THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 130 - NO. 52 | BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER 26, 2025 | $.35 A COPY

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Sounds Like an Episode of CSI Miami

Law enforcement down in Miami have a puzzling death on their hands: Dr. Helen Garay Sanchez, 32, who was found dead and naked inside a Florida Dollar Tree store. An employee found her in the walk-in freezer recently. The case remains unsolved and family members are baffled. The family has lots of questions and say they're not getting answers. Sanchez, an anesthesiologist and mom of two from Nicaragua had been in Miami since December 4, visiting relatives as her two children remained at home.

She was last seen on camera footage on the evening of December 13 walking into the freezer just before 10:00 p.m. The next morning the police were called to the store after an employee found a body in the freezer.

According to police, there were no signs of foul play and the investigation continues. Police are calling it an "unclassified death."

MS Linked to "Forever Chemicals"

News has just broken that there seems to be a MS link to forever chemicals. These man-made substances designed to repel oil, water and stains — can be found in thousands of everyday items, from non-stick pans and fast-food wrappers to waterproof jackets. Scientists have linked them to a laundry list of health problems.

Now research suggests that folks exposed to two major environmental toxins — perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and polychlorinated biphenyls— are more likely to be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

American Airlines Ending Frequent Flyer Miles for Basic Economy

American Airlines is catching heat from customers after eliminating miles earned for basic economy passengers. The Texas-based airline revealed the

(Continued on Page 10)

The North End Annual Christmas Fund Luncheon

2025 Exceeds Expectations

Just when we think it cannot get any bigger or better, we are proven wrong. Robert "Ted" Tomasone, Chairperson of the Christmas Fund Luncheon, assistants and volunteers absolutely outdid themselves in every manner. Gathering last week in St. Joseph's Hall, adjacent to St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street, was a group of individuals bursting with pride and gratitude at being a part of this North End ritual. The delicious meal was once again donated by Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures, with cookies donated by Annette Mercogliano of Mike's Pastry, Cannoli were donated by Dr. Anthony Bova of Bova Bakery, the coffee donated by the Golden Goose. For over 40 years, beginning with Uncle Fred Carangelo, and now effortlessly coordinated by Ted Tomasone, residents, agencies, organizations and individuals have come together to support this worthy cause, taking care of our friends, neighbors, and elderly in need during the holiday season, providing over 250 gifts last year.

(L to R) Christmas Fund Luncheon Chairman Robert "Ted" Tomasone, Vivian Aluia, Uncle Fred Carangelo Recipient Jason Aluia and CEO of NE/W Health Vincenzo Scibelli.

Offering his thanks for the many decades of continued support to this worthy cause was Robert "Ted" Tomasone, Chairperson of the event, acknowledging that the success of the luncheon is predicated upon the generosity of all who donate so generously. Also remarking on the day's success was State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, State Senator Lydia Edwards, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata and Consul General of Italy to Boston Arnaldo Minuti.

(Continued on Page 7)

First Night Boston 2026

About First Night

Established on December 31, 1976 in Boston, First Night® has become a world-famous New Year's Eve celebration that unites visitors with the City of Boston and the vibrant people who fill its communities.

History

Envisioned by artist and visionary Clara Wainwright, the event was created to give artists and musicians from the Boston area the opportunity to play at venues across the city in family-friendly and alcohol-free environments.

The event was a success, and has delighted audiences for decades with dance, interactivity, music, art, ice sculptures, and fireworks. For many years, the event was supported by members of the public, who purchased First Night Buttons to attend particular events and exhibits. Since 2015, First Night has been made entirely free, with no purchase necessary by event guests. The event is funded by sponsors and donations from members of the public.

Today, First Night is one of Boston's signature events, and First Night celebrations are replicated around the world. First Night Boston brings live music, artistic performances, and cultural displays to a festive crescendo with fireworks in the air and love in the streets.

Visitors of all ages enjoy the day-long celebration featuring multiple indoor and outdoor venues, dozens of artistic, cultural, and musical performances, and various sponsor engagements.

We're thrilled to welcome back our First Night Parade that will take colorful and celebratory groups from City Hall Plaza to Boston Common at 6:00 p.m. Once the performers pass by, the public is invited to walk along to the Boston Common, where fireworks will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Ice sculptures make their dazzling return to First Night Boston and celebrate the upcoming historic events and milestones happening in 2026! From Sail Boston to Massachusetts 250, millions of visitors will experience the beauty and history of Boston.

Sculptures will be located in City Hall Plaza and available for public viewing from noon on December 31 to 12:30 a.m. on January 1. Weather permitting, viewing of some of First Night's ice sculptures will continue into New Year's Day.

Ice sculpture completion time is always weather-dependent, so don't be surprised if you see our ice carvers making some final touches in the first part of New Year's Eve.

Also, we're excited to again be teamed up with Boston Harbor Now for their annual Ice Sculpture Stroll.

THE MUGAR FAMILY FIREWORKS
Boston Common @ 7:00 PM

Following the First Night Parade, enjoy a glittering fireworks display over Boston Common.

Presented by The Mugar Foundation

HARBOR FIREWORKS
Boston Inner Harbor @ 12:00 AM

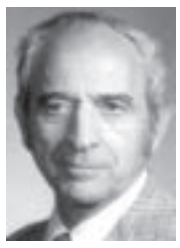
At the stroke of midnight, the dazzling First Night Harbor Fireworks will light up Boston's Inner Harbor and city skyline to welcome the new year.

For further details and information, please contact ***FirstNightBoston.org***

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



MINERVA

Minerva, formerly Menerva, goddess of wisdom, was one of the great Roman divinities. Jupiter, the Roman counterpart to Zeus was first, his wife Juno was second, and Minerva who was identified with Athena, was third.

Demaratus was a wealthy citizen of Corinth who, with his family, migrated to Italy and settled in Tarquinii about 658 B.C. His son Lucumo eventually became a king of early Rome and took the name Tarquinius Priscus. This was the Tarquin who united Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, into one common temple. It was also the reason why these three divinities were usually toasted as one whenever food or drink was sacrificed to the gods.

All of the attributes of Athena were gradually transferred to Minerva, however, because she was a maiden goddess, the Romans sacrificed to her only calves that had never borne the wooden frame that we call the yoke. Minerva was worshipped as patroness of all the arts and trades. During her annual festival, she was called upon for help by all persons who desired to distinguish themselves in art or craft. As a special patroness of women, she conferred upon them skill in spinning, weaving, and sewing, while at the same time she guided men in the dangers of war, endowing them with cunning, prudence, courage, and perseverance. Because of this attribute, she was often represented wearing armor, and the spoils of war were frequently dedicated to her. She was credited with being the inventor of musical instruments, especially the wind variety which were so often used in religious worship.

***Minerva,* Joseph Nollekens (English, 1737 - 1823), 1775, Marble**

The annual festival honoring this goddess lasted from March 19th to the 23rd. It was called Quinquatrus because it began on the fifth day after the Ides (15th) of March. The festival was celebrated by artisans, poets, artists, and all other persons who were considered to be under the protection of Minerva. The first day of festivities honored the anniversary of the founding of her temple while the following days featured gladiatorial contests, musical presentations, social gatherings in private homes, and masked processions. Roman teachers and their pupils treated this festival time as today's colleges treat their mid-year vacation. They began a new course of study when classes resumed. This is also the time when teachers received their yearly stipend from parents of students. A bit of interesting trivia — persons who taught arithmetic, accounting, or bookkeeping in old Rome were called calculators.

NEXT ISSUE: *The Muses*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Seeks Massachusetts Voter Lists

by Patti Sartori

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed a lawsuit against Massachusetts and 17 other states to collect detailed voter data, claiming Massachusetts and other states are violating the law and Civil Rights Act by refusing to divulge voter lists. "If states will not fulfill their duty to protect the integrity of the ballot, we will," stated Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon.

Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin is refusing to comply. "I have absolutely no intention of handing over the names, addresses, dates of birth, political party affiliation, phone numbers, driver's license numbers and social security numbers of our voters to an administration that has demonstrated a pattern of using citizens' private information to go to on outrageous fishing expeditions in an attempt to settle petty grievances."

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell is backing Galvin, in fighting the "Trump administration's attempt to misuse voters' personal information as fuel for its cruel and harmless agenda." The responsibility of these elected officials is to ensure our election process and system is honest, A voter must be a citizen, be registered to vote and vote only one time per election. With the upcoming mid-term election in November 2026, voter scrutiny is more important than ever. Republicans advocate only legal citizens voting, while Democrats prefer an open election, including non-citizens and illegal aliens. With mail in ballots and a no-voter ID preference ,Democrats could benefit by a slim enough margin to sway the mid-terms in their favor. Given the City of Boston Election Department is under scrutiny and receivership since the 2024 election, it is vital Galvin ensures as transparent process as possible, and put partisan politics aside.

North End Waterfront Residents Association

December Meeting

The North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) held its final meeting of 2025 at the Nazzaro Center, 30 North Bennet Street, in a room packed with residents and neighbors. Although it was a fairly basic agenda, the meeting capped off the year pretty hot and heavy, thanks to a controversial zoning issue.

