

Read, Play cards, Call your friends, Clean out your closet, Play Video Games, Watch Movies, Nap, Play with your pet, Reorganize your desk, Cook, Sleep, Play Music, Dance in your underwear, Learn the words to your favorite song, Video chat with friends, Do nothing but...

STAY HOME

SAVING LIVES HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

Helping the poor and homeless in the time of COVID-19

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Under Monday's executive order from Governor Charlie Baker, non-essential businesses were ordered closed and Bay State residents were urged to stay at home. Grocery stores have limited hours and big-box stores have reduced staff on the sales floors.

Social distancing of at least 6

feet from other people is the rule. All well and good for those who have homes, but what becomes of those who don't have stable housing and a living wage?

The South End News approached the neighborhood's shelters, including Pine Street Inn (PSI) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)-run Woods Mullin and Southampton Street

shelters as well as service providers such as Project Place, Rosie's Place, the Women's Lunch Place, the Salvation Army, and Boston Health Care for the Homeless (BHCH). Some organizations did not respond by press time.

PSI, the largest homeless-services provider in New England, provides emergency shelter, permanent housing, and meals to over

2,000 people per day. Given the dormitory-style accommodations in the shelter and the fact that guests vary in physical health and mental health, it is a challenge to maintain a safe social distance and to ensure prescribed hygiene practices among guests.

According to vice president of marketing and communications Barbara Trevisan, PSI is continuing

as many of its services as is safely possible with practical modifications such as screening guests with assistance from BHCH before they enter the shelter each night, and guests showing symptoms of COVID-19 are referred to another location for quarantine.

Once admitted, guests are

Continued on page 2

Online

Check us out online at
www.mysouthend.com
twitter.com/SouthEndNews
facebook.com/SouthEndNews

Online

Homeless

Continued from page 1

assigned to the same bed each night, and the beds are surrounded by plastic barriers to create separate spaces. Guests are also receiving guidance and reminders about proper handwashing and hygiene to prevent virus spread. Meals are being served in shifts to smaller groups to keep guests at a distance, and the dining area is cleaned in between shifts and volunteer activities and food donations are suspended until further notice.

The usual cleaning routine has been ramped up to prevent the spread of infection, with cleaning contractors doing frequent deep-cleaning, particularly in "high-touch" areas. PSI president and executive director Lyndia Downie commented, "This is an unprecedented health threat and we are greatly concerned about our community. We continue to put precautionary measures in place, working closely with public health partners as we take action to keep our staff, guests and tenants safe."

Rosie's Place, which provides a wide range of housing, educational and vocational training, health, nutrition and activities to poor and homeless women, has also restructured its services to meet the COVID-19 restrictions. Rosie's Place director of communications Michele Chausse said that while Rosie's does not keep a strict head count of guests it serves each day, the number of guests showing up seems to be lower than usual, and most are homeless.

Guests are guided to wash their hands upon entry and before and after meals, and high-touch areas are cleaned frequently throughout service hours. Rosie's Place offers meals and a food pantry, both of which are being distributed on a take-out basis, and guests in the facility are asked to keep six feet apart from other guests. Guests with a cough are given a face mask, and guests with a fever are referred to BHCH.

Under the current restrictions, guests are not being seen with their children. Chausse summarized, "Generally, we are committed to giving our guests the services they need while being creative in everything we do. We want to continue our core programs while keeping folks safe."



Empty highways of Boston due to COVID-19. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

The Salvation Army facility at 1500 Washington Street has moved all of its food distribution, both meals and food pantry packages, outside the building to avoid contact, and only essential staff are permitted inside the

building as of Friday, March 20, according to Major Kimberly Smith.

