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POST-GAZETTE

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Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio Takes Audit Request Straight to the Voters

by Patti Sartori

Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's efforts to audit the state legislature has been stymied over and over, but she is not giving up. DiZoglio has a new idea on how to move her stalled efforts over the goal line. Rather than continue pushing the previously overwhelmingly voter backed audit of the House and Senate, she has decided to expand the ballot question and bring it straight to the voters once again, asking to make the state legislative records open to the entire public.

Over the past few months, DiZoglio has pushed the ballot question that would subject both the Legislature and the Governor's Office to the state public records laws. Designed similarly to last year's audit question, DiZoglio is working both sides of the political aisles and digging into her own campaign coiffures, to the tune of $150,000, to ensure the initiatives success.

If the new measure is approved, House and Senate leaders may not have the same argument to fall back on, which claims that an audit by her office would violate constitutional separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of government. "The documents I have requested for the audit are matters of public record in every other entity that actually follows the public records law. If lawmakers don't want to give the documents to me, I am just going to work to make sure that those documents are given to you all directly and will take out their bogus constitutional limits," DiZoglio stated to the Commonwealth Beacon.

As DiZoglio delivered massive amounts of signatures for the new ballot question to the Secretary of State's Office, she proclaimed "They might block me but they can't block all of us! We got 75k signatures certified for our ballot question to give you each the right to obtain public records from the Governor's Office and Legislature."

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Trump Pumps Brakes on Auto Fuel Regs

President Trump unveiled plans on December 3 to slash Biden-era fuel efficiency standards that he has long lambasted as an "EV Mandate." Added Trump, "We are officially terminating Joe Biden's ridiculously burdensome — horrible, actually, CAFE, standards that imposed expensive restrictions." He was joined by CEOs from Ford and Stellantis, who praised the decision to loosen regulations on gas-powered vehicles.

Some on Capitol Hill View Second Strike as War Crime

Reportedly, top Republicans and Democrats lawmakers suggested recently that American military officials might have committed a war crime when a second strike order was given after the initial strike did not sink the alleged drug boat. Some on board survived the first missile strike but no one survived after the second strike.

Senator Tim Kaine, D-VA said if the report was accurate, the attack "rises to the level of a war crime." Senator Mark Kelly, D-AZ has added, the two strikes on the boat "seems to be" a war crime. Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-OH said that what happened, if accurate, would be serious and would be "an illegal act."

Members of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have both promised bipartisan and rigorous oversight over this boat strike issue.

Peanuts Aid Brain Health

According to a recent study from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, peanuts can boost memory and heart health in older adults. Researchers

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Mayor Wu's Christmas Trolley Tour
Stops at the Prado and Maverick Square

(L-R): State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, State Senator Lydia Edwards with Baby Mira, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata and At-Large Councilor Julia Mejia lead the count down to the North End Christmas Tree lighting.

It was a clear chilly evening for Santa to visit the North End and East Boston during Mayor Wu's Traditional Christmas Trolley Tour. North End neighbors enjoyed hot chocolate donated by the Golden Goose, music by NEMPAC and the Eliot School students, along with generous donations from NEW Health, North End Cares, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Marlo and Carlo from the BYCF Nazzaro Center, numerous volunteers and of course Blades the Bruin's Bear for stopping by and helping out.

A huge shout out to the Boston Public Works Department and the Mayor's Office of Special Events for all the behind-the-scenes work that makes the trolley tour happen in each neighborhood throughout the city.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year to all!

State Representative Adrian Madaro, Mayor Michelle Wu, District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata and State Senator Lydia Edwards with friends at the East Boston Christmas Tree lighting in Maverick Square. ***(Photos courtesy of the City of Boston)***

North End Community Center Breaks Ground

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (Center), members of her administration and various elected officials including At-Large Councilor Erin Murphy, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, along with Director of the Nazzaro Center Marlo D'Anna and John and Patricia Romano.

(Photo courtesy of the City of Boston)

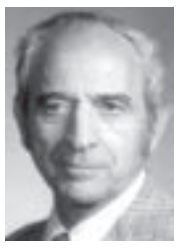
Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joined elected officials, community leaders and residents at last week's groundbreaking for the new Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) North End Community Center, at 475 Commercial Street, adjacent to the Mirabella Pool/Puopolo and Langone Park Complex. This modern, expanded center will become the future home of BCYF's North End programming.

(Continued on Page 10)

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



ATHENA

As we continue to delve into the world of ancient mythology, we are amazed to find such striking similarities between the Greek and Roman systems. Greek mythology identifies Zeus as chief of all gods, Hera as his wife, and Athena as the most famous of their daughters. The Romans identified Jupiter as chief of their gods, Juno as his wife, and Minerva as the most famous of their daughters. Probably the most popular legend regarding this deity tells us that Zeus swallowed his first wife, Metis, because he feared that she would bring forth a son stronger than himself. Later, one of the other gods cleaved open the head of Zeus with an axe, permitting Athena, the goddess of eternal virginity, to spring forth in full armor. Zeus, being immortal, suffered no physical problems because of this activity.

From her very beginning, Athena occupied a prominent place in Greek mythology. She was usually represented as the favorite of her father, who refused her nothing. With the exception of Zeus and Apollo, no other deity was treated with such high moral regard among mortals. She was intimately connected in the region of Attica and Athens became the most important seat of her worship. As the maiden daughter of Zeus and goddess of the sky, she shared with him the power to use thunder and lightning as weapons. Like her father, she carried the "aegis" (A shield representing storms, thunder, and lightning). The shield of Zeus was trimmed with tassels of gold. When Zeus shook his aegis, thunder, lightning, horror, and destruction fell upon those against whom it was lifted.

Some statues of Athena showed her hurling a thunderbolt but legend also implied that she sent down the light, the warmth, and the moisture which was so necessary for a prosperous growing season. This goddess was also honored as the inventress of the yoke and the plow.

Poseidon (god of the sea) argued with Athena over which of them should offer the name for the capital of Attica. The gods decided that the honor should be reserved for whichever of the two bestowed upon mankind the most useful gift. It was at this time that Poseidon created the horse, and Athena gave the olive tree, which she caused to grow out of the rock that eventually became the Acropolis. Athena won, of course, and the city was named Athens.

(Continued on Page 10)

Boston Homeowners Guaranteed a Property Tax Increase in 2026

by Patti Sartori

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu just can't seem to push her tax shift legislative initiative past the State House finish line. For the past two years, Mayor Wu has been advocating for the passage of this tax shift legislation. Previously approved three separate times by the Boston City Council and Massachusetts House of Representatives, it ultimately died late last year in the Massachusetts Senate and is stalled there again this year.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue late last week the average single-family homeowner will receive a 13% tax increase this year, a double digit increase for the second straight year. "Now that the valuations for Boston's 180,000-plus parcels have been confirmed, we can say with certainty that unless the state legislature takes action on Boston's residential tax relief home rule petition, the average single-family home owner's tax bill will go up by another 13% next year, with many households having even higher increases than average," city spokesperson Emma Petit said in a statement.

The legislation would increase commercial tax rates in the city in order to provide residential tax relief. It would give the city the authority to transfer a larger amount of the city's tax burden, beyond the current 175% limit allowed under state law, for a three-year period, to ease the financial burden from residential property tax owners.

Approximately three-quarters of Boston's budget comes from property taxes. With a six percent drop in commercial property values, and a two percent increase in residential values, more of the city's tax burden will be pushed onto homeowners. Mayor Wu doesn't believe slashing the city's $4.8 billion dollar budget, which grew by $4.4% this past year, would not be in the city's best interest especially on the delivery of basic city services and maintaining the city's AAA bond rating.

According to Gregory Maynard, Executive Director of the Boston Policy Institute, the city may be looking at a $2.1 billion dollar shortfall within 5 years due to the dropping commercial rates. "City Hall hasn't done anything to move this conversation forward. The mayor's proposal is extremely short-term. It's only for a couple of years, and it hasn't been accompanied by any strategy from the city to try and prop up commercial benefits. Boston is now lagging behind other major American cities in that it has no boldface downtown revitalization plan," Maynard stated in a *Boston Herald* interview.

Tax bills will to go out to property owners in January, 2026, and unless this legislation is passed before then, home-owners should prepare to pay approximately $780 more in residential property tax this year.

How Christmas Traditions Have Changed Over the Years

by Patti Sartori

Christmas remains one of the most cherished and special holidays, but how people celebrate it has changed dramatically over the last half century. From shopping habits to decor, from family gatherings to digital and social media invites, the holiday has continually evolved to reflect cultural, economic, and technological change.

Christmas has transformed in so many ways since I was a kid growing up over 50 years ago. In the 1970s and 1980s gift shopping focused on department stores, catalog orders, my personal favorite was the Sears Roebuck Wish Book, and other local establishments. Walking through malls, or downtown crossing in Boston to window shop and visit with Santa was part of the season excitement and tradition. Kids circled items in the JCPenney and Sears catalogs, hoping they would find their way under the tree on Christmas morning. Today online shopping is dominant. Wish lists now sit in Amazon carts and Black Friday has turned into weeks of deals with Cyber Monday almost as popular. Convenience, speed and home delivery determines the gift buying.

In the 1970s and 1980s decorations were simpler, thick colored bulbs adorned the artificial Christmas tree, along with silver tinsel, and homemade ornaments. Ceramic table top trees, nativity sets, modest outside lights or a simple wreath on the front door rounded out the decorations. Today, decor has become more elaborate and commercialized, with LED lighting, inflatable yard figures and massively large fresh Christmas trees taking center stage in many homes. Social media plays a significant role as people showcase their homes on Instagram, Tik Tok and Face Book.

In the 1970s and 1980s families gathered together to watch annual tv specials, that only aired during the Christmas season, such as *A Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. You watched them when they aired, and if you missed it, you had to wait until next year. Today streaming and on-demand programming has changed everything. These classic specials are available at any time, with platforms like Disney, Netflix, YouTube and Amazon Prime releasing new movies each year. Personalized playlists, Apple Music, Pandora or Spotify, have replaced CD's and holiday radio stations.

