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(Additional Photos on Page 6)

Stirpe

Nostra

A weekly column highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of our ancestry...our lineage...our roots.

by Prof. Edmund Turiello



APHRODISIACS, ETC.



In this day and age, we often jest about certain aphrodisiacs or sexual stimulants. For some unknown reason, discussions of this nature always seem to center around the poor little raw oyster.

The ancients didn’t mess around with mere child’s play, they used the oyster to settle the stomach, restore lost appetite, and as a gentle laxative. When boiled with honey it was used to cure “tenesmus” (the inability to urinate). Vapors from steamed oysters were inhaled to help slow down running colds. Reduced to ash and mixed with honey, they were used to relieve irritation of the tonsils; when the ash was mixed with water it was used to cure sores on the head, or to smooth the skin of women, and when mixed with vinegar, it cured the itch. These dear ancients finally got around to eating the oyster raw, but they consumed it chopped, to cure chilblains on the feet.

For their aphrodisiacs, the old-timers used the salted flesh of river snails, or the dried and powdered testicles of a horse and these were taken in wine.

Whether by design or by coincidence, the donkey or ass did not escape attention during these times because its right testicle was usually worn as a bracelet. Probably their most exotic prescription was to plunge the genital organ of an ass into hot oil seven times and then rub it over certain relevant parts.

The ultimate or “piece de resistance” was to reduce that organ to ash and consume it in wine (this also gave you a good attack of agita). Needless to say, none of this made the poor donkey very happy. Timid persons and those with weak stomachs resorted to a special salve made from mouse dung. I guess it just boils down to whatever turns you on.

The Greek philosopher Democritus disapproved of all these shenanigans, and claimed that they were mere acts whereby one human being sprang from another. The more virile of the ancients did claim, however, that it enabled sluggish athletes to regain their vitality, cure pains in the loins, dullness of vision, unsoundness of mind, melancholia, snake bites, scorpion stings, and helped to clear husky voices. Ahem ... ahem ... ahem ...

NEXT ISSUE: *More Pearls from the Past*



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W

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NEAA Donates to NEMPAC

Robert “Ted” Tomasone, Chairman of the North End Athletic Association (NEAA), presents a donation to Sherri Snow, Executive Director of the North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC).

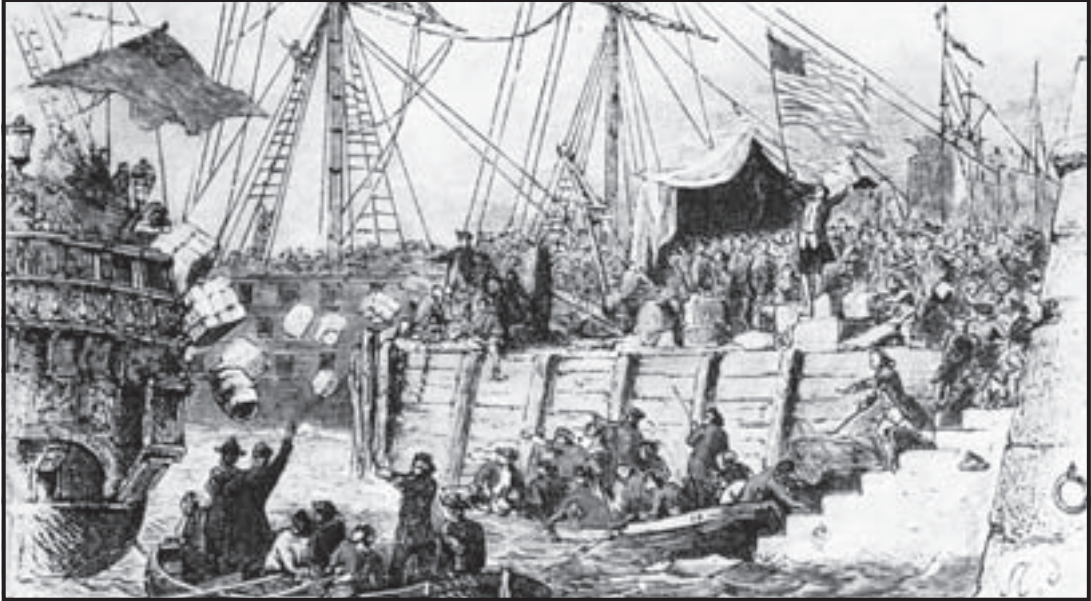
The NEAA was founded over 50 years ago and continues to promote athletic, social and civic events and tournaments free of charge for North End and Boston area youths.

Through the generosity of the NEAA, many local children are able to participate in the various NEMPAC musical education and performing arts programs.



Boston Tea Party

Anniversary



The Boston Tea Party

was organized by the Sons of Liberty

250 years ago in our Historical North End!

There will be a Lecture by Historian Anthony Sammarco

sponsored by North End Historical Society

Tea: A Medley of History, Anecdotes and Stories

“The most magnificent movement of all”

(John Adams)

Celebrate Our Commemorative Year with Us!

250th Anniversary (December 16, 1773)

on Wednesday, January 10, 2024

at 6:00 PM

North End Public Library

25 Parmenter Street, North End, Boston

This lecture on tea is a fascinating look at how tea has been enjoyed over the centuries, from its origins in China and India as the Camellia sinensis — an evergreen growing primarily in tropical and sub-tropical climates — to its adoption by Britain and its colonies in the eighteenth century as the drink of choice.

Once the drink of choice in Britain and its colonies, it even was once part of the Boston Tea Party on **December 16 in 1773** that led up to the American Revolution.

# POST-GAZETTE

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**OUR POLICY:** *To help preserve the ideals and sacred traditions of this our adopted country the United States of America: To revere its laws and inspire others to respect and obey them: To strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty: In all ways to aid in making this country greater and better than we found it.*

## In Loving Memory of



### Linda Cole Petrosian

6th Year Anniversary

May 26, 1960 - January 2, 2018

We miss you everyday  
We think of you everyday and  
miss your wonderful smile & laugh.  
Always caring and how you touched so many lives.

Now with the  
**"Our Girl Linda Foundation"**  
we are able to keep your memory alive  
In helping so many.  
A bright & beautiful light still  
shines bright thinking of you.  
Love your husband Sebu,  
Dimitri, Kristen & Celine Linda, Alec,  
Mom, Sandra, Milan & Sam, Nancy  
the entire Petrosian and Cellucci family

## LETTERS POLICY

The Post-Gazette invites its readers to submit Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must include the writer's name, address, and telephone number. Anonymous letters are not accepted for publication.
- Due to space considerations, we request that letters not exceed two double-spaced, type-written pages.
- This newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and taste and to limit the number of letters published from any one person or organization.
- Deadline for submission is 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the Friday on which the writer wishes to have the material published. Submission by the deadline does not guarantee publication.

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,  
The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

## In Loving Memory of Maria Catherine "Mary" Simboli

February 23, 1930 - December 25, 2023

Mary, a cherished presence in our lives, peacefully passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2023. She was born on February 23, 1930, in Gloversville, New York, to the late John and Louisa Franco of Naples, Italy, and was the youngest of their five children. In 1965, Mary and her dear husband Pat relocated to Beverly, Massachusetts, from Upstate New York.

An engaged member of Saint John the Evangelist Church in Beverly, Mary actively participated in the Ladies Sodality and Youth Group, and also served as a Eucharistic Minister. Her love for literature and the serene ambiance of her home and gardens brought her joy. Mary lived her life faithfully, embracing kindness and dedicating herself completely to her family, whom she held at the center of her world. Known for her warm hospitality, Mary welcomed everyone into her home, where the aromas of her exceptional cooking filled the air. Her extensive collection of recipes was generously shared with others. Family holidays, special celebrations, and countless memorable moments were a testament to Mary's love for creating joyous experiences. For over 45 years, Mary showcased her skills as the renowned Cake Decorator at Henry's Market in North Beverly. Her talent and passion left an indelible mark on the community.

Mary was predeceased by her husband of 55 years Patrick Simboli, daughters Mary Carney and Catherine Simboli, and her siblings Louis Franco, James Franco, Anna Salvione, and Sophie Caporossi. She is survived



by her daughter Louisa Simboli and husband Timothy Kimball, son Patrick Simboli and significant other Rhonda Zuill, grandson Joseph Carney and Brooke Michalski, grandson Nicholas Simboli, granddaughter Margaret Kimball, granddaughters Aja and Janelle Richardson, and great-grandson Cameron Carney. Mary's legacy lives on through the warmth she shared and the love she bestowed upon her family and friends. May she rest in eternal peace.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the Kaplan Family House of Danvers, Massachusetts, and the Care Dimensions nursing team for the exceptional care and compassion provided to both Mary and her husband Pat during the later stages of their lives. Their dedication and support brought comfort to Mary and Pat and solace to their loved ones during a challenging time. The family deeply appreciates the professionalism and kindness demonstrated by the staff, acknowledging their role in ensuring Mary and Pat's well-being and maintaining their dignity. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kaplan Family House of Danvers.

