

THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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Advisory: Boston

Weekend Sumner Tunnel Closure

Tunnel will be closed to traffic from 11:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, until 5:00 a.m. Monday, March 4

Travelers are encouraged to plan ahead, schedule additional travel time, and use MBTA and Logan Express

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing construction operations for the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project will continue in Boston. The work will require the closure of the Sumner Tunnel, which facilitates travel in one direction from Logan Airport and Route 1A in East Boston, from 11:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, March 4.

Traveling to and from Logan Airport

The Sumner Tunnel carries traffic southbound, from East Boston/Logan Airport to Downtown Boston, and the Callahan Tunnel carries traffic northbound, from Downtown Boston to East Boston/Logan Airport.

Typical routes to the airport will remain available including

northbound and southbound travel through the Ted Williams Tunnel (I-90) and Callahan Tunnel (Route 1A northbound).

Several signed detours will be in place during the closure of Sumner Tunnel for motorists who are driving from Logan Airport and heading toward I-93 northbound or the North End neighborhood of Boston. The links below can be used to view the available detour routes and plan.

Logan Airport to Downtown Boston or Lorgan Airport to I-93 North: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/sumner-tunnel-detour-map-logan-airport/download>

Additionally, in order to reduce traffic congestion during tunnel closures, MassDOT encourages those traveling to

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Law Suit Filed Against City of Boston for White Stadium Soccer Plans

by Patti Sartori



Local residents, in conjunction with a conservancy group, are suing the City of Boston over their plan to locate a new soccer stadium at the current White Stadium citing the project would “illegally transfer” public trust lands for private use. The lawsuit was filed in Suffolk Superior Court with the goal of ceasing the privatization of the approximately three-acre George Robert White Fund Stadium, which is owned by the White Fund and is located in Franklin Park.

White Stadium was built in 1945, is located in the Playstead section of Franklin Park, holds approximately 10,000 fans and is mainly used by Boston Public Schools for various sporting events, including track and football. The Annual Eastie/Southie long standing rivalry football game had been played there for decades.

The lead plaintiff of the law suit is the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to the maintenance, restoration, protection, and improvement for public use of Franklin Park and the other public parks in the Emerald Necklace Park system designed by Frederick Law Olmstead.

The defendants are the City of Boston, The George Robert White Fund trustees, Mayor Michelle Wu, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, City Auditor Maureen Joyce,

Boston Chamber of Commerce President James Rooney, Boston Bar Association President Hannah Kilson and Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC.

When asked about the lawsuit, Mayor Wu said, “These are legal claims without merit. Anyone who has been to the stadium recently can see how much we’re missing out on right now. Half of the grandstands are burned out from a fire five years ago, the track is crumbling, it’s not up to state competition standards, and our students deserve a lot more.” She then went on to state, “I’m really excited about the opportunity this represents, bringing in a pro team to help invest in and renovate an existing stadium. This would allow us to more than triple the number of hours that it could be used, and Boston Public Schools and our community would still be 90 percent of those hours. The soccer team is really just a small portion of how it would actually be used,

and so we’re going to continue to work through the details of the design within the community. We’re making good progress and I’m thrilled at the opportunity that this will bring our young people and families.”

According to the law suit, “this section of Franklin Park has been held in trust for over 74 years for the beneficiaries of the White Fund Trust — the residents of Boston.” It goes on to state “the site has been used as an open space for public recreation, public school sporting events, and numerous music and cultural events. White Stadium has fallen into disrepair and is in need of substantial renovations, however the city has failed to consider any alternatives to the project all while rapidly pushing forward the project and ignoring the terms of the White Fund Trust and if allowed to go forward will cause irreparable harm to Franklin Park, the White Fund Trust and its beneficiaries who are the people of Boston.”

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Don’t Forget to Vote March 5

Tuesday, March 5 is the presidential primary election. If you haven’t already mailed in your ballots or voted early, you can still vote in person on March 5. If you are an unenrolled voter like myself, you can choose either party ballot to pick your candidates on the ballot.

I heard that this year over 700,000 voters requested a mail-in ballot and hopefully the election turnout will be higher than usual. We all have a right to vote and more importantly a duty to vote. It doesn’t matter who you vote for, just vote.