The first item on the agenda was the usual public safety update, offered by Boston Police Sgt. Walsh and Community Service Office Michael Mustacchio, of Area A-1, inviting everyone to attend Coffee with a cop at Caffe Dello Sport, on Tuesday, December 17. Also on the agenda was Eldin Villafane, a recently appointed community manager in the newly created Boston Planning Department (BPD) covering the North End, East Boston, Charlestown and South End. Villafane introduced himself and discussed his role and areas of engagement in the North End, encouraging residents to reach out to him as he is the "point of contact" between the neighborhood and the department.

The final agenda item of the year was a controversial zoning application, carried over from last month's NEWRA Zoning Meeting at the Mariner House. The 97 Salem Street Condominium Project, represented by attorney Derric Small, Jacob Levine architect and property owners Robert Regnetta and Pater Alfe, was once again met with skepticism and pushback by residents and abutters.

The applicant seeks to change legal occupancy from retail/office to bakery/retail on the first floor and 5 residential units above. The proposal includes erecting a five-story vertical addition with a proposed building height goal of 54' and two private roof decks. The project requires zoning variances: excessive height, FAR, insufficient rear yard setback, roof structure/head house violations, and no off-street parking.

Each rental unit will be approximately 1,200 square feet two plus bedroom units, with two means of egress, and an elevator. The Two of the 5 units will be occupied by the owners of the property, and will share a 500 square foot roof deck with private elevator access. The front of the building is to be glass, with almost floor to ceiling glass and Juliet balconies that will hang over the sidewalk by approximately 2', which is within code. Windows will be set into the facade.

The applicants stated the current design has been approved by the BPD over 18 months ago. There will not be any windows on the "Antico Forno" side of the building, facing Cross Street, as a concession to allow for the possibility of future development on the abutting parcels and buildings.

There was quite a heated exchange between the applicants and residents, abutters and property owners, although NEWRA President Cheryl DelGreco did a great job keeping everyone in line. Most in the room were not opposed to the heights, but rather the density and proposed foot print of the building, which will go straight back and hit flush against the former North Union. The applicants feel the community has caused them financial harm by opposing them for the past 25-30 years.

Ultimately the final vote on the matter was 15 against, and 1 in support. The ZBA hearing date has yet been scheduled.

A Peaceful New Year to All!!!

A New Year, A New Beginning

by Bryan Golden

The New Year is a time of resolutions. It's a time when people commit to making a change in their life. Losing weight, changing jobs, saving money, making money, a new relationship, getting in shape, going back to school, or giving up smoking, are just some of the goals people set for themselves on January 1st.

Although it's possible for anyone to make a change or a new start, it takes determination, commitment, and persistence. A new goal must be your own. You have to really want it. Without a burning desire, your motivation will fade quickly. It's virtually impossible to make a change due to external pressure.

You may agree to what someone else wants you to do, but it's very difficult to succeed without an internal drive. So, in order to successfully make a change or reach a goal, you have to make sure it's what you really want.

Don't start off on the wrong foot by making excuses as to why you will probably fail. If you don't truly believe you can do it, you won't. People who do this will say something like, "I'll try to do it, but …" Or you may hear, "I tried before and it didn't work but I'll give it another go." Before you begin, make sure the only things you are telling yourself are, "I can," "I will," and "I will do whatever it takes."

A new beginning is a three-step process. You have to first know what you want, formulate a plan to achieve it, and then take the necessary action to get it. Setting a specific goal is essential. The more detailed the better. If you want to lose weight, how much and by when? If you want a new job, what will it be and how much will it pay? If you want to save money, how much and how often?

Next, you need a plan. Just like your goal, your plan must be as detailed as possible. If you are going to lose weight, what will be your menu each week? Are you going to go on a specific diet, cut out certain foods, or just eat less? For finding a new job, what will be your strategy? Do you need a new resume? Will you look on line, in the classifieds, use an employment agency, network, cold call, or all of these? If you want to save more money, in what areas will you cut back? Do you know where your money is going? Have you created a budget?

You want your plan to be doable. The smaller the steps are, the more likely you will be to succeed. Any time you feel a step is too big, break it down further. It doesn't matter how small each step is so long as you keep going and never give up.

Losing 20 pounds may feel overwhelming, but dropping two pounds a month doesn't seem too bad. If you keep at it for 10 months, you will reach your goal. Saving $3000 might appear beyond reach, but cutting back $9 a day on family spending is manageable.

Finally, you must take action. The best goals and greatest plans will go nowhere without action. The reason you divided your plan into small sections is so it would be easy to take action, one day at a time. All you have to do is keep going, until you achieve your goal.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com

POST-GAZETTE

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Website: www.BostonPostGazette.com

Subscriptions in the United States $35.00 yearly

Published weekly by
Post-Gazette, 5 Prince St., P.O. Box 130135,
Boston, MA 02113
USPS 1538 – Second-Class Postage paid at Boston, MA
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
POST-GAZETTE - P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

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

Vol. 130 - No. 52 **Friday, December 26, 2025**

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.***

December 28, 2017

Salvatore Balsamo

Recipient of the prestigious 2003 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding citizenship, personal achievement, and encouraging cultural unity. He loved God, America, his family, and his Italian heritage.

On this eighth anniversary we remember the outstanding man he was and how very much we miss and love him.

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 135, Boston, MA 02113

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Christine M. Bossi

Christine M. (Noyes) Bossi who died peacefully on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House following a long well lived life, she was 91 years old.

She is the beloved wife of the late Michael A. Bossi, Sr. of 57 years. Loving mother of Laureen (Laurie) Cappello and her husband Matty of Boston's North End. Michael Bossi Jr. and his wife Bonnie Parker Bossi of Ft. Myers, FL, Stephen Bossi of East Boston, and Donald Bossi and his wife Susan of Saugus. Cherished grandmother of Matthew Cappello, IV and his wife Saveria, Laurina Cappello and her husband Ian, Sadie Bossi and fiancé Michael DeVito, Kaileigh Bossi and Austin Bossi. Adored great grandmother of Santino Michael, and Carmela Christine. She is the dear sister of Georgia Arsenault, Patricia Smarella, and Anna Caldarelli, and the late Veronica "Vera" Noyes and Claire Peruzzi. Also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Christine was born on January 6, 1934, in Boston to her late parents, George Noyes and Veronica (McGurin). She was one of six girls who were raised and educated in East Boston.

Christine was an alumna of the Girls Fitton School Class of 1951. Christine married her longtime love Michael Bossi on September 4, 1961, and continued to live in East Boston where they raised their four children. She was completely devoted to her family and embraced every aspect of motherhood. She was very present in her children's lives and demonstrated living her Catholic faith. She was known as a woman of faith and grace. She was kind, caring and charitable. She later returned to the workforce in an administrative role for General Container for over 20 years. Christine was a daily communicant between her parish at Sacred Heart Church in East Boston and St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston. She enjoyed listening to music and loved to dance. She was a continually active person, who exercised daily and enjoyed walking. In retirement, Christine volunteered at the Sacred Heart Church, the Museum of Science, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Center and was an active member of the Winthrop Senior Center. Upon moving to Brooksby Village in 2020, she became an engaged resident and liaison. Both she and her husband enjoyed wintering in Florida for several years, but home was with her family. She cherished her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Faith and family defined Christine.

Family and friends were invited to attend Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere, MA on Friday, December 12th. A funeral was conducted from the funeral home on Saturday December 13th, followed by a Funeral Mass in Sacred Heart Church, East Boston. Entombment was private.

Donations in Christine's memory may be made to Sacred Heart Church, 45 Brooks Street, East Boston, MA 02128 or to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923.

Shirley J. Holmes Grassa

Shirley J. Holmes Grassa on December 10, 2025 of Boston, formerly of the North End, Brookline, East Boston and Somerville, suddenly passed away, surrounded by her loving family.

Shirley was a beloved mother, wife, sister, nana and friend. Her life was defined by kindness, strength and optimism. She was the heart of her family. Known for her generous spirit, her unwavering strength and incredible ability to make everyone feel loved who entered her home. These wonderful traits will truly be missed by all her loved and cherished her.

On any Christmas or Easter at Ma's, if there were any unexpected guests, she would have a special way of appearing from her room with a gift for that person, so no one was forgotten.

She cherished family holidays, enjoying the company of her children and grandchildren, especially hearing the laughter of loved ones. Her love extended to all animals, in particular, her beloved cat, Gazie Boy. Being around people and enjoying life was paramount, as well as walking, puzzles, coin collection, going to the movies and traveling with her sister, Barbara.

She worked many years at Logan Airport and volunteered holidays at Salvation Army. After retiring, she continued to give to others by working as a live in Care Giver for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Shirley will be remembered for her kind heart and countless memories she created.

Her legacy of one unconditional love will continue to shine through her children, grandchildren and all those who' lives she touched. Love deeply, give freely, laugh often, family first.

She is the daughter of the late Robert M. Holmes and Emily F. (Perry) Barrett. Wife of John D. Grassa of Norwood. Mother of Frances May and her husband Robert of Neosho, MO, Deborah Rock and her husband Anthony of Hull, Kenneth W. Glew of Hull, Regina Battersby Grassa and her spouse Cora Battersby of the North End, John Grassa of Somerville, Angela Grassa of Lynn, and Michael Grassa and his wife Gina of NH. Sister of Barbara J. Glew of Marshfield, John Barrette of Dorchester and the late Robert M. Holmes. Grandmother of 13 and Great-grandmother of 17. Also survived by many loving nephews and nieces.

The family will receive visitors on Sunday, December 28, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the J.S. Waterman Langone Chapel, 580 Commercial St, Boston, with a Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m.