Mary's funeral mass will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church, 111 New Balch Street, Beverly, MA on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Visiting hours prior to the service will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at The Campbell Funeral Home, 525 Cabot Street, Beverly. Interment will be private at a later date.

## DCR and Greenbelt Announce Conservation Restriction on Lynn Woods, Permanently Protecting the Park from Development

*Gift of Conservation Restriction from the City of Lynn Ensures More Than 2,000 Acres of Land Will Remain Accessible to the Public for Recreation and Water Supply*



The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust (Greenbelt), today announced they have partnered to protect more than 2,000 acres of Lynn Woods, as part of a decades-long effort with the City of Lynn to permanently preserve the park and ensure it remains an important recreational resource for the region and a supplier of clean water for city residents. DCR and Greenbelt were gifted a conservation restriction on Lynn Woods Reservation by the City and the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission, who own and manage the land.

"At DCR, we have a tremendous opportunity to improve the health and happiness of our residents across Massachusetts by preserving access to beautiful parks around the state like Lynn Woods," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We are grateful to Mayor Nicholson, Greenbelt and the Friends of Lynn Woods for their partnership in ensuring this remarkable landscape is permanently protected from development and that it will serve as a source for recreation and clean water for the region for generations to come."

"Lynn Woods is a tremendous natural resource that is enjoyed year-round by our entire region and beyond," said Senator Brendan Crighton. "Thank you to DCR, Greenbelt, Essex County's Land Trust and the dedicated advocates, particularly the Friends of Lynn Woods, who fought tirelessly to protect this gem. Due to their efforts, Lynn Woods will continue to be a source of recreation and sustainability for generations to come."

"This will ensure that this incredible public resource will be protected for present and future generations," said Representative Peter Capano. "While progress and development are essential, we must also recognize the intrinsic value of Lynn Woods and the beauty that it contributes to our community," said Representative Dan Cahill. "I believe in striking a balance between growth and preservation. Restricting future development of our public lands is a commitment to safeguarding the natural splendor that defines our region and sustains the well-being of current and future generations."

"Lynn Woods is a treasure in our community, and we are committed to prioritizing preservation initiatives that support our outdoor recreation spaces," said City of Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson. "Permanently conserving the Woods ensures that this space will continue to be enjoyed for generations."

"What a wonderful place Lynn Woods is - a huge, green treasure for the residents of Lynn and all of us in the region! In addition to all the benefits of its walking trails and water supplies, Lynn Woods is nature's air conditioner for the neighborhoods of Lynn," said Kate Bowditch, president of Greenbelt. "Greenbelt's analysis has identified Lynn Woods as the most valuable 'urban cooling' property in all of Essex County,

(Continued on Page 10)

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

La Befana:  
A Feast of Stockings and King Cakes

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



If we were only to take a quick glance around us, the Christmas season appears to basically have finished. Scraggly trees stand forlornly next to dumpsters and dusty ornaments once again occupy shelf space in the closet. Dwindling leftovers and stale cookie crumbs speak of the great holiday feasts the previous week. However, according to both religious and folkloric calendars, we are still in the midst of the Christmas season! Christmas lasts for twelve days, up until January 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the feast of the Epiphany. In Italy, the Epiphany, or *la Epifania*, is a significant holiday with traditions that equal those of Christmas Eve. An ancient feast day, the Epiphany honors the visit of the Three Magi to Baby Jesus. On the eve of this holiday, Italian children excitedly head to sleep, knowing that in the morning they will find their stockings full of presents from *La Befana*, Italy’s premiere gift-bringer. Along with the arrival of *La Befana*, the Epiphany also ushers in the Carnival season, a joyous time of mischief which paves the way for spring. With its appealing imagery of magical witches and playful silliness, the Italian Epiphany bursts with unique and fascinating customs.

Nowadays, Italian children receive presents on Christmas from *Babbo Natale*, or Santa Claus. However, *La Befana* has still retained her status as Italy’s most famous folk figure and favorite gift-bringer. Who exactly, then, is this mysterious character? *La Befana*, whose name derives from a corruption

of the word “Epifania,” is a fairy-like witch who, like her male counterpart, drops presents in the stockings of good children while leaving behind coal for the naughty. She is typically depicted as an old woman in ragged clothes mounted on a broomstick. A well-known legend explains *La Befana*’s connection to the Biblical story of the Epiphany. According to this folktale, *La Befana* was sweeping her house when the Three Magi approached her, inviting her to accompany them on their way to find Baby Jesus. *La Befana* initially declined, saying she was too busy with her cleaning. However, she later changed her mind and hopped on her broomstick, flying through the sky in an effort to find the Magi. Unfortunately, she was never able to locate them, and still soars through the air with her broom to this day, depositing presents for children as she continues to search for Baby Jesus and the Magi. When I was a little girl, I was frightened of *La Befana*, whose stern and haggard countenance formed a sharp divide to the jolly and merry-faced Santa Claus. My apprehension was amplified by the haunting traditional melody my grandmother sang, which intoned: “*La Befana vien di notte/Con le scarpe tutte rotte/Col vestito a la Romana/Viva, viva La Befana!*” (Translation: “*La Befana comes at night/with her shoes all broken/Dressed in the Roman style/Long live La Befana!*”). However, I now love *La Befana* for her powerful symbolism of feminine strength and her unique sense of magic.

Many scholars believe that the figure of *La Befana* originated from old folk goddesses who oversaw the transition from winter to spring, which intensifies her cultural significance.

As a matter of fact, the Epiphany as a whole functions as a threshold to the arrival of spring. The winter solstice has already passed, and the hours of sunlight slowly lengthen. The sapphire-blue skies and golden sunsets of these mid-winter evenings instill in me an excitement over the turning of the yearly cycle. Though we can of course expect more months of snow and cold, the promise of spring now unfolds quietly before us. The Epiphany ends the Christmas season, as is evident in an Italian dictum which proclaims: “*La Epifania tutte le feste le porta via*” (“The Epiphany sweeps all the feasts away”). However, the Epiphany does introduce another season, that of Carnival. Carnival, the precursor to Lent and Easter, extends from the Epiphany to Mardi Gras, or the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. As such, Carnival serves as a spring festival, a herald to the still far-off feast of Easter. All over the world, people bake King Cakes on Twelfth Night, or the eve of the Epiphany. King Cakes are breads made specifically for the Epiphany and Carnival season, with variations differing worldwide. In France, King Cakes contain a flaky crust and an almond frangipane filling. Spanish King Cakes are adorned with candied fruit. Louisiana-style King Cakes are ring-shaped, with a cinnamon-sugar swirl inside and a colorful topping. I make this kind of King Cake every Twelfth Night, decorating it with the traditional Carnival colors of green, purple, and yellow. I follow the folk custom of hiding a chickpea inside the cake—whoever finds it will receive good luck in the coming year! With such a cheerful dessert promising good times ahead, the revelry of Carnival can officially begin!

Though the Twelve Days of Christmas are nearing their close, the celebrations do not have to end. The Epiphany provides us with ample ways to bring more festivity into our lives. We honor the arrival of *La Befana*, the magical witch who fills children’s stockings with presents under the cover of night, who symbolizes the ancient strength and power of women while also ushering the change of the seasons. We can celebrate Carnival, that long welcome to spring that fills our days with color and laughter. As the Christmas season yields its way to the bright new days of January, we should always maintain our childlike wonder and our love for the magic and mysteries of Mother Earth inside us. So let us get ready for *La Befana*, for she lights our path to a joyful season of hope and promise!

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at [adicenso89@gmail.com](mailto:adicenso89@gmail.com).

THINKING  
OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani

Traveling Back in Time to a Period We Thought



We do that a lot especially around our birthdays, don’t we? As we age, I swear yesterday always seems so much better. Maybe much better. But you know, if that was the real truth, why couldn’t we keep all those good times we think were so much better? How did we lose them? Or even more sobering, maybe we just sometimes forget all those bad things we also experienced but want to forget?

Listen, the really only good things that happened back then was that we were much younger, happier, and crazier. The happier and crazy went with our youth. The world was everlasting. We were everlasting and things actually were so much cheaper. We didn’t know what inflation was back then, we had to wait until Jimmy Carter went to the White and forced us to line up at gas stations, but only on certain days.

UMass Boston always sends me a reminder that Christmas is the season for giving and they want us to give to our old college. This year I received a beautiful black & white photo of old Boston State College showing snow falling along Huntington Avenue. It’s a beautiful photo showing what once was. It was the late ’60s and early ’70s. I had great memories there meeting new friends for life who didn’t just live around the corner from me. Tuition back then was dirt-cheap. I worked all through college behind the counter of a cafeteria in Worcester Square in the South End. I grew up no more than a half mile from this site. You could get a plate of meat loaf for \$1.25 if you actually liked that stuff.

I had fun flirting with young student nurses and piled up the ice cream on their ice cream cones, but only if the boss wasn’t around. By 30 years old, I thought I knew everything but by 40 we realize we will never know anything. Our main job in life was to survive and make it to our next level of life. Well, the past year I realized that instead of living in the 1970s, I am now living in my real seventies. The other seventies were so much more fun. I could jump, fly, sing, dance and all sorts of crazy things. Back then, I didn’t want to date crazy girls. Now I can’t even find the crazies anymore.