Food pantry packages are being distributed by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with emergency provisions provided as

needed on Wednesdays. Smith said that the facility is being cleaned frequently and staff wear gloves and are complying with prescribed

Continued on page 3

Need Tech Support House Calls?

www.PersonalTechBoston.com

Email: PersonalTechConsulting@GMail.com

Call Or Text: 617-733-6141. \$75/hr

**Service Guide Ads
Get Results**

For more information please call:
617.464.7280

| | |
|---|---|
| CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §§5-304 | Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU20P0494GD |
| In the matter of: Teresa Wzatkins Of: Boston, MA | RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated 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 alleging that Teresa Watkins is in need of a Guardian and requesting that AdvoGuard Inc. of Rockland, MA (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 PO Box 9667 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 04/09/2020. 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: March 12, 2020 Terri Klug Caffazzo, Register of Probate | |

| | |
|--|---|
| INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE | Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court |
| In the Estate of: Kevin P. Martin Also Known as: Kevin P. Martin, Sr. Date of Death: September 10, 2019 | Docket No. SU192P2848EA |
| To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Claire M. Martin of Boston MA, a will has been admitted to informal probate. Claire M. Martin 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. | |

Homeless

Continued from page 2

COVID-19 preventive measures provided by state and local officials. In terms of the number of clients showing up for food, Smith observed, "As of late February, we had seen a decrease; however, over the last week, we have seen an increase. We suspect the number of clients is the same, yet people are fearful and cautious to come and receive the services."

Clients are being asked not to bring their children when they come to food distribution. Smith added, "We are limiting contact to try to have zero contact, which is the opposite approach we normally take."

Project Place is continuing its mission of offering low-income and homeless residents education and job skills and job search training by switching from in-person to on-line sessions and lessons. Project Place director of development Katy Dirks reported that staff are calling and emailing current and former clients several times a week to support their work searches, and staff and volunteers are conducting mock interviews with clients by phone.

Project Place Enterprises participants were offered two weeks of paid leave from their job placements during the virus restrictions, although some who prefer to continue working on-site are doing so in sites where they can maintain the prescribed social distance. Dirks spoke proudly of Project Place's recent efforts to give participants without access to smartphones or a tablet, such as providing donated Chromebooks and "learning bags", backpacks containing materials on resumé

writing and job search skills, and self-care tips such as managing stress.

In the Work Ready class, most students are using Google Classroom, with three doing lessons on paper, while PP is continuing to enroll new students. Dirks shared a March 20 comment from a participant that read, "I wanted to thank you for your support through this hard time. Project Place has been one of the most useful resources I've ever had in my life. Project Place helps me so much in good times and in bad. And for that I wanted to say thank you because I don't know if I could do any of this without your help. Even though the facility has been shut down, you have found a way to continue to work with us from home and stay connected. Thank you for checking in on me and answering all of my questions. Even though we aren't physically at Project Place, the amount of support and communication is the same. That is something I was scared of not being consistent in the beginning, but was proven wrong. So thank you once again, Victoria, and thank you Project Place."

In a telephone interview, Project Place executive director, Suzanne Kenney talked about the Coalition for Homeless Individuals (CHI), a coalition of 40 organizations that came together about five years ago to preserve funding in the state budget line item for support to homeless individuals as opposed to families, and the support the state has been providing to CHI in the current crisis. CHI, which began with a core group of 6 or 7 organizations including Project Place, St. Francis House, PSI and others, has been having weekly conference calls including representatives of all 40 CHI



Changing operating hours of Boston businesses due to COVID-19. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

members with officials from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and other state agencies to discuss how to adapt programming to the COVID-19 guidelines and the needs of the homeless service providers.

Kenney said, "Lyndia, Barry Boch from

[BHCH], Karen LaFrazia from St. Francis House and I initiated CHI because the needs of homeless individuals across the state are pretty diverse. Clients of Project Place are trying to get a job to support themselves and their families. We are all part of a continuum to help people transition out of homelessness."



Where will you live until you can call this 'Home' again? Your association policy won't cover your additional living expenses. Condo owners NEED Personal Condominium Insurance for that. Aside from replacing your personal property, it will help you with rent, while you're still paying your mortgage. Contact us.

JJBodner
Insurance Agency of Boston

617-437-9400 • www.jjbodner.com • 8 Clarendon St. Boston

Discover something delicious

Victory Programs
dinnerfest
auCTION
presented by *Walgreens*

Thursday, April 30
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Boston College Club

Dinnerfest Auction proceeds support vital services that help people overcome substance use disorder, homelessness, and/or chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS.

