

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER 27, 2024

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## FIRST NIGHT® Boston 2025

First Night® Boston, New England's largest New Year's Eve party, returns to City Hall Plaza to celebrate the start of 2025. The free event runs from 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 through 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. With activities and entertainment for the whole family, First Night will feature a wide range of local musicians, artists, and performers at City Hall Plaza, Boston Common, and other nearby locations.

Uniting thousands of Boston's visitors and residents, First Night brings dazzling ice sculptures, the First Night Boston Parade, a laser and pyrotechnic show, and two sets of fireworks to excited audiences. Showcasing talents from hip-hop to country, and jazz to classical, back-to-back performances will make up a full schedule, now available at [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

Performances include children's music at Boston City Hall's Civic Pavillion, arts and crafts within City Hall, while strings, keys, and voices across all genres of musical talent will delight crowds from the event's main stage. Outdoor performances begin at 2:00 p.m. and continue past the stroke of midnight.



(Photo by George Comeau)

New this year, performances at Boston Public Market and CambridgeSide Galleria will provide indoor venues for daytime programming. The 6:00 p.m. parade from City Hall Plaza will lead into the 7:00 p.m. fireworks above Boston Common, and the midnight fireworks above Boston Harbor will again set the city aglow.

Steeped in tradition, the world's longest-running First Night celebration has delighted audiences for decades. Among the event's leading sponsors are Meet Boston, Amazon, the Hyatt Regency and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. Interested donors are invited to visit [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org), where donations of any amount can be easily made.

For more information on First Night® Boston 2025 please visit [www.FirstNightBoston.org](http://www.FirstNightBoston.org) or

follow on Facebook, @FirstNight on Twitter, @firstnightboston on Instagram, or follow the conversation using #FirstNightBoston.

### About First Night Boston

First Night® Boston is a project of Boston Celebrations, Inc. Boston Celebrations is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization that hosts the annual New Year's Eve celebration in the city of Boston. The citywide celebration features family-friendly traditions such as a parade from City Hall Plaza to Boston Common; handcrafted ice sculptures; performances from local musicians and artists, and of course, the highly anticipated "First Night Countdown" to the New Year. All First Night Boston activities are free and open to the public.

For more information and a list of events, please visit [www.firstnightboston.org](http://www.firstnightboston.org).

## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### Warren Takes Heat Over Comments on the Killing of CEO Brian Thompson

Recent remarks by Senator Elizabeth Warren that while "violence" is never the answer," the outrage directed at health insurers after the killing of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson should be "a warning to the healthcare industry that "people can be pushed only so far." She continued, "The visceral response from people across the country who feel cheated, ripped off, and threatened by the vile practices of their Insurance companies should be a warning to everyone in the health care system. Violence is never the answer" but Warren warned that if you push people too far they might "take matters into their own hands." Fellow U.S. Sen. Rick Scott from Florida said Warren should have stopped at "violence is never justified."

### Granny Getting Caned Over Tuna Fish?

A grandmother on vacation was left stunned after almost getting arrested for refusing to pay for a tuna sandwich that she sent back during an international flight. She refused to pay "One black, one white, one blonde." \$11 for the "soggy, cold" and inedible sub she ordered on her flight from London to Turkey this past November 3.

Once the plane landed four armed uniformed guards were prepared to escort the 79-year-old woman off the plane. The security team realizing how stupid this incident was, they reportedly told the woman and her family to "Just go."

(Continued on Page 11)

## Embracing Closure and Welcoming New Beginnings

by Patti Sartori

As 2024 draws to a close, it's common to look back and reflect on the past twelve months, acknowledging the challenges we have all faced as a nation, city, within families and personally. But it's how we approach the final days and begin to look ahead that will set the tone for the new year. Finding serenity and calm will allow us to end the year on a peaceful note and set a positive tone for the year ahead. And while it may not be easy, it is vital instrument for a positive beginning.

Gratitude for the experiences and lessons over the past year, the people who have been part of it, acknowledging even the difficult moments can help bring clarity to our thoughts and feelings. Appreciate the journey and be thankful for what is rather than what could

have been. The end of a year is always a perfect time to release any negative emotions, grudges, resentment, anger or regret. It will offer a sense of closure as we move forward.

Like each of us individually, we as a society, nation, city and state have also faced a mix of triumphs, challenges and unresolved issues, including political strife and economic uncertainty. Ending the year peacefully and cohesively requires a collective effort to heal, reconcile be open to acceptance, show empathy and be respectful to the opinions and feeling of others. Following this etiquette will strengthen us as a society and nation and guide us toward greater unity, resilience, and progress.

2024 was indeed a year of unexpected surprises, twists


and turns, in so many ways, especially politically, which seems to be the glaring dividing factor in the U.S. Despite political differences and disagreements it's so important to consistently focus on the purpose and values that bind us together and not wait for a local or national disasters to act civilly to one another. As Americans, it's essential that we approach the new year with a sense of possibility rather than with fear or apprehension. So, as the clock winds down on 2024, let us all take the opportunity to turn the calendar into the new year, take a deep breath, release the past, and step forward with a sense of peace, clarity and hope for each of us individually, as a family and above all as a nation.



# Stirpe Nostra

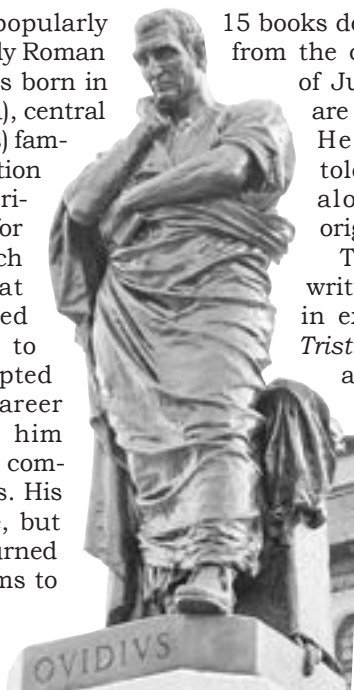
A weekly column highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of our ancestry . . . our lineage . . . our roots.

by Prof. Edmund Turiello



## OVID

Publius Ovidius Naso, more popularly known as Ovid is our next scholarly Roman from the Augustan period. He was born in 43 BC in Sulmo (modern Sulmona), central Italy, into an equestrian (bourgeois) family, and received his early education from two of the most famous rhetoricians of his time. While studying for a career in law he developed such a strong interest in poetry that the oratorical exercises required in his legal studies turned out to be poems in prose. Ovid attempted to get involved in a political career but his love for poetry forced him to abandon that life in favor of the companionship of contemporary poets. His three marriages ended in divorce, but the influence of his third wife turned his attention from licentious poems to those of a more serious nature.



**Statue of Roman Poet Ovid in Constanta, Romania**

15 books dealing with mythology and legends from the creation of the world to the time of Julius Caesar. The *Metamorphoses* are considered to be his masterpiece. He also wrote the *Fasti* which told of the many Roman festivals, along with an account of their origin according to Roman legends.

The third period of his work was written during the time that he was in exile. This is when he wrote the *Tristia*, which were poems of lament, and were sent to his family, friends, and to Augustus. He also wrote the *Ibis*, which was a strong denunciation of a personal enemy, and this was followed by another didactic poem about the fish in the Black Sea. He was quite prolific in his poetic works but these are most of his important works.

Through chance, he happened to be an eyewitness to an offense on the part of a frivolous young relative of Augustus. Because he neglected to inform the emperor, he was banished for life to a city called Tomi located on the Black Sea. All of his efforts to be repatriated were to no avail, and he died in exile about 17 or 18 A.D.

The works of Ovid have been divided into three periods or groups. The first group was called *Amores*. These were erotic poems which were written in his youth and were originally contained in five books, but later reduced to three.

He wrote didactic (instructional) poems on the art of making love, and during this same youthful period, he also wrote 21 love letters, fictional of course, supposedly sent from mythological heroines to their lovers.

During his middle age, or second period, he wrote the *Metamorphoses*. This work was in

Not unlike many of the ancient greats, recognition and fame came mostly after death for Ovid. His poetry seems to have become most popular and influential hundreds of years later during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. His works served as inspiration to late greats like Boccaccio, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton.

Ovid is distinguished above all other Roman poets by his ability to put pen to paper and dash off poetry with little or no effort, while at the same time it is said that no one has ever directed such a fine talent towards so much trivia. He was a master of language and of rhythm in verse, and was a born storyteller with inexhaustible powers of invention. His every-ready wit, elegance, and charm have endeared him to generations of readers.

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
*Titus Livy*

## Remembering the Cocoanut Grove Fire

*by Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy*



I had the honor of attending the 82nd anniversary memorial of the tragic Cocoanut Grove fire, which remains one of Boston's darkest nights. On November 28, 1942, a fire broke out at the iconic nightclub, claiming 492 lives and injuring hundreds more. This devastating event forever changed fire safety standards and medical care, with pioneering advancements in burn treatment and reforms in building codes.

We remember the bravery of the first responders, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and countless others who worked tirelessly to save lives that night.

We honor the memories of those we lost and the resilience of their families.

I also want to thank the Bay Village neighborhood and the dedicated members of the Cocoanut Grove Memorial Committee, whose hard work is bringing this history to life with a lasting memorial set to be completed next year in Statler Park, near the original site. This memorial will ensure that future generations understand the impact of this tragedy and the lives it touched.