From the 1970s to the 2000s Christmas Cards were mailed and hand-written. Today, digital greetings, video messages, holiday group texts, and social media posts have pretty much replaced physical cards, although custom photo cards remain popular among families with young children.

In the 1970s many families lived within walking or driving distance of one another, and gatherings traditionally included the entire extended family. Today families are much more geographically spread out, making holiday travel, by car, plane or a face time visit a more modern and typical Christmas. Blended families also affect how traditions are scheduled and shared. The Christmas season has become less traditional and geared more toward individual values and lifestyles.

Christmas has always blended religious and cultural components, but the commercialization element has shifted dramatically over the past fifty years with stores flooding their shelves and aisles with merchandise even before the first Halloween trick or treater has ventured out.

In many ways, Christmas today looks vastly different than it did fifty years ago, more digital, heavily influenced by technology and social media. Yet at its core, I believe the focus of it remains unchanged. Whether celebrated with simple traditions or elaborate displays, Christmas continues to center on connection with others, generosity and moments of joy shared with the people who matter most.

Merry Christmas and may we never lose the spirit of Christmases past!

Photo Submission Guidelines

Photos submitted for publication should have a minimum resolution of 150 dpi (or ppi*), 300 dpi for best results. Photos taken with camera phones are typically only 72 dpi and will be too grainy to print. If taking photos for a submission, please use a digital camera. If supplying existing photos, please submit a high-quality print for scanning.*

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James V. Donnaruma 1896 to 1953 *Caesar L. Donnaruma 1953 to 1971* *Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990*

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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

Louis J. "Fudgy" Capodilupo, Jr.

December 15, 2011
14th Anniversary

A Bridge Called Love

It takes us back to brighter years,
to happier sunlit days and to
precious moments that will be
with us always. And these fond
recollections are treasured in the
heart to bring us always close to
those from whom we had to part.
There is a bridge of memories
from earth to Heaven above ...
it keeps our dear ones near us.
It's the bridge that we call love.

Love,

Stephen, Carol and Murray

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

The opinions expressed by our columnists and contributors are not necessarily the same as those of The Post-Gazette, its publisher or editor. Photo submissions are accepted by the Post-Gazette provided they are clear, original photos. There is a $5 charge for each photo submitted. Photos can be submitted via e-mail: postgazette@aol.com. If you want your photos returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

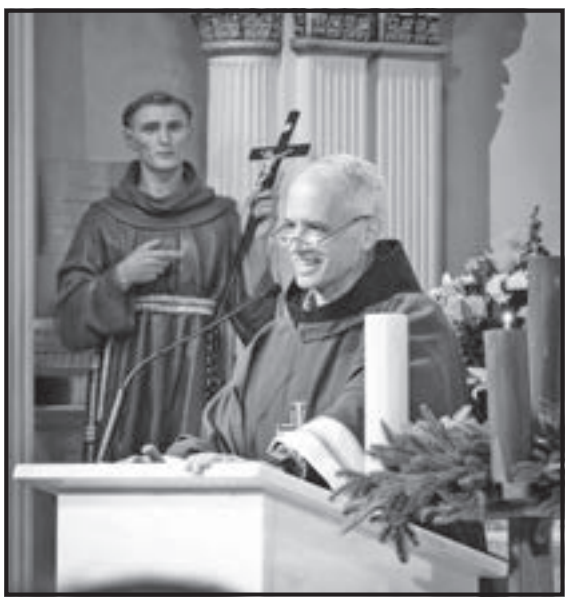
Veneration of Saint Francis of Assisi Relic & St. Leonard Peace Garden Nativity Scene Blessing

The Blessed Relic sits under the watchful eye of the St. Francis of Assisi statue in St. Leonard Church in the North End.

In commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order and Patron of the Poor, the venerable relics of this humble and Pius saint were the focus on Saturday, December 6 at a special 5:00 p.m. vigil mass at St. Leonard Church, Hanover Street in the North End, celebrated by

His Excellence Bishop Cristiano Borro Barbosa, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston offering a Blessing over the St. Leonard Church Peace Garden Nativity Scene

Michael Bonnetti and Bishop Cristiano Borro Barbosa



Pastor of St. Leonard Church welcoming everyone to the St. Francis Relic Mass

His Excellence Bishop Cristiano Borro Barbosa, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.

Immediately following, the faithful community gathered in prayer and thanksgiving to bless and inaugurate a newly-curated Manger Scene in the Peace Garden for all to venerate "Baby Jesus."

A special thank you to Michael Bonetti, Toni Gilardi, Frank DePasquale and all of the sponsors and benefactors for the continued love and support of St. Leonard Parish and our beloved Peace Garden.

The newly curated Manger Scene in the Peace Garden of St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street in the North End, Boston. ***(Photos by Charles Rachal)***

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Let the Light Shine!

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

Is there a Christmas symbol more powerful and life-affirming than the light? Everywhere I turn this season, different lights glow in the air around me, each providing a distinctive sensation of the holiday season. When I see the multicolored lights strung around the bushes surrounding the confection shop near my home, playfully blinking at me with their bright hues of red and green and blue, I am filled with a childlike zest for Christmas. These lights remind me of old-fashioned toys and candy canes, chocolate treats and wrapping paper. The golden lights that drip off ceilings are more elegant, reminiscent of a candle's warm heart and the generosity that accompanies the holidays. After all, a candle glowing in the window has long been a sign of hospitality and welcome. Meanwhile, the icy blue lights that adorn trees in some town squares remind me of quiet and snowy winter evenings, as sparkling as Elsa's palace in *Frozen.* Indeed, lights do form a significant aspect of the Christmas season, serving both a religious and symbolic purpose. Religiously, these candles signify the light Jesus brought upon the world at His birth on Christmas. Symbolically, the lights brighten the darkest nights of the year and celebrate the return of the sun after the winter solstice. Two holidays which occur during this time, St. Lucy's Day and Hanukkah, incorporate lights as central features of their celebrations, spreading warmth and cheer into the chilly winter air.

St. Lucy's Day, one of my favorite feasts, occurs on December 13th. Known as *la Festa di Santa Lucia* in Italian, this holiday honors a fourth-century martyr from Syracuse, Sicily. Italians celebrate St. Lucy in varying ways depending on the region. According to a Sicilian legend, St. Lucy once alleviated a famine by sending in ships bearing wheat into the port of Syracuse. To commemorate this event, some Sicilians prepare *cuccía,* or a porridge of boiled wheat berries that can be served with honey and ricotta, on the feast day. In the northern areas of Italy, such as Veneto and Friuli, St. Lucy serves as a gift-bringer. She distributes small gifts to children on the eve of her festival, accompanied by her donkey and by her assistant Castaldo. The name *Lucia* stems from the same Latin root as the word *light,* making her the perfect saint for festivities which take place on one of the darkest nights of the year. Before the calendar reform, December 13th was the winter solstice, a vestige which remains in the Italian proverb *Santa Lucia, il giorno piú corto che ci sia* ("St. Lucy's Day is the shortest day there is"). Her association with light also explains why St. Lucy is such a popular saint in the Scandinavian countries, where winter darkness can last for the better part of the day. Candlelit St. Lucy's Day processions occur along the streets of major Scandinavian cities, featuring lots of girls dressed like St. Lucy and boys wearing gingerbread men costumes, or conical hats decorated with stars. On the feast of St. Lucy, a daughter in the family wakes up early and dresses in a white robe and a red sash. Sporting a wreath of electric candles on her head, she greets the family at breakfast by serving them hot chocolate and *lussekatter,* or raisin buns spiced with saffron, which infuses a cheerful yellow shade. On St. Lucy's Day, I honor the light breaking through the darkness by baking sweet potato biscuits, which emerge warm from the oven with a beautiful sunny glow.

Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday begins on December 14th this year and ends on December 22nd, also incorporates light into its festivities. Hanukkah celebrates the over two-thousand-year-old victory of a Jewish patriotic group known as the Maccabees over the Seleucid Army, which wanted to impose Greek culture and religion on the Jews. When the Holy Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated during the revolt, there was only a small supply of oil to light the sacred menorah, or candelabra, in the Temple. Miraculously, however, the oil lasted for eight days, which forms the basis of Hanukkah as an eight-day celebration. Families honor the miracle of the oil by lighting one candle on their own menorahs every night of Hanukkah. Fried food is traditional for Hanukkah because it also commemorates the oil that illuminated the Temple's menorah. These foods can include *latkes,* which are potato pancakes, and *sufganiyot,* a jelly-filled donut. Italy is home to a number of old Jewish communities in cities like Rome and Venice, and there Hanukkah is celebrated with beloved traditions and specialty foods. One such food is *precipizi,* or deep-fried dough balls coated with honey. Golden and warm, the *precipizi* look like miniature suns, reaffirming the motif of light breaking through the darkness. Italian Jews also popularized frying vegetables, and as such fried artichoke remains a popular Italian Hanukkah dish. I grew up in a town with a large Jewish population, and holiday parties in my elementary school always featured a blend of Christmas and Hanukkah festivities. I remember playing *dreidel,* a game involving a spinning top and a pile of prizes, with my classmates and accumulating delicious *gelt* (chocolate coins) wrapped in golden foil, and topping *latkes* with sour cream and applesauce. It was wonderful to have two great holidays bring my town close together during the dark of winter.

As the winter solstice approaches, the nights get progressively darker, casting a gray gloom earlier and earlier into the afternoon. For this reason, holiday lights play a powerful and heartfelt role in many winter celebrations. Candles illuminate the nights across the world, whether they spring from the crown of a girl dressed as St. Lucy or from a Hanukkah menorah being lit by a family. It is easy to get bogged in a metaphorical darkness this time of year — not just because of the early sunsets, but because of the stress and depression that sometimes accompany the holiday season. During moments like this, it is important to pay attention to the symbolic lights in our life: family and friends, nourishing food, personal strength, acts of kindness. When we dwell on these aspects, rather than let the darkness get the best of us, we will see that our inner light can outshine anything.