Complimentary valet parking attendants at front door.

Donations may be made to: Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011

Mass Schedule

St. Leonard's Church

NEW YEAR'S EVE 12/31
5:00 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY 01/01
10:30 a.m. Italian Mass
12:00 p.m.
320 Hanover St., Boston

St. Stephen's Church

YEAR'S DAY 01/01
11:00 a.m.
401 Hanover St., Boston

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Raise a Cheer to the New Year!

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

Sometimes, it appears as if the bulk of our Christmas festivities end the moment we flip over the December 25th calendar page. Gone are "Jingle Bells" and "All I Want for Christmas is You" from the radio, replaced by the steady rotation of everyday hits and standards. Gone are the tantalizing unwrapped presents from beneath the tree, having now been revealed of the surprises within. However, contrary to popular perception, the season of Christmas actually lasts for a much longer time. As the old carol about the three French hens can attest, Christmas continues for twelve days after the proper feast ends. The real close of the Christmas season occurs on January 6th, or the holiday of the Epiphany. Italians afford each of the Twelve Days of Christmas a special significance. December 26th, for example, is the feast day of St. Stephen, and Italians celebrate *la festa di San Stefano* by visiting family or going skiing in mountain resorts. For me, the Twelve Days of Christmas contain a magical and enchanted quality, laden with the sensation of being far removed from the bustle and grind of ordinary days. I spend the Twelve Days of Christmas in a haze, taking advantage of the vacation to catch up on grading, eat leftovers from the Christmas dinner, shop in blissfully uncrowded stores, and visit family members who have arrived from overseas. However, I also prepare for the most mysterious feasts of the Twelve Days of Christmas: the twinned holidays of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Bursting with folklore and tradition, these holidays seek to welcome a new beginning with hope and luck.

New Year's Eve carries a distinct and unique feeling from other days of the year, a strong atmosphere of anticipation and excitement. It is an aura that imbues the ordinary activities people undertake during the day on New Year's Eve — walking the dog, going to the grocery store, visiting the hair salon — with a captivating patina of both nostalgia and enthusiasm, propelled by the knowledge that old year will soon give way to a new and exciting chapter. Even the twilight sky seems different on New Year's Eve, glowing with a jewel-like blue tone indicative of the unhurriedly lengthening days. The tangible peculiarity of New Year's Eve gave birth to a plethora of luck-themed folk traditions related to the holiday. New Year's Eve is a time inherently rife with insecurity, as we ponder whether the upcoming year will be worse or better than the last, sundry superstitions seek to improve good fortune within the next twelve months. The practice of making a lot of noise at the stroke of midnight, reflected in the abundant party horns and noisemakers of today, derives from the ancient belief that supernatural creatures wandered the Earth during times of transition. Loud noises could effectively scare these evil spirits away. Certain foods also possess lucky qualities for the New Year. In Italy, lentils are considered an auspicious food for New Year's Eve, since they are thought to resemble small coins and as such attract prosperity. They are usually paired in a dish containing a spicy pork sausage known as *cotecchino.* My grandmother fondly remembered a more unusual luck ritual practiced in the olden days in Italy on *la Notte di San Silvestro* ("St. Sylvester's Night" — this is what Italians call New Year's Eve, since December 31st is also the feast day of the fourth century Pope Sylvester I). She had to exercise great caution walking through the streets of Naples, where she was a boarding school student in the 1940s, during this night, as people tossed old and broken items out the windows in order to ring in the New Year with a fresh start!

I am not throwing anything out of my windows, but I do love to celebrate the New Year in a folksy and traditional manner with my family. We gather together and enjoy a special meal that ends with my chocolate-vanilla marble ring cake for dessert. Ring cakes are yet another lucky food for this feast, since their shape symbolizes the cycle of the year. I enjoy hearing my grandmother tell stories about the quirky traditions that characterized New Year's Eve in her small Italian hometown, such as sweeping out the door with a broom at midnight in order to chase away the old year. Sometimes my family plays Bingo together, known as *tombola* in Italian. Games of chance are popular components of New Year's festivities around the world, for they mimic the unpredictable thrill of good fortune. We watch the televised New Year's celebration in New York, and when the famed Times Square ball finally drops at midnight, we hug and kiss and wish each other a happy New Year. This is my favorite tradition, as it reminds me that being surrounded by the love of family and friends is the best wish I can ask for all year! New Year's Day is far more low-key. Known as *Capodanno,* or "head of the year," in Italian, this is a day devoted to recuperating from the previous night's parties. Superstition advises that the way you start the New Year is the way you will end it, so I like to spend New Year's Day doing a little bit of all the things I love, such as writing, reading, baking and watching a movie. New Year's Day is also laden with a unique and pleasant feeling. The sky seems bluer, the birds sing loudly, and snow sparkles like diamonds on the ground. I believe the whole world is starting anew!

The twinned holidays of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are purely magical, brimming with mystery and anticipation and the electrifying hope of good fortune. They are two feasts of the Christmas season that shine with unique lore and traditions. They inspire us to start a new cycle encircled by the love of family and with a hopeful optimism in our hearts. By greeting the New Year with joy and goodwill, as customs around the world dictate, we are actually creating our own good fortune. Whether we feast on lentils or shout loudly at the stroke of midnight, New Year's traditions remind us that love and confidence are exactly what we need to equip our journey into the unknown. Yes, it can prove frightening to leave behind the familiar and the comfortable and start fresh, but New Year's celebrations offer us the chance to improve our outlook on life. Without an ending, there can be no beginnings, or opportunities for journeys of self-discovery. This New Year's, surround yourself with loved ones and promise to carry an attitude of cheer and wonder for the next twelve months to come!

Happy New Year to All!
Buon Anno!

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

Until Something Better Comes Along

Recently, I read an interesting news story in the *Daily Item* concerning a new lawsuit aimed at Cambridge's inclusionary zoning ordinance with developers arguing that this ordinance is unlawful for developers wanting to do business in the city because it surrenders their constitutional land use rights. I had not read this news story anywhere else but in the *Item* out of Lynn.

As someone who rarely supports anything coming out of the People's Republic of Cambridge, I support Cambridge elected officials trying to increase affordability in the neighborhoods. I see nothing unconstitutional about Cambridge City Hall requiring developers of new housing to set aside 20 percent of the units as affordable housing. Cambridge has been pushing for more workforce affordable housing going back nearly 30 years. In 2017, the 20 percent figure was added to that 1998 ordinance. Today, more and more Greater Boston municipalities have adopted Cambridge-like inclusionary zoning.

I have been an advocate of affordable housing since my days as a Charlestown community advocate in the fight for more affordable housing in the early 1980s and as a member of the Charlestown Economic Development Corporation board of directors which helped create affordable townhouse condos for Charlestown residents built along Main Street. At that time, those new homes went for an affordable $125,000 apiece. This kept many Townies from having to leave their lifelong community. It was a win for those families who purchased their new homes and a win for the community. To this day, whenever passing by this roll of townhouses I am proud of the role I along with other members of the Charlestown E.D.C. played.

Since 1982 however things have only gotten worse as more and more individuals and families have been priced out of housing that isn't affordable to them. Something has to improve. Where are working families and blue-collar workers to live?

There are some real estate folks who think they are being unfairly targeted for bearing the cost of solving the lack of affordable housing stock. They seem to be blaming cities and towns for not allowing new housing to be built and thus not keeping up with population growth. High-end and high-priced housing only ups housing costs for everyone else. Inclusionary zoning seems to be the answer until we come up with something better. Doing nothing will only exacerbate the housing shortage. Cambridge has gotten it right and I support inclusionary zoning until a better idea comes along.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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Run dates: 12/26/2025, 01/02, 01/09/2026

Winter Wonderland

Takes Over the Prado

Winter Wonderland Host Frank DePasquale with family and friends enjoying the festivities.

If you followed the recent North End Athletic Association Parade (NEAA) through the neighborhood you most likely ended up at the Paul Revere Mall (Prado) where a replica of Santa's Village in the North Pole greeted all of the children on Santa's Nice list, and even a few on his Naughty list.

Guests enjoyed the outstanding musical entertainment of Vinyl Groove All-Stars, delicious homemade pizza, a visit by Frosty, Santa and presents for each of the children. It was a spectacular day, all thanks to the talent and design expertise of Stephen Virgilio and the continued generosity of Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures.

Vinyl Groove All-Stars entertained the guests with a variety of Christmas carols and other favorite tunes during the 2025 Winter Wonderland in the Prado.

Anthony Virgilio serenading the Winter Wonderland guests in the Prado.

Santa Claus sits with a few friends from the North End: Michael, mom Kristen, Nonna Emelia and Franco.

The beautifully decorated Prado is transformed into the North Pole for a day.

DePasquale Elves serving delicious refreshments at Winter Wonderland in the Prado.

(L to R): Christi Gannon, Theo, and Francine Capodilupo Gannon enjoying 2025 Winter Wonderland in the Prado.

A smile on a young child's face upon learning he is on the "nice" list.

Enjoying the Winter Wonderland Petting Zoo at the Prado.

(Photos by Gerri Palladino)

Celebrating Community, Connection & Christmas at St. John School

Annmarie Quezada, Head of School with Members of the Board and Development Committee

On Monday, December 8, our Christmas Dinner at Cantina Italiana captured all of that spirit and more. As friends and families gathered, stories were shared, laughter filled the room, and new friendships were formed while existing ones grew stronger. We are incredibly grateful to support our school — and one another — through such meaningful and joyful moments together.