Let us never forget the lessons learned from this tragedy and continue to honor the legacy of those who were affected.

## North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) Wraps up Productive 2024

The final NEWRA Meeting of 2024 offered its members and participants a fairly light agenda. Officer Frank Ciampa, Area A-1 Community Service Officer thanked the organization for being such a great community partner. He made reference to the annual neighborhood Christmas celebrations over the past few weeks, including the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Christmas Parade, the Winter Wonderland Extravaganza held in the Prado, the Mayor's trolley tour and tree lighting as well as the North End Christmas Fund luncheon. Officer Ciampa also announced he will invite the new Area A-1 Police Captain, Richard Driscoll, to attend one of the next meetings.

Marlo D'Anno, Director, Boston Centers Youth & Families, Nazzaro Community Center provided an update and overview for the new Nazzaro Center building process. The new physical building will replace the existing bath house adjacent to the Mirabella pool on Commercial Street. Please be aware, there is a strong possibility that the Summer of 2025 will be the last summer

the pool will be open, until the construction of the new center is complete, hopefully sometime in 2028. As of now, there are no plans to change the pool in any capacity. The programming at the new location is pretty much set and will offer a nice array of activities for all ages as well as new office space for staff. There will continue to be community outreach and dialogue regarding the construction timeline with a tentative follow-up meeting scheduled for Spring 2025.

The final agenda item of the year was an application by the co-owners of Ben Cotto, Joe Bono and Warren Mustacchio, on Hanover Street, for a transfer of an existing Malt and Wine License to an All-Alcohol license, with current closing time of 12 midnight to remain in place. Membership voted unanimously to support this application. The Licensing Board has not yet voted on any of the newly requested All-Alcohol License applications and most likely will not until after the new year.

*NEWRA's next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th, 6:30 p.m. at the Nazzaro Center, 30 North Bennet Street.*

**THE EAST BOSTON HOLIDAY LIGHTS COMMITTEE  
THANKS ALL THAT PURCHASED WREATHS TO  
DECORATE OUR EAST BOSTON SQUARES!**



### IN HONOR OF

**Barbie Puopolo & Family | East Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Italian American Alliance | Pirandello Lyceum  
Zimmerman Family  
Cora Operations and Cappuccio Construction  
(Donation of 50 wreaths)**

### IN MEMORY OF

- |                              |                                                                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Angelina Mercurio            | Lovingly By, Anna Scimemi                                                   |
| Ann DeRuosi                  | Lovingly By, Vera Carducci MA GOP State Committeewoman 3rd Suffolk District |
| Betty Knott                  | Lovingly By, Janet Knott                                                    |
| Bill and Lucy Naas           | Lovingly By, Meghan Naas                                                    |
| Carole Steffano              | Lovingly By, Lovingly By Jonathan Steffano                                  |
| Celeste and John Ribeiro     | Lovingly By, Celeste Hewitt                                                 |
| Detective Michael Delehanty  | Lovingly By, Felicia Puopolo                                                |
| Felipe Paes                  | Lovingly By, Fabricio & Kemberli Paes                                       |
| Fr. Gregory Mercurio         | Lovingly By, Anna Scimemi                                                   |
| Frank and Virginia Tortorici | Lovingly By, Elisa Tortorici                                                |
| Frank Coccimiglio            | Lovingly By, Maria Coccimiglio                                              |
| Frank Diano                  | Lovingly By, Marianna Cincinato                                             |
| George Mucci                 | Lovingly By, Vera Carducci MA GOP State Committeewoman 3rd Suffolk District |
| Giuseppe Mercurio            | Lovingly By, Anna Scimemi                                                   |
| Henry and Mary Petrillo      | Lovingly By, Vania Goodwin                                                  |
| James M. Richards            | Lovingly By, Beverly Richards                                               |
| Jim Knott, Sr.               | Lovingly By, Janet Knott                                                    |
| John & Arline Cinelli        | Lovingly By, Loreen Cinelli                                                 |
| Lina Capogreco               | Lovingly By, Lisa Cappuccio                                                 |
| Lina Capogreco               | Lovingly By, Laura Piscopo & Richard Wein                                   |
| Mario Scimemi                | Lovingly By, Maria Coccimiglio                                              |
| Mary and Elliott Hewitt      | Lovingly By, Celeste Hewitt                                                 |
| Nonna Felicia                | Lovingly By, Felicia Puopolo                                                |
| Peter Marston                | Lovingly By, Keeley Fanuele                                                 |
| Ralph and Anna Guange        | Lovingly By, Gina and Ann Guange                                            |
| Regina Targee                | Lovingly By, Celeste Hewitt                                                 |
| Richard and Anita Booker     | Lovingly By, Meghan Naas                                                    |
| Robert Pacitta               | Lovingly By, Tammy Pacitta                                                  |
| Rosemarie D'Amelio-Perry     | Lovingly By, Daughters Kelly & Deena                                        |
| Teresa and George Myers      | Lovingly By, Celeste Hewitt                                                 |
| Timothy E. Lynch, Jr.        | Lovingly By, Brian and Victoria Lynch                                       |
| Tony Galbiati                | Lovingly By, Marina Galbiati                                                |



# POST-GAZETTE

Pamela Donnaruma, Publisher and Editor  
5 Prince Street, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113  
617-227-8929 617-227-8928 FAX 617-227-5307

e-mail: [postgazette@aol.com](mailto:postgazette@aol.com)

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

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Friday, December 27, 2024

**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.**

## Ieri e Oggi Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

### Norman Rockwell

Rockwell was born in New York City, on February 3, 1894. Rockwell always wanted to be an artist. At age 14, Rockwell enrolled in art classes at The New York School of Art, two years later, in 1910, he left high school to study art at The National Academy of Design. He soon transferred to The Art Students League, where he studied with Thomas Fogarty and George Bridgman.



Rockwell found success early. He painted his first commission of four Christmas cards before his sixteenth birthday. While still in his teens, he was hired as art director of Boys' Life, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America, and began a successful freelance career illustrating a variety of young people's publications.

At age 21, Rockwell's family moved to New Rochelle, New York. There, Rockwell set up a studio with the cartoonist Clyde Forsythe and produced work for such magazines as *Life*, *The Literary Digest*, and *Country Gentleman*. In 1916, the 22-year-old Rockwell painted his first cover for *The Saturday Evening Post*, the magazine considered by Rockwell to be the "greatest show window in America." Over the next 47 years, 321 Rockwell covers would appear on the cover of the *Post*. Also in 1916, Rockwell married Irene O'Connor, whom he divorced in 1930.

The 1930s and 1940s are generally considered to be the most fruitful decades of Rockwell's career. In 1930 he married Mary Barstow, a schoolteacher, and the couple had three sons, Jarvis, Thomas, and Peter. The family moved to Arlington, Vermont in 1939.

In 1943, inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's address to Congress, Rockwell painted the *Four Freedoms* paintings. They were reproduced in four consecutive issues of *The Saturday Evening Post* with essays by contemporary writers. Rockwell's interpretations of *Freedom of Speech*, *Freedom to Worship*, *Freedom from Want*, and *Freedom from Fear* proved to be enormously popular. The works toured the United States in an exhibition that was jointly sponsored by the *Post* and the U.S. Treasury Department and, through the sale of war bonds, raised more than \$130 million for the war effort (\$3.2 billion in today's dollars).

Although the *Four Freedoms* series was a great success, 1943 also brought Rockwell an enormous loss. A fire destroyed his Arlington studio as well as numerous paintings and his collection of historical costumes and props.

In 1953, the Rockwell family moved from Arlington, Vermont, to Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Six years later, Mary Barstow Rockwell died unexpectedly. In collaboration with his son Thomas, Rockwell published his autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, in 1960. The *Saturday Evening Post* carried excerpts from the best-selling book in eight consecutive issues, with Rockwell's Triple Self-Portrait on the cover of the first.

In 1961, Rockwell married Mollie Punderson, a retired teacher. Two years later, he ended his nearly fifty-year association with *The Saturday Evening Post* and began to work for *Look* magazine. During his ten years working for *Look*, Rockwell painted pictures illustrating some of his deepest concerns and interests including civil rights, America's war on poverty, and the exploration of space.

In 1973, Rockwell established a trust to preserve his artistic legacy by placing his works in the custodianship of the Old Corner House Stockbridge Historical Society, later to become Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge. The trust now formal the core of the Museum's permanent collections. In 1976, in failing health, Rockwell became concerned about the future of his studio. He arranged to have his studio and its contents added to the trust. In 1977, Rockwell received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rockwell passed away on November 8, 1978.

# THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

## The Death of Sam Cooke: Sixty Years Later



As customary as it may be to speak of the early deaths of artists as untimely, the case of Sam Cooke is indeed the story of a career cut short at the height of its powers. Cooke had already built a prolific career in R&B and pop by the time he was shot dead under mysterious circumstances in Los Angeles in 1964. But his posthumous release, the hauntingly beautiful "A Change is Gonna Come" hinted at the direction his musical career was headed as the civil rights movement picked up steam.

Music had been in Cooke's blood almost from an early age. Born to a Baptist minister in the Delta town of Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1931, the young Cooke was singing in the choir of his father's church since he was six.