Nikki Loses Koch \$\$\$

The Koch-funded super PAC funding Nikki Haley will no longer be funding her 2024 presidential campaign after her loss in South Carolina. The billionaire Koch brothers’ large conservative network Americans for Prosperity announced its decision the day after Haley suffered a 20-point defeat in her home state of South Carolina to Trump. The PAC now says it will focus its resources on US Senate and House races.

Wendy’s Going to Surge Pricing

Wendy’s is preparing to test an “Uber-style” surge pricing model where the cost of an item will change during the day based on demand meaning higher pricing during the lunch and dinner rush, and cheaper during off-peak hours. Competitors like McDonalds and Burger King will be keeping a close eye on the Wendy’s surging pricing experiment.

Sorry for Forgetting to Wish Everyone at the East Boston Senior Center A Happy Valentine’s Day

Mayor Michelle Wu along with members of the Boston Police from D-7 attended the East

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Boston to Lose More Than 1 Billion in Tax Revenue

(Remote Work & Empty Office Space Impacts Tax Earnings)

by Patti Sartori

The City of Boston, facing a steep decline in tax revenue could see decreased funding for education, safety and quality of life services, as highly taxed office buildings remain empty given the popularity of the remote era. In a new report released by the Boston Policy Institute, a non-partisan think tank, in partnership with the Center for Policy Analysis at Tufts University, the city is looking at an approximate \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion shortfall in tax revenue between 2025-2029. These losses would also result in a \$400-\$500 million shortfall annually after the initial 5 years.

Boston has one of the highest proportions of revenue from commercial property tax in the

U.S., higher even than New York, Chicago or Washington DC. High interest rates and the move to post pandemic remote or hybrid work have made commercial real estate less valuable according to Evan Horowitz of Tufts University. “The shift to remote work means fewer people are traveling to offices and there’s no reason to expect that office work is going to come back, so this shortfall will continue,” said Horowitz.

Many cities across the U.S. are experiencing a similar issue, but Boston is extremely reliant on commercial property tax revenue, more than one-third of Boston’s tax stream is derived from commercial property tax — the highest proportion among U.S. cities, the report noted.

Property tax collection makes up nearly 75% of Boston’s total revenue, an increase from 54% in 2002. As commercial real estate values decrease so does the tax revenue since property taxes are based on the assessed value of buildings. It is important to remember these taxes pay for vital city services.

Political leaders are not to blame for the situation but will need to address the financial short falls. “This is an economic Act of God,” said Horowitz. “This is something that happened to all of us and we have to respond, it was not a failing by decision makers,” he went on to add.


The report highlighted a couple of possible solutions.

(Continued on Page 10)

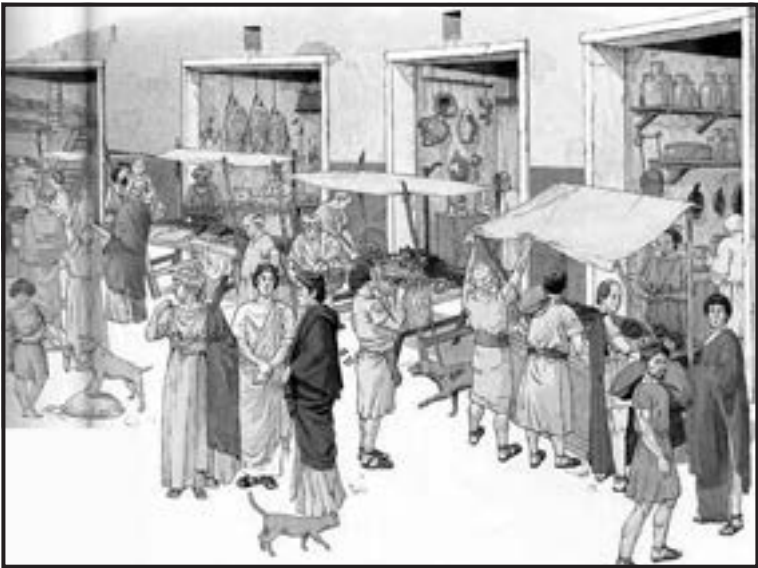
Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



TWO AND A HALF



“Conditio duo et dimidia, proposita due e’ mezzo,” or Proposition two and a half ... if you think it started in California or Boston ... you’d better think again. Laws that were intended to limit and control expenditures of individual citizens in ancient Rome were called “Sumptuariae Leges.”