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.

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani

What Do Christmas Traditions in Boston Mean Anymore?

Recently I attended a lecture by Boston author Anthony Sammarco on a book of his *Christmas Traditions in Boston* where he explored the celebration of Christmas throughout Boston's long history.

Today, it seems Christmas is being relegated into the abyss, out of sight and out of mind. Where once it was so joyful, we have now become swamped with all kinds of fringes trying to make Christmas go away. People have become afraid of wishing anyone a "Merry Christmas" for fear such a pleasantry might be viewed as a "microaggression". When we become afraid of acknowledging the Christmas holiday, we become no better than the early Puritans who forbade the celebration itself in private or public and were considered criminal. Puritans couldn't "celebrate" anything. It seemed to even crack a smile was a sin.

I feel so lucky to have been born as a Baby Boomer when Christmas was a great time of the year, a unifying spirit bringing people together. It was about the spirit of hope coming to life within us.

Like Sammarco, I too remember Downtown Boston at Christmastime. It was a great place to visit. Christmas trees not holiday trees, Nativity scenes everywhere. At the Boston Common near the State House, the Enchanted Village at Jordan Marsh, getting in line to speak with Santa Claus himself. As children, we wanted to hang on to our dreams forever. Eventually, we had doubts about Santa but kept those doubts from our younger siblings. I remember when I found out the truth but kept the truth from my little brother for a few more years of Christmas happiness for him.

As a child, Christmas is about me, me and more me but as we grow, we discover Christmas is about others. Bringing joy to those in need of joy.

One more thing that just entered my head, can you image the reaction of modern-day Puritans whose only reason for living is sucking the joy out of all of us.

Remember the larger-than-life Nativity Scene atop their window displays along Summer Street and the very loud audio of Christmas carols playing for all to hear. Today schools no longer have Christmas concerts, they're now called holiday or winter concerts. God forbid we remember why we have this special holiday. I still believe in God and do my best to practice my faith. I don't hide it. I celebrate it. I pass it on to others. I don't force people to believe what I believe. Each of us must come to our own conclusions and know all of us are different and accept having other beliefs.

As an adult believer in Christmas, I try to give back for all the gifts that I have received. Next week I will be over at the Nazzaro Community Center dressed up in a red suit and sporting a white beard and handing out gifts to the kiddos and watching them looking so happy. This is the meaning of this winter holiday. It's about all of us living together and in as -much harmony as possible.

I believe we are all born again every day when we wake up and touch the floor with our feet. Anthony Sammarco talked about the way things are inside our memories. The way things were and I choose to hold on to the values taught me growing up and looking out for each other, no matter how impossible that can seem at times.

Happy Christmas to all. I didn't say this to anger you, nor to demean you but only to wish the best in life to all my fellow travelers. We can all be on our own journeys and yet be marching forward together to someplace else down the line. The Christmas spirit remains alive.

Sinceri Ringraziamenti

to the Padre Pio Devotees

The Padre Pio Community would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in and generously donated to our event on November 23, 2025 featuring the veneration of the Padre Pio relics from Pietrelcina, Italy at St. Anthony's Church in Revere.

Thanks to the support and devotion of our community, we were able to host a beautiful and meaningful day of prayer. After deducting all expenses from the funds raised over the past year, a surplus balance of $4,168 was remaining. This amount has been evenly divided between St. Leonard's Church in the North End and St. Anthony's of Padua Church in Revere, with each parish receiving $2,084.

We are sincerely grateful for your continued faith, support, and participation. May Padre Pio's blessings be upon you all.

Anna D'Amore Sirignano & Natalina Tizzano

Knights of Columbus Ausonia Council #1513 Hosts

Annual Children's Christmas Celebration

Christmas came a little early to the K of C, at 41 North Margin Street, in the North End, Boston. Children were treated to Christmas gifts and photos with Santa. It was a wonderful opportunity to spread some Christmas Cheer and something all of the members and participants look forward to each year.

The Knights of Columbus #1513 Ausonia Council conducts programs and other non-profit organizations to provide charitable activities that improve the quality of life for people. They support elderly, youth, educational, cultural, religious, athletic, and health programs throughout the North End community, all in a volunteer capacity.

Grand Knight John Pagliuca would like to offer his thanks to Father Michael Della Penna, St. Leonard Church Parish, District Deputy Bob "*Elf*" Rollinson, Santa Claus and his brother Knights for hosting a Very Merry Christmas Party.

Stephen Scapicchio, Grand Knight John Pagliuca, Santa Claus, District Deputy Bob "Elf" Rollinson and Joseph Pagliuca

Theo with mom Christi Gannon, Santa Claus hugging Francine Gannon and Papa Jimmy Gannon

Santa Claus with a few of his dedicated volunteers.

John Fiumara and a family enjoying the K of C 2025 annual Christmas Celebration.

The happiest of Santa's Elves Stephen Scapicchio with two cuties.

FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END LIBRARY

Updates & Reminders

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE ON OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING

We will hold our annual election of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Directors) at the January 2026 board meeting when we reconvene. **Stay tuned for the updated date and time.**

Any member who has paid their 2025 dues may nominate themself or any other paid-up member. Nominations made be made by email to *Info@FriendsNelibrary.org* received prior to Noon on December 31st, and nominations may also be made in person at the meeting prior to the election being held.

As of the printing of our Newsletter, Alexandra Salmon has been nominated for President, Rita Pagliuca has been nominated for Vice President, Gail Hudak has been nominated for Treasurer, and John O'Reilly has been nominated as Secretary/Clerk.

You must be present at the next Board Meeting and have paid your dues for calendar year 2025 in order to vote.

For questions or more information, please email *info@FriendsNElibrary.org.*

We look forward to seeing you there — AND at our annual Holiday Open House!

JOIN US SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!

We look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!

The Friends of the North End Library is always proud to present our Annual Holiday Open House and excited to share it with our community. We've got a great group of volunteers committed already. In order to make this year's event a success, we need some more volunteers to assist with all the fun activities we have lined up.

If you'd like to volunteer, please email: *joannejohnoreilly@gmail.com*. We look forward to having you volunteer with us!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

As we continue our programming, we are sending out this membership reminder for calendar year 2026. We appreciated your support in 2025 and look forward to your continuing support for this year.

We are always interested in program ideas from our Friends community. If you have any suggestions for programs, please email your suggestions to *Info@FriendsNElibrary.org*, or please attend one of our monthly board meetings.

To pay online, go to https://*www.friendsnelibrary.org/* and click on *Get Involved* or mail a check payable to:

Friends of the North End Branch Library
P.O. Box 130197
Boston, MA 02113

Or deposit your payment (in the envelope provided) in the Red Box next to our Book Sale in the back of the North End Library at 25 Parmenter Street. Thank you again for your support of our neighborhood library.

Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

As Christmas approaches, I always remember something my visiting cousin Padre Mario once said to me when I was a child, "Siamo tutti chiamati, e se scegliamo di ascoltare, tutti noi possiamo fare la differenza." (We are all called, and if we choose to hear, we can all make a difference.) The Greater Boston Food Bank comes to mind. It's the largest hunger-relief organization in New England. Catherine D'Amato, who has led the GBFB since 1995, who answered the call, is a major reason why. Under her leadership, the agency founded by the late Kip Tiernan in 1974 when she gave away food from the back of her station wagon, last year distributed 107-million pounds of food to 600 partner-agencies in Eastern Massachusetts!

Ms. D'Amato comes by the food-compassion connection by birthright: she is Italian on her father's side. Her paternal grandparents came from Petina, a town southeast of Naples. The young blacksmith and his wife, who was from a sheepherding family, first settled in Pennsylvania where he worked in the coal mines before they moved to Colorado to become farmers. The whole family pitched in on the farm. She remembers her grandfather saying things like "Don't ever waste food!" and "We save every part of the pig (except for the squeal!)"

Years later, her parents moved out to California where they opened D'Amato's Restaurant, serving every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food, you could say, is in her blood, but so is compassion for those who are food-insecure. She recalled that her "father took care of the 'back door' people. If people showed up at the restaurant's back door asking to work for food, he just took them in and fed them."

Catherine D'Amato

She said his Catholic faith also formed their food-compassion connection. Her dad helped at both his parish church food pantry and through the Knights of Columbus, which focused heavily on food charities.

Growing up with these fine role models it doesn't come as a surprise that Catherine got her undergraduate degree in Theology in San Francisco. To help pay for college she worked as a secretary at a Presbyterian Church. Her duties included answering the door to anyone looking for food from the food pantry. The experience made a huge impact on her. She joined with a friend from another nearby church and wrote a grant application to start the Cathedral Hill Food Box Program. The $10,000 grant came through, and though she didn't know it then, it helped launch her lifelong commitment to feeding the hungry. From there Ms. D'Amato started the San Francisco Food Bank in 1979. That, in turn, led to her creating the first food bank farm. She took all her experiences doing these innovative things out to work in western Massachusetts, before finally heading to Boston in 1995 to lead the Greater Boston Food Bank.

I expressed dismay that we're always told that the USA is the richest country in the world, yet we've always had people going hungry. Ms. D'Amato agreed that the concept just "doesn't fit" and especially in modern times when we have food abundance, science, nutrition information, and ways to distribute all of these things. She called it "simply shameful" and recounted how in "old school America" communities cared for their neighbors with soup kitchens, churches ran food pantries, and everyone banded together to at least take care of their own. Nowadays they just can't keep up. Before the Covid pandemic 1-in-7 people were food-insecure, but since then the number has skyrocketed to 1-in-3. Many jobs were lost in the pandemic, back-up resources dried up, and there have been multiple changes in requirements to even be eligible for government food help.