Through ticket sales, raffle items, a silent auction, and generous donations, we raised more than $40,000 for the school — surpassing last year's gala! These funds are essential to our mission and allow us to continue serving our students while providing the excellent Catholic education that defines St. John School. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our board member, Cantina Italiana owner, Carla Agrippino Gomes, generously donated all of the evening's proceeds to the school!

As the year draws to a close, there is still time to *make a tax-deductible donation* to St. John School. Many employers also offer matching gift programs, which can double the impact of your generosity. We encourage you to check with your employer, as every gift — no matter the size — makes a meaningful difference in our school community.

We look forward to welcoming 2026 with you by our side. Thank you for all you give and all you do to support St. John School.

From our hearts to yours, Merry Christmas!

Warmly, Annmarie Quezada, Head of School

SJS 3rd Grade Students & Parents at a Holiday Event

Dear Friends,

As we approach the close of the year and look ahead to the one just around the corner, our hearts are full of gratitude and joy. The St. John's community continues to be strong, welcoming, and vibrant, and we are truly thankful for the important role you play in it!

This past year we were fortunate to host two wonderful community events that beautifully reflected the deep connection so many of us feel to St. John School.

Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

When did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up? For one 8-year-old boy hearing the horn solo at the start of Brahms' *Piano Concerto No. 2* made him decide to become a musician. But he didn't want to become a French horn player. He knew right then he wanted to be an oboist.

When you attend your next Boston Symphony Orchestra concert look over at the oboe section. John Ferrillo is the "First Chair," a position he has cherished for almost 25 years.

Ferrillo is Italian on his father's side, and a mix of northern European on his mother's. His father Giovanni was a navigator in a bomber in the early '50s, stationed at the US base in Guam, where his mother was teaching music. They met at a "monsoon party" on base, a way those serving there spent some free time during the rainy season. They fell in love but Giovanni then had to tell the Catholic Chaplain he wanted to marry a Protestant! John says his mom didn't have to convert, but typical of the era, she had to sign a statement agreeing to raise any future children Catholic.

His dad's military career had them moving around every few years, including in 1961 to a U.S. base in Germany. A good thing about that, says John, is that it made it easy for family vacations down to Naples. Even though he was just a child he remembers rooming with his grandfather in a pensione there. Nonno Arturo had studied art at the Accademia di Belle Arte di Napoli and once told the boy that the old Italian master painters and sculptors were "alive" to him. His stories about the artists brought them alive for young John, too.

The fine arts became more than something one admired from afar. It was clear that they were in his blood from both sides of his heritage.

When John was 9 his father accepted an offer from the military to become an electrical engineer and the family moved again, this time to Hanscom Air Force base in Bedford. John went through the local public school system and joined the Greater Boston Youth

Symphony Orchestra. When he graduated from Bedford High, he was accepted to the prestigious Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, following in the footsteps of another great Italian oboist with a Boston Symphony career, the late Alfred Genovese.

He told me about the arduous audition process musicians go through. He says it was his 22nd audition that got him his first professional job. By the time he was hired, he "had learned the technical necessities of auditioning, but I've never had one minute's illusion that I 'deserved' the position." He added, "I've always treated others on the other side of the screen as peers." An interesting side note is that both his daughters studied music; the youngest, Vivian, is a pianist and oboist but chose a different career path and is an Assistant Professor of Government at Colby College, while his first daughter, Mary Ferrillo, is a violist with the Boston Symphony. Like father-like daughter, it was her 22nd audition!

John Ferrillo spent a year as second oboe with the San Francisco Symphony before becoming principal oboe of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in 1986, spending the next 15 years in New York. He took the leap to a fully orchestral repertoire again when he joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2001.

I asked him his favorite composers and without hesitation he placed Giuseppe Verdi at the top of the list. He emailed me a photo of a bust of Verdi at his home, and mentioned how much he liked the Nile scene for oboe and soprano in *Aida.* Also on the list are Baroque composer Alessandro Marcello's *Oboe Concerto in D minor*, and Stravinsky's ballet *Pulcinella*, which he adds was based on a work by another Baroque composer, Giovanni Pergolesi. He singled out a piece called *The Fountains of Rome* by 20th century composer Ottorino Respighi, with that "gorgeous oboe part." In fact, well before he joined the Boston Symphony full time, he remembers getting a phone call asking him to serve as oboist for the last week of the BSO's summer season at Tanglewood in the Berkshires. The personnel manager told him that "the repertoire would include Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9, Symphony No. 4,* and *The Fountains of Rome.*" Sold!

In addition to the BSO, Ferrillo is a faculty member at Boston University and the B.U. Tanglewood Institute. "I see teaching as 'shepherding' young musicians, so important to make sure these arts are passed on to the next generation." He also teaches "Oboe Reed Making," yet another art, at the New England Conservatory. It's a vital skill for oboists to learn as it enables them to tailor their reeds to their unique playing style. It's also another connection to his Italian forebears as his multi-talented father and grandfather were also cabinet makers.

Another link to his family's history is his 130-year-old presepio, (Neapolitan Nativity set), a treasured work of art he inherited. This month he travels back to Naples to buy more pieces from the same family who created the original set generations ago.

I asked for final thoughts? "My overall feeling is one of profound gratitude that I've been able to make beautiful music in the world's greatest symphony orchestra. It has been a transcendent experience. I am very much looking forward to performing with my first boss, Herbert Blomstedt, who is now 98. I'll be playing *Nanie* by Brahms, a wonderful oboe solo."

To see Mr. Ferrillo perform with the BSO, visit *bso.org* to look at the whole season's scheduled concerts.

Christopher Columbus Park

New Year's Eve Ice Sculpture Stroll

Have you ever taken a photo with a snowman made of ice? Don't miss your chance this season!

We are proud to be part of the New Year's Eve Waterfront Ice Sculpture Stroll and will again this year have our adorable snowman "photo op" sculpture.

Post your photos of our snowman on Instagram #FOCCP. The ice sculptures will be on display from 1:00 p.m. to dusk on December 31, 2025. The Ice Sculpture Stroll is organized by Boston Harbor Now.

Learn more at *https://www.bostonharbornow.org/nye/*

Midnight Fireworks to Ring in the New Year

As part of First Night Boston, fireworks will light up the Harbor at the stroke of midnight.

Public viewing is free and the best locations are Christopher Columbus Park, along the Harborwalk at Fan Pier, and the East Boston waterfront. Presented by Meet Boston. Learn more about First Night Boston.

Saint Edmund Rich

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Edmund Rich was born on November 20, 1180, at Abingdon, six miles from Oxford, England. His parents, Reinald (Reginald) and Mabel Rich, were remarkable for piety. It is said that his mother attended Matins almost every night in the abbey church. His father, even during the lifetime of his mother, entered the monastery of Eynsham in Oxfordshire. Edmund had two sisters and at least one brother. The two sisters became nuns at Catesby. From his earliest years he was taught by his mother to practice acts of penance, such as fasting on Saturdays on bread and water.

When old enough he was sent to study at Oxford. While there, he had a vision of the Christ Child while he was walking alone in the fields. In memory of that vision, every night he would sign his forehead with the words "Jesus of Nazareth", a custom he recommended to others. Edmund made a vow of chastity.

About 1195, in company with his brother Richard, he was sent to school in Paris for several years, his life was spent between Oxford and Paris. He taught with success in both universities. After having devoted himself to the study of theology, Edmund acquired fame as a preacher in various parts of England. All this time his austerities were very great. Most of the night he spent in prayer, and the little sleep he allowed himself was taken without lying down. Though severe to himself, he was gentle and kind towards others, especially to the poor and sick, whom sometimes he personally attended. In 1222 Edmund became treasurer of Salisbury cathedral. Ten years later he was appointed to the Archbishopric of Canterbury by Gregory IX and consecrated April 2, 1234.

As Archbishop he firmly defended the rights of Church and State against the abuses of Henry III. He visited Rome in 1237 to plead his cause in person. This fearless policy brought him into conflict, not only with the king and his party, but also with the monks of Rochester and Canterbury.

Determined opposition met him from all sides, and constant appeals were carried to Rome over his head. Edmund saw he could no longer remain in England. In 1240 he retired to the Cistercian Abbey of Pontigny in France. Here he lived like a simple religious till the summer heat drove him to Soissy, where he passed away on November 16, 1240. Within six years he was canonized. The Feast Day of Saint Edmund Rich is November 16.

Wishing our readers a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

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2011 TOYOTA RAV4
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2013 CHEVROLET CAMARO
Vin #2G1FA1E34D9170480

2024 YAMAHA YZF-R3
Vin #MH3RH18Y9RK015129

2006 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
Vin #1GCGG25V861248395

2005 HONDA ODYSSEY
Vin #5FNRL38675B412823

2013 JEEP WRANGLER
Vin #1C4AJWAG3DL514526

2020 FORD F150
Vin #1FTEW1E48LFA94054

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

Run dates: 12/19, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

• **North End Annual Christmas Fund Luncheon** (Continued from Page 1)

Former Massachusetts Speaker of the House Salvatore DiMasi and Ted Tomasone at the 2025 annual North End Christmas Fund Luncheon.

(L top R) State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairman of the North End Christmas Fund Luncheon Robert "Ted" Tomasone, State Senator Lydia Edwards, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, and NE/W Health CEO Vincenzo Scibelli.