Before Cooke was twenty he joined the gospel group The Soul Stirrers. It was with the Soul Stirrers that Cooke's remarkable vocal talent became recognized in such recordings as "Jesus Gave Me Water" and "End of My Journey". Church music never fully left Cooke's soul but his recognition became too big for it to contain him and by 1956 he had crossed over to pop music. His first recording "Lovable", a secularized version of an earlier gospel hymn was a modest success but "You Send Me" was a 1957 chart topper.

For the next few years Sam Cooke would become one of the most popular recording artists of the early days of the pre-Beatles era. His music crossed genres. Though Cooke will be first and foremost identified as a soulful R&B artist his portfolio spanned pop, elements of doo-wop and some novelty songs. More importantly, Cooke's music transcended racial lines at an especially turbulent time. Music has always played a significant role in highlighting race relations; a fact made most evident during times of otherwise heightened tension. As early as the Harlem Renaissance the music of Black artists found a welcoming audience in White homes and as embarrassing (not to mention offensive) as their attempts may be today, the imitation of Black music by early recording White artists like Al Jolson were rooted in a deep admiration for pioneers like Scott Joplin. Of course, music also brought the ugly truth to the surface for some of the White musicians who were influenced by Black artists. Jazz singer Louie Prima often found himself barred from clubs as, solely because of his singing voice, he was confused for Black. Elvis would face similar attacks and rock & roll as a genre was ostracized by the older White generation in its earliest years as "Black music." But, and this is the bright side, their kids loved it. For, at its best, music created a bridge in race relations when few bridges could even be dreamt of. A case could be made that music played a vital role in the bettering of America's racial problems as it presented a



segway in. After all, without the gift of music Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. could not have desegregated Las Vegas.

Sam Cooke was among the lucky Black singers who had little trouble developing a fan base among all Americans, in part this may have been precisely because of his skillful blending of various genres. He performed both at the Copa and then at the Harlem Square Club and covers of his songs were performed by everyone from Cat Stevens to the Supremes to Simon & Garfunkel to the Spinners.

In 1960 Cooke signed a deal with RCA Victor and the following year Cooke started his own label with SAR Records. Despite the drowning death of his youngest child in 1963 at the family's swimming pool, things could not have looked brighter for Sam Cooke in the early 60s. He was an artist at the height of his fame who had broken barriers both socially and artistically. Then came the night of December 11, 1964 and the dream was over.

The full story of Sam Cooke's death will likely never be known as two of the three players are dead.

The initial story was questionable if only for its brevity. But from it we can start with at least the known facts. Cooke was found dead at the Hacienda Motel, a known haven for prostitution and other illicit activity, a single shot through the chest. The shot was fired by the motel manager, Bertha Franklin. A short, though brawny, older woman, Franklin told responding officers that Cooke had entered her room in a fit of rage, claiming that Frankling was hiding the prostitute (who would later be identified as 22-year-old Elisa Boyer) who had stolen his money. According to Franklin, Cooke lunged at her, there was a scuffle during which time she managed to get her rifle, fired three times, hitting Cooke once and killing him. Some parts of Franklin's story are at least partially true. At the time of the incident, she was on the phone with the motel's owner, Evelyn Carr, who testified to having heard Cooke entering the room and the ensuing altercation. No money was found in his wallet though he was that night carrying \$5,000, giving credence to the statement that the Boyer stole his money, thus enraging him. On autopsy Cooke did show signs of blunt trauma and his alcohol level was twice the legal driving limit.

Police initially labeled it a justifiable homicide and, ultimately, that is what the jury would decide. However, holes in the story became evident and the night is still shrouded in mystery. Cooke's family, friends and associates rejected the official account from the start. In part this was due to the LAPD conducting a mere cursory investigation. Muhammad Ali saw elements of racism in this, stating, "If Cooke had been Frank Sinatra, the Beatles or Ricky Nelson, the FBI would be investigating."

In fairness to the responding officers the scene did not initially radiate a racially motivated crime, at least superficially. Franklin herself was Black and Boyer was of mixed European and Asian heritage. At least to a degree, law enforcement's disinterest in the case was due to location and circumstance. The Hacienda Motel had a reputation as a hook-up house and its very name carried a stigma.

Conversely this is also a point of contention with many of Cooke's friends. Why would a man of his reputation and stature choose such a sleazy place to take a lady when there were many other options better fitted to a celebrity...unless he was lured there? Could this have been a setup to rob a popular singer?

Again, much of the story seems destined to remain shrouded in mystery but the known facts offer some clues. That night Cooke had been dining with friends at Martoni's, a high-end restaurant popular with LA's music scene. According to his friend and producer Al Schmitt, who was with him that night, Cooke, after many drinks, began engaging with a young lady later identified as Elisa Boyer. Cooke's wife, Barbara, knew of her husband's night habits but accepted them seemingly as the cost of being married to a celebrity.

Cooke left Martoni's with Boyer and, according to records, checked in with her at the Hacienda (about 15 miles away from Martoni's) at 2:35 in the morning.

Of what happened next only Boyer's account is available. According to her testimony at the trial, while in their room, Cooke disrobed, then yanked off her clothing. Believing he was going to rape her; Boyer went to scoop her clothing off the floor and in haste picked up Cooke's clothing by mistake along with the wallet containing the \$5,000.

In part, it must be said, this does line up to an enraged Cooke barging into the office of the motel manager demanding to know where the girl who stole from him was being sheltered. Nevertheless, there are some troubling questions that linger. Cooke was unarmed when he first confronted Franklin. While one can argue that he was still a threat as he was larger than her, there were no signs of a

(Continued on Page 11)



## L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Love, Cheer and a Bright 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, or the holiday of the Epiphany. Italians afford each of the Twelve Days of Christmas a special significance. December 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 *cotechino*. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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



## AFFORDABLE Mostly Isn't

As someone who formerly lived in Charlestown and with Townie family roots, I once wrote for the old *Charlestown Patriot* when Gloria Conway was the person you needed to know in Charlestown. I have always been concerned about housing issues and more importantly, the lack of family housing. Over 40 years ago, I was a member of the JFK Family Service Center and the Charlestown EDC, and I worked with other community residents to create single family townhouses for first time homebuyers along Main Street with priority going to young Charlestown families looking to grow their family roots into the future here. Over these past four decades, the real estate landscape has only grown more difficult for young families to plant their roots into Charlestown soil.

Better Boston Public School choices and a lack of affordable housing needs to be addressed.

We need to keep our good schools good and other schools better. I do like the concept of “forever homes for families.” We used to have that here, but

for homeowners and renters in Boston and Charlestown in particular, affordable mostly isn't.

Too bad we don't have folks working for Boston like Phil Carr who seem to understand exactly what addressing the real needs of its residents means. We can continue to do little and watch families leaving town for elsewhere or we can offer folks reasons to stay here. We must be ready as a city to ensure Boston remains livable for all its citizens.

Too many developers are making lots of money building high rise housing at high end prices. Families are being left out in the cold. Kudos to Phil Carr III for starting this conversation and with the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill on the horizon, this is a good starting point to take on the battle of affordable housing for families who still want to stay here and not be forced out by unaffordable costs.

The views expressed here are not issues pertaining to one neighborhood, but are in fact issues that affect everyone in every Boston neighborhood.

## Saint Gaspar Bertonil

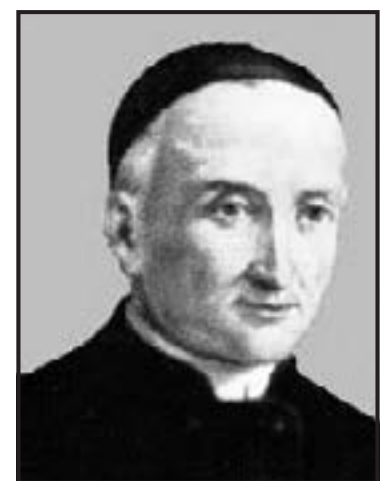
by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

St. Gaspar was born in Verona, Italy in 1777. He was baptized the day after. It is known that he was from an affluent family which was known to be very devout. Gaspar was an only child as his younger sister passed away. He had the benefit of an excellent education both at home and at St. Sebastian's school which was run by Jesuits.

From the grace of his first Holy Communion at age 11, Gaspar Bertonil was called to a life of mystical union. His vocation to the priesthood matured, and at 18, he entered the seminary. He was an excellent student. He found in his professor of moral theology, Fr. Nicholas Galvani, an excellent spiritual director.

He was known to have helped the sick and injured during the invasion of French armies in 1796, the beginning of a 20-year period of upheaval during which he tended to those in need. He took over the spiritual direction of a community founded then by St. Magdalena of Canossa at St. Joseph's Convent (May 1808).

On November 4, 1816, with two companions, he moved into a small house, adjacent to a suppressed Church, that bore the title of “the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis (from this, the name of his community was eventually adapted; in this small church, he also worked to spread the devotion to the Passion and the wounds of Christ).



The new community opened a tuition-free school, offering this and other gratuitous services to the Church and society. The men lived together in a common life of strict observance and penance. An intense life of contemplation was joined to a broad apostolate, including the Christian education of the youth, the formation of the clergy and missionary preaching. Fr. Bertonil took as the motto of the congregation as: “Apostolic Missionaries in assistance to the Bishops”.