Tickets: give.vpi.org/DinnerfestAuction2020

COVID-19

What you need to know

SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

On Monday, March 23, Governor Baker issued an emergency order requiring all employers that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers, and the public from Tuesday, March 24, at 12 p.m. (noon) until Tuesday, April 7 at noon. Exempt industries include: healthcare, public safety, groceries and take-out restaurants, utilities and infrastructure, and other essential services. The Order also limits gatherings to 10 people during the state of emergency, a reduction from the 25-person limit established in an earlier order.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is issuing a two-week stay-at-home advisory outlining self-isolation and social distancing protocols. Pharmacies, grocery stores, restaurant take-out and delivery, and

parks will remain open for passive activities (no groups or sports).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- All City of Boston playgrounds and tot lots have been temporarily closed. Parks will remain open for passive use, but we encourage everyone to practice social distancing while enjoying nature. Maintenance in our parks will continue.

- All Boston Public Schools are closed from March 17 through April 27. Read the press release. With schools closed to students, the City will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all Boston students. View a map of meal sites for children and youth.

- All Boston Public Library locations are closed until further notice.

- All Boston Centers for Youth & Families pools, gyms, and fitness centers are closed. By this Wednesday, March 18, all BCYF

programming will be suspended. Only select BCYF centers will be open for youth meal distribution during school closures.

- Starting on March 17, the City is suspending all regular activity at construction sites in Boston.

- Starting on March 17, the MBTA is reducing its services. Visit the MBTA website for more details.

- Governor Baker issued an emergency order limiting gatherings to 25 people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants, beginning on March 17 and effective through April 5. The Governor's order will be in effect in Boston beginning March 17. Read the City of Boston Licensing Board advisory.

- The 2020 Boston Marathon has been postponed until Monday, September 14, 2020. For more information, please visit the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) website.

Crime

Firearm Recovered During Traffic Stop in the South End

SUBMITTED BY BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

One Less Gun: At about 1:48 AM on Sunday, March 15, 2020, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) made two onsite arrests and recovered a loaded firearm in the area of 599 Harrison Avenue in the South End.

While on patrol in the area of the aforementioned location, officers observed a motor vehicle operating without the headlights illuminated. Officers activated their emergency equipment and conducted a traffic stop in

the area of 599 Harrison Avenue. Officers approached the vehicle and spoke to the operator and the rear passenger, the front passenger seat remained unoccupied. The operator stated to officers that he did not possess a valid license to operate the vehicle.

Both occupants were removed from the vehicle, and officers subsequently recovered a black Beretta BU9 firearm loaded with seven rounds of live ammunition, located underneath the front passenger's seat. Further

investigation led officers to discover the firearm had been reported stolen out of Pennsylvania. Both occupants were taken into custody.

Officers arrested the operator and the rear passenger. Both are expected to be arraigned in Boston Municipal Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Loaded Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, and Receiving Stolen Property.



ASK DOG LADY

Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

Have you written on the matter of "comfort dogs" in no-pet buildings (condos and rental apartments)? I have letters from my doctors supporting my need for such a dog because of my medical condition (atrial fibrillation). However, I expect push back from some Board members even though we have had three comfort dogs in the condo thus far. There is much literature on the subject and

growing. I would like as much documentation on the subject presented upfront when I make my case. I very much enjoy your column and value your comments.

—Robert

Dear Robert,

You refer to "comfort dogs," which are technically known as "emotional support animals." These are not "service dogs," specifically trained animals that assist people with disabilities. Service dogs enjoy rights under the law; emotional therapy dogs do not. Still, there are accommodations made for emotional therapy pets in pet-less housing with the proper certification. You are doing the right thing by getting letters from your doctor; you should also check out the *American Journal of Cardiology*, which conducted a study showing how pets are linked to the heart's ability to handle stress. This article would be an important document to show the condo Board considering your own heart condition.

Pro-actively work with the condo's Board

to determine what type of dog (large or small; breed or mixed) is preferable. Let them know you take this very seriously. Continue to do research. There's plenty to read about "emotional therapy dogs" on the Internet. Finally, you must assure the Board members you will responsibly care for the animal. Make it easy for them to embrace your emotional and healthy needs to live with a pet.

Dear Dog Lady,

We adopted an eight-month-old yellow Labrador retriever from a nice family after the young daughter became allergic. Our Lab liked to nibble and bite my hand, arm, and would tug on my shirts or pant legs. So when I was playing with him I put on junky clothes.