It is amazing, isn’t it? Looking at an old black & white photo of Boston State College I immediately remember the old days. I am glad I had them. It makes all the crazy stuff we are living through easier to take. I still feel like a student today learning something newer and crazier than ever before. Tuition \$135 a semester. Gasoline 75 cents a gallon. Ice Cream cones cost only one dollar, except the ones I snuck at the cafeteria for free. Snickers only a nickel, etc. I loved it back then.

I know UMass will send me that old photo again, they think it brings back great old memories but they better not expect something in the mail. It’s still just an old photo. I am getting older but not that old. I can still have plenty of fun. It just takes me a little longer. Oh, I can still flirt with nursing students but none of them are interested in flirting back with me. I still try but my expectations have gone downhill quite fast.

Life always remains what you make it and we can still dream forever and ever but I can’t click my Nikes and find myself back in Roxbury in 1965.

HEY, ENJOY 2024, SOMEDAY FOR SOME OF YOU,  
IT TOO WILL BE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

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# JEFF DUNHAM... *Still Not Cancelled* at the Wang Theatre

Jeff Dunham, the outstanding ventriloquist, has proven time and time again that his comedy is one of the best in the world. Not only is there nobody else out there like him, but his unique mastery of the puppetry art form has given him a platform to entertain fans of all ages. With a whole heap of accolades and a massive following, he has sold out shows across the nation. Now he brings all of his incredible creations, including Walter, Peanut, and Achmed the Dead Terrorist, to the iconic Wang Theatre for three incredible nights on January 25, 26, and 27, so whether you choose to watch him on any of the nights or all three combined, it'll be extremely entertaining!!! ... buuutttt, tickets to the show are going to be hard to come by because an artist this big is sure to pack out the venue.

When Jeff Dunham was eight years old, his parents gave him a Mortimer Snerd Dummy for Christmas, which came fully equipped with a how-to album. Jeff was so enthralled by his new toy, he went to the library and borrowed a book on ventriloquism from his local library. In the fourth grade, Dunham declared to himself that he wanted to be a ventriloquist, but not just any, he wanted to be the best one ever. During his teen years, he would start performing at various places, such as church, Six Flags, and school events. Using his puppets, he developed



a unique style of lampooning, and they would act as cover for him to say things that were regarded as indecent for him to say himself. In 1976, he made his television debut when reporter Bill O'Reilly interviewed him for a local news story. This had caught the attention of others, and while still in high school, he made commercials for car dealerships in Dallas and Tyler. Jeff was born to be a showman, and he used his school years to help develop his act, like dealing with a heckler on stage, which won him his audience, or posing with his dummies for his high school photographs as a way to get professional photographs for his act. By 1980, his peers in high school had voted him most likely to succeed after graduation. By his junior year, Dunham was raking in \$70,000, and word had spread about his act, landing him coveted spots opening for Bob Hope and George

Burns. After graduating from Baylor University in 1986, he continued with his act, adding new Characters to his lineup, which included, Peanut and José Jalapeño. While he was a talented individual, there just didn't seem to be any room for growth with ventriloquism, and he wasn't taken seriously. So as 1988 drew to a close, he moved from Texas to LA, where he made friends with the owner of The Comedy & Magic Club, Mike Lacey. There he would observe comedians like Jerry Seinfeld, and using them as inspiration, he quickly sharpened his act, but it was still tough out there. He was booked on The Tonight Show, which was later cancelled due to a change of heart by his booking agent. Despite the many setbacks, he didn't let them get in the way of his success and carried on performing and honing his craft. In 2003, he got his big break with an appearance on Comedy Central Presents. The move gave him the platform to release several DVDs, allow him to tour nationwide, pack out venues, have his own TV show, and have a line of merchandise. While there were still several setbacks, it is safe to assume that he has now become one of the best out there, and this show promises to be a feature filled event that will leave you laughing all night long. For more info, visit <http://www.wangtheatreboston.com>

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## 3 Billion Trees

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presented by Anthony Guerriero

Between 1933 and 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted over 3 billion trees across the United States as part of reforestation efforts. Please join us to learn more about the enduring legacy of President Franklin Roosevelt and how his CCC affected the lives of Americans beginning in the Great Depression through to our present day.



Anthony Guerriero is an accomplished professional in the fields of Government and Community Relations, as well as an Educator and Professional Speaker. He is an impassioned storyteller who examines the human experience and American history with a sense of wit and kind heartedness.

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**  
**North End Branch Library - 25 Parmenter Street**

This program is brought to you by the  
Friends of the North End Library

For more information concerning the Friends of the NE Library, please email:  
[Info@FriendsNELibrary.org](mailto:Info@FriendsNELibrary.org)

## PIRANDELLO LYCEUM BOSTON

# Bel Canto Opera Aria Concert

Sunday, February 4  
at the  
DANTE ALIGHIERI  
CULTURAL CENTER

The annual Pirandello Lyceum Boston Bel Canto Opera Aria Concert will be held on Sunday, February 4 at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center, 41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge at 3:00 p.m.

The following outstanding soloists will present beautiful arias from famous operas: Adriana Repetto, soprano; Letitia Stevens, soprano; Giovanni Formisano, tenor; Paul Soper, baritone. Bradley Pennington, Boston Bel Canto Opera maestro will accompany by piano.

Beautiful Arias will be presented from the following operas, LE NOZZE DI FIGARO, LA FORZA DEL DESTINO, MARIA STUARDA, RIGOLETTO, LUCIA DI LAMERMOOR, ERNANI, ROBERTO DEVEREUX, and ANDREA CHENIER. There will be four encores.

The regular admission for Bel Canto opera patrons will be \$27; \$24 for seniors (62 and over) and Students. Pirandello members are admitted free of charge and a \$10 charge for friends of the Pirandello entering at the Pirandello table.

• **Boston Rings in the New Year** (Continued from Page 1)



Paco’s Band



Ava and Cam



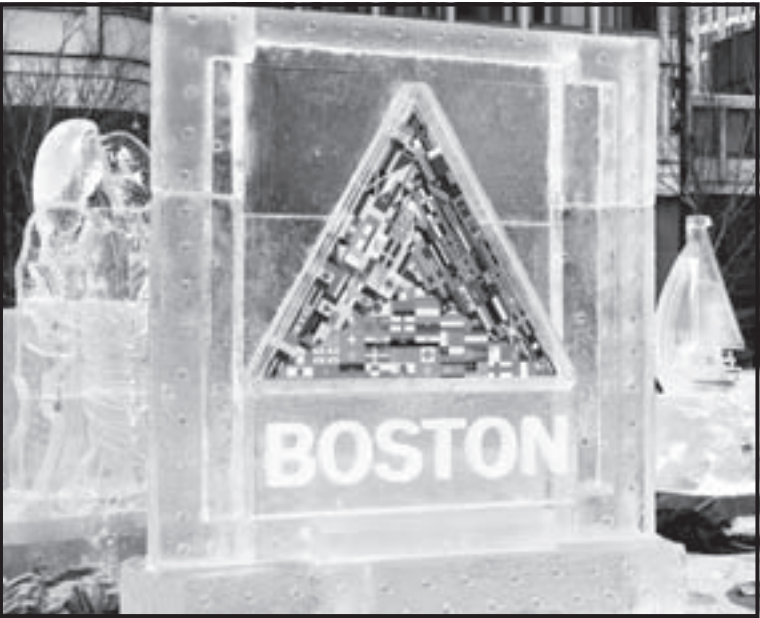
Margaritaville



Along the Waterfront



Samuel Adams



California Sea Lions

(Photos by Gerri Palladino)

## Saint Euthymius

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Euthymius was born in the year 377 in Melitene in Lesser Armenia, to a noble and pious family. His parents, Paul and Dionysia, had prayed for a son, when the child was born they named him *Euthymius*, meaning, “good cheer.”

Euthymius was educated by Bishop Otreius of Melitene, who later ordained him and placed him in charge of all the monasteries in the Diocese of Melitene. In 405, at about thirty years of age, he secretly set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and remained for some time in a cave near a settlement of monks at a monastery called Pharan, about six miles east of Jerusalem.

In 411, Euthymius withdrew into the wilderness with



a fellow-hermit, Theoctistus, living in a rough cavern. When

many disciples gathered around them, they turned the cavern into a church and built a monastery which was placed in the charge of Theoctistus. Euthymius is credited with establishing the monastery of Caparbaricha in 422.

When reports of a miracle Euthymius had performed, the name of Euthymius became famous throughout Palestine, and large crowds came to visit him in his solitude. He retreated with his disciple Domitian to the wilderness of Ruba, near the Dead Sea, living for some time on a remote mountain called Marda by the Byzantines — no other than the ancient Masada of Roman-era fame. When large crowds followed him to this place, he decided to return to the region of the monastery of Theoctistus, where he took up his residence in a cavern. Every Sunday, he came to the monastery to take part in the Mass.