She said, "The problems do repeat themselves. When I lecture, I share 3 things I know for sure about hunger: It is always Economics (it requires money), Political (politicians change rules, no matter which party is in power), and Personal (no one chooses hunger, but rather it's the result of a death, job loss, elder dependency, other emergencies)."

So, is it hopeless? "Not if people are serious about ending the problem," she said. And there is something everyone can do to help as we head into the Christmas season and beyond: "First, *Donate* money. Even $1.00 helps. Every single gift matters, and 92-cents of every dollar we receive goes to direct food relief. Second, *Organize a food drive* for your local food pantry, and involve young people as they'll be tomorrow's leaders. Third, *Advocate* by calling your city councilor, state rep, all the way up to your Congresspeople. They really do take a count of how many people care about an issue. And finally, *Volunteer!* Go to the Greater Boston Food Bank website, gbfb.org, put in your zip code and see what food pantries near you could use your help!"

I asked her for her hopes for 2026? "An increase in compassion, from politicians to donors. Just because the government shutdown is over (for now), it doesn't mean the problems have gone away."

And a parting thought? "Just don't sit on the sidelines, at Christmas or any time."

Let's all of us answer the call, my friends. Happy Advent!

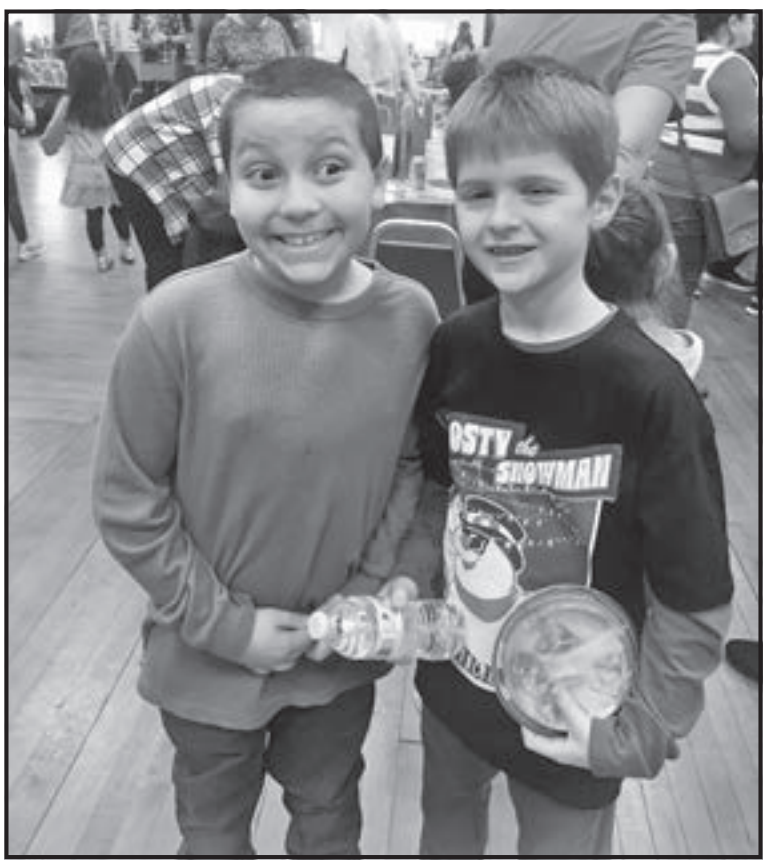
East Boston Central Catholic School's *Annual Christmas Fair*

East Boston Central Catholic School Principal Robert Casaletto with two long-time supporters.

When you attend East Boston Central Catholic's Annual Christmas Fair (EBCCS) it's not just to purchase raffle tickets, browse through the crafts and sale items or visit with Santa Claus, rather it is that special time of the year when past and present students, and families are afforded the opportunity to reconnect and embrace the special magic the EBCCS faculty and staff spreads over so many of us.

It was a wonderful day for all who attended. If you missed out on this year's festivities, be sure to mark it on your calendar for 2026.

A face painting artist at work.



Cousins Paul and Michael wondering which of Santa's list they are on, Naughty or Nice???

Saint Thecla

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

According to a popular second century tale, Acts of Paul and Thecla, she was a native of Iconomium who was so impressed by the preaching of St. Paul on virginity that she broke off her engagement to marry a man named Thamyris to live a life of virginity. Paul was ordered to be scourged and banished from the city for his teaching, and Thecla was ordered burned to death. When a storm providentially extinguished the flames, she escaped with Paul and went with him to Antioch. There she was condemned to wild beasts in the arena when she violently resisted the attempt of Syriarch Alexander to kidnap her, but again escaped when the beasts did no harm to her.

Thecla rejoined Paul at Myra in Lycia, dressed as a boy, and was commissioned by him to preach the Gospel. She did for a time in Iconium and then became a recluse in a cave at Meriamlik near Seleucia. She lived as a hermitess there for the next seventy-two years and died there (or in Rome, when she found that Paul had died and was later buried near his tomb). The life and story of Saint Thecla had tremendous popularity in the early Church but is undoubtedly a pious legend and was labeled apocryphal by St. Jerome. Her feast day is September 23.

East Boston's Children Christmas Party is a Huge Success!

The Very Merry Volunteer Elves who coordinate and ensure the success of this event.

Santa Claus surrounded by some of the youth attending the 2025 East Boston Children's Christmas Party.

Thank you to all who organized and participated in East Boston's 2025 Children's Christmas Party. Without the generous donation of the Hilton Garden Inn on Boardman Street for graciously donating the space and the free breakfast as well as Gina Guange and staff for donating their time. A shout out to Beverly Richards Dance Studio and her dancers for leading the Santa line.

A few of the East Boston Children's Party guests enjoying the festivities.

Santa Claus offering advice to a couple of children on how to stay on the nice list.

The donations from Balloon City, Burger King in Orient Heights (owner Brek Kohler), Burger King in Maverick Square (owner Doug Barrow), Spinelli's, East Boston Chamber of Commerce, along with Ann and Gina Guange once again ensured the success of this event.

To the Dream Team of Elves, Yesenia Cardenas-Bejar, Bridget Faretra-Heigelmann, Diana Munera, Zuleima Chan, Christine Mazzarella Doherty, Bianca DiAngelis, Samantha Wu Topolski, Keeley Cullen, Shirley Fabbo of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and Lisa Cappuccio, your dedication and commitment to this event is priceless.

Facts ON wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best . . . forgetting the rest

FALL OUT BOY:
FROM UNDER THE
CORK TREE
20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
(3LP Vinyl)
UMe

Grammy Award-nominated iconic multiplatinum rock band Fall Out Boy celebrates two decades of their influential 5x-Platinum breakthrough album, *From Under The Cork Tree*, with a very special new 20th Anniversary Edition. The original LP's 13 songs are newly remastered, while the collection notably boasts previously unreleased alternate and acoustic versions as well as remixes, live recordings, B-sides, and more. It also captures key performances from this era with special *"Live On BBC Radio"* tracks. *From Under The Cork Tree (20th Anniversary Edition)* is available in multiple configurations, including this massive 3LP Deluxe Box, 2CD Deluxe Box, and Super Deluxe Digital. The group heralds its arrival by sharing the highly sought-after B-side "Start Today" on all streaming services. Fall Out Boy originally recorded this Gorilla Biscuits cover for inclusion on *Tony Hawk's American Wasteland* Soundtrack in 2005. Beyond the unreleased material, both the 3LP Deluxe Box and 2CD Deluxe Box feature a treasure trove of extras. Each Box houses an exclusive letter to fans penned by bassist and primary lyricist Pete Wentz, a *"Prom"* photo from "Dance Dance" music video, and a comic book cover illustration drawn from the "A Little Less Than Sixteen Candles, A Little More Than 'Touch Me'" music video. Other extras include memorabilia from the seminal *Black Clouds and Underdogs Tour* 2006, such as a tour poster, set list, ticket stub, and tour sticker laminate. *From Under The Cork Tree* first landed on May 3, 2005, reaching #9 on the *Billboard* 200. Among a myriad of staples, the 9x-Platinum smash single "Sugar, We're Goin Down" climbed to #8 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, while the 6x-Platinum "Dance, Dance" vaulted to #9. Not to mention, "A Little Less Than Sixteen Candles, A Little More Than 'Touch Me'" went Platinum. In its wake, Fall Out Boy received a 2006 Grammy Award nomination in the category of *"Best New Artist."* Gathering billions of streams, the album's influence has been well-documented over the years. *Rolling Stone* touted it at #9 among the *"40 Greatest Emo (Emotional) Albums of All Time."* This 3LP Deluxe album track listing also contains: **LP1** - Side A: Our Lawyer Made Us Change The Name Of This Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued, Of All The Gin Joints In All The World, Nobody Puts Baby In The Corner. Side B: I've Got A Dark Alley And A Bad Idea That Says You Should Shut Your Mouth (Summer Song), 7 Minutes In Heaven (Atavan Halen), Sophomore Slump Or Comeback Of The Year, Champagne For My Real Friends, Real Pain For My Sham Friends, I Slept With Someone In Fall Out Boy And All I Got Was This Stupid Song Written About Me. **LP2** - Side C: Get Busy Living Or Get Busy Dying (Do Your Part To Save The Scene And Stop Going To Shows), XO, Sugar, We're Goin Down (Live On BBC Radio). Side D: Where's Your Boy (Live On BBC Radio), Of All The Gin Joints In All The World (Live On BBC Radio), Dance, Dance (Live On BBC Radio). **LP3** - Side E: Sugar, We're Goin Down (TLA Radio Edit), Dance, Dance (Tommie Sunshine Fire N Brimstone Remix), I Slept With Someone In Fall Out Boy And All I Got Was This Stupid Song Written About Me (Alternate Version), Sophomore Slump Or Comeback Of The Year (Alternate Version). Side F: Dance, Dance (RJD2 Remix), Sugar, We're Goin Down (Acoustic Version), Nobody Puts Baby In The Corner (Acoustic Version), Sugar, We're Goin Down (Instrumental).