His biting was always gentle and really did not hurt. He finally got over it and turned into a great friend. "Lori," the reader who complained to you about her nipping dog, should just play with the pup and, as you said, keep a

Continued on page 7

40 / 39

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:

Michele D. Maniscalco
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

© 2020 South End News Inc.
PO BOX E.14,
Boston, MA 02127
(617) 464-7280; FAX (617) 464-7286

The South End News is a copyrighted publication. Any stories or photos contained herein may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of the publisher. The South End News will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy. South End News is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors, except for the cost of replacing ads that have typographical errors caused by our negligence.

www.southendnews.com

Facebook.com/SouthEndNews

South End News is published every Thursday.



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 E.14, Boston, MA 02127; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Obituary

Remembering Vin McCarthy, political trailblazer

BY SUE O'CONNELL

Vincent “Vin” McCarthy was a news reporter’s dream: a well-connected and loquacious source who was reliable and endlessly quotable. But reporters had to work for the information they needed, as it often came couched in multiple digressions, anecdotes, and monologues punctuated by his bursts of laughter. McCarthy was a great storyteller—especially when he was the subject of said story.

This 1999 Bay Windows interview, for instance, perfectly encapsulates what McCarthy was all about, as the attorney and long-time activist sounded off on a host of experiences, such as the confusion that ensued when a right-wing attorney, also named Vincent McCarthy, surfaced to challenge Boston’s domestic partner ordinance. “He thinks he’s doing God’s work and I know that I’m doing God’s work—the liberation of gay people is one of the great works of God in the 20th century and it cannot be stopped,” said McCarthy.

Then he discussed his ill-fated marriage to a woman: “When we met each other on our first date we had eight or nine scotch and sodas apiece. She talked about being a tomboy and I talked about being a sissy...It was love at first sight.”

From there, McCarthy turned to his “life after life experience” on a hospital operating table in 1975: “I was in this black box with a white light and I went, ‘Fuck this, I don’t want to die yet,’ and I sat up on the table and I started talking.”

He also opened up about his then-current battle with Barrett’s Esophagus, which is often a precursor to esophageal cancer. “The nature of this malady that I am currently dealing with is that I could be dead within 12 months. The other side is that it is more than likely that I will beat it. But if I beat it, I will be one of the few who beat it.”

But McCarthy’s most revealing comment was his certainty about one side effect of his illness: “Something will come out



Vic McCarthy

of this crisis. Something good will come out of it.”

Indeed, the throughline of McCarthy’s life was channeling hard life lessons and challenges into activism and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable people. As a result, he left a long and admirable legacy of social justice work when he passed away

Jan. 29 at age 79.

After presidential candidate Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, McCarthy, who managed Kennedy’s campaign

Continued on page 7

SERVICE GUIDE

ELECTRICAL



PROVIDING QUALITY
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
to the BOSTON AREA

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FREE ESTIMATES
24 HOUR SERVICE

Dedicated to Customer Service since 1971

617.542.2000
www.ds-electric.com

Mass License #14580A

CLEANING

Spring Cleaning

For All Seasons

- Trustworthy cleaning services to meet your needs
- Houses, apartments and commercial
- Schedule that works best for you, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
- All routine housework, plus special clean-up jobs
- Owner supervised cleaning crew and ensures quality
- Excellent references and competitive rates



Cleaning by Judy
617-895-7472

Animals make People better!



Office Hours By
Appointment
Mon. - Sat.

The Charles Street
Animal Clinic
158 Charles Street
617-227-0153

South Bay
Veterinary Group
587 Tremont Street
617-266-6619

Get local and advertise your property in the *South End News*.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com

SERVICE GUIDE

CONSTRUCTION • GENERAL • REMODELING

The Dependable Handyman

FINE PAINTING AND REFINISHING
SMALL REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS
DECK AND GARDEN WORK

Call Jean at 617-236-1795
dependablehandy@aol.com

ROOFING



McDonnell Roofing, Co. Roofing Specialist

Fully Insured
Slate and Copper Work - Rubber Roof Systems
Shingles and Gutters - Repairs - Lic. Contractor Reg. #100100

617-288-3448

Free Estimates • Over 40 years of experience
McDonnellRoofingBoston.com

MASONRY



P. Stones Contracting, Inc.

Specializing in Historic Restoration,
Brick Repointing, Brick, Block, Stone,
Basement Floors, Caulking & Waterproofing.