In time, because numerous disciples desired him as their spiritual guide, he founded in 420, on the right side of the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a monastery similar to that of Pharan. The church connected with this monastery was dedicated in 428 by Juvenal, the first patriarch of Jerusalem. Euthymius settled there for the rest of his life. Euthymius passed away on January 2, 477 A.D. The Feast Day of Saint Euthymius is January 20.

## Ieri e Oggi

### Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

#### Betsy Ross



Betsy Ross was born on January 1, 1752, to Samuel Griscom and Rebecca James Griscom on the Griscom family farm in Gloucester City, New Jersey. Betsy was the eighth of seventeen children, of whom only nine survived childhood.

Betsy grew up in a Quaker household. She learned to sew from a great aunt, Sarah Elizabeth Ann Griscom. After her schooling at a Quaker-run state school, Betsy’s father apprenticed her to an upholsterer named William Webster where, at age 17, she met John Ross, an Anglican. The two young apprentices quickly fell for one another, but Betsy was a Quaker, and the act of marrying outside of one’s religion was strictly off-limits. To the shock of their families, Betsy and John married in 1772, and she was promptly expelled from both her family and the

Friends meeting house in Philadelphia that served as a place of worship for Quakers. Eventually, the couple opened their own upholstery business.

In 1776, at the start of the American Revolution, John was killed by a gunpowder explosion while on militia duty at the Philadelphia waterfront. Following his death, Betsy inherited his property and kept up the upholstery business, working day and night to make flags for Pennsylvania.

A year later, Betsy married Joseph Ashburn, a sailor. Ashburn, however, also met an unfortunate end. In 1781, the ship he was on was captured by the British, and he passed away in prison the next year. In 1783, Betsy married for a third and final time. The man, John Claypoole, had been in prison with her late husband Joseph and met Betsy when he delivered Joseph’s farewells to her. John died 34 years later, in 1817, after a long disability. Betsy passed away on January 30, 1836, at the age of 84, in Philadelphia.

No official documentation has been found to confirm that Betsy Ross was responsible for creating the very first flag, but it is conceivable that Colonel George Ross — a signer of the Declaration of Independence and her deceased husband’s uncle — recommended Betsy for the job. Some historians attribute the design of the first flag to Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, leaving the actual fabrication of the flag to Betsy Ross.

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#### Letter to the Editor ...

##### Setting a Dangerous Precedent

Dear Editor,

I do not want Trump to become the next president. However, it is potentially dangerous to attempt to remove him from a ballot for possible crimes that he has not been convicted of. If this were to happen, it would set a dangerous precedent that could be used in the future against other candidates for office, for this, or for other reasons. Then we would be like other countries, such as Russia, who routinely do this to keep good candidates off the ballot.

Carl Olson,  
Monroeville PA

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**VARSITY BLUES**  
**(4K UltraHD + Blu-ray**  
**+ Digital)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Varsity Blues*, a popular football classic, James Van Der Beek leads the action in this exciting, funny coming-of-age story about a small-town high schooler confronting the pressures and temptations of gridiron glory. At first, backup quarterback Jonathan “Mox” Moxom (Van Der Beek) is nowhere close to being a star athlete. Perfectly content to stay on the bench, he has no time for Coach Kilmer’s (Jon Voight) win-at-all-cost strategies. But when the starting quarterback (Paul Walker) is injured, Mox is in the game. Soon everyone will realize there’s not just a new star quarterback in town, there’s a new kind of hero. Originally released on January 15, 1999, director Brian Robbins’ exciting and often funny coming-of-age story remains a cult classic 25 years later. Van Der Beek won the MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Male Performance and Teen Choice Award for Breakout Performance for his star turn as high school backup quarterback Jonathan “Mox” Moxom.

**INTO THE WEEDS (DVD)**  
**Film Movement**

Does the most widely used weed killer in the world cause cancer? *Into the Weeds* follows the riveting story of grounds-keeper Lee Johnson and his fight for justice against agro-chemical giant, Monsanto (now Bayer), the manufacturer of Roundup herbicide. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” A year later, Lee Johnson filed a lawsuit claiming the Ranger Pro, a commercial-grade variant of Roundup, was a substantial contributing factor in causing his Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Blending interviews, testimonials, trial footage, news coverage, and vérité, the film follows the progression of this ground-breaking lawsuit, while also stepping back to consider the systemic impact of glyphosate-based herbicides on human health, our food system, and his biodiversity in our planet.

**PET SEMATARY: BLOODLINES**  
**(Blu-ray + Digital)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

Based on the untold chapter from Stephen King’s bone-chilling novel *Pet Sematary*, *Pet Sematary: Bloodlines*, follows a young Jud Crandall in 1969. This terrifying prequel reveals why sometimes dead is better than dead. A blood-curdling thriller that stars Jackson White as Jud and an outstanding ensemble cast including Forrest Goodluck, Jack Mulhern, Henry Thomas, and Natalie Alyn Lind, with Pam Grier and David Duchovny. In 1969, young Jud Crandall dreams of leaving his hometown behind, but soon discovers sinister secrets buried within and is forced to confront a dark family history that forever binds him to Ludlow. Banding together, Jud and his

childhood friends must fight an ancient evil that has gripped the town since its founding, and once unearthed has the power to destroy everything in its path. Also enjoy over 50 minutes of special features.

**MONDO NEW YORK**  
**(2-Blu-ray) MVD Rewind**

Home to outcasts, misfits, losers, perverts, lunatics, gangsters, pranksters, outlaws, neurotics, psychotics, maniacs, brainiacs, hippies, yuppies, junkies, flunkies, monkeys, all trying to claw their way to the top of trash heap, all screaming me, me, I want my fame, my fortune, my lousy fifteen minutes, my, what the f- whatever it is — You want it? It’s all here on ... *Mondo New York*. Restored and remastered from a brand new 2K HD transfer from the original camera negative, *Mondo New York* is a cult classic celebration and perversely compelling tribute to the mutant artists and anti-stars of the Naked City circa 1980s Berlin cabaret in all their glory including Joey Arias, Joe Coleman, Karen Finley, Phoebe Legere, Ann Magnuson, Lydia Lunch, Rick Aviles and Dean Johnson and more, in this unforgettable avant-garde time capsule of New York City that will leave you both shocked and enlightened.

**MILLIE LIES LOW**  
**(DVD)**  
**Film Movement**

Millie (Ana Scotney), an architecture student from New Zealand, lands a competitive internship with a prestigious firm in New York. But after telling everyone she knows about the opportunity, she suddenly suffers a panic attack as her plane is about to take off and misses her flight. In a desperate pivot, Millie decides to save face by hiding in plain sight around Wellington, suitcase in tow, using Instagram and the power of denial to depict a trip to New York City that never happened. Trapped in a spiral of hilariously uncomfortable self-inflicted scenarios, Millie will have to dig deep to restore her mental health and her dignity.

**THE INSPECTOR WEARS SKIRTS**  
**(Blu-ray)**  
**88 Films**

*The Inspector Wears Skirts* has been released in a Limited Edition Blu-ray with a slip-case featuring brand-new artwork and a 2K remaster from the original camera negative. Produced by the legendary Jackie Chan and Raymond Chow, *The Inspector Wears Skirts*, blends lightning-fast choreography with hard-hitting action and a healthy dose of comedy. Sibelle Hu and Cynthia Rothrock lead a group of female police officers that must contend with harassment and disrespect at every turn from their male counterparts. Featuring choreography by Chan and his stunt team, this is an action extravaganza that does not disappoint. The Blu-ray’s special features include audio commentary by Frank Djeng; *Shooting Her Shot — An Interview with Cynthia Rothrock*; *The Director Wears Pants — An Interview with Director Wellson Chin*; and *Top Squad* English.

The time has come, the walrus said,  
**TO TALK OF MANY THINGS**  
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings  
*by Sal Giaratani*

**CHARLIE BROWN & SNOOPY BRING IN NEW YEAR**

I love reading newspaper comic strips and usually I start with *Peanuts*. Well, as I started reading Peanuts on this New Years Day, it was hard to contain my laughing. Charlie walks up to Snoopy sleeping atop his doghouse. Charlie looks up at the sleeping dog and says, “That must have been some party ... you’ve been sleeping all day.” To which Snoopy replies, “It was a terrible party...I didn’t fall in love, I drank too much root bear and I feel thirty years older.”

Charlie walks away and says “Anyway, there’s your supper.” Snoopy looking perplexed finishes off the comic strip by saying, “I think I’ll go back to bed.” Who knows how many households Snoopy was speaking for many shortly after waking up in bed on New Year’s Day, eh?

**GETTING SHOT FOR BLOWING LEAVES IN WRONG DIRECTION**

This world is just getting so violent. An agitated Florida

tire shop owner is now facing attempted murder charges after he reportedly shot a landscaper across the street who while using his leaf-blower, as he sent the leaves across the street. The two guys got into a silly argument and gunfire ensued. The victim is in critical condition at a nearby hospital and has now been upgraded to stable. All over leaves that ended up on someone else’s lawn.