SOULFLY -
CHAMA
(LP Vinyl)
Nuclear Blast Records

Coming straight from the deep jungles of Brazil to the arid expanses of Arizona extreme metal trailblazers as Soulfly delivers their tribally fueled thirteenth album *Chama,* via Nuclear Blast Records. Once again, a remarkable testament to Max Cavalera, the Brazilian songwriter's natural affinity for slamming yet rhythmic riffs that defined his signature sound to listeners around the world. A true return to the spiritual upbringing of Soulfly that somehow bears a modern-day edge and vitality. Something that could only be attained by a true master of the craft, and Max Cavalera, who primarily wrote the lyrics, along with son Zyon, has stunned us all again. Today, Soulfly offer fans the first taste from the album in the form of the first single, 'Storm The Gates.' A battle cry against control and greed, the track summons ancestral strength and unites the tribe in rebellion — heavy, primal, and unapologetically relentless. Max comments, "Chama" is the Brazilian word for flame. It also means a 'calling.' Respect to UFC fighter, Alex Pereira for using Itsari on his walk-outs. Chama is inspired by the energy of this moment This record is the sound of Soulfly's fire! I cannot wait to play these songs live for the Tribe! Chama!" Soulfly band member Zyon Cavalera states, "With each Soulfly record I've played on, I can feel my evolution happening in real time. This record was no different as I got to handle a good amount of the production for the first time. Trying to take the band to places we have never been before was a blast and I look forward to more production work in the future!" Soulfly's *Chama,* is on Yellow Orange Corona Vinyl. Track listing features: Indigenous Inquisition, Storm The Gates, Nihilist, No Pain = No Power, Ghenna, Black Hole Scum, Favela/Dystopia, Always Was, Always Will Be, Soulfly XIII, and the title track Chama.

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 Giarratani

SECURITY BREACH AT BOSTON CITY HALL

Several city councilors were upset over a security breach in the building last week when a masked intruder was able to roam through the building apparently unnoticed. In the process it was discovered that this masked culprit was able to enter office spaces freely and snatch employees personal stuff, money, credit cards, etc.

The whole building is guarded by unarmed special police officers who are always posted at the three entrances to this building. However, as a retired police sergeant for Metro Boston Area DMH police for 28 years, multiple and random walk-throughs are a security protocol. I am not throwing anyone under the bus but officers should always be mobile looking everywhere for anything suspicious or out of place. Otherwise, culprits know where security is and where they are not.

Also, employees need to be aware of their surroundings and if they keep valuables in their work area, they should be secured at all times, especially when leaving your office and leaving office doors unlocked. Don't make it easy to become a victim of theft. Just saying, if you see someone acting weird and wearing a mask don't just walk by them, notify the officers down at the building entrances.

DID I MISS THE MEMO ON HIGH BEAMS?

Is it just me or are there much too many drivers out there all around us who always have their high beams on? Once a driver would use his or her high beams in a completely darkened area or during a heavy rain storm on say Route 1 in Saugus for example.

Nowadays, too many drivers seem to have forgotten why we have high beams on our vehicles. We all want to get to work or something else without risking our lives when another driver's high beams blind oncoming traffic ruining your day and someone else's too. Think about it.

THE KUHNERMAN USED TO BE MUCH BETTER

I started listening to Jeff Kuhner some 10 years ago on WRKO when he replaced Jeff Katz in the morning drive time. I even called in a few times. However, as of late, his show bores me. One morning it sounded like he was talking from the Oval Office as he kept heaping praise on President Trump.

Big topics this week: Was it right to strike the so-called narco terrorist boat a second time after the first strike didn't sink it? The second strike apparently killed everybody on the boat who survived the first strike.

Kuhner thinks there was nothing to see here. Sometimes, this constant praising of the Trump White House is hard to take. Of course, Democrats like U.S. Sen. Tim Raines, D-VA, is perfect fodder for Jeff. According to Raines, everything Trump does is a "war crime."

The never-ever camera-shy Stephen Scapicchio is seen here down at the Thinking Cup talking with Hannah Moran who loves the coffee this place sells. She works downtown and lives near TD garden but loves strolling through the North End. Hannah is also Gaelic and Garlic like yours truly here.

Lately, I have turned off 680 AM for *Seventies on 7* on Sirius Radio. I would rather relax with good music than endless, meaningless babble. I wish Jeff Katz was still on Boston talk radio. I do, I do, I do.

THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD YEARS AGO

One morning last week, while reading Cindy Adams' column in the *NY Post*, I discovered that the legendary Brigitte Bardot is still among the living at the ripe old age of 91. Back in the '50s and '60s, she was a legendary sex symbol up there with Marilyn Monroe and Jane Mansfield. Shortly before her 40th birthday in 1973, she retired from the spotlight. Back in the early to middle '60s, I remember going to the theatre often to see one of her flicks. She was amazingly beautiful and as a teen boy I found her hot, hot, hot.

In *Bardot*, a newly released documentary, she opened up about all her struggles and suicide attempts from her life-long bouts with depression even at the height of her fame. I should hunt on YouTube for one of her old movies. The last one I saw was French-speaking but you never had to worry about the translation. All you did was watch the screen.

The movie theatre I saw it in was the Stuart, down in the Combat Zone, at the corner of Stuart and Washington Streets. We always had to bring some disinfectors with us for the movie seats and that's all I'll say about that.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Why are there no losers in Dachshund races?

Answer? Because all these dogs are wieners.

RUNNER UP JOKE

Why did the coffee file a police report?

Answer? It got mugged

GAS PUMP PRICES HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

The cheapest price of gas at the pumps last week was $3.19 in East Boston and the highest was an incredible $3.79 down by the old police station. Meanwhile, if you're over in West Roxbury, gas goes for an average $2.75 per gallon. Drive a little further down Washington Street in Dedham, the price was only $2.69. I kid you not. Why are East Boston prices so high? Can anyone explain this to me?

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

Christmas is coming and I'm going to hold up on my story about a trip to Italy for the next couple of weeks. I have many fond memories about celebrating Christmas when I was a kid growing up in East Boston. Preparations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day would begin long before the 24th and 25th of December would arrive. Most of the preparation was done by Nanna, Babbononno and my mother. The men in my family were musicians and Christmas time was their busiest season of the year. Back then, it was live music for every event. There were no such things as DJs playing records, tapes or CDs. My uncles were sax players and Dad played bass violin, and were among the best in Boston. As a result, they worked morning, noon and night playing Christmas parties at this time of year. For years, Dad played at Santa's Enchanted Village in Jordan Marsh, entertaining the kids who were there to see Santa Claus.

The preparations for Christmas Eve fell mainly on Babbononno. It is traditional that Italians celebrate Christmas Eve with a dinner that consists of seven fish courses. Babbononno used to say that seven was the minimum and that you could have any number of offerings as long as it was an odd number, seven, nine, eleven, etc. … Nanna often bought the common types of fish at Faber's Fish Market on Brooks Street in East Boston, but Babbononno insisted that he could only get the specialty items at Giuffre's in the North End. Faber's didn't sell eels, snails, scungili, quahogs, razor clams and mussels, but Giuffre did. Walking in the front door, you had to pass several galvanized tubs filled with water. Some had Bacala soaking in them and the others had eels swimming aimlessly in oval patterns around the inside of the tubs. Babbononno would buy his share of these specialty items, leave the bags with the salesperson who waited on us and we would head into the North End to visit his friends. When it was time to return home, we would make a detour into the midst of the pushcarts and he would buy a few more specialty items that, according to him, could only be purchased in the North End.

As about the same time, there had to be a visit to see Santa. Mom would take me into Boston and head for Jordan Marsh. There were Santa Clauses at other department stores, but Mom used to say that they were helpers for the real Santa. The Real Santa was only to be found at Jordan's. Of course, there would be the annual visit to the toy department. I think it was either the 4th or 5th floor of the main building on Washington and Summer Streets. Quite often, we were accompanied by her favorite cousin, Louise Pepe and her two sons, Anthony and Ralph. At other times, we would be accompanied by Grace Manfredonia and the first three of her four children, John, Fred and Adelaide.

Whichever the case, the first stop would be at the electric train display. I have not seen anything like it since. One whole section of the toy department would be designed as a town somewhere in the U.S., with business buildings, schools, churches, snow covered hills, frozen ponds with skaters, and train stations with bill boards advertising the products of the day. Moving around the perimeter and through the middle of the display were several sets of electric trains, most of them Lionel, with a couple made by American Flyer. Many of the cars dumped coal, picked up milk cans, deposited lumber and displayed passengers through illuminated windows. All the while, the engines puffed white smoke which was supposed to resemble steam and they whistled as they passed several points in the display.

When we had had our fill of trains, it would be time to head to look at the model airplanes, most of them being World War II aircraft. I was a model maker and had wooden models that I made, most of them purchased at a local hobby store in East Boston. Jordan Marsh had models made by Strombecker. These were the Cadillacs of models, and I would tell Mom which ones I was going to ask Santa for.

Next, we would visit the Erector Set display or the Gilbert science displays and marvel at the things that could be made by kids by just owning their latest sets of materials necessary to construct or invent. Before heading to see Santa, I always wanted to look at the latest in baseball equipment. There would be uniforms identical to the ones worn by members of the Red Sox or the long-gone Boston Braves. One of the few foreign uniforms I remember was that of the Brooklyn Dodgers, but after a quick glance, it was time to check out the latest in bats and gloves.

When our mothers deemed it necessary to heard us into the Santa line, we would head for a group of kids standing in single file with snow suits hanging from their bodies. Unlike most kids, we were dressed with shirts, ties, coats, hats and gloves, all looking like miniature businessmen. The discussions with Santa would be abbreviated and right to the point. He would ask our names and then question us as to what we wanted him to bring us. Of course, we would ask for everything we saw in the store, and quite often, Santa's reply would be a bit nebulous, with him saying he would see what he could do.