Following the footsteps of their Founder, the Stigmatines are in this world to be Apostolic Missionaries: through the service to the people, the youth and the clergy. Fr. Bertonil passed away on June 12, 1853. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on November 1, 1989. His feast day is celebrated on June 12. Wishing our readers a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

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# The Gilardi Group and Gibson Sotheby's 24th Annual Toys for Tots is a Record-breaking Success!



Stephen Virgilio and a beautiful group of fans



Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures and Toni Gilardi of Gibson Sotheby and Owner/Broker of The Gilardi



Street Magic Acapella provided outstanding entertainment

routine by Christian Trotta, followed by Street Magic Acapella. "We are speechless at the generosity of our community, family and friends who attended our 24th Annual Toys for Tots Gala. You make this possible every year. We broke all records this year collecting 2,762 toys and over \$7,500. We are grateful to all who participated and supported this amazing event! And a huge thank you to every person who donated a toy or monetary equivalent this year. Every year we make a difference during the holiday season,"

said Toni Gilardi, on behalf of her team. A special thank you to all of the wonderful sponsors: Divine Design Center, DePasquale Ventures and Executive Chef Nello Caccioppoli, Toys for Tots Greater Boston and the Marines, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty, Fantasy Wine, V. Cirace and Sons, Golden Goose Market, Christian Trotta, Mike's Pastry, Street Magic Acapella, Vinyl Groove and David Rivera Bozen, Tenor. We are all looking forward to the 2025 Event!



Marine Corporal Quinn Collin Sharrow plays Santa Claus



Cheers to a great cause and wonderful evening

The 24th Annual Toys for Tots Drive, coordinated by Toni Gilardi and staff, held at the Divine Design Center, 2 Battery Wharf, in the North End of Boston, was the Christmas event of the season. The evening was magical from start to finish, beginning with a phenomenal raw bar before transitioning into a sumptuous dinner buffet, along with a delightful array of beverages and desserts. The guests were treated to a beautiful performance by David Rivera Bozen, Tenor, a stand-up comedy



DePasquale Executive Chef Nello Caccioppoli and assistant chef presented a phenomenal raw bar



Corporal Santiago Tlaxcalteca, Gibson Sotheby's Corporation Counsel Richard Sullivan, The Gilardi Group's Michael Salvati, Toni Gilardi of Gibson Sotheby and Owner/Broker of The Gilardi Group, Gibson Sotheby's Operations Manager Jeff Tarczali, Staff Sergeant Andrew Doll, and Owner of Gibson Sotheby's International Realty Paul McGann



Marine Corporal Quinn Collin Sharrow, Corporal Santiago Tlaxcalteca, Toni Gilardi of Gibson Sotheby and Owner/Broker of The Gilardi Group, Corporal Jessica Bolourirad and Staff Sergeant Andrew Doll



Toys for Tots event amassed a record-breaking number of toys and donations



# Festival and Gala of Italian Creativity

(Boston, November 14 – 22, 2024)



**SALT singing the American Anthem**



**The Gala of Italian Creativity was held at SOWA Power Station**

The Consulate General of Italy in Boston celebrated the culmination of the 8-day Festival of Italian Creativity at a Gala dinner on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the SoWa Power Station in Boston. The event, organized with the support of the October Italian American Heritage Month Committee of Massachusetts, commended the vibrant legacy of Boston's Italian American community, celebrating its remarkable contributions to society and the world, with over 600 distinguished guests from the United States and Italy.

The Gala featured a gourmet dinner conceived by the Italian Chef Mario Marini, of renowned ALMA International School of Italian Cuisine and live music by the band "Scanzonati" of Stefano Marchese and Andrea Pejrolo. Cheryl Fiandaca, an award-winning broadcast journalist and chief investigative reporter for the I-Team at WBZ-TV, graciously served as the master of ceremonies.

The Gala also honored four distinguished members of the Italian American community, recognizing their extraordinary achievements. The honorees included Karyn Polito, former Massachusetts lieutenant governor, recognized for her years of public service; Joseph Campanelli, CEO of Needham Bank, honored for business leadership; Joseph Loscalzo, M.D., Ph.D., revered for his successes in medicine; and David Manfredi, CEO and founding principal of Elkus-Manfredi, acknowledged for transforming the face of Boston through architecture. The speeches by the honorees were heartfelt. They reflected on the values instilled in them through their Italian American upbringing and how they have shaped who they are today.

"It is with great enthusiasm that we honor these exemplary individuals and highlight the remarkable beauty and potential inherent in their creativity as well as the many impressive presenters throughout the Festival's events", remarked Arnaldo Minuti, the Consul General of Italy in Boston in its welcoming address, "The Festival and the Gala serve as a distinguished celebration of Italian American excellence; by shining a light on Boston as a hub of creativity, with a vibrant Italian-

American component, we have sought to underscore the city's strategic potential as a bridge between Italy and the United States."

"This Festival is truly historic as never before in the history of Boston and Massachusetts has there ever been such a comprehensive and inspiring exposition of Italian creativity and heritage spanning two weeks", declared Richard Vita, President of October Italian American Heritage Month Committee of Massachusetts.



**Giovanni Saraceni (L) with wife Maria Luisa Antonelli (R) and Nicola Orichuia (I AM Books) and wife**



**Actor Manuele Morgues (Teatrozeta), Consul General Arnaldo Minuti; tenor Marco Iezzi and soprano Annalisa Raspagliosi**



**President of Comites Alberto Mustone and wife Antonietta, Cav. Domenico Susi and wife Anna; Consul General Arnaldo Minuti; Vice President of Comites Luciana Burdi**



**Prof. Eliana La Ferrara (Harvard) with husband Paolo and Consul General Arnaldo Minuti with wife Lara**



**Mario Nicosia (GTI Properties) with family and guests**





Prof. Joe Loscalzo (Harvard University) receiving the Award of Italian Creativity for Lifetime Achievement for Science, with emcee Cheryl Fiandaca (L) and Consul General Arnaldo Minuti (R)



Joe Campanelli (President and CEO of Needham Bank) receiving the Award of Italian Creativity for Lifetime Achievement for Business Leadership, with emcee Cheryl Fiandaca (L) and Consul General Arnaldo Minuti (R)



Former Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito receiving the Award of Italian Creativity for Lifetime Achievement for Public Service, with emcee Cheryl Fiandaca (L) and Consul General Arnaldo Minuti (R)



The wheel of Parmigiano-Reggiano, the king of cheeses, with Consul General Arnaldo Minuti (L), Chef Mario Marini of ALMA, International School of Italian Cuisine (C) and Prof. Paolo Gaudenzi, Science and Technology Counselor at the Consulate General of Italy



Joe Albanese (Founder and CEO of Commodore Builders) with Janice Sylvester



David P. Mandredi (CEO and Founding Principal of Elkus Manfredi Architects), receiving the Award of Italian Creativity for Lifetime Achievement for Architecture, with Consul General Arnaldo Minuti (C) and Cheryl Fiandaca (R)



Atty. Richard J. Vita (President of October Italian American Heritage Month Committee) State Representative Adrian Madaro, and Representative Paul J. Donato



David P. Mandredi (CEO and Founding Principal of Elkus Manfredi Architects), Joe Campanelli (President and CEO of Needham Bank)



Soprano Annalisa Raspagliosi, Prof. Paolo Gaudenzi, Science and Technology Counselor at the Consulate General of Italy and Maestro Nicolas Giusti (Boston Conservatory)



Senator Francesca La Marca and Member of Chamber of Deputies Christian Di Sanzo also participated in the Gala



Stefano Marchese and Scanzonati Band



Prof. Ivana Marroncelli, Education Director at the Consulate General of Italy, and guests

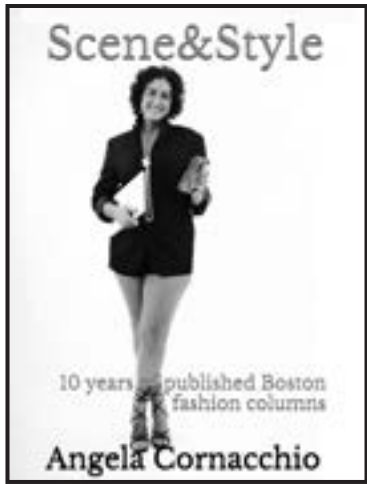


# Scene&Style

## Celebrates Ten Years of Fashion Publication

Recently the Boston fashion community gathered to celebrate the second book released in the Scene&Style series, a tribute to celebrating ten years of columns.

The event took place at Umbria Steakhouse's chic penthouse MIA Roof deck. During the winter it is an enclosed space with a marble bar, and indoor fire pits. The location is the newly renovated former Fiore. Three levels of divinely designed DePasquale Italian vision. As attendees arrived, appetizers of meatballs, steak tips, traditional arancini's were passed alongside sips of the new "Drink That Espresso Martini" mixer giving guests a true authentic North End experience.



takes you on a glitz and glamour journey from couture to street style and ending the way it began, in 2011 at the Copley Plaza for timeless Designer Denise Hajjar's Boston Fashion Week show in the grand ballroom where the elegance, sophistication, impeccable stitching, style, and the grace of model Linda Cole Petrosian brought Author Angela to tears and hooked on the high of Vogue fashion.