**NIPPON BUYS U.S. STEEL**

United States Steel has agreed to be acquired by Nippon Steel in a \$144.1 billion deal that would give the Japanese giant a major role in domestic steelmaking. The takeover of the 122-year-old U.S. Steel would make Nippon, already one of the world’s largest steelmakers, one of the top suppliers to the American auto business. The agreement ends a month long sales process.

**WAAA?!!**

**3 ARRIVE AT MIDNIGHT**

Two Boston hospitals welcomed the first US babies born in 2024 -with three girls

all born exactly at midnight on January 1. Margarita and Roberto, who were listed only by their first names and who lives in Dorchester, rang in the New Year with daughter Selena at Brigham & Women’s Hospital. She was six pounds and five ounces. It was the third year in a row that one of the first babies of the year was born at the Brigham. Eileen and Andrew DeRosa of Canton kicked off the 2024 with the birth of their daughter Emily - their third child- at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

**GOD RE-COOPS OLDEST CHICKEN**

The world’s oldest chicken who survived abandonment by her mother at birth, has died in her sleep in her owner’s arms on Christmas Day. The chicken’s owner said he was truly grieving and has left a void in her heart, saying “Peanuts has left a void in her family’s hearts.” Guinness World Records recognized “Peanuts” as the oldest chicken when she was 20 years old.

Winter Fun

- ACROSS**
- 1. Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
  - 6. Half of NFL
  - 9. “Oscar” of sports
  - 13. Relating to sight
  - 14. Sargasso \_\_\_\_
  - 15. Dugout glider
  - 16. Not fresh
  - 17. First H in HRH
  - 18. Face-to-face exams
  - 19. \*Ice fishing shelter
  - 21. \*”Polar” activity
  - 23. \*Type of Christmas tree
  - 24. Diagonal
  - 25. Tax return professional, acr.
  - 28. Kind of cola
  - 30. Diaphragm spasm
  - 35. Scepters’ partners
  - 37. Of two minds
  - 39. \_\_\_\_ Jean Baker
  - 40. \*Rabbit’s winter one is white
  - 41. Sheik’s bevy?
  - 43. Type of dam
  - 44. Butcher’s refuse
  - 46. Etna’s emission
  - 47. Secret disclosure
  - 48. Stellar
  - 50. Chap or fella
  - 52. Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
  - 53. A or O, to blood
  - 55. Unit of electrical resistance
  - 57. \*Finger warmers
  - 60. \*Certain sleigh ride
  - 63. Courtroom excuse
  - 64. Gobbled up
  - 66. Train runners
  - 68. Land of taekwondo
  - 69. “Caroline in the City” Thompson
  - 70. Relating to Scandinavia
  - 71. Not home
  - 72. \*Last winter mo.
  - 73. Klondike river

- DOWN**
- 1. Acronym in a bottle
  - 2. Chooses
  - 3. Colorado’s neighbor
  - 4. a.k.a. pilau
  - 5. Like a longer route?
  - 6. Grayish
  - 7. ATM extra
  - 8. Carpus, pl.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
	19			20		21	22					
		23			24							
25	26	27		28	29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39			
40				41			42		43			
44				45		46			47			
48				49		50		51		52		
			53		54		55		56			
	57	58	59			60			61	62		
63					64	65		66			67	
68					69			70				
71					72			73				

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- 9. Bring home the bacon
- 10. Unforeseen obstacle
- 11. \*Skier’s aid
- 12. Da or oui
- 15. Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
- 20. Engagement, archaic
- 22. \_\_\_\_-di-dah
- 24. Onslaught
- 25. \*Warming drink
- 26. Faculty members, for short
- 27. Behind a stern
- 29. \*Frosty’s eyes
- 31. Type of hood
- 32. Apollo of “Rocky”
- 33. Inuit skin boat
- 34. \*a.k.a. anorak
- 36. \*Betelgeuse, e.g.
- 38. \*Snow, in Italy
- 42. Lord’s estate
- 45. Lithuania’s neighbor
- 49. NaOH
- 51. Like a rosebush
- 54. Church song
- 56. Meow, alt. sp.
- 57. \_\_\_\_-in-the-dark
- 58. Milano moolah
- 59. Toe the line
- 60. Product of lacrimation
- 61. Michael Douglas’ dad
- 62. “The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises”
- 63. \*What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common
- 65. High affair
- 67. Barack Obama, pre-pres.

(Solution on Page 10)

# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



When I was a kid in East Boston, the hectic lifestyle my family would lead during the Christmas season would come to an abrupt end in January. Dad and my uncles would return to just playing a few evenings of the midweek and definitely weekends. Dad would also be back to work days at his job in the Boston School Department, Uncle Nick was back in his office at the musicians union as the vice president, and Uncle Paul would rejoin the printing company he worked for. Babbononno, long retired, would reconnect with his pals at the storefront societies in both the North End and East Boston. The one exception to Babbononno's activities was the Christmas season of 1958. Just before the holidays arrived that year, Nanna passed away.

During WWII, my grandmother had had a heart attack, and after a long stay in the hospital, she recuperated to the point where she resumed normal but abbreviated activities. Things went well until the mid-1950s, when she developed breast cancer and after operations that seemed successful, she went through the primitive recuperative steps that were necessary for survival. She was often in pain and succumbed to the disease after it spread to her lungs late in 1958. Christmas 1958 was not a happy time.

During WWII, after her heart attack, Babbononno sold the big house on Eutaw Street in East Boston, as it was too much for Nanna to handle. They rented an apartment on Princeton Street for a few years, and later moved to Lexington Street, where they were living when Nanna passed away. Babbononno was up there in years and the decision was made for him to move in with us. Backtracking again, when Babbononno sold the house at 70 Eutaw, Dad and Mom rented a third floor walkup at 74 Eutaw, two doors away. The house was and still is attached to number 72 Eutaw. 74 Was owned by the parents of a woman Mom had grown up with and her husband was someone Dad had grown up with. They had the 3rd floor apartment available and we moved the distance of two houses away from where I was born.

The apartment consisted of four connected rooms, a hallway bathroom and a small room at the end of the hallway near the staircase that brought us to the third floor. That room was occupied by a single brother of the landlord's wife. When he moved out, wanting to try his luck in California, Dad rented

the room to be used as either a workshop or a music room. It would serve as both until Babbononno moved in with us early in 1959. My room was a small one just off the kitchen, but when Uncle Gino and Aunt Ninna were married after the war and were just starting out, they moved in with us. For almost a year, they took over my bedroom and I had the living room couch. When they finally found an apartment, I had my bedroom back. When it was Babbononno's turn, the tools headed for the cellar and the spare room became the bedroom my grandfather would sleep in.

It was difficult at times as I was in college and often studied at the kitchen table. Dad would play almost every night leaving both Mom and Babbononno at home. Mom had a circle of lady friends in the neighborhood and a couple of evenings a week would tie up with them for tea and gossip. That left Babbononno with me and he developed a curiosity about the things I was studying, especially history, which was one of his favorite subjects. As a result, we had many conversations on the historical developments of the world, but I often met with a couple of East Boston friends that attended college with me. We had an informal study group that was on going and I often had to leave Babbononno alone at night. When this happened, I felt sorry for him, as he would sit in front of the TV which bored him, or he would re-read one of the Italian newspapers he loved, including this one.

Parking at night became a problem not long after WWII ended. With everyone on the street buying new cars, Dad had to hunt for a parking space when he came home after playing with his band at night. Seeing he had to get up early the next morning, he was often upset if he had to drive around the neighborhood until he could park. By the time the '60s rolled around, things got worse. I had just started on a teaching career, was playing music as many nights as I could afford and began taking courses toward a master's degree. One winter's night Dad couldn't find a parking space on our block. It was snowing, and by the time he drove home from his job, it was late due to slow moving traffic. He searched for an hour and finally found a spot on another street blocks away. He then trudged home in several inches of snow with a bass violin under his arm and wet feet, swearing all the way in two languages.

He told Mom at dinner that next night that he wanted to buy a house with a garage and a driveway somewhere outside the city. My mother was so attached to East Boston she didn't want to move. When the scenario was repeated, Dad told Mom that he was going to move and he would pay for the Eutaw Street apartment for her and Babbononno to stay in. Mom knew he meant what he said and knew that her place was with her husband. That spring, they bought a house in Belmont. We were familiar with the town as Uncle Gino and Aunt Ninna had built a house there not long after my aunt delivered a set of twins to this world in 1950.

Babbononno didn't want to leave East Boston either, but didn't want to stay alone. He gave in and on Easter weekend of 1961, we left East Boston for Belmont. At first, I couldn't sleep at night ... it was too quiet: no sirens on the streets, no planes landing at Logan after flying directly over the house ... no noise at all, just crickets and birds to entertain us. We got to love it, but Babbononno hated it. Back in East Boston, he could go to his clubs and play cards several times during the week. He could also head to Central Square where he could buy the Italian newspapers he loved along with the Di Nobili cigars he loved to smoke. Belmont Centre which was a close distance from us offered nothing Italian back then and Babbononno, as I said, hated it.

