Kate Walsh, president and CEO of BMC. "This rooftop farm will provide nutritious food to our patients, and it shows BMC's commitment to health and the environment."

"The goal with our rooftop farm is to provide fresh, local produce to as many of our patients, employees, and community members as possible," said David Maffeo, BMC's senior director of support services. "This initiative supports our mission to address social determinants of health by improving access to healthy fruits and vegetables, and it

is a perfect example of BMC's dedication to sustainability and green efforts."

The brainchild of Maffeo and Robert Biggio, senior vice president of facilities and support services, with the support of BMC's Office of Development, the rooftop farm project was a year and a half in the making. Maffeo worked with Lindsay Allen and John Stoddard of Higher Ground Farm to find a rooftop and growing system that would work best for BMC's needs. The farm was designed and installed by Somerville-based, Recover Green Roofs, and Higher Ground Farm is managing the growing. Allen, who is serving as BMC's first farm manager, also completed a light study of the rooftop to determine the feasibility of growing crops in the space.

"I think one of the other important 'harvests' from the farm is the knowledge exchange that will happen around health and local food in relationship to the farm," said Allen. "We are what we eat, so the more people we can provide healthy, nutrient dense food to, the healthier our communities will be."

According to Stoddard, founder of Higher Ground Farm, rooftop farms function similarly to ground level farms and generally can accommodate the same crops as other farms. The main constraints on a rooftop are soil depth, wind, and access – you cannot simply drive a truck right up to the farm for a compost delivery.

Two urban beehives, painted to be bright and colorful by BMC's pediatric patients, were installed on the rooftop in early June. Tours, volunteer opportunities for employees, and programs through the Demonstration

Kitchen for patients have allowed dozens of other individuals to get hands-on experience on the farm.

The rooftop farm reduces BMC's carbon footprint by increasing green space, adding carbon-breathing plants, and reducing the building's energy use. The farm absorbs and slows the flow of rainwater, which helps address the issue of "combined sewer overflows," a common urban problem where storm water combines with sewage in periods of high rainfall and pollutes waterways. In addition, by producing food onsite, BMC is decreasing the energy required to transport food.

The rooftop farm is only the latest green step BMC has taken. As part of a clinical campus redesign, BMC is cutting emissions by 50 percent, and last fall, the hospital announced a solar power purchase agreement with MIT and the Post Office Square Redevelopment Corporation. The solar purchase is equivalent to 100 percent of BMC's projected electricity consumption, making BMC the greenest hospital in Boston and on pace to become the first carbon-neutral hospital in New England upon completion of the campus redesign in 2018.

Becker's Hospital Review has named BMC one of the 50 greenest hospitals in America, and BMC received three prestigious awards from Practice Greenhealth in 2017: the Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award, the highest honor Practice Greenhealth bestows on hospitals, as well as the Greening the OR Recognition Award and the Circle of Excellence award in the energy category.

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Publishers:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]

Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell [ext. 215]
sue.southendnews@gmail.com

Editorial Design Manager:

Daniel J. Raps
danielj.raps@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

C.D. Hermelin
Michele D. Maniscalco
Jack Maypole, MD
Dog Lady

Display Advertising:

Jeff Coakley [ext. 202]
jcoakley@southendnews.com

Classified Advertising:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Letters to the editor:

letters@southendnews.com

Calendar listings:

sencalendar@southendnews.com

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PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

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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 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com



Photo by Matt Morris, Boston Medical Center

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Resources

Neponset River Fest

What: Celebrate Summer at the Neponset RiverFest! The RiverFest is a free, family-friendly, public event. All are welcome. Bring a blanket and a picnic, and spend the day! Entrance to the park is on Hilltop St. near Granite Ave. Try out a kayak or canoe on the Neponset River, explore a tide pool with the New England Aquarium, listen to great music, create art, and more.

When: Saturday, July 22nd from 10 am-2 pm
Where: DCR Neponset Park, Dorchester

Kroc Field Movie Night

What: Enjoy field games, activities, and a family movie on turf field and huge inflatable screen. Food and ice cream trucks on location. Free and open to the public.

When: July 21st and August 25th, 2017 7:30-10PM
Where: The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center; 650 Dudley Street Dorchester, MA 02125 <http://bostonkroc.salvationarmy.org/>

Wellness Warrior Yoga in Franklin Park

What: Outdoor Yoga series under the trees on School Master Hill. Bring water, wear comfortable clothes, invite friends and the entire family. In the event of rain, classes will be cancelled; please check Linda Wellness Warrior's Facebook page for notices-posted by 9pm the night before for morning classes. All levels welcome.

When: Every Saturday through September 16 from 9 am-12 pm, next class Saturday, Jul 22nd 2017
Where: Franklin Park, School Master Hill Circuit Dr Boston, MA 02130
More Info: Please email Contact@lindawellnesswarrior.com

Salsa in the Park

What: Fun, free and family friendly outdoor dancing experience to promote health and wellness! Performances, health information, music corner, social dancing and more! Kerry Thompson, a DeafBlind dancer herself, of Silent Rhythms Boston will also teach Salsa in American Sign Language (ASL) to those who are deaf/hard of Hearing and/or blind!

When: Every Monday through August 28th 6 pm-9 pm next Salsa in the Park will be held Monday, July 24th
Where: Blackstone Community Center Courtyard 50 W Brookline Street Boston, MA 02118
More Info: Please visit website

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The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Union Capital Boston Network nights and Table Talks

What: Network Nights, first developed by Bill Traynor at Lawrence Community Works, are described as, "The place where we meet and greet, have the conversations we want to have, and exchange wisdom and favors." Network Night includes a 20-25 minute breakout session called "Table Talks". It is an opportunity for people to host conversations about things they want to talk about in the moment. The emphasis is that these are just short conversations and don't have to lead to a new program or action. If people find that there are some natural next steps then they can and should stay connected to each other. There will be a 50/50 raffle, dinner and childcare for children ages 3-10 will be provided.

When and Where: June 22 and 29; July 13 and 27; August 10 and 17; From 5:30-7:30pm at Urban Edge (1542 Columbus Ave)
When and Where: July 21, August 4 and 18 from 6-8pm at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (20 Maverick Square)
More Info: Please visit this website for more specific dates/time and to register

Housing Search Workshop

What: This workshop offers information and answers about how to conduct a successful housing search, including learning how to communicate with housing authorities, agencies, and landlords.

When: First and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Where: 60 Temple Place, Floor 5, Boston, MA 02111
More Info: Call 617-338-6665 or visit the website <http://bostoncil.org/contact/> for any questions

Immigration Consultants with Volunteer Attorneys

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When: The first and third Wednesdays of every month from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Where: Boston City Hall, Room 806
More Info: Please call 617-635-2980 or visit Boston's City Calendar here.

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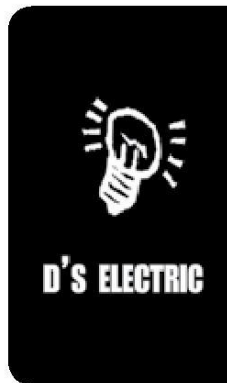
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