You will read about the humble beginnings of local designers such as Candice Wu, LaLa



**Boston Media, (L-R): Hill Zhou, Angela Cornacchio and Photographer Dan Minicucci reading the "press pit family" dedication section of the book**

read about the runway through the eyes of a fashion writer jammed into the press pits who earned her respect as the only female on the inside.

This is the second entry into the Scene&Style series, the first published in 2020 to gather the fashion community together with buoyant memories for Boston Fashion Week during a worldly shutdown of runways. The opening pages once again thank all the people that helped bring the project to life. "Linda Riccio for recommending me to the Boston Post-Gazette in 2011 which has gotten me here today, my former editor Pam Donnaruma and Joanie at the Gazette for taking the time to dig up my first columns and searching through photos, the fashion designers, media, and those that give me content. Lastly, Denise Hajjar for being my rock, my friend with honesty, family, a client, and my muse of inspiration."

This edition begins with 2024 Boston fashion reviews and



**Writer Angela Cornacchio and Designer Denise Hajjar who has been the staple of Angela's fashion writing career signing the first book bought by Hajjar.**

Bee, Samuel Vartan, VaVa Zadi, Joe Malaika, David Josef, Project Runway stars Kelly Dempsey, Jonathan Joseph Peters and many more that have become international sensations. To purchase a copy, visit [https://www.amazon.com/dp/BODPG61L61?ref=pe\\_93986420\\_774957520](https://www.amazon.com/dp/BODPG61L61?ref=pe_93986420_774957520)

As guests began to mingle their way out of the high vogue celebration Angela gathered attention for a toast to all that had given her content to create followed by an announcement. With writers needing multiple streams of income in the industry now she announced her newest venture, CiCi Wardrobes, an online subscription shopping site. It will feature every day and must haves all in one place! Being focal for men that loath the trip to the store, they can have their thermals, boxers or briefs, socks to basic tees and can create a subscription to enjoy the luxury of products arriving on the doorstep. There are also pieces from pasties, robes, lingerie, hair extensions



**Angela Cornacchio left and Yolanda Cellucci holding volume one and two of the Scene&Style series with Yolanda's daughter and Angela's inspiration on cover number one**

The evening drew the cities fashion finest, from Yolanda Cellucci herself, whose daughter and model Linda Cole Petrosian was on the cover of the first book, designer Denise Hajjar the inspiration that hooked writer Cornacchio and those that are in the pages from stylist Gustavo Leon, book cover photographer Robert Parris, designers Samuel Vartan, VaVa Zadi, Alan Rouleau, Shaunt Sarin, models Jane Conway Caspe, Sonia Garufi, Gosia Krzyszkowiak, Tachou, photographer's Minicucci, the Zhou's and more! The elegant lounge was filled with style.

This version invites you to take a tour of a unique side of Boston, the fashion scene. To



**Semi Pro soccer stars and teammates, (L-R): Hannah Sargent, Angela Cornacchio, Julia Walsh, and Hannah Flaherty**

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and wigs. Which was all brought together after a lunch with Yolanda Cellucci to pick her beautiful business brain and motivated by her humble beginnings of selling wigs from her car. Shop here <https://ciciwardrobes.myshopify.com/>

Cornacchio is a lifelong writer that decided to get back to her craft after returning home from injury playing professional football for the Seri A in Brescia, Italia. Starting as Socially Scene with the Boston Post-Gazette in the country's largest little Italy newspaper with a weekly column and bloomed into Scene&Style Magazine publications.

An award-winning writer, three-time book Author, two-time Boston Fashion Award winner, and recently crowned Boston Fashion Icon for Media, Angela will tell you herself she

is blessed to be a writer about the Boston community.



**(L-R): Angela with Men's custom tailor and Designer Alan Rouleau who was just honored with the Lifetime Achievement by the Boston Fashion Awards**



**Marketing and Model (L-R) Marlena Garcia and Gosia Krzyszkowiak both have walked in many of the shows within the pages of the book**



**(L-R): Photographers Hill Zhou and Robert Parris**



**Boston Fashion Moguls, (L-R): Danielle James Forester, Patrick Dwyer, Yolanda Cellucci, Gustavo Leon, and Sonia Garufi (Photos by Hill and Wen Zhou)**



**AFLOAT****(DVD) IndiePix Films**

Seeking to reunite with her estranged family, Western educated Zeynep (Nihan Aker) and her American husband Stephen (Oscar Pearce) travel from New York City to a small coastal town in Turkey. Together, along with her divorced parents and younger sister, free-spirited Yasemin (Elit Iscan), they embark on a week-long sailing trip meant to be a last chance for Zeynep's father, Yusuf (Serhat Ünalı), a dissident journalist being prosecuted by the government, to reconnect with his daughters before prison. Once on open water, with blue skies and wind in their sails, hope springs eternal — yet things may not be as they seem. As they await the result of Yusuf's appeal, tensions begin to rise, and when a young local man further disrupts the delicate family dynamics the trip takes a very unexpected turn.

**CRUSH****(Blu-ray)****Anchor Bay Entertainment**

Crust tells the story of a lonely Laundromat owner, Vegas Winters (Sean Whalen), who keeps the leftover socks from customers and uses them to clean himself. When he gets abused and weeps into the pile of socks, it turns into a creature that seeks revenge on Vegas' enemies.

**EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT****(DVD) IndiePix Films**

The non-fiction debut from award-winning Latvian writer/director Stanislavs Tokalovs, *Everything Will Be Alright* welcomes viewers into the everyday life of the filmmaker's immediate family who are members of the Russian-speaking community of Purvciems, a suburb outside Riga. Ninety-nine-year-old Nina is the clan's matriarch, a World War II veteran who came to Latvia in 1955. Her offspring, Irina, is a university lecturer torn between her husband's tirades, her mother's needs, and her 18-year-old daughter's desires as an aspiring artist. Together, with cinematographer and co-writer Valdis Celmins, Tokalovs presents an intimate look at the various internal and external conflicts affecting these individuals. Without promising "everything will be alright," the film unravels vital questions about integration, collective memory, propaganda, and the war of identities that affects many — both in Latvia and around the world.

**CURSED IN BAJA****(Blu-ray)****Anchor Bay Entertainment**

Pirelli, an ex-lawman, travels to Mexico searching for the heir to a Los Angeles fortune, while confronting his own complicated past. But what he finds in Baja challenges him to the core.

**MEN OF WAR****(COLLECTOR'S EDITION) (DVD)****MVD Rewind Collection**

Action hero Dolph Lundgren thrilled you in *Rocky IV* and *Universal Soldier* ... Now he's back in the heart stopping *Men of War*. Nick Gunar (Lundgren) is part of a topflight team of ex-Special Forces agents hired

by ruthless con men. Their mission: to carry out a secret operation and overtake an exotic island that's loaded with precious jade. But once there, the agents — led by Lundgren — defect to defend the islanders against the savage attackers! It's nonstop action as Lundgren and his elite group wage war to defeat the deadly opposition at any cost.

**ABRUPTIO (Blu-ray)****Anchor Bay Entertainment**

*Abruptio* is a jaw-dropping, macabre nightmare. Les Hackel hates his life. He works a dead-end job, was just dumped by his high-maintenance girlfriend, and still lives with his nagging mom. One night, he discovers a fresh incision behind his neck. His friend Danny tells him it's a bomb, that someone has implanted one in his neck, too. And then the messages start coming in, forcing Les to carry out missions with deadly results. Les is partnered up with a series of oddball characters to commit heinous tasks. The violence escalating around him, Les pieces together the clues that reveal the horrific plans to breed a monstrous race of beings.

**DARIO ARGENTO — DEEP CUTS (4/Disc Blu-ray) Severin Films**

At the peak of his cinematic triumphs, horror legend Dario Argento created projects for RAI TV that broadcast his singular vision of terror into millions of Italian homes: *Door Into Darkness* is the top-rated 1973 anthology series produced and hosted by Argento, including *Il tram* directed by Argento, *Il vicino di casa* directed by Luigi Cozzi, and *Testimone oculare* co-written by Argento & Cozzi, with three of the four episodes sourced for the first time from the original 16mm negatives. Argento's popular 1987 variety/talk show *Giallo* is represented by the maestro's own *Dario Argento's Nightmares* scanned from recently discovered film elements, plus the murder mystery segments *Night Shift (Turno di notte)* directed by Cozzi and Lamberto Bava, behind-the-scenes tours from *Tenebre*, *Phenomena*, and *Opera*, and guests that include Anthony Perkins, David Gilmour & Nick Mason, and Fiore Argento newly digitized from broadcast masters.

**DARIO ARGENTO — 2020 TEXAS GLADIATORS (3/Disc 4K Ultra HD) Severin Films**

This most elusive, requested and unapologetically unhinged Penne Post-Apocalypse epic of all is finally available, uncut and uncensored on disc for the first time ever: From ItaloSleaze Maestro Joe D'Amato comes this very entertaining saga of graphic violence, rampant nudity, unholy mutants, big explosions, fascist rhetoric, motorcycle mayhem, saloon brawls, Indian attacks and plenty of lawless Lone Star depravity, written by George Eastman. Al Cliver, Peter Hooten, Sabrina Siani, Geretta and Donald O'Brien star in this movie, filled with a ton of guilty pleasure, in 4K, plus special features.