Finally, the decision was made after long conversations with my uncles, Babbononno was to head back to East Boston. An apartment was found near Maverick Square and we moved him there. My mother was off the wall one day when I returned home from work. When I asked her what was wrong, she said, "I called your grandfather a while ago and a woman with a thick Irish brogue answered. It turned out to be a neighbor near his age and seeing he was in his mid-90s and she pushing 90, I told my mother that the most erotic thing that could happen would be them holding hands. Mom had to accept the relationship ... we did.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

## Remember Your Loved Ones



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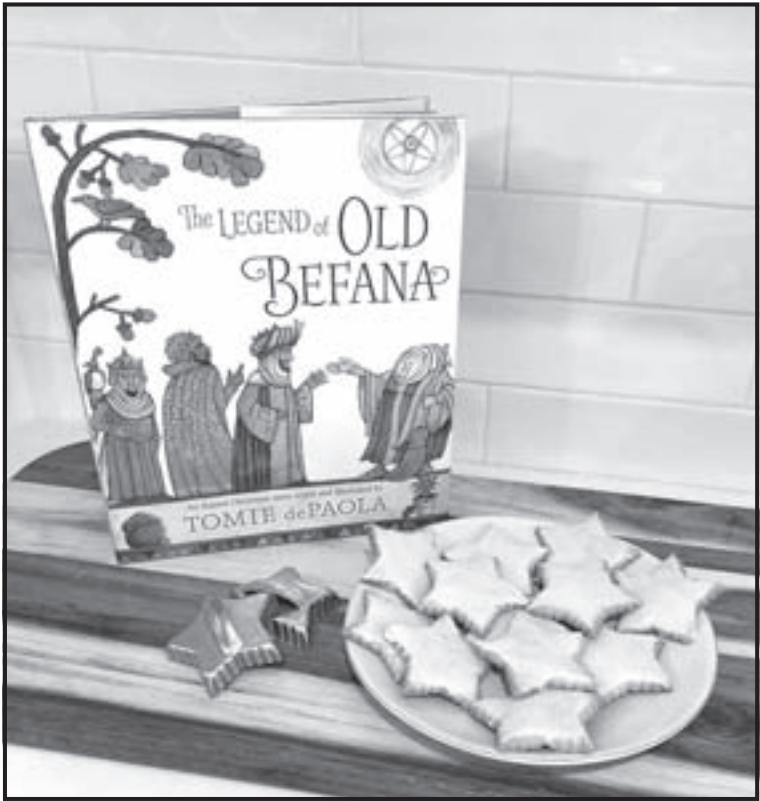
by  
**Marianna Bisignano**



In Italy, the Feast of the Epiphany or La Festa dell 'Epifania is a significant holiday, particularly for Italian children. This special day commemorates the arrival of the three Wise Men at the manger bearing gifts for Baby Jesus. According to Italian legend, during their journey, the Magi encountered a witch-like woman on a broomstick, named La Befana, and invited her to join them. Befana initially declined, but later regretted her decision and set off alone to bring gifts to the child. Unfortunately, she never found the manger, so she instead left presents for other children throughout the land. In honor of this tradition, on the Eve of the Epiphany, children continue to leave out their shoes or stockings for La Befana to fill. On her broomstick she flies, stopping to fill the socks of good girls and boys with fruits, sweets, and presents, and for those who have not been so good, she leaves a lump of coal instead!

I remember the smile on my Nonna's face as she told me that as a young girl she would look forward to the oranges and dolls made from clothespins that "the old woman" would leave in her stockings. The coming of La Bafana brings joy and excitement to families across the country and of course, as with all Italian celebrations, it is accompanied by various goodies to eat. In particular, are the star shaped cookies, known as Befanini. The traditional recipe for these results in a simple citrus flavored biscuit, and though my Nonna had several recipes she used to create these cutout cookies, the one I am sharing, is her special rendition. So, I hope you enjoy them as much as we always did!

### NONNA'S LA BAFANA STAR COOKIES *Biscotti Stella La Befana Nonna*



- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup crushed com flakes (about 4 cups whole)
- 2 cups margarine or butter, softened
- 2 cups confectioners sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼ cup whole milk

#### Icing:

- 4 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 to 4 tablespoons whole milk
- nonpareils
- star shaped cookie cutters

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, stir together flour, crushed cereal, baking powder and salt, set aside. . In a large mixing bowl, beat margarine or butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla and milk. Mix well. Add flour mixture and mix well.

Wrap dough in plastic wrap and chill for about an hour, or until firm.

Roll chilled dough on lightly floured board to about 1/8-inch thickness. Cut with floured star shaped cookie cutters.

Place on parchment lined cookie sheets. Bake in a preheated oven for about 8 minutes or until done. Cool on a wire rack.

To make icing, mix confectioners sugar, vanilla extract and enough milk to make a thick glaze. Ice cookies, sprinkle with nonpareils and let dry.


Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at nonnasrecipebox@gmail.com

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# Recycle Your Christmas Tree into the Landscape

by Melinda Myers



Removing the branches from Christmas trees and layering them over bulbs and perennials keeps the soil consistently cold, reducing the risk of early sprouting and winter damage. (Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

Don't drag that Christmas tree to the curb to be hauled away by the trash collectors. Give it a second, even third life, in your landscape. No live Christmas tree? Don't worry. I'm sure your friends and neighbors will share theirs.

Move your locally grown Christmas tree outdoors after the holidays. Avoid trees imported from other states that may host invasive insects that can infest your landscape and nearby Christmas tree farms. Your local municipality or Department of Natural Resources has more information on any threats and disposal recommendations for your area.

Use your cut Christmas tree to protect evergreens in your landscape from winter winds and sun. They make excellent windbreaks while shading sensitive plants in your landscape. Strategically place your discarded tree on the windward side of rhododendron, boxwood, and other broadleaf evergreens to reduce problems with winter burn. Place it on

the south side of these plants to shade them from the drying winter sun.

Or remove the branches and use them as winter mulch over bulbs and perennials. Layer the boughs over the plants and soil to keep the soil consistently cold. This reduces the risk of early sprouting and winter damage that can occur during winter thaws.

Or set the tree in the landscape for a bit of added greenery. Secure it in a snow pile or use stakes and guy wires in milder climates where the soil is not frozen. The birds will enjoy the added shelter and you will enjoy watching these visitors to your landscape.

Then consider adding a *bit of food for your feathered visitors*. Decorate the trees with fruits, berries, and seeds the birds can enjoy. Stringing cranberries and popcorn is a fun family activity and makes an attractive outdoor garland. Slices of oranges on colorful yarn and homemade bird ornaments can complete the adornments.

Sweep up the fallen needles that were under your tree indoors and use them as mulch in the garden. Place them directly on the soil or atop the snow. As the snow melts, the needles will be right where they belong. And don't worry, they will not make the soil too acidic. In fact, as they break down, they add organic matter to the soil.

As spring arrives, consider chipping and shredding your tree into mulch for trees and shrubs or pathways in the landscape. No chipper? You and your neighbors may want to rent a chipper to shred these and other prunings for use as mulch in your landscapes.

And, if this is not possible, check for recycling resources in your community. Many municipalities have special pickups for Christmas trees. These are chipped, shredded, and made available for citizens to use in their landscapes.

Lake communities often sink the discarded trees to the bottom of lakes and ponds to provide habitat for the fish. Another great way to give your tree a second life.

And once you discover the value of this free resource you may find yourself collecting a few more from the neighborhood. However, your family may ask that you wait until dark to drag your evergreen treasures back home.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

• **Lynn Woods** (Continued from Page 3)

and its permanent protection will mean those benefits will be there for future generations, who may need Lynn Woods even more than we do now."

"The forward-thinking Lynn residents who, one hundred and thirty years ago, donated their land and money to give us the Lynn Woods deserve to have their act of generosity remembered," said Jane Kelley, president of the Friends of Lynn Woods. "I can think of no better way to thank them than to preserve and protect their gift for future generations."

Lynn Woods was one of the first — and for a time the largest — municipal parks in the country. In 1870, the then Lynn Water Board, now known as the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission, acquired the land that would become Breed's Pond following a destructive fire in the city the previous year. In 1889, Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect behind Boston's Emerald Necklace, advised the City of Lynn that the site should be left undeveloped and preserved in its natural state for local residents to enjoy. In 1890, Lynn voters approved the creation of what was then the 998-acre Lynn Woods. The park, which stretches through Lynn, Saugus and Lynnfield, has since grown to the more than 2,100 acres it is today and includes more than 30 miles of trails for hiking, running, skiing, biking, and walking, as well as three water reservoirs.

Over the years, Lynn Woods

Reservation has become an important place for those in the surrounding urban communities seeking open, green space, however, it faced threats of development over the years with proposals including a golf course and rerouting Route 95.

In 2001, the state acquired 40.5 acres of the reservation in Saugus to protect it from a threat of development on the shores of Walden Pond.

This conservation recreation — one of the state's largest — will now permanently protect the precious forestland from future development and ensure it continues to not only provide outdoor recreation, but also protects treasured natural, cultural and water resources for the public. As an urban park, the forestland also serves as an important resource in protecting area residents from the impacts of climate change.