The next part of the day found us heading to a restaurant for lunch. Mom knew the places on either Tremont or Boylston Street and while we ate, we kids would discuss what we had seen and what we had asked Santa for. Once we were back home, Mom and Nanna would continue to plan out the menus for both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

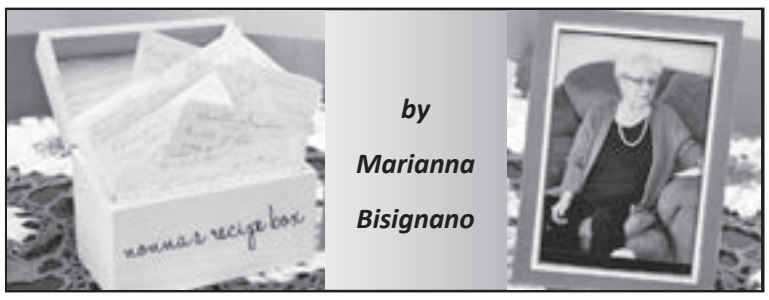
There were no supermarkets back then and a shopping trip to pick up the necessities for a holiday table meant visiting specialty stores, a butcher shop for meats, a fish store for sea food, a green grocer for fruits and vegetables, an Italian specialty store for cold cuts, cheeses and exotic Italian delicacies. Butter and eggs were purchased at Kennedy's on Bennington Street and bread at either LaCarcia's, Blundo's or Umana's bakeries.

No one drank bottled wine. Someone in the neighborhood made wines, both red and white, and most Italians had their favorite vintner from whom they bought wine. For Babbononno, it was his brother-in-law, Nanna's brother Zi'Antonio Ceruolo. According to my grandfather, he was the best winemaker in the world.

My uncles and father lived in their tuxedoes during Christmas season, playing several office parties during the day and early evenings and were seldom able to help in the purchasing or preparations necessary for the holidays. They just supplied the money.

We kids supplied the anticipation, and for me, there was the party held at the Trinity Neighborhood House, a settlement house I attended on Meridian Street. The people I remember from there were Miss Orr, J.J. Dana and Dr. Edith DeAngelis. I'm out of space … gotta go!

GOD BLESS AMERICA



by Marianna Bisignano

Chocolate spice cookies are much-loved across Southern Italy. Naples is known for its Mostaccioli or Mustacciuoli , the diamond-shaped glazed cocoa cookies, while Sicily is famous for Tetu or Totò, softer, round chocolate-spice biscuits often finished with a rich glaze and festive nonpareils. Though each region has its own signature style, both cookies are traditionally glazed and served on Christmas trays, with countless family variations in spices and add-ins, yet all share the warm cocoa-and-spice flavors that define the Italian holiday season.

Tetu or Totò, said to mean "one for me and one for you", are often called "Meatball Cookies" in this country, known for their warmly spiced flavor that people tend to either love or loathe. The version I'm sharing goes very light on the spices, since Nonna said many of my family members never cared for them when they were too strong. I prefer a simple chocolate-vanilla base with the addition of nuts, raisins, and chocolate chips, though others make them with orange zest and juice, maraschino cherries, or even a splash of brewed coffee. No matter how they're prepared, *Sicilian Tetu or Totò Cookies* are a beautiful and delicious addition to any Italian Christmas cookie tray!

SICILIAN TETU or TOTO COOKIES

Biscotti Siciliani Tetu o Totò

2 large eggs
¾ cup granulated sugar
½ cup vegetable oil
¾ cup whole milk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
4 cups 00 or all-purpose flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
½ to ¾ cup raisins (optional — I use them)
½ to ¾ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (optional — I use them)
½ to ¾ cup chopped walnuts (optional — I use them)

Icing

2 to 2½ cups confectioners' sugar
1½ tablespoons butter, melted
¼ cup warm whole milk (more if needed)
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Cocoa powder, optional (for chocolate icing)
Nonpareils or jimmies, for decorating

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the vegetable oil, ¾ cup milk and vanilla, mix until well combined.

In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, cocoa powder, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and salt. Gradually add these dry ingredients to the wet mixture, blending until a soft, sticky dough forms. Fold in raisins, chocolate chips, and walnuts, if using.

Using a small cookie scoop, portion even amounts of dough and roll into balls. Place on prepared baking sheets, leaving space between each. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, just until the bottoms are lightly golden. Do not overbake or they will become dry. Transfer to a cooling rack and allow to cool completely before icing.

To make the Icing:

In a small saucepan, melt the butter and warm the milk. In a medium bowl, add the confectioners' sugar. Slowly whisk in the warm milk-and-butter mixture along with the vanilla until a smooth icing forms. Add more milk, a teaspoon at a time, if you want a thinner consistency. For chocolate icing, whisk in unsweetened cocoa powder, a teaspoon at a time, until you reach the flavor and color you like.

Dip or spread icing onto each cooled cookie. Sprinkle with nonpareils or jimmies. Allow the icing to set completely on a drying rack and store cookies in tins or airtight containers between layers of wax paper.

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

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Book of Kells

The Book of Kells — It is believed that it is from the tiny island of Iona in the inner Hebrides, that the Book of Kells was created. The island has been a sanctuary for Celtic Christianity for hundreds of years.

It's also where a piece of religious history, the Book of Kells — the world-famous illuminated manuscript of Gospels — was most likely created.

Iona has a long history of spirituality and pilgrimage, one that continues to this very day. The religious centre of the island is Iona Abbey, which stands on the site of the former monastery founded by Saint Columba in 563. It is believed to be the original home of the Book of Kells.

The Abbey of Kells was not on Iona Island, rather, it was founded as a daughter house of the Iona monastery in Ireland to escape Viking raids. It is where the famous Book of Kells, likely began on Iona, was moved for safekeeping. Iona Abbey was the original center, established by St. Columba, and remained the main Columban monastery, but the growing danger from Vikings led to the creation of Kells in Ireland as a secure refuge for its treasures and community

The Book of Kells: Begun on Iona but moved to Kells in Ireland for protection during the Viking invasions, eventually ending up in Trinity College Dublin.

• **Stirpe Nostra** (Continued from Page 2)

During ancient times, Athena was worshipped as the goddess of War. This feeling was brought about because of her ability to send down storms, bad weather, thunder, and lightning. Additionally, she dispensed the blessings of nature, bestowed health, and warded off sickness. She represented human wit and cleverness and presided over the intellect and morals of Athenian life. Lastly, we find that Athena was also instrumental in the building of that fifty-oared ship for the Argonauts, taught mortals the art of spinning, weaving, handicrafts, music, and dancing.

NEXT ISSUE:
Phidias and his Athenian Sculptures

• **Hoops and Hockey** (Continued from Page 12)

Interestingly, the buildings in the Milan village were completed in February, 2025–a full year ahead of the 2026 Winter Olympics. And yet, construction continues on the hockey facility as this is written.

The upcoming college football playoffs and NFL playoffs will probably keep the Olympic facility story out of significant coverage by media in the United States. The Super Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 8 in Santa Clara, California during the opening weekend of the Olympics.

But it is still a less-than-positive narrative for officials both in the host nation of Italy and those that oversee the Olympics. Not a good look for one of the sports world's most significant celebrations.

• **North End Community Center Breaks Gound** (Continued from Page 1)

Currently the Nazzaro Center, 30 North Bennet Street, serves as the hub of the community, offering diverse programs for all ages. The new community center, once complete, will house the programming currently offered at the Nazzaro Center, which is also set for major renovations and will remain a vibrant community resource.

Arriving at this point has been a long process. There were numerous meetings held in the community with design and programming ideas offered by many. As Mayor Wu stated in her remarks, "The North End Community gave very strong, direct suggestions and guidance but always with respect." State Representative Aaron Michlewitz and lifelong resident of the North End remarked on the location of the new center, "on the edge of a beautiful and historic waterfront, just a short distance from a skating rink, two beautiful parks, an outdoor pool and what will soon be a state-of-the-art community center, joining the area together into one beautiful package, which will surely be the envy of many cities."

District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata thanked the "residents and community leaders who worked alongside city personnel and staff to make this idea became a reality, never losing focus or giving up." Long time youth athletic coach and mentor John Romano and his wife, Patricia Romano, the first Director of the Nazzaro Center back in 1986, were also recognized by Mayor Wu for their steadfast support in guiding this project into a reality.

It has been a long time in the making, but the end result will be an incredible investment in welcoming current and new generations of North End youth, residents and seniors.

• **News Briefs** (Continued from Page 1)

recruited 31 healthy adults, ages 60 to 75, and put them on a 16-week regimen of eating 60 grams of unsalted , skin-roasted peanuts. By the end, imaging tests showed a significant improvement in brain vascular responsiveness, or the ability of participants' blood vessels to widen and constrict to regular blood flow to an increase by 3.6 percent compared with the control period.

These reductions are significant, since elevated blood pressure damages small blood vessels in the brain and heart, increasing the risk of both cardiovascular disease and cognitive decline.

$3 Billion in Tax Waste

The U.S. Postal Service has spent more than $3 billion in tax dollars on a brand-new all-electric fleet of mail trucks and gotten just 612 vehicles for its money, according to Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa.

The Biden Administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act set aside billions for which Ernst now calls a "boondoggle" that saw most of the money go to a Wisconsin-based defense contractor. However, as of November 10, only 162 are on the road delivering mail.

According to news reports, the government also contracted with the Ford Motor Company for Ford E-Transit vans with 2,010 already delivering U.S. mail. However, another nearly 7,000 of these vans already delivered still sit idly by due to design issues.

Bay State Voter ID

According to Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office, as of February, unenrolled voters represent the vast majority of the electorate — 65 percent, compared to 26 percent for Democrats and just 8 percent for Republicans. The Democrat Party doesn't support open primaries for next year's state ballot. There are two arguments, one is that open primaries will ensure a more inclusive, competitive process.