Ted Tomasone presenting Carlo DiRenzo of the Nazzaro Community Center a plaque in recognition of his many years of participation and efforts in ensuring the NEAA Christmas pre-parade activities run smoothly.

One of the highlights of the festivities each year are the annual civic awards presented to individuals who go above and beyond for the community and the North End Athletic Association (NEAA). This year two long-time volunteers of the NEAA Christmas Parade, Carlo DiRenzo and Peter Siciliano, were recognized for their continued support. Carlo is always present at the Nazzaro Center offering his assistance to ensure the pre-parade activities run smoothly, while Peter has participated in the Christmas Parade for the past 50 years, doing whatever has been asked of him.

The highest honor recognized annually is the "Ferdinand Carangelo" Humanitarian Award. This year's recipient was life-long North End resident Jason Aluia, in recognition for his years of outstanding service and dedicated sacrifice to the North End community and its people, along with his tireless devotion to the ideals personified in the examples set by "Uncle Fred" Carangelo and is embodied by the esteem in which Jason is held by all.

Jason is a tireless volunteer, deeply engaged in civic and community leadership. He is Chairman of the Board at N/EW Health, a member of the St. Anthony Feast Society and a founding member of the Friends of DeFilippo Playground. Jason accepted the award to a standing ovation, thanking the NEAA for its 60 years of service to the community as well as N/EW Health CEO Vincenzo Scibelli and team for their support.

Growing up in the North End Jason knew "Uncle Fred," and was inspired by him and those who emulated his service, people like Michael "Mikey Fud" Giannasoli, Ted Tomasone, Bobby Dello Russo, Francine Capodilupo Gannon, John & Patricia Romano, Robert "Bobby D" DeCristoforo, and so many others. He also commented on how happy he is to see the new generation stepping up, including the Director of the Nazzaro Center Marlo Imbergamo D'Anna, BPD Area A-1 Community Service Office Michael Mustacchio, North End Cares President John Pregmon and of course Pastor of St. Leonard Church Father Michael Della Penna, for carrying the torch and maintaining the traditions of service to the the North End community.

Jason also thanked former State Representative and Speaker of the House Sal DiMasi for teaching him to use his influence to help the neighborhood, his childhood friend and current State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, his lifelong brothers and sisters from the St. Anthony Society and St. Lucy Society and most importantly and definitely not to be forgotten, Jason thanked and acknowledged his family, mom "Vivian Aluia" for the love and support she has given him, as well as his grandmother, his uncle Vito and extended family. Jason closed reminding the group that the motto of the North End is not to do it alone — we do it together.

(L to R) Ted Tomasone offering his thanks and deep appreciation to Peter Siciliano for his 50 years of volunteering in the NEAA Christmas Parade along with CEO of NE/W Health Vincenzo Scibelli and NEAA member John Romano.

(L to R) Senior Vice-President Retail Banking at Eagle Bank Gisella DiPaola, Antoinetta Casale and Paolo Gaudenzi of Consul General Arnaldo Minuti's staff, Consul General of Italy to Boston Arnaldo Minuti with a Paul Revere Bowl presented to him for his support of the annual Christmas Fund Luncheon, along with Giaconda Motta of C.A.S.IT, Inc., Deputy Consul General Silvia Salomone of Consul General Arnaldo Munuti's staff and Attorney Richard Vita.

(L to R) Patricia Romano, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Uncle Fred Carangelo 2025 Humanitarian Award Recipient Jason Aluia, Kathy Carangelo, and Chairman of Christmas Fund Luncheon Robert "Ted" Tomasone

Chairman of the North End Christmas Fund Luncheon Robert "Ted" Tomasone with the 2025 award recipients and dedicated and tireless volunteers.

The Uncle Fred Carangelo recipient Jason Aluia celebrates his award surrounded by his honorary brothers from the Saint Anthony Society.

(Photos by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

Facts ON wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best . . . forgetting the rest

CONVERGENCE – RECKLESS METER *(CD)*
Capri Records

Contagious energy, compelling spontaneity, and deep musical synergy are at the core of any performance by Convergence, Colorado's premier modern jazz ensemble. Their exhilarating live album *Reckless Meter* captures the group at the height of its performing powers. "We wanted to make a record that felt alive, and what better way than with an audience right there in the room with us?" says drummer Paul Romaine. "You can feel that energy in every track." *Reckless Meter* demonstrates why Convergence has been at the forefront of Colorado's region's jazz scene for more than 30 years. Featuring Eric Gunnison (piano), Greg Gisbert (trumpet and flugelhorn), John Gunther (saxophones), Mark Patterson (trombone), Mark Simon (bass), and Paul Romaine (drums), *Reckless Meter* showcases original compositions by ensemble members performed with the boldness, nuance, and telepathic interplay that only years of collaboration can produce. The album's title reflects Convergence's fearless approach to time, form, and improvisation. The thrilling opening track "Big Boot" is full of upbeat energy, sassy horns, and killer solos. "Springaling" follows with dynamite drive and urgency before giving way to the smooth relaxation and sweet horns of "Margaret Clara." Stellar horn work, scintillating piano, and rock-solid rhythm continue to shine on "One or Not One," "Master Jake," "Cauldron," and "Coyote Moon." The title track closes the album in jaw-dropping style with the band's virtuosity, tightness, and the sheer joy of making music on full display. "This band has always been about connection, with each other, with the audience, and with the music itself," says Gunnison. "Convergence is more than a name; it's how we approach everything we do musically." From tightly woven grooves to wide-open harmonic exploration, *Reckless Meter* is a compelling document of a band pushing the boundaries of modern jazz while staying deeply rooted in its tradition.

NEGATIVE PRESS PROJECT + FRICTION QUARTET - CYCLES (*CD*)
Envelopmental Music

Negative Press Project reaches new heights of ambition with *Cycles I*, their fifth album, arriving January 30 via Envelopmental Music. Though scattered to the four winds, the San Francisco Bay-founded chamber jazz octet came back together to realize 12 compositions by pianist Ruthie Dineen and bassist Andrew Lion — and joined forces with the world-renowned cutting-edge string ensemble Friction Quartet (violinists Otis Harriel and Kevin Rogers, violist Stephanie Bibbo, and cellist Doug Machiz). The result is a stunning coalescence of post-bop jazz and postmodern classical music, both simultaneously at their most adventurous and most accessible. Accessibility shouldn't be taken to mean lack of complexity. *Cycles I* is especially complex in terms of the emotional landscape it evokes and explores. Dineen and Lion began creating these pieces during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they reflect the complicated, unsettled era and world in which the composers found themselves. The album's recording was concluded in 2022; in the time since, our era and world only become more complicated and unsettled. This makes the music all the more relevant and urgent. We can feel this in, for instance, the tension-fraught interplay with which Friction begin Lion's album-opening "Shoten Zenjin (Morning Arrives for Aya)" before Dineen and saxophonists Chris Sullivan, Lyle Link, and Tony Peebles provide sweet but hard-earned release. Beginning with Schwartz's drum passage, Dineen's "Aelorean" drives the program forward with precise momentum, punctuated by Peebles's coruscating tenor solo and well-timed response from Friction Quartet's strings. Conceived on October 21, 2015, the very date the DeLorean jumps to in the hit film Back to the Future, its title is a play on the tune's Aeolian-mode foundation. It continues in the prodding pulse of Lion's "Waltz in Progress," with the bassist's ever-so-slight lag behind drummer Isaac Schwartz's ride cymbal beat reminding us of the cautious hesitation that's become a feature of our everyday lives; in the troubled yet hopeful dissonances that horns (saxes plus trumpeter Rafa Postel) and strings share in Lion's "Libre"; and in the undaunted fatigue guitarist Luis Salcedo channels into his gorgeous solo on Dineen's "Miles to Go." Cycles I finds its apex in the pianist's "Hold and Keep This Flower," which includes a haunting prelude for Friction Quartet before opening onto a delicate soprano saxophone recitation from Link. He is soon joined by Peebles, Sullivan, and Postel in a quartet movement, then acts as featured soloist against sensitive ensemble accompaniment (including the strings). Special guests Ivan Arteaga (clarinet), Patrick Malabuyo (trombone), and Ami Molinelli (percussion) also make their voices heard across *Cycles I*, adding yet deeper and more ambitious layers of texture and collaborative music-making to the work.

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

EAST CONCORD STREET LIVING IT UP

I noticed a full-page story in the *Boston Herald*'s real estate page last week highlighting a large three-story apartment building with two residential units. Often, sellers highlight either the roof deck or run photos of the back of these buildings showing off-street parking spots which is a really big deal in the South End. From the looks of the photo, it was probably a three-family apartment with a basement unit back in the day. Today, it is being advertised as having two residential units.

I spent many years growing up in this neighborhood, living two blocks away on another beautiful South End Street- East Springfield Street. Between both these streets was Worcester Square. Back then it was working class. Not so today. Real estate values have reached the moon. This advertised home in the *Herald* is going for pretty much $3 million.

Back in 1970 when neither my brother nor I called this neighborhood home, my brother had a chance to purchase a rowhouse on East Concord Street for a mere $5,000 which was the taxes still owed by the previous owners. He was 20 years old and I was 22 years old and between the two of us, we were still unable to purchase it.

I'd be a very rich man today had I had the cash then. However, it is what it is. Being a homeowner in the South End wasn't in the cards for me.