**DIAMONDS  
ROLEX  
ESTATE JEWELRY**  
*Bought & Sold*  
Jewelers Exch. Bldg.  
Jim (617) 263-7766

## ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

The POST-GAZETTE newspaper is a paper of general circulation.

We are qualified to accept legal notices from any court in each town that we serve.

## LEGAL NOTICES

For information on placing a Legal Notice in the POST-GAZETTE please email [postgazette@aol.com](mailto:postgazette@aol.com) call (617) 227-8929, or mail notice to:  
**POST-GAZETTE**  
P.O. BOX 130135  
BOSTON, MA 02113  
Attn: Legal Notices

## LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department  
MIDDLESEX, SS  
Probate and Family Court  
Docket No. MI23E0036PP

To: John Conroy of Dracut, MA and Tim Conroy of Dracut, MA and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by John Conroy of Dracut, MA representing that they hold as co-tenants in an undivided part or share of certain land lying in Dracut, in the County of Middlesex, and briefly described

146 Haverhill Street, Dracut, MA 01826

The land in Dracut, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, in that part thereof called "Elismere," being Lot 369 on a plan entitled "Plan of Building Lots in Dracut, Mass. belonging to the Syndicate Land Company, Samuel B. Wyman and George H. Taylor, Trustees" dated 1897, Smith & Brooks, C.E.'s, recorded with Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 13, Plan 1 and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning on the Southwesterly corner of the premises at land of Thomas Fay; thence Southeasterly along said Fay land 46.8 feet; thence at right angles with said last mentioned land southerly 24.5 feet to Lot 368; thence Easterly 205.4 feet to Haverhill Street; thence Northerly along said street 200. feet to a stone bound point; thence running Northerly along Essex Street 640.55 feet to a stone bound point; thence 6.26 feet to a strip of land 1. foot wide, being reserved by the Syndicated Land Co.; thence Westerly 117.11 feet to land of said Fay; thence Southerly 775.02 feet to the point of beginning; containing according to said plan 124,813 square feet of land; be said contents and any or all of said measurements more or less and however otherwise said premises may be measured, bounded or described.

Being all and the same premises conveyed to the Grantors by deed of Mark D. Rutherford, Trustee of JMD, II Realty Trust dated September 25, 1998 and recorded with the Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds at Book 9609, Page 290.

Setting forth that the petitioner desires that all said land may be ordered to be sold at private sale for not less than (\$450,000.00) Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end, that commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any portion of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute and pay over the net proceeds thereof in such a manner as to make the partition just and equal.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said Court at Lowell before ten o'clock, on the 30th day of January 2024 the return date of this citation.

Witness, Honorable Terri Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 19th Day of December 2023.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate

Run dates: 12/22, 12/29, 2023 - 01/05/2024

## LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI23P6430EA

Estate of  
ALEX ANDREW BOHM

Date of Death: August 28, 2023

INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Celia J. Harrison of Newton, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Celia J. Harrison of Newton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the 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.

Run date: 1/05/2024

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 20, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

**2005 TOYOTA COROLLA**  
VIN # 1NXBR32E95Z509590

**2011 HONDA CIVIC**  
VIN # 2HGFA1F87BH542335

**2009 PONTIAC VIBE**  
VIN # 5Y2SL67819Z408403

**2008 NISSAN SENTRA**  
VIN # 3N1AB61E68L667233

**2007 JEEP COMMANDER**  
VIN # 1J8HG48N77C630878

Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Todisco Services, Inc.

Run dates: 1/05, 1/12, 1/19/2024



• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

**World’s Pop Now 8b-Plus**  
The world’s population grew by 75 million over the past year, and on New Year’ Day stands now at more than 8 billion people, says the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S.A. population as of January 1 will have a population of 335.8 million people.

**Safe Injection Sites Fuel Crime**  
America has only two government-sanctioned safe injection sites both in New York City. A new study in the *Journal of American Medical Association* on the impact on surrounding areas has gotten “much attention,” observes Howard Husock at *City Journal*. Unfortunately, the report’s conclusions minimizes the importance of an increase in aggravated assaults “near the sites.”

Indeed, it’s “own findings

include a statistically significant increase in aggravated assaults.” No, surprise: People who use the facilities might “acquire cash for their drugs by “assaulting people in the neighborhood” and stealing their money.

**Point-Counterpoint???**  
“Why are you losing in the polls?” — *news reporter*  
“You’re reading the wrong polls.” — *President Biden*

**End Quote**  
“Like gluttony or drunkenness, hatred seems an agreeable vice when you practice it yourself, but disgusting when observed in others.”  
— *William H. Irwin famed American journalist*

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 06, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

**2006 HONDA CIVIC**  
VIN # 2HGFG12856H573884

**2020 KIA OPTIMA**  
VIN # 5XXGT4L38LG432695

**2006 MAZDA MAZDA6**  
VIN # 1YVHP84D665M45018

**2009 TOYOTA SCION TC**  
VIN # JTKDE167390282413

**2019 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
VIN # 4T1B11HK6KU758515

**2012 NISSAN ALTIMA**  
VIN # 1N4AL2AP6CN490959

**2009 HONDA ACCORD**  
VIN # 1HGCP36829A040113

**2021 ZHEN ZN50QT/ZN150T**  
VIN # L5YACBPZ4M1115463

**2004 VOLVO S60**  
VIN # YV1RS59V342386270

**2011 TOYOTA SCION XB**  
VIN # JTLZE4FE0B1126363

**2017 CHEVROLET TRAX**  
VIN # 3GNCJKSB7HL271941

**2018 YONGFU YN50QT-8**  
VIN # LL0TCAHP2JY491041

**2023 BMW 330i**  
VIN # 3MW69FF08P8C96635

**2001 HONDA CIVIC**  
VIN # 1HGEM22971L055595

Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Todisco Services, Inc.

Run dates: 12/22, 12/29, 2023 - 1/05/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **MJS Towing, Inc., 1589 Hyde Park Ave., Hyde Park, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 20, 2024 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

**2011 ACURA TSX**  
VIN # JH4CU2F64BC002083

**2003 SUZUKI VL800**  
VIN # JS1VS54A532111100

**2007 NISSAN ALTIMA**  
VIN # 1N4BL21E77C190075

**2010 HONDA CIVIC**  
VIN # 2HGFG1B63AH520835

**2008 SUBARU OUTBACK**  
VIN # 4S4BP61C887337255

**2008 HONDA ACCORD**  
VIN # 1HGCP26708A043043

**2006 MERCEDES BENZ C350**  
VIN # WDBRF87H26F761178

**2010 BMW 528i**  
VIN # WBANU5C51AC126010

**2013 FORD TAURUS**  
VIN # 1FAHP2F80DG232074

**2005 VOLVO XC90**  
VIN # YV1CZ592451187596

**2017 KIA SOUL**  
VIN # KNDJN2A27H7886564

Vehicles are being stored at MJS Towing, Inc., and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
MJS Towing, Inc.  
Run dates: 01/05, 01/12, 01/19/2024

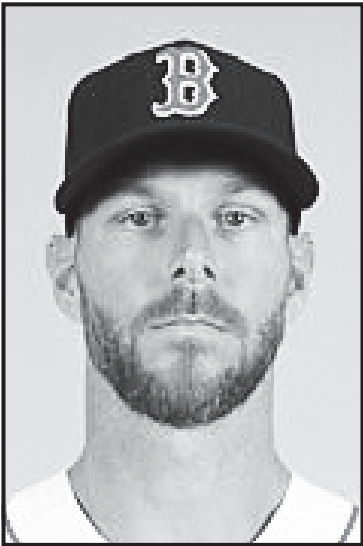


# EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



Red Sox  
Trade Sale to Atlanta



Chris Sale

Chris Sale’s time with Boston has mercifully come to an end as the veteran left-hander has been traded to the Braves for infielder Vaughn Grissom and additional cash. Sale waived his no trade clause to make the deal happen which ended a torturous seven year relationship with Boston. The Red Sox will send Atlanta \$17 million to cover part of Sale’s \$27.5 million still due him in 2024.

When Sale, a 7-time All Star signed with Boston prior to 2017 he became the ace immediately. Sale finished second in the Cy Young voting in 2018 with a 2.11 ERA with 308 strikeouts. He was subsequently awarded a five-year \$145 million extension



Vaughn Grissom

on his contract. He didn’t pitch in 2020 after undergoing Tommy John surgery and has only made 31 starts and pitched 151 innings over the past four seasons. Last season was his best year since 2019 posting a 4.30 ERA over 102.2 innings. Now the Braves with World Series aspirations hope that Sale can help them keep up with the Dodgers.

This deal will also bring infielder Lucas Grissom, who turns 23 later this month and has appeared in 64 games for the Braves and batted .287. Most likely he will become the club’s second baseman.

With the Sox unloading Sale and also picking up another



Lucas Giolito

solid starter in Lucas Giolito the day before sending Sale sailing off to Atlanta, things are starting to look better all-around for Boston.