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

**MYSTERY NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY**

A few weeks back, I attended a lively discussion which was billed as "Mystery Making," an interactive how-to talk on writing and plot settings. The authors present had all published their own murder mysteries. Present that evening were Gary Goshgarian, Frances McNamara, Liz Mugavero and Carolyn Wilkins, all four were members of Sisters in Crime New England organization. The audience was a good sized one and most in attendance were already writers and came to pick up tips on how to improve their skills.

Kudos to branch librarian Kirsten Palmertree for organizing this event. She did a great job putting it all together. To learn more about Sisters in Crime, go to [sincne.org](http://sincne.org). This organization is open to male authors too.

**LEGENDARY R&B VOICE CELEBRATES 85TH BIRTHDAY**

Singer Jerry Butler, that great R & B Legend, just celebrated his 85th birthday. So many of his great tunes like "Only the Strong Survive" will live long and prosper like Mr. Spock always said on *Star Trek*. When I hear it starting to play, I sing out loud and clear which I often do when driving my car. Once I sang on stage, now I sing in the car or shower or anywhere. **SADO-DOMESTICS LOOKING LIKE THE HOUSE BAND FOR THE SQUARE ROOT** With the Giarratani family members in both Roslindale and West Roxbury, I often go over to both The Blue Diner and The Square Root Cafe in Roslindale Square on Corinth Street. I often get my Sunday morning oatmeal at the diner too and have known the owner and chef for some 20 years now. As for the Square Root, I've known owner Anthony for years too.

I just noticed a poster on the Square Root's window advertising a few upcoming attractions. Lots of bands end up on stage at this place. I love ordering my hot cup of cider on a cold winter morning in this place to heat myself up. Several months back, I was there when the Sado-Domestics played up on stage for the crowd. Well, the band is returning on every Second Sunday of the month from now through

**Remember Your Loved Ones**

The Post-Gazette accepts memorials throughout the year.

Please call  
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April. The music will be starting at 6:00 p.m. and going until 8:00 p.m. You should check them out. Come hang out, get a great coffee or cider, order a sandwich and, remember, no cover charge!

**MUSIC AND JUSTICE FOR ALL****Benny Rabi, a revolutionary spinner of vinyl**

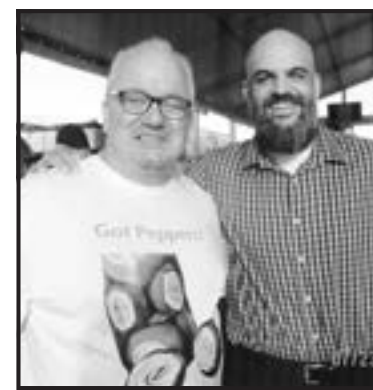
I love listening to WMEX Radio at 1510 AM. I love all the great tunes that Larry Justice plays on his morning radio show. He always opens up with a trio of songs by the Beatles. Another great DJ on this station is my friend Ben Rabi. He's much younger than he sounds or the music he plays but if Arnie "Woo Woo" Ginsburg were alive today, surely he would be a friend of Ben too.

**WHO REMEMBERS GUMBY?**

When I was a kid, I loved watching cartoons on Saturday mornings with my younger brother Dominic. One show we both liked was Gumby. It wasn't exactly a cartoon but, rather, claymation. Gumby and his horse Pokey were both animated characters that looked like they were created out of clay. Every week, they went on adventures together. Recently while visiting the building I worked in for the DMH police, I saw a Gumby portrait in a frame over someone's

**Gumby getting framed over someone's office desk. He told the cops; he had no idea where Pokey was.**

work desk. I don't know the last time I saw Gumby anywhere and I assumed whoever sat at this desk had to be old like me. Gumby was fun to watch and a bit silly too but no violence whatsoever. Those were the days as Archie and Edith always sang at the start of *All in the Family*.

**HERE'S A PHOTO FROM BACK IN JULY WHEN IT WAS STILL PRETTY WARM OUT****Over at this summer's Taste of Eastie celebration, I caught up with Nick Moulaison from Carmella's over in Jeffries Point with Revere City Councilor Bob Hass Jr., at the Tall Ship where the event was held.**

(Photos by Sal Giarratani)

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# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



The Christmas season was a bit different for the Christoforo/Contini clan, back in the day. Babbononno was a musician and brought his sons up to be musicians. His daughter married a musician and they brought their only son (me) up to be a musician.

Back in the day, a musician could make a living at playing music in the major cities of the country, or being on the road with a band. My uncles and father did just that. By the time I came along it was almost over. Those who make a living at music today are few and far between and specialize in rock and roll, country, or symphonic music.

At Christmas time, most businesses held Christmas parties for their employees. More often than not, the heads of the businesses would have live entertainment, as DJs hadn't been invented yet. To this extent, the *Globe* had an article about my father many years ago, calling him Boston's busiest bass player. At Christmas time, he would hire someone to chauffeur him around as many of the parties would be during the day and within a half hour of one another. Trying to find parking in downtown Boston was difficult, even back then. Uncles Nick and Paul did the same thing.

The only night that was sacred was Christmas Eve. During the day on December the 24<sup>th</sup>, the men in my family played the last of the Christmas parties. If there were any jobs the night, they would ask local Jewish musicians to cover for them. They would reciprocate when the same men wanted to celebrate Jewish holidays. Things worked out rather well, all those years.

On Christmas morning, Dad and his band would play for the crew of the USS *Vulcan*, a Boston-based naval aircraft repair ship. The captain and many of the crew were locals and said captain would host an early morning Christmas party for his sailors and their families, with Santa Claus showing up with a bag full of present for the kids of the sailors. Dad brought me along a few times when I was young, and they were fun times. By Christmas afternoon, my family would gather around Nanna and Babbononno's Christmas table and stay there for the next few hours. Late in the day or early evening, paesani and relatives, mainly the old timers, would drop by for a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. They constituted an extended family, and looking

back, it was a warm comfortable feeling of security that we kids grew up with in our family.

Between Christmas and New Year's Eve, there wasn't much work to be had. All the musicians in the family would be anticipating New Year's Eve. The union rates were always better for that one night than any other night in the year. If you were a band leader and had several jobs booked on the 24<sup>th</sup>, you could make yourself quite a few dollars.

When I was young, I remember Dad heading out to play on New Year's Eve. Back then, most jobs ended at midnight. The nightclubs, restaurants, supper clubs, etc. ..., all stopped serving liquor at midnight. New Year's Eve would be the exception according the Massachusetts Blue Laws. As a result, the bands played until 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. On several of those occasions, I would wake up to a commotion as Dad would invite the band back to the house for coffee and bagels. He, on the way home, would stop at Katz Bagel Bakery in Chelsea, buy freshly made bagels, cream cheese and lox. Mom would have set the alarm so she would get up in time to make a pot of coffee for the entire band. They would sit around the kitchen table and tell stories about the bands they worked for through the years and not leave until the sun came up. After a couple of hours sleep, Dad would be back in his tuxedo ready to play the party on the U.S.S. *Vulcan*. When that affair was over, we would head to Nanna and Babbononno's dining room table for our Christmas dinner celebration.

This was the atmosphere I grew up in, and when I turned 18, I became a professional musician and took my place among the men in my family. Back then, Dad was in partners with a local band leader named Ray Digg. Their home base was the Ocean-view Ballroom located at the beginning of Revere Beach, but on New Year's Eve, the ballroom would book a nationally known big band. As a result, Dad, Ray and the other band members would be free for December 31. This wasn't a problem as they would book several jobs and Ray would lead a combo at one, Dad at another and Uncle Nick at still another, and so forth ... depending on how many parties they had booked in.

New Year's Eve was approaching and Ray booked the Sons of Italy in East Boston. Dad was going to lead another

job and Ray asked me to take his place as the bass player. This was my first job working with Dad's crowd, the older musicians who were some of the best in Boston. Babbononno made sure that my tuxedo was pressed just right and my shoes were spit-shined. After examining my fingernails to see if they were clean, he gave me the OK to go to work. We lived around the corner from the Sons of Italy hall, so I walked there with my bass violin under my arm.

The band was a 10-piece ensemble with arrangements for every tune. We began at 8:00 p.m., and by midnight, I had blood blisters on several fingers, and they hurt. I struggled through Auld Lang Syne at midnight and then an extended last set. At 12:30 a.m., the person who hired Ray climbed the steps to the stage and asked him if we could play another hour. Ray asked the rest of the musicians, and seeing the overtime rate was rather good for New Year's Eve, they all agreed to one more hour. I made it to 1:00 a.m., with most of my fingers bandaged by that point in time. The blood blisters all had broken and the blood oozed out of the band aids and ran down the strings of the bass. I was in pain. Just when I thought I couldn't play another note, Dad walked through the front door. His job finished earlier than ours. After saying hello to everyone, he saw my condition, took off his coat and took my place behind the bass violin without skipping a beat, and saved the night. The next day, I sat at Nanna and Babbononno's dinner table with sore fingers re-bandaged. I had survived and would go on to play another 62 or so New Year's Eves.

As time went on, I developed thick calluses on several of my fingers and became a combat veteran when it came to playing the upright bass. By the mid-1960s, I amplified my bass violin and added bass guitar to my instrument list. Playing became a lot easier, but I was well seasoned by then and blisters were a thing of the past.