Stabber Cleared Because Victim Used the N-Word

A jury in Portland, Oregon cleared a Black man of assault charges in the stabbing of a white man — after it was revealed that the victim said the N-word after being attacked. The defendant was found not guilty of second-degree assault after knifing the victim. The defendant admitted to the stabbing but claimed it was in self-defense after the victim had used racial slurs. The attack was videoed by transit cameras showing the victim sitting on a bench as the defendant approaches his victim from behind with knife in hand.

Raccoon Got Drunk as a Skunk

A very intoxicated raccoon went on a drunken rampage inside a liquor store in Virginia two weeks ago and passed out face-down inside the bathroom. It was found snoozing in a haze after trashing the store leaving broken bottles all over the place and making a big mess, tossing things off several shelves. According to Animal Control Officer Samantha Martin, "They are funny little creatures ... he fell through a ceiling tile and started drinking up everything. Photos taken show he sampled scotch and whiskey, mostly Jameson." After a few hours sleep and with no visible injuries, it was back at a shelter where it sobered up then it was released back into the woods.

End Quotes

"Today is the day to dust off your dreams."

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

"If you're looking for somebody who will reduce the cost of living and fix the state, just call me somebody."

— GOP gubernatorial candidate Mike Minoque

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. MI25P6138EA

Estate of
ANDREW E. MOSCHNER

Date of Death: August 11, 2024

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lauren Marie Moschner** of **Waltham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lauren Marie Moschner** of **Waltham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 01, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/12/2025

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. MI25P6227EA

Estate of
WEBB FARNHAM CHAPPELL
Also known as:
WEBB F. CHAPPELL

Date of Death: October 26, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Linda Witt-Chappell** of **Newton, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Linda Witt-Chappell** of **Newton, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 08, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/12/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 29, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2013 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
Vin #1C4RJFAGXDC633239

2007 FORD FOCUS
Vin #1FAHP37N17W260938

2007 HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 1200
Vin #1HD1CT3107K415009

2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Vin #5NPDH4AE2CH123835

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 12/05, 12/12, 12/19/2025

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. MI25C1154CA
Docket No. MI25C1155CA

In the Matter of
JEREMIAS ORTIZ

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Jeremias Ortiz** of **Marlborough, MA, Ezequiel Ortiz** of **Marlborough, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Jeremias Gonzalez, Ezekiel John Gonzalez.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 02, 2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court

Date: Decemer 04, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 12/12/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **December 13, 2025 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2016 FORD FOCUS, WHITE
1FADP3F28GL306742

2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO, WHITE
1GCNCPEH2FZ362307

2005 BMW 745i, GRAY
WBAGL63555DP75505

2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA, SILVER
2G1WT58K279352042

2010 SUBARU FORESTER, BLUE
JF2SH6CC2AH752765

2015 HONDA NC700X, BLACK
JH2RC6304FK100023

2006 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, BEIGE
1J4GR48K96C243468

2010 FORD FOCUS, BLUE
1FAHP3HN1AW245698

2007 NISSAN XTERRA, BLUE
5N1AN08U07C512097

2017 RAM 1500, SILVER
3C6RR7LT4HG622689

2004 MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS, BLACK
WDBUF70J14A432774

2013 FORD EXPLORER, BLACK
1FM5K8D83DGB42026

2008 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, WHITE
1D8HN44H88B124871

2006 SUZUKI GSX-R600, SILVER
JS1GN7DA962111620

2024 KEPLER BIKE, BLACK
IRYT52200165V12

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF7R1009454

2012 YAMAHA ZUMA, WHITE
RKRSA43AXCA112491

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF4R1009573

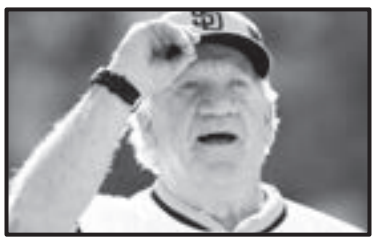
2014 TAOTAO MOPED, RED
L9N7EACB3E1170490

Run dates: 11/28, 12/05, 12/12/2025

EXTRA *Innings*

by Sal Giarratani

Randy Jones Cy Young Winner at 75



Randy Jones

When I first heard of the passing of left-hander Randy Jones, who won the Cy Young Award with the Padres in 1976 during his 10-year career, I couldn't believe that he passed away at 75. AT SEVENTY-FIVE? He's a baseball player from my younger days and it turns out he's younger than me.

I can remember when I first picked up my first Tony Conigliaro baseball card, it hit me, this young player who came up with the Red Sox was only 19 years old and I was 16 years old. Up to then, all my baseball cards had players born in the '20s and '30s, here all of a sudden was someone from my generation.

Well, the death of Jones tells me how old I've become. I am already accepting that baseball players today are just kids, even the older ones. Think about it, Sonny Gray is now with the Red Sox and he's 36 years old. I call him an old pitcher in today's baseball but compared to me, he is a kid too. I have 41 more rings in my tree stump than he does. He's actually older than my daughter too.

Boy, did I stray away from Randy Jones. Back to him now. He pitched eight seasons for the Padres and two for the Mets, going 100-123 with a 3.42 ERA. With the Padres, he had 71 complete games and 18 shutouts. He was one of the best pitchers in 1975 and 1976, All-Star both seasons and won his Cy Young in '76.

In 1975, he was 20-12 with a 2.24 ERA for a team that won only 71 games. In 1976, he won 22 games for a 73-win team while pitching 315 innings over 40 starts and an impressive 25 complete games.

He was a ground ball specialist who relied on deception and control, not speed. His nickname was the "Junkman". He started 285 games lifetime but only had 735 career strikeouts He became the face of the San Diego Padres.

Bottom line: Randy Jones lived a long life making it to 75. I wonder if he ever thought of himself as old because this guy right here refuses to call himself OLD. My goal is to be Forever Young. Keep my step, don't fall too much and keep my memory alive inside my head. Oh, have as much fun as possible and never forget how to dance.

English Over Latin Four Out of Five Now

I attended Boston English High School, Class of '66. The upcoming year, I will be looking forward to my 60th high school graduation anniversary. Time does go by faster and faster nowadays.

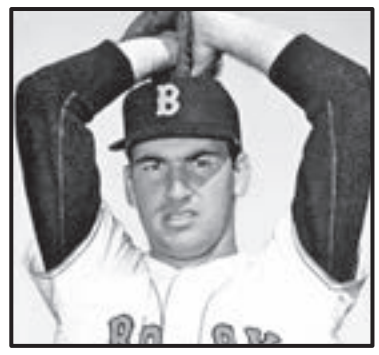
This past Thanksgiving Day's football game over at Harvard Stadium between Boston English and Boston Latin ended with English winning 40-30 and the fourth victory in five years for the English team. Kudos to English football coach Ryan Conway who graduated English back in 1989 and the entire English football squad.

For the longest time Boston Latin owned English on Thanksgiving. I can remember all those lean years when English alumni would bet with one another, not if English would win the game but whether or not we got on the scoreboard. Things have now turned around in this ancient gridiron rivalry. I rate Conway a five-star coach. This guy knows how to coach football. Congrats to the coach and his team members who made the Turkey Day win possible.

I Didn't Know This

I just found out that 27-year-old Tommy DeVito, aka "Tommy Cutlets" of NY Giants fame, is now a backup quarterback for the Patriots. I enjoyed watching him when he came up with the Giants as bigger than life until that dreaded window went down. When he got his chance, he took advantage of that glory that made him Mr. Football for a while and they can't take that away from him.

Dave Morehead Passed Away Last Month at 82



Dave Morehead

Dave Morehead passed away on November 23 and I just found this news out. His obit never showed up in either the *Globe* or *Herald*. His playing days for the Red Sox crossed over the divide between the hopelessly bad Boston team and the Impossible Dream team. He was signed in 1961 by the legendary scout Ray Boone (who, by the way, was Arron Boone's grandfather) and made his MLB debut in outstanding fashion. He went to the mound for the first time on April 13,1963 pitching a complete game shutout. He played six seasons in all (1963-68) for Boston and two (1969-70) for the Royals. His lifetime record was 40-64 and was always a good 3rd or 4th starter in the rotation. Morehead threw 534 innings in the majors before his age 22 season, unthinkable nowadays, huh? However, he had arm woes the next three seasons limiting him to only 130.2 innings in that span.

He came back in 1967, the Impossible Dream year and was 3-2 with a 3.16 ERA down the stretch in his last five starts and helped the Sox take the pennant on the final game of that crazy wild season; never to be forgotten. He even pitched 3.1 innings of scoreless in two of the World Series games that October. By the way, I was at Fenway Park when Morehead pitched a 2-0 no-hitter on September 16, 1965 and the only real bright spot for what had become a string of hapless seasons. True Red Sox fans mourn his loss.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU18P1436GD

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

In the Interests of
CHARMARKO SANFORD
of Boston, MA

RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

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 **12/26/2025.** 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. JANINE D. RIVERS, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 25, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 12/12/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 22, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2012 FIAT 500
Vin #3C3CFFAR6CT101972

2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU
Vin #1G1ZC5E00CF308493

2003 ACURA MDX
Vin #2HNYD18943H540316

2008 CHEVROLET MALIBU
Vin #1G1ZF57598F258801

2017 CHEVROLET MALIBU
Vin #1G1ZB5ST6HF104905

2023 JIAJUE JJ150T-16A
Vin #LLPTGKBF6P1090269

2004 MERCURY MONTEREY
Vin #2MRDA20204BJ05571

2008 HYUNDAI SONATA
Vin #5NPEU46F78H386976

2007 TOYOTA RAV4
Vin #JTMBD33V675122865

2008 MERCURY MARINER
Vin #4M2CU97168KJ12929

2012 MAZDA MAZDA3
Vin #JM1BL1V70C1629235

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 11/28, 12/05, 12/12/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 05, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2024 FENGYUAN JIGGER
Vin #H0DTAEF21RX067581