Up until last week, I thought the Mets were really serious about Lucas Giolito and getting him into their starting rotation but that didn’t happen and now he’s travelling another 215 miles to Fenway Park. Last season he pitched 184.1 innings and struck out 204 batters between the White Sox, Angels, and Guardians. Overall, he finished 8-15 with a 4.88 ERA in 33 starts, however his 41 homers allowed did lead the AL. Giolito is only 29 years old.



## Writing a “Legacy Letter”: Sharing Your Values with Loved Ones

*Presented by Jay Sherwin*

A **legacy letter** (also called an “ethical will”) is a written document that allows you to share your life lessons, express your values and transmit your blessings to future generations. A legacy letter is not a formal legal document or a full-length memoir; it’s a brief personal statement, typically just a few pages. Writing one is a rewarding experience that creates an enduring gift for your family, friends and loved ones.

**This workshop is designed to introduce the concept of legacy letters and to help you craft your own legacy letter.** It includes discussion and brief writing exercises. Jay will offer advice to help you complete your legacy letter, share it with loved ones and preserve it for future generations.

Jay Sherwin has practiced law, given away money for five charitable foundations and served as a hospital chaplain. Drawing on all those experiences, Jay created the Life Reflections Project to educate people about legacy letters and ethical wills; he now teaches classes and workshops on legacy writing and helps people create their own legacy documents. You can read more on Jay’s website at: [www.jaysherwin.com](http://www.jaysherwin.com).

Please register in person, by phone, or online at: [www.bit.ly/legacy\\_letter](http://www.bit.ly/legacy_letter)

**Sponsored by the Friends of the North End Library**

**WRITING A LEGACY LETTER**  
Saturday, January, 13, 2024  
**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**  
Please register in person or online at: [www.bit.ly/legacy\\_letter](http://www.bit.ly/legacy_letter)  
North End Branch Library, 25 Parmenter St, 02113  
For more information contact: [northend@bpl.org](mailto:northend@bpl.org) or call 617-227-8135



For more, visit [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 13, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

**2003 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT**  
VIN # WVWTH63B83P057354

**2015 INFINITI Q50**  
VIN # JN1BV7AR4FM408036

**2007 NISSAN SENTRA**  
VIN # 3N1AB61E97L625752

**2003 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
VIN # 4T1BF32K83U035904

Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Todisco Services, Inc.

Run dates: 12/29/2023 - 1/05, 1/12/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000**

**Docket No. MI23P4218GD**

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF  
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

**In the matter of  
DEVON MICHAEL EDNEY  
of Lowell, MA**

**RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Melissa J. Edney of Lowell, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Devon Michael Edney** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Melissa J. Edney of Lowell, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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 **January 16, 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. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 19, 2023

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 01/05/2024

Boxing



Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Happy Birthday

Rocky Graziano

Hard Punching and Popular Middleweight Champ

was Born on New Year’s Day, 1919



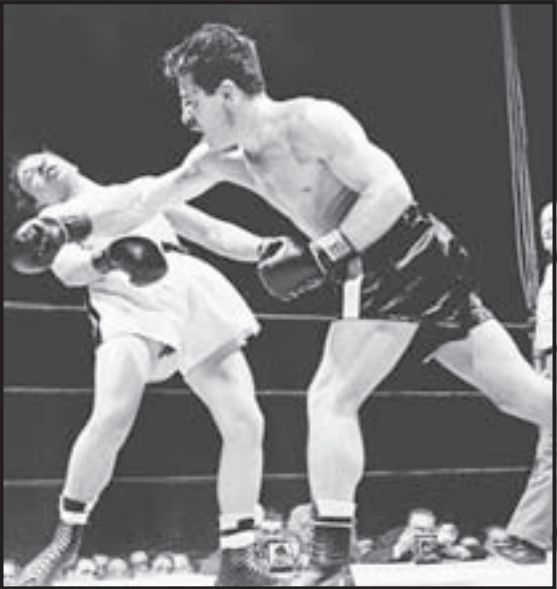
Rocky Graziano



Johnny Greco was on the receiving end of Rocky’s power



Rocky stands over Bobby Claus whom he stopped in the 2nd Round



Graziano tags Tony Janiro with a right hand. The Fight ended in a draw



Graziano scored a come from behind Tenth Round knockout over Charley Fusari



Rocky knocking out Freddie Cochrane




Intense action from one of the three Zale Vs. Graziano Fights



In the second of their three iconic bouts, Rocky won the Middleweight Title from Tony Zale

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



One of the most interesting games on the 2023-2024 regular season schedule of the Boston Celtics will take place on Saturday, January 13 when the Houston Rockets visit the Hub for their lone appearance of the campaign.

That is because former Celtics head coach Ime Udoka will be coming back for the first time since the conclusion of the Celtics postseason run in the Spring of 2022. That is when Udoka led the Green on their impressive run to the NBA Finals in his lone season as the team’s bench boss.

Out of basketball for the entire 2022-2023 season following his suspension — an action that effectively ended this past February, when former assistant coach Joe Mazzulla, who had been serving as interim head coach, was named the team’s permanent head coach.

But athletics, as well as many other realms of employment these days, are often the land of second chances. Udoka received his this past April when he was named the head coach of the Rockets.

Houston was definitely in need of a rebound. Udoka replaced Stephen Silas who had compiled a 59-177 (.250) record over the course of the prior three seasons. In his last campaign with Houston, the Rockets logged a very poor 22-60 mark under him.

Hired to improve the fortunes of the franchise, Udoka has already pumped some rejuvenation back into the Rockets. As the calendar flipped to January and the dawn of a new year, Houston was right in the thick of the mix in the middle of the Western Conference, sporting a .500 record through 30 games. The Rockets should be right about there when they meet the Celtics on the parquet on January 13. The Celtics should be the overwhelming favorites since they had put together an excellent 26-7 record through January 2.

However, it could also be that Udoka has needed some time to make his adjustments mesh with the realities of the Rockets. People sometimes forget that although the Celtics did go all the way to the 2022 NBA Finals in his one year with the team, it was a struggle for a little more than half the season.

The C’s went 23-24 before going on a 26-3 run to close out the regular season. They then went on a successful run to the Finals, sweeping the Brooklyn Nets 4-0 in the opening round and then eliminating the Milwaukee Bucks in the second round and the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference Finals with both those series going the full seven games. The C’s then lost in the NBA Finals to the Golden State Warriors in six games.

The timing led to one of the most unusual junctures in Boston sports history with two national championships under way at the same time within the same geographic area — the NBA Finals with the Celtics and Warriors plus the U.S. Open Golf Championship at The Country Club in Brookline.

It will be interesting to see the reaction in the Garden when Udoka is introduced by the public address announcer as the Rockets head coach.

Several players were close to him during his one year in Boston, including current star Jayson Tatum.

In a recent podcast that was posted in December, Tatum indicated that he had a lot of respect for Udoka and what he accomplished with the Celtics during his lone season with the team.

“I’ve got so much love and respect for him,” stated Tatum, noting the highly successful run in the final stretch run of the regular season that continued into the playoffs.

He attributed much of that success to the way Udoka interacted with the players.

“The mentality of him every day saying stuff like we are a track team and we are not running from nobody. For that message to come from the top, from the coach, I think it just ran through everybody.”

In a presentation that ran on CBS Boston during NBA All-Star Weekend last February, Tatum called Udoka “probably my most favorite coach.”

Tatum said that he had talked with Udoka in the months following his suspension, “nothing crazy, just checking in.”

The Celtics star stated that Udoka was “telling me he has been watching me play” and urging him to “keep up the good work. Things like that.”

Tatum indicated that whatever led to the suspension “doesn’t have anything to do with me but it can’t take away the relationship me and him have and the impact he had on me in that one season.”

He added: “I loved Coach K (at Duke University. I love Brad Stevens. I love Joe (current head coach). But I just had a different kind of relationship with Ime. He was probably like my most favorite coach — and that is not a knock against anybody. I have a great relationship with coach Joe. I love everything that he is doing. I am extremely happy for him.”

REMEMBERNG WHEN — It was 18 years ago (January 10, 2006) that former star player Joe Thornton returned to the Bruins as a member of the San Jose Sharks — less than two months after being traded to the west coast franchise at the very end of November.

When he left the team Thornton was the B’s scoring leader to that point in the season. But he did not last long in his one-game return to the Garden. He was given an automatic game misconduct and ejected from the game for checking Bruins defenseman Hal Gill from behind. That came with just over five minutes having elapsed in the first period. Gill was diagnosed with a pinched nerve in his right shoulder, left the game, and did not return.

Thornton, a former Bruins captain, was the number one overall pick in the 1997 NHL Draft. He had posted 33 points in 23 games before the trade. He was still the leading scorer for the B’s when he took the ice on that January night.

Joe Thornton won both the Art Ross Trophy (points leader in the regular season) and the Hart Memorial Trophy (regular season MVP) for his performance during his split season with the Bruins and San Jose. He went on to play 14 seasons with the Sharks, plus short stints with Toronto and Florida. He retired this past October. His biggest disappointment was that he never won the Stanley Cup.