ANOTHER NY DATELINE

Following the election, Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, one of the most progressives on the NY City Council, is pushing to create a Department of Community Safety, which would send mental health case workers, or I think maybe social workers, to respond to emergency psych calls. As the city councilor pushing this idea stated, "Public safety is more than policing." I guess he's all about outreach.

Listen, right now I am talking about NYC, but you can bet this idea is spreading across the nation. How soon before the same kind of progressives start peddling that idea right here in Boston?

CHUCK SCHUMER KEEPS SENDING OUT STUPID STUFF

Back on December 16, Schumer tweeted that as of January 1, "millions of Americans will be blocked into higher premiums or priced out of health care altogether. The damage has been done and Americans will know that it's all thanks to Republicans." EXCEPT IT'S NOT.

Blame Obamacare itself. It was created by Obama Democrats. *That's* driving up costs. Democrats also created the December 31 expiration date because they thought that ending of the pandemic would be over by then. Don't believe it, look up the facts.

WHITE STADIUM CASE KICKED TO SJC

It appears the state's highest court is about to take a lawsuit seeking to block Boston's Public-Private rehab of White Stadium over in Franklin Park for a professional women's soccer team. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and several Franklin Park neighbors.

(L-R): City Councilor Erin Murphy with former elected Boston School Committee member Jean McGuire, a long time Boston community activist.

This case raises several important questions about the state's constitutional protections for public parks and recreational land. The ever-raising price tag has also become a point of contention. Mayor Wu has also stated the city's payment is likely to go up again due, she alluded, to the Trump tariffs driving up costs.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and park neighbors who oppose the city's plans have pitched an alternative public school-only rehab that they believe can be built at a fraction of the cost to taxpayers.

When the mayor's plans for White Stadium started, the city's cost was $50 million, now it stands at $91 million and, as the mayor recently said, the cost could go up again. I agree with the mayor's opponents on this soccer deal. White Stadium belongs to BPS students NOT to a private entity.

St. Theresa Society and St. Leonard's Parishioners

Make December Pilgrimage to LaSalette

Members of St. Theresa Society and St. Leonard Parish in the North End of Boston visit LaSalette Shrine in Attleboro, MA

On December 12, members of the St. Theresa Society of Boston and parishioners from St. Leonard's Church gathered for a joyful and faith-filled pilgrimage to the La Salette National Shrine in Attleboro, MA. The trip blended prayer, community, and celebration, making it a memorable experience for all who attended.

Accompanied by Father Michael and Father Emmanuel, participants spent the evening in prayer and reflection, exploring the shrine grounds and reflecting on the message of Our Lady of La Salette, which calls the faithful to reconciliation, faith, and hope. A special highlight of the day was the praying of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is celebrated on December 12, adding deeper spiritual meaning to the pilgrimage.

Beyond prayer, the trip was filled with moments of fun and memorable connection. The group enjoyed dining together at a local restaurant, sharing laughter and conversation outside the parish setting. Visitors also had the opportunity to experience the shrine's annual Christmas lights display, a beloved seasonal tradition that added beauty and joy to the visit. Many participants explored the large gift shop, where they found religious items, Christmas gifts, and meaningful keepsakes to remember the day.

Father Michael and Father Emmanuel offered reflections and guidance throughout the pilgrimage, helping to strengthen the spiritual bonds of the group. Organized with the help of the St. Theresa Society of Boston, the trip brought together members of St. Leonard's in a spirit of unity and celebration.

The December 12 pilgrimage to La Salette National Shrine was not only a sacred journey, but also a day of shared joy, friendship, and holiday spirit. An experience that participants will cherish long after the Christmas season.

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

For the last few weeks, I told the story about visiting Santa Claus. One of my fondest memories concerning Christmas that took place as a child was the annual party at the Trinity Neighborhood House on Meridian Street in East Boston. During the course of the year, I attended that long-gone settlement house and learned how to make model planes, play basketball, box, wrestle, and even dance. During the week before Christmas, the staff would have a party for the kids of the neighborhood. My only relative who wasn't busy or working was Babbononno and he accompanied me for the second year in a row.

Of all the things that happened at the party, the one I remember the best was the reading of the Gospel According to Saint Luke, Chapter 2, by Ms. Orr, the woman in charge. I would hear this once again at the Children's Christmas Mass at the Sacred Heart Church on December the 25th, and I thought you might like to read it:

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, and all went to be taxed everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered, and she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace and good will toward men."

There are many versions of this Gospel reading and this is an abbreviated one, but the one I remember the best.

Christmas Eve was usually held at Nanna and Babbononno's, with all of us sitting at their large dining room table. I often wondered why my musician father and uncles were able to be with the rest of the family, knowing how busy they had been for the month of December. When I asked, Uncle Nick stated that, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, whatever jobs they had were covered by Jewish musicians who played the same instruments. Dad added that when Jewish holidays were at hand, the Christian musicians would extend the same courtesy. So, I looked around, and sure enough, there was my father, Uncle Nick and Uncle Paul, all in civilian clothes (no tuxedoes).

Nanna and my mother would have been shopping for Italian specialty items just prior to Christmas, and now they would all be on the dining room table accompanying the main courses. On Christmas Eve, it was the seven fishes and when we returned for Christmas dinner it included appetizers on the kitchen table, the multi-course holiday dinner beginning with Italian wedding soup, homemade ravioli, meatballs, hot and sweet sausages, chunks of pork, lamb and beef, stuffed artichokes, string beans, stuffed mushrooms, garden salad, and at the end, fruit and nuts and little boxes of torrone. Dessert would come later when Italian pastry was served with American and Italian coffee.

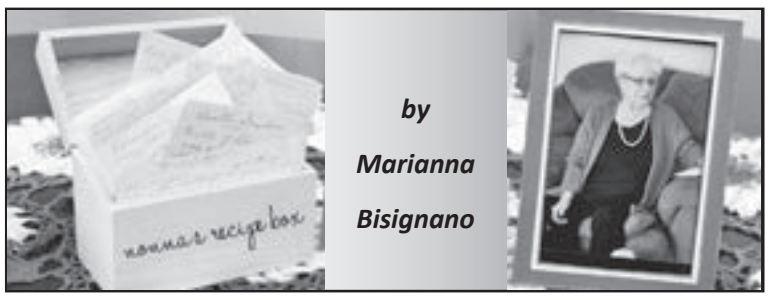
Right after the war, Uncle Nick divorced his first wife, my Godmother, Aunt Ada Georgione. WWII put an end to their marriage and my uncle married Dorothea Hanscom in 1950. Her Anglo lineage went back quite a ways and she wasn't familiar with Italian customs. She thought Babbononno was loud, demanding and critical of Nanna. Her ancestry went back to before the American Revolution. Actually, her family was composed of Loyalists, the Americans loyal to England. After the revolution, they fled Boston, fearing being tarred and feathered, or worse. They couldn't afford to go back to England and left for Canada. They returned a generation or so later, but now, they had another problem. They had converted to Catholicism. They made it back and did well. As a matter of fact, Hanscom Air Base is named after one of Aunt Dorothy's relatives. They never had any children and I became the surrogate son they never had and my sons would become their surrogate grandchildren.

I remember hearing Aunt Dorothy complaining to Uncle Nick that his father was like a dictator in the house and Nanna was his slave. My uncle tried to explain his father's ways, but she never understood and considered Babbononno an ogre. She didn't have to deal with her father-in-law other than on family holidays, as she was a business woman, involved in Boston's leather trade. At the same time, Uncle Nick headed up the Musicians' Union and played with various bands almost every night of the week. When Uncle Nick had any free time during the day, he would visit Nanna and Babbononno, a fact that minimized the amount of time Aunt Dorothy had to spend with her in-laws.

Aunt Dorothy retired before Uncle Nick and bought a condo in Delray Beach, Florida. Uncle Nick promised that he would not run for office again, retire, too, and head for Delray. He waited until Loretta and I were married, helping out along the way and then headed south. By this time, both Nanna and Babbononno were gone, and there was no reason for him to stick around. Once in Florida, he made several contacts and played music most nights of the week until he hit 90. Once Aunt Dorothy passed away, he retired and passed away in his 94th year.

My only problem now is that I'm the old timer in the family and the only one left to tell you these stories. Merry Belated Christmas, again from the Christoforo family, and

May GOD BLESS AMERICA



by Marianna Bisignano

Whether you live in Italy or here in the United States, anyone raised in an Italian household knows that the holidays almost always come with at least one beautifully wrapped panettone. This beloved Italian Christmas cake, its name often traced to *pane di tono*, meaning "luxury bread", originated centuries ago in Milan and has since become a cherished tradition, brought along when visiting family and friends during the Christmas season.

Growing up, I vividly remember panettone being exchanged in our home each December. My Nonna never wasted a single crumb, so once Christmas arrived, the panettone was unwrapped and enjoyed in many ways; sometimes toasted and buttered for breakfast, other times served after dinner as a simple dessert. My favorite moments were helping her cut it into generous chunks to make Panettone Bread Pudding. With just a few simple ingredients, this dish is easy to make and delicious for breakfast or as a comforting dessert; the perfect way to savor a taste of Italy once Christmas has passed!

PANETTONE BREAD PUDDING

Budino Di Pane Di Panettone

1 loaf panettone bread, cut into cubes
8 large eggs
1 ½ cups heavy cream
2 ½ cups whole milk
1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
2 tablespoons butter, for greasing the dish

Generously butter a 9 × 13–inch baking or casserole dish. Arrange the cubed panettone evenly in the prepared dish.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, whole milk, and sugar until well combined.