Ornamental window sills, window headers and moldings,
Fully Licensed and Insured, 15 years of satisfied customers and referrals.

Office: 781-848-6922 • Fax: 781-848-6923

Cell: 617-592-0850 • pstonescontracting@hotmail.com

CONSTRUCTION • GENERAL • REMODELING

BRUNO GUERRIERO CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Water Proofing Solutions
Basements • Facades • Chimneys



Mention
this ad
Get 10% off!

COMPLETE MASON CONTRACTOR
Custom Brick, Stone Work
& Brick Pavers
ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS
AND RESTORATIONS

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE
YOUR BASEMENT
RESTORATIONS &
RECEIVE ADDITIONAL
5% DISCOUNT

Brownstone Repair • Stairs Restored • Sea Walls • Storm Damage

BrunoGuerrieroConstruction.com • brunoguerriero10@gmail.com

HIC REG# 299196 FULLY INSURED (800) 444-5476 • Bruno's Cell (508) 962-2722 FREE ESTIMATES

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL

THURSDAY FOR

THE NEXT ISSUE OF

THE

SOUTH END

News?

HEAD OVER TO

SOUTHENDNEWS.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

PARKING

ROLLINS SQUARE GARAGE SPACE

End spot so a car on just one side, the other side opens to the curb. Fits a full-size car easily. The spot is just across from the exit to the street as well as the elevator. \$140,000. Ted Cormay 617.290.9630

CLASSIFIED RATES

Weekly: \$8 for the first line,
\$3 for each additional line.

22 Characters per Line.
All ads appear in print and online.
All ads must be prepaid.

Deadline: Mondays at 3pm

PLACE YOUR AD:

classifiedads@southendnews.com

617-464-7280*

*Available Monday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm.

South End News accepts no liability for its failure, for any reason, to print an advertisement or for any errors appearing, beyond the cost of the advertisement. Sorry, no refunds on classified advertisements.

Use the **South End News** Classifieds
to find your...

...amazing apartment, Cape Cod cottage, marvelous
massages, super sleeper sofa, dedicated dog walker....

BUY AND SELL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

617.464.7280

classifiedads@southendnews.com

Living Through This Moment Together

REV. IRENE MONROE

In a responsible response to the coronavirus outbreak, also known as COVID-19, church and worship services across the globe are canceled. Traditional Bible study has gone online. Sermons are watched on Zoom, and old videos of singing church choirs have popped up in my inbox. Our global engagement with one another right now is social distancing while staying connected, revealing our acts of spiritual communion.

This pandemic doesn't call for pandemonium, petty divisions, political wrangling, or panic buying. We are all in this together! Our collective concern should be about saving lives and not the momentary upending of our lifestyles.

This global crisis highlights how we are bound in shared humanity. And as such, we are to take seriously medical historian and epidemic expert Howard Markel advise: "Coronavirus is a socially transmitted disease, and we all have a social contract to stop it. What binds us is a microbe — but it also has the power to separate us. We're a very small community, whether we acknowledge it or not, and this proves it. The time to act like a community is now."

The act of an inclusive community is a difficult concept and lived reality to actualize. Markel's words that we should act like a community are heartfelt, particularly in this time

of polarization we witness on local, national, and international levels. This "us versus them" mentality infects places like even our churches that by their very essence and ethos means community.

For example, on March 15, I was invited to be the guest preacher at a United Methodist Church. However, I didn't preach because of COVID-19 warning to remain out of congregational settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintain distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters). For months the senior pastor and I had been finalizing plans for me to come out to preach and celebrate with the church its upcoming 15th anniversary as a Reconciling Congregation in March. UMC Reconciling Congregations welcome people of all gender expressions and sexual orientations. In his letter inviting me he wrote the following:

"Given the proximity of this year's observance to the next UMC General Conference vote re: LGBTQ legislation in May 2020, it is important to us to invite a preacher who will encourage us during a tumultuous time in our relationship with our global connection and, to be honest, in our congregation's own internal connections."

Just minutes after our phone call ended, my smartphone flashed the Associated Press headline: "Methodists propose split in gay marriage, clergy impasse."

I let out a long sigh of despair, thinking, why are we LGBTQ+ people of faith loving a

church that doesn't love us. On March 15, I looked forward to delivering a homily about healing our "isms."