Well, here we are surviving another Christmas and facing another new year and I'm looking forward to bigger and better things. But, before I close for this week, I would like to wish each and every one of you a Very Happy New Year (Buon Anno) from the Christoforo family and may **GOD BLESS AMERICA**.



by  
Marianna  
Bisignano

The Feast of the Epiphany, or La Festa dell'Epifania, is a treasured Italian holiday, especially for children. It commemorates the journey of the three Wise Men to honor Baby Jesus and intertwines with the heartwarming legend of La Befana. As the story goes, La Befana, a kind yet witch-like woman on a broomstick, was invited by the Magi to join their journey. Initially declining, she later regretted her decision. With gifts in hand, she set out to find the child herself but was unable to locate him. Instead, she lovingly left her presents for children throughout Italy. Even today, on the Eve of the Epiphany, children eagerly hang stockings for La Befana, hoping to find them filled with sweets and treats — though a lump of coal awaits those who've been less well-behaved.

For many, this holiday is filled with cherished family memories and delicious treats. I'll never forget the warmth in my Nonna's smile as she lovingly recounted the oranges and handmade clothespin dolls that La Befana would leave in her stockings as a little girl. One beloved treat tied to this special day is the Befanini — zesty citrus-flavored cookies believed to have originated in Tuscany's Versilia region. This recipe, inspired by my Nonna's treasured collection, highlights the beauty of simple, traditional ingredients and perfectly captures the joy and nostalgia of this magical celebration.

## LA BAFANA STAR COOKIES

*Biscotti Stella La Befana*



1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
6 large eggs  
1 cup vegetable oil  
Zest of 1 organic lemon  
Zest of 1 organic orange  
2 tablespoons pure vanilla extract  
6 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoons baking powder

1 packet Paneangeli Lievito Pane Degli Angeli (or substitute 2 additional teaspoons baking powder + 1 teaspoon vanilla sugar)  
1 egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water (egg wash)  
Nonpareils, colored sugar, or colored sprinkles (for decorating)

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

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Add the vegetable oil, citrus zests, and vanilla, mixing until well combined.

Sift the flour, baking powder, and Paneangeli into the wet ingredients. Mix until a dough begins to form.

Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently with your hands until it becomes slightly sticky but workable.

Roll out the dough to your desired thickness and cut into shapes using a medium or large star-shaped cookie cutter. Arrange the cookies slightly apart on the prepared baking sheets.

Brush each cookie with the egg wash, then sprinkle with nonpareils, colored sugar, or sprinkles.

Bake in the preheated oven for 10–12 minutes, or until the cookies are a light golden color.

### Optional Icing:

If you prefer iced cookies, skip the egg wash and sprinkles. Allow the cookies to cool completely and then decorate with your favorite confectioners' sugar icing.

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

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

**Actor Michael Cole Passes Away at 84**

Actor Michael Cole, the actor best known as one of three young actors who played young undercover cops on the hit ABC drama *The Mod Squad* recently passed away at 84.

When he was selected for the role, he was a struggling actor who quickly achieved overnight success on *The Mod Squad*, which ran from 1968 to 1973 and co-starred Peggy Lipton and Clarence Williams III. The

storyline was three hippies in trouble with the law then going undercover and avoiding jail time. The trio gave the show its tagline. The TV series addressed issues such as racism, abortion, the Vietnam War, and drug abuse. Co-stars Lipton died in 2019 and Williams in 2021.

**End Quote**

“Fashion advice; if you haven’t worn it in a year, give it to someone who will.”

— *Kenneth Cole, NYC Fashion Designer*

• **Thoughts by Dan** (Continued from Page 3)

physical altercation on Franklin and the bullet that killed Cooke was from a .22 pistol and not a .32 like the one Franklin owned. Further, no guests at the motel claimed to have heard any commotion.

Cooke’s sister Agnes Cooke-Hoskins said, “I can imagine him saying ‘Give me my pants.’ But I can’t imagine him attacking her. He wasn’t that type of person to attack somebody. That wasn’t his bag. He was a lover, OK. He wasn’t a fighter. He wasn’t a boxer. You never heard of Sam Cooke beating up his women. I would say within the community there is not a single person that believes that Sam Cooke died as he is

said to have died: killed by a motel owner at a cheap motel in Los Angeles called the Hacienda which he had gone to with a prostitute named Elisa Boyer.”

Whatever happened the death of Sam Cooke brought an abrupt and far too early end to an irreplaceable music legend who, judging by his posthumous hit the following year was bound for even greater things. The truth of his last night may never be fully known but of what there is no dispute is that Sam Cooke left us with music that at a time of turbulence knew no racial bounds, delighted fans and even gave a little hope for a more wonderful world.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated June 15, 2022 by Cambridge Brown Stone, LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust u/d/t dated January 27, 2020 (recorded with Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds in Book 74192, Page 25), said mortgage recorded with the Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds in Book 80284, Page 406, and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025 on the premises at 89 Third Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:  
Property Address: 89 Third Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in said Cambridge, bounded and described as follows:

- EASTERLY by Third Street, Twenty and 5/100 (20.05) feet;
- NORTHERLY by land now or formerly of Samuel L. Hazard by a line running through the center of a partition wall, Eighty (80) feet;
- WESTERLY by land now or formerly of Conlan, Twenty and 5/100 (20.05) feet;
- SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of Mary Connor by a line running through the center of a partition wall, Eighty (80) feet.

Containing 1600 square feet more or less.  
Subject to and with the benefit of all rights of way in, over and upon a passageway five (5) feet in width running across the westerly part of said premises conveyed from the parcel southerly of the granted premises to Otis Street.

For grantor's title, see deed recorded herewith. [Book 80284, Page 400].  
Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust  
u/d/t dated January 27, 2020  
Present holder of said mortgage

By his Attorneys,  
Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C.  
1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610  
Quincy, MA 02169

Run dates: 12/20, 12/27, 01/03/2025

**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. SU24C0660CA  
In the Matter of  
JAILYNN MARIE BONHAM  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jaidlynn Marie Bonham of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Remiel Ezos Nyx.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 02, 2025. 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. BRIAN J. DUNN,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 11, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate  
Run Date: 12/27/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970, under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after January 06, 2025 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.  
2010 FORD ESCAPE  
Vin # 1FMCU9EG9AKD23735  
2010 FORD TAURUS  
Vin # 1FAHP2DW7AG144877  
2001 CHEVROLET TAHOE  
Vin # 1GNEK13T71R117283  
2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA  
Vin # KMHDU4AD3AU156196  
2007 LEXUS ES  
Vin # JTHBJ46G272122406  
2020 HYUNDAI TUCSON  
Vin # KM8J3CA45LU195374  
2019 TOYOTA CAMRY  
Vin # 4T1B11HK0KU164891  
2019 FORD FUSION  
Vin # 3FA6P0RU2KR220907  
2009 NISSAN MURANO  
Vin # JN8AZ18W89W212328  
2011 SUBARU IMPREZA  
Vin # JF1GH6B69BH830286  
2015 CHEVROLET MALIBU  
Vin # 1G11G5SX5FF183756  
2004 TOYOTA CAMRY  
Vin # 4T1BE32K74U816546  
2010 VOLVO XC90  
Vin # YV4982CZ9A1564261  
1992 FORD F350  
Vin # 2FDKF37G5NCA35964  
2007 HONDA CIVIC  
Vin # 2HGFA55527H711425  
2011 JEEP COMPASS  
Vin # 1J4NF1FB8BD233648  
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.  
Please email for specific information  
info@todiscotowing.com  
Run dates: 12/13, 12/20, 12/27/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970, under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after January 13, 2025 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.  
2007 DODGE RAM  
Vin # 1D7HU18N77S183852  
2010 TOYOTA COROLLA  
Vin # 2T1BU4EE2AC344512  
2002 TOYOTA COROLLA  
Vin # 2T1BR12E92C536810  
2006 HYUNDAI SONATA  
Vin # 5NPEU46C46H066033  
2012 GENUINE SCOOTERS BUDDY 50  
Vin # RFPVAP5A0C1009212  
2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO  
Vin # 1GCEK14V04Z128719  
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.  
Please email for specific information  
info@todiscotowing.com  
Run dates: 12/20, 12/27/2024, 01/03/2025

**EXTRA Innings**  
by Sal Giarratani

**Christmas and Jon Franco from the Mets**

Jon Franco, always a Mets fan favorite, once served as Santa Claus for 14 consecutive Mets Christmas parties. This holiday season, as part of the Metsgiving Program, he handed out turkeys recently at the New York Common Pantry in Manhattan, “I always have tried to make a difference in the community,” Franco said. “That’s the way my dad raised me.”