Pour the custard mixture evenly over the panettone, gently pressing the bread down so it is fully submerged. Cover the dish and refrigerate for 30 minutes to 1 hour to allow the panettone to absorb the custard.

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Remove the dish from the refrigerator, uncover, and allow it to sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes.

Bake for 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden and the center is set but still very moist.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool until firm before serving. When served as a dessert, this bread pudding is delicious with warm caramel sauce or fresh mascarpone whipped cream.

***If you'd prefer a simple **Panettone French Toast**, whisk together 3 eggs, ½ cup whole milk or half-and-half, ¼ teaspoon vanilla, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, and a pinch of salt. Dip slices of panettone into the custard, coating both sides. Melt about ¼ cup butter in a skillet over medium heat and cook the soaked bread for approximately 2 minutes per side, or until golden. Serve warm with maple syrup.

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

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. MI25D3336DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

GRISMAILY A. ROSA
vs.
ALEX B. ROSA-LOPEZ

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Grismaily A. Rosa, 112 Pleasant Street, Lowell, MA 01852** your answer, if any, on or before **January 15, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

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

Date: December 04, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/26/2025

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Georges Seurat

Georges Seurat was born on December 2, 1859, in Paris. In 1875, he attended the municipal school of sculptor Justin Lequien. From March 1878 to November 1879 he was enrolled in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. After a year of military service on the coast of Britany, Seurat returned to Paris. From the late 1870s his interest in current scientific theories about color perception and chromatics grew.

A portrait drawing by Seurat was selected for the 1883 Salon. In 1884 after being rejected by the Salon, he, with Henri-Edmond Cross, Maximilian Luce, Odilon Redon, and Paul Signac, founded the Salon des Indépendants. With Cross and Signac, Seurat developed Divisionism (the term he preferred to Pointillism), breaking down colors into their constituent hues and applying them side by side on canvas.

In Seurat's method, colors placed next to each other were intended to mix in the eye of the viewer and approximate the quality of natural light. In 1886 Seurat met mathematician and scientist Charles Henry. Henry influenced Seurat's desire to logically control color and space and his later attempts to find methodical, scientific means of composition.

In addition to numerous smaller works, Seurat created seven major paintings, the best-known of which is perhaps *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of the Grande Jatte*, now exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago. It was first exhibited in the Eighth Impressionist Exhibition in 1886. Throughout the late 1880s, he spent his summers on the Channel coast, working outdoors from the landscape and following the example of Impressionism in selecting his subject matter. In the late 1880s he expanded his depictions of Parisian life to include scenes of circuses and cabarets.

Shortly after installing the 1891 Salon des Indépendants, Seurat took ill. He passed away on March 29 in Paris, after a brief bout with pneumonia or meningitis.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

change last week saying Basic Economy tickets purchased on or after December 17 would no longer be earning AAdvantage miles or loyalty points towards AAdvantage status.

The decision drew the ire of countless customers, from ordinary folk to sports journalists and more. Obviously, basic so-called budget, no-frills fare created by major airlines to compete with low-budget airlines is apparently affecting the bottom-line revenue numbers of large carriers, hence the change in policy, say industry spokespeople.

End Quotes

"So-called gender-affirming care has inflicted lasting physical and psychological damage on vulnerable young people."

— Robert F. Kennedy Jr., U.S. Health Secretary

"People have to have their head on a swivel when they are engaging in a public Hanukkah lighting."

— Oren Segal, head of the Anti-Defamation League

• Hoops and Hockey in the Hub (Continued from Page 12)

and a large portion of the intramural docket are conducted at the Arena." He adds that those who spoke there delivered "podium entreaties." They included Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. Additional well-known figures that appeared over the decades included Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhardt, James Michael Curley, Reverend Billy Graham, and Admiral Chester Nimitz.

The arena has also been the site of sad occasions:

"In the summer of 1993 the city of Boston and NU paid tribute to one of their heroes when funeral services were held at the Arena for Reggie Lewis, Class of 1988."

Lewis was a member of the Boston Celtics at the time of his death, which was attributed to cardiac arrest. He was 27.

In addition, "The Arena has survived two crippling fires, one in 1918 and another in 1948, to prosper as a stationary jewel to the community."

There have been a number of structural renovations over the years, including the installation of an ice sheet that measured 200 feet by 90 feet, somewhat wider than the NHL standard of 200 feet by 85 feet.

Jack's exquisite historical essay closes with the following paragraph "Neither time nor materiality has disrupted the daily pattern of Arena life. In quiet afternoons, there are special hours set aside for public skating. As the ancient edifice improves by age, its sensitivity to the common good remains as high as ever."

Jack Grinold's wonderful historical essay on Matthews Arena can be accessed on the internet by typing "Jack Grinold Northeastern Hockey Media Guide" into a search engine. The entire 2009-2010 edition should appear. The essay entitled "The Husky Hockey Home" appears within the first few pages.

Friends of the North End Library Host
Holiday Open House

Friends of the North End Library celebrate the annual holiday open house.

Music, great food, a 50/50 raffle and a chance to mix and mingle at a free holiday open house at the North End Public Library on Parmenter Street last week, brought neighbors of all ages together. Sponsored by the Friends of the North End Library (FONEL), it was a perfect opportunity to gather and relax during the hectic holiday season.

Thank you to all who attended and to the generous sponsors and contributors, Frank DePasquale, Parziale's Bakery and Modern Pastry, it wouldn't have been a success without your support.

Adding some holiday melodies to the festivities.

Rita, Diana, and Steven take in the holiday cheer.

Friends of North End Library members Katie, Dariel, Steve and Alexanda serving lunch to all who attended the event.

Settling in with a good book and a delicious snack.

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

Future librarians, Rada and Nevena.

Library Staff Member Mari McCullough and friends enjoying the 2025 Friends of the North End Library Holiday Open House.

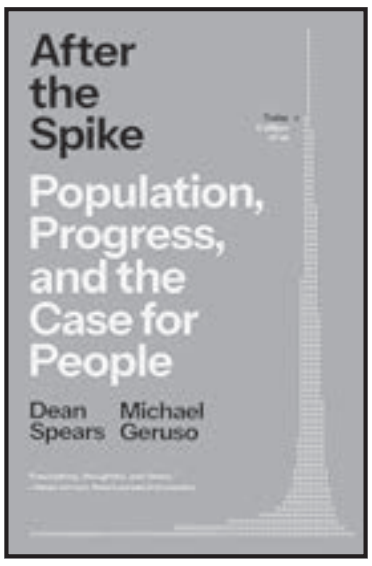
(Photos by Gerri Palladino)

After the Spike

Population, Progress, and the Case for the People

BY DEAN SPEARS AND MICHAEL GERUSO

Book review by John Joseph Fahey



The world today has approximately 8 billion people, one out of every six persons on the Indian subcontinent alone. *After the Spike* ... the enlightening and sociologically pertinent book by economists, demographers, and associate professors at the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Dean Spears and Dr. Michael Geruso, is a well-researched work that informs its audience about plausible consequences for a planet which can either depopulate its population or stabilize it.

Interestingly, the authors write that the increase of people added to the overall census to more than 8 billion today from approximately 6 billion at turn of the millennium is not as much of a clarion call for a reduction of numbers as it is as a proposition to sustain a quality of life without the concern of drastic decrease in the populace, which both Spears and Geruso attempt to do throughout the book's fourteen chapters divided into four parts including ample tables and models.

The premise revolves around the world-wide drop of the human replacement ratio and what it means. We find that the current replacement ration — that is the number children needed to replace the two parents is 2.1; however, the current statistic in the United States is 1.6. Less than two children are being born per couple — thereby compromising future population figures. The authors assert that the focus is not necessarily the decline in numbers but rather the importance to address the need for sustainability and the maintaining of a healthy and productive society regardless of the numbers of people — after all, as readers will ascertain, rates are going down almost everywhere, and it is only a matter of time that the numbers will stabilize. However, if stabilization doesn't occur and the population in fact steadily declines, then negative results — not only with population count, but with standard of living will result.

The authors give supporting evidence of what a dearth of people could mean- relative to a world that has become increasingly technological. There would not be the potential of the varied services and products that exist with a small population. Specialization has allowed for society to function and operate effectively. This is partly accomplished with a considerable population. The quality of life would not be on parity as with larger and more diversified communities.

The authors provide established evidence to this with models of population increase relative to that of improved lifestyle. Despite the fact that going back decades to professor Paul R. Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb,* warning of the deadly effects of an increasing population (and indeed centuries before to the days of economist Thomas Robert Malthus with his admonishment of what a compounding population would mean for the world) with the doom that was believed to happen should the census count not reverse itself did not. While both authors certainly made an impact, we have found the world has not been subject to the catastrophic results that such a population explosion could presage.

The case is argued: population will spike then decline; however, it is important that it stabilizes. With stabilization quality of life needs to increases — or at least improve equally among all socioeconomic groups.

The book also is written in a straight forward manner including anecdotal information that the authors themselves have experienced; and the work does not come across with a negative or gloomy view of the state of the world — the progress regarding healthcare, availability of services, and changes with social expectations, among others, have all lead to advancement. And with technological development, world-wide focus on environmental issues, and emphasis on quality versus quantity, one hopes that *After the Spike...*, the population will eventually stabilizes, and society will reap the benefits that so many are working on today. Both authors present an inclusively optimistic view — and with exposure to their findings and reasoning, the audience will feel encouraged too!