The proposed schism to be voted on in May at the General Conference in Minneapolis would divide the nation's third-largest denomination worldwide. While the current UMC will allow LGBTQ marriages and clergy, the impending split will create a new "traditionalist Methodist" denomination, allowing outright discrimination and denunciation of LGBTQ people in the name of God.

"The best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person," the proposal, "PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION" stated.

In the sermon I didn't preach, I wanted to convey that it is not enough just to look outside ourselves to see the places where society is broken. It is not enough to talk about institutions, churches, and workplaces that fracture and separate people based on race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, and not see these prejudices and bigoted acts in ourselves. We cannot heal the world if we have not healed ourselves. So perhaps the most significant task, and the most challenging work we must do first — is to heal ourselves. And this work must be done in relationship with our justice work out in the world. This pandemic

we are experiencing shouldn't divide us as a community, a nation or a world.

In Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," he was struggling to change a nation. King was disheartened to receive criticism from clergy he considered to be his colleagues and on the battlefield toward justice with him. However, King understood the interconnectedness of human life and the intersectionality of oppressions. His worldview of a global community resounds in these words:

"In a real sense all life is interrelated. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the inter-related structure of reality."

Let us be united in this struggle together to not only heal ourselves of our indifference toward one another but to also heal a world fighting to save its life.

We have never been where we are today as a nation, from natural disasters to terrorist attacks, hate crimes and unmentionable acts of violence, to now a health pandemic.

In honoring the sanctity of all human life, let's care for ourselves and each other.

McCarthy

Continued from page 5

in Massachusetts, was among a group of supporters who funneled their grief into founding the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corp., an organization dedicated to uplifting disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

When McCarthy entered recovery from alcoholism in the early 1970s, he started doing pro-bono legal work for the newly-opened homeless shelter Pine Street Inn — the beginning of a near-50-year tenure of service to, and

support of the organization and its mission. "Vin, in particular, really understood what life was like for guests," Pine Street Inn Executive Director Lyndia Downie told the Boston Globe last month. "He never let us forget what it was like for people to come in and have that sense of your life going (sour)."

As a partner at the prestigious firm Hale and Dorr (now known as WilmerHale) in the early 1980s, McCarthy, who grew up in Brighton and graduated from Harvard Law School, did the unthinkable: he came out publicly as a gay man. Not surprisingly, he then turned his attention to gay rights advocacy, becoming

a co-founder and early board member of the Human Rights Campaign, a co-founder of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, chair of the first-in-the-nation Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth under Gov. William Weld, and a member of Harvard AIDS Institute's (HAI) International Advisory Council, among many other contributions to our community. McCarthy maintained a close friendship and co-parenting relationship with ex-wife Mary Crosby for the remainder of his life; they were jointly honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards for their community service by the Family Pride Coalition (now

the Family Equality Council) in 2004.

As the coronavirus pandemic tests our societal bonds, I've thought a lot about McCarthy's unwavering belief that good things could arise from a crisis. He knew it was true because he continually worked to make it so. What a wonderful lesson for us all in these trying times.

Rest in peace, Vin McCarthy.

Dog Lady

Continued from page 4

favorite chewy close for substitution. Her dog nibbles at her because the dog considers her the "mom." My dog stopped nibbling at me when he was around 18-months-old. We also

took him for 12 weeks of training which was great for all of us.

— Bill

Dear Bill,

Your feedback provides sweet evidence that annoying puppy behaviors cease and desist with training and aging. Your Lab grew up. So

did you. Bravo for taking your pup to training classes and for realizing the exercises helped you as much as your dog.

You remind us of the importance of patience when dealing with a young dog. You also remind us to keep an elastic outlook and junky clothes. Nobody can expect the new dog to be perfect.

But you hope the new dog becomes the perfect dog for you and your family.

Write: askdoglady@gmail.com.

Get local and advertise
your property in
the *South End News*.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202
or email: sales@southendnews.com.

TWO SOUTH END LOCATIONS

House of Siam



Open for Lunch & Dinner
Come Experience our Beautiful Dining Room and the
Freshest Thai Cuisine in Boston

592 Tremont St. (near Dartmouth Street)

Take out is available from 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily

617.267.7426

542 Columbus Avenue

617.267.1755