2013 NISSAN ALTIMA
Vin #1N4AL3AP7DC114144

2008 BMW 335i
Vin #WBAWB73518P156391

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2025

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Can Boxing be Made Less Dangerous?
Mike Silver Believes So

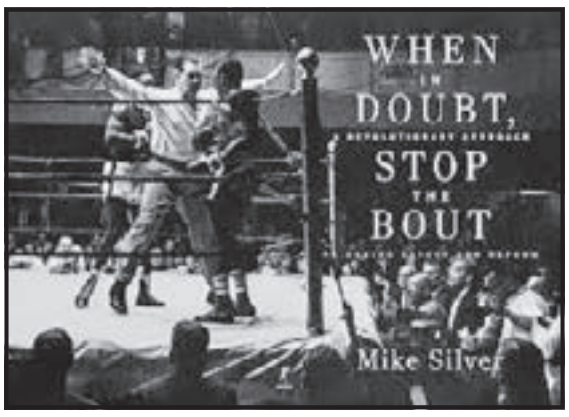
Review:

WHEN IN DOUBT, STOP THE BOUT

A Revolutionary Approach to Boxing Safety and Reform

BY MIKE SILVER

Hamilcar Publications



Book Cover

It has often been said that unlike other sports, you don't play boxing. True. Boxing is a unique competition in many ways, but there is one primary aspect of it that makes it truly different from other athletic endeavors; the requirement that in order to be successful, a boxer most become proficient at inflicting physical damage, even brain injuries, on his opponent. This sometimes leads to death, and more often, too often, to CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy).

Mike Silver

While it is true that participants in other sports, most notably football, also risk severe brain damage from concussive trauma, boxing is the *only* sport where success is measured by how well a person is able to become in causing physical harm to the person with whom he is competing. There is no getting away from this.

Can boxing be made safe? Not unless it is banned. Can boxing be made less dangerous? That is the question boxing historian Mike Silver tackles in his deep dive into reforming this hazardous sport in *When in Doubt, Stop the Bout A Revolutionary Approach to Boxing Safety and Reform.*

Mike has done extensive research into the subject of boxing safety. He has accumulated statistics dealing with the number of boxer deaths over the years as well as what effect the length of a fight has on increasing the risk of one or both of the participants being seriously injured.

Early in the book Mike comments on how the lack of regulation plays a role in putting the fighters at risk. He rightly observes that to become a boxing trainer in most locales around the world, all you have to do is walk into a gym, throw a towel over your shoulder and say you are a boxing coach. This is criminal. Young kids with an interest in boxing are put into a situation where when they first walk into a gym they are trusting someone who can get them killed. Where's the oversight? There is none.

Mike spends time later in the book exposing the corruption higher up the ladder in the boxing world. From the alphabet soup organizations to promoters such as Don King. In 1997 King was inducted into the International Hall of Fame, an action that speaks to just how low the standards are in boxing.

Reading about the sordidness and corruption in the sport may leave the reader with a terrible stench in his nostrils, but that is just one section of the book. Mike saves his best when offering up ways to mitigate the dangers faced by pugilists. They all have merit even though a few sound counterintuitive.

Take the case of the boxing glove. It has become dogma in the minds of most people that the padded covering for the hands prevents head injuries. Mike makes a strong case, one which I have long believed, that the glove actually makes the sport more dangerous and the blows more lethal. Once you read his argument you will see the boxing glove in a whole new light. Mike even quotes actor James Cagney on the subject.

His chapter contrasting MMA fighting with boxing is also an eye opener. Here is a sport that is perceived as more brutal than boxing, but, as the author points out, actually has many more safety measures built into it, and brain injuries are far fewer. Heavily padded boxing gloves are not used by the combatants, a point that bolsters Mike's argument about the dangers of the boxing glove.

The most controversial, and most likely the change that would do the most good comes down to the author's proposal to limit the rounds of fights. Many of us remember when title fights were scheduled for fifteen rounds. That was done away with after the death of Duk Koo Kim in a bout versus Ray Mancini in 1982. The fight was seen live on national TV. After that tragedy, title bouts were limited to twelve rounds.

Mike contends, today even twelve rounds is unsafe for most boxers. In years past fighters would slowly work their way up to longer duration matches by starting out in four rounders, then moving up to six, eight, and finally ten round bouts if they showed they had the ability to handle the distance. This was done over time. It was a sort of an apprenticeship approach.

Now, it is not uncommon to see fighters in their ninth or tenth fight challenging for a world title in a twelve-round fight. Mike points out that no matter their physical conditioning, and these fighters are athletes, they have nowhere near the experience to handle going that distance. And the lack of experience is most notable in their lack of defensive skills. Boxing today is mostly about exchanging punches, basically fighters taking turns hitting each other in the head. It is no longer the Manly Art of Self-Defense.

There is much more in this treatise on making such a dangerous sport less unsafe. Mike delves into training for referees, the role of the ringside doctors, just when should a fight be stopped (this is quite interesting), and the case for head guards.

This is an important book, one that should be read by members of every boxing commission, referees, physicians, and those with influence over the rules of boxing. Will that happen? It is unlikely.

Boxing has been around a long time, and while there have been some very decent people involved with the sort, it has also been a home to many lowlifes who don't give a damn about the welfare of the men and women who step into the squared circle.

The fact that Mike is able to come up with so many reforms for boxing shows just what a mess the sport is and the danger it poses for healthy young athletes.

My take away from this book, one not intended by Mike, is the conclusion that reforming boxing is a lost cause. Not because his proposals aren't valid, they certainly are, but rather because the swamp that is boxing will look to bury his work. I do urge people to delve into this highly readable work and draw their own conclusions. In a sane sport, Mike Silver would be garnering praise for his dedication and research into finding a way to fix boxing and protect the athletes. However, boxing is far from a sane sport, and a good man who truly cares for the welfare of its participants will most likely be shunned.

I hope I am wrong, and maybe if enough people read *When in Doubt, Stop the Bout*, it will lead to a discussion that will lead to lessening the terrible injuries inflicted upon those who step into the ring.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

CREEPING CLOSER DAY BY DAY — Mark February 2 down on your calendar.

That is now the date that has been publicized by the NHL regarding the deadline for the main 2026 Winter Olympics hockey rink in Milan to be ready.

That is just three short days before the rink is slated to host its initial game (a contest in the women's tournament) on February 5.

If the ice is not up to NHL standards by February 2, then the NHL will not participate in Milan. The men's tournament start date is scheduled for February 11.

But already there has been a significant change. When NHL commissioner Gary Bettman addressed the media back in late October, he described the NHL and its relationship to the Olympics as being "invitees" who could only sit on the sidelines and watch as things took place at the construction site — with the International Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation having oversight concerning the situation.

Now it seems that the NHL has moved to a more active involvement with NHL personnel now pursuing active roles at the location.

"We have offered and they are utilizing our ice experts, technicians and outside providers," stated NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on December 8.

"We are basically moving everybody there to try to help get this done in a way that is acceptable to NHL athletes. It is something we are going to have to monitor. We will assess the situation on whether they have the sufficient manpower, resources and expertise to do it the way it needs to be done. We are willing to chip in and help to the extent that we need to."

A side issue that has come to light — one which is not able to be corrected at this point–is the actual size of the ice sheet. It differs slightly from the standard NHL dimensions of 200 feet long by 85 feet wide. The rink for the Olympics will be about three and a half feet shorter and three inches wider.

At this juncture that is a minor point. Just getting the ice sheet up to standards is the main concern. It has been noted that there was an NHL game in Sweden earlier this season that was played on the shorter dimensions and play was not affected.

You will notice that all the comments by NHL officials have been limited to the ice sheet, no doubt because that is the most important factor for this ice hockey tournament.

It is much more difficult to find information about the overall building, the one that is supposed to accommodate around 16,000 spectators on a daily basis during both the women's and men's tournaments.

A reporter from a Canadian newspaper did get close to the actual construction site in early December. He was not permitted to enter but stated that looking at the structure from the outside it appeared to be fairly complete. He wrote that he had a conversation with a foreman who indicated that over 550 people were working at the site on a daily basis across two shifts.

There is a second rink that will be used for some games but that rink only sits about 6,500 and could never accommodate a full schedule of games if the main rink is not ready.

Another question that seems to have been bypassed in the discussions is whether the women's tournament would take place if the NHL pulls out at the last minute. Many women's professional games in North America are not played in NHL buildings. Thus, some wonder how questions regarding whether the ice sheet at the Olympics reflects NHL standards would affect their participation.

The good news is that there has not been any information that the women's tournament will be affected. So all these concerns basically affect only the men's (really an NHL All-Star) tournament.

In announcing the February 2 deadline nothing was said about the opportunity for any prior competition to be scheduled for January, something that had been mentioned in the past.

Usually, Olympic sites host a competition at some point prior to the Olympics to make sure everything is going OK. If anything is identified that needs to be corrected or fine-tuned there is time to accomplish that.

In an event this fall at the long track speed skating venue in Milan, for example, some competitors reported that the ice didn't feel quite right. That was reported to officials in charge of the ice who responded by slightly changing the temperature of the ice track.

There will be two Olympic main villages, one in Milan (where the indoor events will be held) and another about an hour's drive outside Cortina, near the mountains where the outdoor events will take place.

The village there consists of 377 mobile homes, arranged in very close proximity to one another. They were described as "simple and spartan" by an Associated Press reporter.

But while there is a start to this group of mobile homes there is also an end–one somewhat removed from the village center itself.

As the AP noted: "Anyone staying in trailers near the outskirts of the 1.4-kilometer (nearly mile-long) village will have a 10-minute walk to the common areas — which includes a gym, game room, offices, relaxation areas and a laundromat."

During the AP reporter's visit in late November, a full blizzard developed with no tall buildings to block the elements. These temporary structures will be removed after the Olympics.

Meanwhile in Milan, athletes will stay in permanent buildings that will be converted into college dorms after the Olympics conclude.

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