**Happy Birthday to Mo Vaughn**

Former Red Sox first baseman Mo Vaughn recently celebrated his 57th birthday. The Hit Dog played in Boston from 1991-1998 and hit 230 home runs (seventh in team history). He went on to play with the Angels and Mets and now runs a sports academy in Boca Raton in Florida ... I will now move over to football and talk about the so-called “Greatest Game Ever Played.” The protagonists in that historic game were the NY Giants and Baltimore Colts.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department  
Middlesex Division  
Docket No. 24W1895  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
SYRACHANNA SIEP, Plaintiff (s)  
v.  
AHMED HORMA, Defendant (s)  
To the above named Defendant (s) Ahmed Horma  
A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff (s), Syrachanna Siep seeking a Complaint for Establish Paternity.  
You are required to serve upon Syrachanna Siep or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is 37 Midland St., Lowell, MA 01851 your answer on or before 22nd day of January 2025. 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 in the office of this Court at 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852.  
Witness, TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq., First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of December 11th, 2024.  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court  
Run date: 12/27/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
The Probate and Family Court Department  
Middlesex, SS Division  
Docket No. M124P4706EA  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
WITH SURETIES  
NOTICE  
ESTATE OF  
THOMAS MICHAEL ROHAN  
DATE OF DEATH  
APRIL 19, 2018  
LATE OF SOMERVILLE,  
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
A petition has been presented in the above-captioned matter praying that Patrick McAvooy of Melrose in the County of Middlesex be appointed public administrator of said estate with sureties on his/her bond.  
If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at Woburn, on or before 10:00 in the forenoon on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  
Witness, HON. TERRI KLUG-CAFAZZO, First Justice of said Court at Woburn the 18th day of December, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court  
Run date: 12/27/2024

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**“Greatest Game Ever Played”**

This year the NY Giants are on a roll to finish their most gawdawful season in history. The Giants’ final game of the season is scheduled for Sunday, December 29. THANK GOD the NFL put the Giants game on Sunday rather than Saturday because that game would have been played on the 66th anniversary of the greatest game ever played, which took place on December 28, 1958.

At season’s start, having the Giants play the Indianapolis Colts in the WEEK 17 finale would have been a nice historical touch. Think about it, the Giants and the Colts playing together again on the anniversary of that 1958 NFL Championship game and bringing to a close the 100th anniversary season too.

However, twin anniversaries of great moments in NFL history get lost when this whole season for NY Giants fans went horribly wrong. Take it from me, the Giants were far worse than the Patriots were this season and you gotta be really bad to make us look good.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is hereby given by Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on January 10, 2025 at 10AM, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:  
2014 NISSAN ROGUE, BLACK  
VIN # 15N1AT2MV5EC849121  
2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER, SILVER  
VIN # JA4AR3AU8JZ032747  
2006 CHEVROLET EXPRESS, WHITE  
VIN # 1GCGG25V461259023  
2003 TOYOTA RAV4, BLUE  
VIN # JTEHH20V736083085  
2024 ZHILONG BWS, BLACK  
VIN # HZ2TBCND2R1009148  
2021 JEEP CHEROKEE, GRAY  
VIN # 1C4PJMDX6MD124007  
2014 HONDA INSIGHT, BLUE  
VIN # JHMZE2H32ES000868  
2002 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER, BLUE  
VIN # JTEHF21A520059967  
2009 PONTIAC G6, MAROON  
VIN # 1G2ZJ17BX94255301  
2009 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, SILVER  
VIN # 2D8HN54179R650811  
2008 DODGE CALIBER, BLUE  
VIN # 1B3HB28B48D722592  
2010 SUBARU LEGACY, BLUE  
VIN # 4S3BMBB6XA3223432  
2004 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY, GRAY  
VIN # SALTY19414A842033  
2008 CHRYSLER SEBRING, GRAY  
VIN # 1C3LC65M18N261594  
2000 TOYOTA COROLLA, BLACK  
VIN # 2T1BR12E6YC312175  
2002 DODGE NEON, SILVER  
VIN # 1B3ES26C22D635893  
2008 PONTIAC G6, BLACK  
VIN # 1G2ZG57N884272662  
2006 BMW 525I, GRAY  
VIN # WBAVB13596KX62363  
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA, SILVER  
VIN # 1N4AL2AP1CN541364  
2004 DODGE RAM, BLACK  
VIN # 1D7HU18N04S653585  
2007 HONDA CIVIC, BEIGE  
VIN # 2HGFG11637H566823  
2007 FORD RANGER, WHITE  
VIN # 1FTYR10U47PA38057  
2013 HYUNDAI SONATA, RED  
VIN # 5NPEC4AC4DH540389  
2016 FORD FOCUS, SILVER  
VIN # 1FADP3F28GL223585  
2001 BMW X5, BLUE  
VIN # WBFA53571LP25734  
2010 FORD FUSION, BLUE  
VIN # 3FAHP0CGXAR364389  
2005 HONDA ACCORD, GRAY  
VIN # JHMCM56455C005420  
2007 TOYOTA PRIUS, GRAY  
VIN # JTDKB20U773269526  
Run dates: 12/27/2024, 1/03, 1/10/2025





*Happy New Year To All!*

*If you are having difficulty choosing  
New Year's resolutions why not try this one:*

*Be kind and take time each day to smile  
and say something nice to a friend,  
a neighbor, or even a stranger.*

*Thinking of these words can help:*

*“One ought, every day at least,  
to hear a little song, read a good poem,  
see a fine picture, and, if it were possible,  
to speak a few reasonable words.”*

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



*Wishing you all many blessings  
and much happiness this coming year!*

## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President Charlie Baker Defiant at Congressional Hearing

Former Republican Governor of Massachusetts and current President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) invited scrutiny and controversy while attending a recent Congressional Judiciary Committee Hearing on legalized sports gambling. When faced with a question by Senator Josh Hawley, R-MO, about the NCAA Policies allowing trans athletes to compete on women's teams, Hawley asked Baker his thoughts on the NCAA policy stating “transgender student athletes should be able to use the locker room, shower and toilet facilities in accordance with their gender identity?” Baker insisted every athlete has the option to find other accommodations if they are uncomfortable with it. “Everybody should have an opportunity to use other facilities if they wish to do so,” he stated



He also would not commit to the belief that biological males have physical advantages over female athletes when asked about it by Senator John Kennedy, R-LA, answering “There’s not a lot of research on it, but it’s certainly debatable.” During the hearing Baker was asked a number of times why the NCAA has not taken action to amend policies to prevent trans inclusion in women’s sports, and repeatedly cited federal law and recent rulings of federal court enabling it, leading Senator Kennedy to urge Baker to “go on amazon, buy a spine, take a stand and do something about it.”

Senator Hawley noted the absence of any rulings that have explicitly instructed the NCAA to allow trans athletes to compete against female athletes or share women’s locker rooms. The Concerned Women for America offered a statement in rebuttal to Baker’s testimony, “Charlie Baker’s time as NCAA President has exposed a scandalous dismissal of the safety and dignity female athletes deserve and we hope Congress takes further action to condemn the NCAA’s continued discrimination against women,” wrote Macy Petty, the organizations legislative strategist.

Payton McNabb, a 17-year-old high school volleyball player from North Carolina, dreamt of becoming a college athlete, until a volleyball spiked by a transgender competitor almost killed her, permanently changing her life. Prior to participating in the competition, McNabb and her teammates were made aware of a transgender player on the opposing team, but were hesitant to speak up regarding their concerns. “I didn’t know one person on my team who agreed with a transgender athlete competing against us, but we didn’t know what to do. We never thought we would ever be put in this position.”

It was a fairly average match until that particular player spiked the ball directly into McNabb’s head, knocking her unconscious for 30 seconds, leaving her with a concussion, neck injury and two black eyes. McNabb was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury, a brain bleed, partial paralysis and loss of peripheral vision on her right side, in addition to suffering from ongoing memory loss, confusion and severe headaches. “It was 100% avoidable, if only my rights as a female athlete had been more important than a man’s feelings,” McNabb believes.

As a lifelong athlete, having to sit out the remainder of the volleyball season coupled with having her hopes and dreams of playing college softball crushed, was the impetus for McNabb testifying at the North Carolina General Assembly in favor of the Fairness in Women’s Sports Bill and publicly sharing her story for the first time. Not long after, North Carolina officially banned trans athletes from competing in female sports at the middle, high school and college levels.

“Every single person that fights for truth, people absolutely attack them, but it doesn’t bother me because I know what I am saying is common sense. It’s not about me. I am in this for women and girls,” stated a determined McNabb.

Hopefully Charlie Baker and the NCAA will use their common sense and make the right call for all current and future female athletes.

### **So Long 2024 Red Sox & Patriots, Keep Fighting Celtics and Bruins**

The Boston Red Sox certainly faced their share of challenges this past season. The ownership and managers will need to navigate the off-season rebuilding phase very carefully. Coming off a few disappointing years, the promise of young talent, returning veterans and newly signed players, there is always the potential for a competitive season, although a playoff berth may still be a long shot.

After a tumultuous few seasons since Tom Brady’s departure and the first season without Bill Belichick roaming the sidelines, the Patriots seem to still be in the rebuilding phase under first year head coach Jerod Mayo. Both the defensive and offensive lines struggled to find consistency. Drake Maye proved he has a solid run-game but he will require some strong back up from his receivers and much better protection from his defenders. While a super bowl run may not be realistic in the short term, a solid step forward from coaches and players alike could set the stage for more success in years to come.

Hopefully 2025 will show the Celtics in hungry pursuit of championship banner 19 and the provide the Bruins the perseverance, under new head coach Joe Sacco, an opportunity to find their way into Stanley Cup contention. We can Dream and Hope!!!