After the Spike, Population, Progress, and the Case for People is published by Simon & Schuster and is 307 pages.

EXTRA *Innings*

by Sal Giarratani

One Final Shoutout to Boston English Football Team

Trump Hails "Miracle on Ice" Squad on 45th Anniversary

Recently I noticed a news story and a great photo that was taken in the Oval Office showing President Trump in a white cowboy hat surrounded by cowboy-hat wearing members of the "Miracle on Ice" squad commemorating the unbelievable achievement who toppled the mighty Soviet Union at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics.

Everyone back then thought the Soviets would easily beat up on a scrappy group of amateurs many of whom had Boston ties. After all the Soviets hadn't lost a hockey game in the Olympics since 1968. Then came February 22, 1980. Weeks before in an exhibition game the Soviets took them out 10-3 .

However, the Americans surged after that defeat and earned a rematch. They were behind three times in that game before pulling ahead for the win in the third period. The team would go on to face Finland in the finals winning the gold medal on February 24 two days later.

The recent photo I viewed in the *NY Post* showed all team members wearing cowboy hats. That's not how I remembered it. Charlestown's Jackie O'Callahan was the only one wearing his large cowboy hat. It, along with his oversized eyeglass frames, became part of his persona. I lived in Charlestown back then and really enjoyed the victory since a Townie played a large part in the great win.

I attended a big celebration in honor of that victory and everyone lined up for a great photo with Jackie. We all basked in that victory.

I guess that FBI Director Kash Patel didn't get the message about wearing his cowboy hat. He was the only one in the group photo without it. He must still be thinking about Michael Dukakis back in 1988 and that infamous tank headwear photo.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
The Probate and Family Court Department
Middlesex, SS. Division

Docket No. MI24P4500PO

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A TRUSTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in the **Brenda Ann DiGiovanni Trust,** a petition has been presented by **Therese A. Nolan of Belmont, MA** to said Court praying that **Andrea H. DiGiovanni of Watertown, MA, Patricia M. Brodigan of Belmont, MA,** and **Michael B. Brodigan of Belmont, MA** be removed as Trustees(s) and appoint **Some Suitable Person** as successor trustee(s) without sureties on his/her bond.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **10-U Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on **January 15th, 2026**.

Witness, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this **18th day of December 2025.**

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate Court

Run date: 12/26/2025

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. SU25P2754EA

Estate of
ELIZABETH LOUISE HNATKOVICH
Date of Death: September 28, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tonia Hnatkovich** of **Norwell, 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: **Tonia Hnatkovich** of **Norwell, 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 January 22, 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. JANINE D. RIVERS,
First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 18, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 12/26/2025

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. MI25C1135CA

In the Matter of
SARAH QUILLYN YUEH SMITH

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Sarah Quillyn Yueh Smith** of **Woburn, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Quillyn Yueh Andrews.**

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 14, 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: December 17, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 12/26/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
The Probate and Family Court Department
Middlesex, SS. Division

Docket No. MI86P1708T

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A TRUSTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in **the Trust under the Will of Edwin Ginn dated: 07/20/1911**, a petition has been presented by **Norton Q. Sloan, III of Marblehead, MA and Thomas R. Appleton of Brookline, MA** to said Court praying that the Court approve the resignation of co-trustee, **Katherine L. Babson, Jr. of Wellesley, MA**, and appoint **Sarah M. Allen of Boston, MA** as successor co-trustee(s) without sureties on his/her bond.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **10-U Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on **January 12th, 2026**.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG-CAFAZZO, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this **15th day of December 2025.**

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court

Run date: 12/26/2025

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

May Your New Year
Be Filled with

Joy, Happiness, Kindness,
and Gratefulness

North End Athletic Association's

Spring Lacrosse Registration Now Open

Hope you're enjoying your end-of-year and gearing up for the holiday season! I know this time of year is chaotic (and spring sports is the last thing on your mind!), but with the season quickly approaching, I wanted to get lacrosse registration on everyone's radar.

Please register your child at *neaasportsboston.sportngin.com/register/form/270896203* and find full details of the program on *neaasportsboston.sportngin.com/neaa-lacrosse*. As a reminder, both the clinic and team options are introductory and **no prior experience is required**.

A couple things of note regarding the team:

5th/6th Graders: I am unsure if we'll have enough numbers for the older age groups and therefore have set up the registration for only those kids in 1st-4th grade. If your child is interested in playing for a team in 5th/6th grade, please send me an email directly and do not register at this time. I'll gauge numbers and, at the very least, be able to communicate with Charlestown to get all those kids on the same team in their program. We have been working closely with Charlestown and we want to make that transition easy.

Practice Times & Games: Practice for both boys and girls will be on Friday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We're exploring additional field time or wall-ball sessions, but Friday evenings are the only confirmed slot at this time. Games will be played on Sundays with a full list of game dates listed below. Please note the dates of two potential tournaments.

For further information, please contact Commissioner Dave Paolisso at *dpaolisso@gmail.com*.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

As we conclude 2025 and look forward to the commencement of 2026, you will hopefully forgive those of us in Boston sports media who are a bit wistful. You see, a very valued venue will not be continuing its lineage of service into the New Year. Matthews Arena, which has stood since 1910 and has been associated with Northeastern University for 90 years, closed on December 13 to make way for a new building scheduled to open in 2028.

One of the most wonderful pieces of writing concerning an athletic facility was written by veteran Northeastern Sports Information Director Jack Grinold who died in 2017 after more than 50 years of service to the University.

Jack was a one-of-a kind SID beloved by all in various circles.

He was, of course, the go-to person to inquire about all things Northeastern, not only about the history and lineage of the wide variety of sports at NU but the many varied endeavors engaged in by the institution.

In fact, Jack was "so Northeastern" that one might be given to think that he was an alumnus. But he did not attend NU as a student.

Born in Belmont, he graduated from Browne and Nichols Country Day School in 1953 and then went on to graduate from Bowdoin College in Maine in 1957. He came to Northeastern in 1962 and never left.

Employed nearly his entire adult life on "the sports side" of an academic institution, he never lost interest in the literary and arts mission cherished by centers of higher education.

He was a long-time proprietor (shareholder) with the Boston Athenaeum, that venerable institution that graces the top of Beacon Hill just steps from the State House. He also was a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts as well as the Massachusetts Historical Society and served as vice president of the Victorian Society of New England.

His descriptive historical essay entitled "The Husky Hockey Home" ran in every annual edition of the Northeastern men's hockey media guide for decades.

It was not just a description of the building and its history but a true literary achievement that could only have been written by one who had spent a good portion of his life within its historic embrace.

The piece was crafted in a tender, appreciative and caring tone that exemplified his admiration for all aspects of his life — both athletic and cultural.

Matthews Arena might be remembered by some of our more senior readers as Boston Arena. Ground was broken for the facility on October 11, 1909 with the grand opening taking place on April 16, 1910 — meaning it served Boston well for 115 years — making it "the world's oldest multi-purpose athletics building." It was renamed Matthews Arena in 1982 in honor of George Matthews and his wife (Hope). George Matthews was chairman emeritus of Northeastern's Board of Trustees.

Jack takes note of the opening by quoting from materials distributed at that time:

"When it opened in 1910 the Arena brochure boasted, 'It is the most complete home of sport in America — the largest and most elaborate temple erected to the devotees of sport in the world."

In Jack's writing the word "Arena" always features a capital A.

While it has served as the home of Northeastern's men's and women's hockey teams as well as the men's basketball team, the facility had a much more diversified history going back through the decades.

The first Boston Bruins game in franchise history took place there on December 1, 1924 with the Bruins losing to the Montreal Maroons by a 2-1 score. They would continue to play home games in that location until moving to the original Boston Garden in 1928.

The history of Matthews also includes figure skating with Olympians Nancy Kerrigan, Tenley Albright, Dick Button, Sonja Henie, Paul Wylie and Scott Hamilton all having graced the ice there.

As Jack notes "the Matthews Arena chronology reads like a Who's Who in American sports. Legendary pugilists (notice that he did not say "boxers") Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney and Joe Lewis graced ringside, Finnish distance star Paavo Nurmi ran at the Arena in a BAA track meet and Olympian Henie wove her magic-on-blades to phonographic music."

Even the best-known baseball player in history was present at times given that "the great Babe Ruth, then a young left-handed pitcher for the Red Sox, was a frequent visitor to the Arena. The Sultan of Swat passed idle time in the winter playing in hockey scrimmages with the Arena A.C. team."

One of the most interesting incidents in the early history of professional basketball occurred there on November 5, 1946 when the Boston Celtics played the Chicago Stags, losing 57-55. But before the game Chuck Connors, who later became known as the star of *The Rifleman* television show, shattered the glass backboard during practice when his shot hit the rim of the improperly installed basket — resulting in a significant delay to the start of the game.

Even animals appeared there when the Texas Rangers brought their show — complete with horses and "wild steers" to the arena in 1932.

Over the years entertainers such as Marvin Gay and the Supremes, Chubby Checker, Jerry Lee Lewis and Bob Dylan all performed there.

Jack notes that "Today, the stately Victorian lobbies that welcomed the modest and the mighty, cater to the academic and athletic needs of Northeastern. Convocations

(Continued on Page 10)