Concerns about economy probably all started in Greece, as is evidenced in the writings of Lycurgus, who tells of the Spartans being forbidden to have their houses constructed by implements other than the axe and the saw. Food and clothing were restricted to the most simple varieties. The use of gold or silver was not permitted in coins, however, iron was quite common. The death penalty was inflicted upon anyone

who drank undiluted wine, except when otherwise directed by a physician. Early Athenian laws forbade expensive feminine apparel and ornaments; even the dowry of a bride was not exempt. Expensive funerals were prohibited and the number of guests that could be present at any public entertainment was controlled by law.

Sumptuary laws in Rome followed those of the Greeks. The first Roman law that restricted entertainment expenses was enacted about 181 B.C. It limited the number of guests that could be invited to public functions. Civic leaders were required to swear before consuls that they would not spend more than the law allowed for banquets and the use of that happy red stuff was restricted to

“vinum indigena” or local wine. Controls were set on the amount of money that could be spent on national or local festivals, including the nature of the food to be consumed. Laws even fixed a limit on the amount of meat and fish that could be eaten at home, while at the same time encouraged the consumption of homegrown vegetables.

The dictator Sulla restricted the amount of money that could be spent on gravestones, tombs, and funerals. He violated his own rule when his wife died. While Julius Caesar was away from Rome, the enforcement of many sumptuary laws were ignored, but upon his return, he caused guards to be placed in the marketplaces to seize forbidden luxuries. The guards even removed restricted food from tables in private homes. The Emperor Augustus banned the use of litters, purple garments (dye was too expensive) and pearls. Tiberius prohibited the use of gold plating except for religious utensils. He also prohibited the wearing of silk for men. Nero reduced the amount of food that could be consumed by others, but not for himself. Marcus Aurelius economized on the gladiatorial shows, while the Emperor Tacitus forbade the wearing of gold embroidered garments. Oh well ... they weren’t very comfortable anyway.

NEXT ISSUE:
Picking Up the Tab

Will Term Limits for Congress Ever Become Reality

by Patti Sartori

Term limits have been debated far too long among voters and elected officials from both parties, which leads many to wonder if it will ever become a reality. A recent poll found 87% of voters favor limits on the number of terms each member of congress should be allowed to serve.

The PEW Research Center study results show that term limits are equally popular among Republicans and Democrats. 90% of Republicans and Republican leaning Independents said they supported limits, while 86% of Democrat and Democratic leaning voters largely agreed on limiting how long law makers can serve in congress.

Despite the bi-partisan support among voters, a measure introduced last year by Representative Ralph Norman, R-SC, was killed by the House Committee, preventing it from making it to the full house for a vote. That Bill, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution would have limited those serving in the House to three terms, for a total of 6 years, and those serving in the Senate to two terms, for a total of 12 years.

Not long after the measure was introduced in January, 2023 it was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. It took 8 months, until September, 2023 for the Bill to be considered by

the committee and was shot down by all the Democrats and four Republicans who serve on the committee with 17 ayes and 19 nays. When questioned why some of these committee members voted against this measure, the responses were, “We already have term limits, we call them elections, and we have them in the hours every two years”, as well as “Term limits would deny voters a choice they may want to make.”

The sponsor of this measure, Representative Norman, reaffirmed his commitment to the issue and stated, “We’re going to try it again. At the end of the day, we have got to do something about people coming to Congress and just living, and not going home.” He noted that several House members “have been here 20 plus years and that the Senate might as well be a nursing home.” Norman believes it’s a very important vote to highlight and for Americans to see who is voting and fighting against term limits versus those who are in favor of it.

Given the amount of support it has, this issue seems to be important amongst the American voter — 80% of the public favors term limits while 20% do not. Representative Norman remains “optimistic that this Bill will pass as soon as we get a new President.”

Boston City Council Hopes to Brand Boston Merchandise

by Patti Sartori

The Boston City Council is considering an order to implement a city-wide licensing program for Boston-branded merchandise. The order was sponsored by District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan, who represents the Fenway and Kenmore neighborhoods.

Currently New York City earns millions of dollars in revenue, which stems from their merchandising fee. A multitude of items, including t-shirts, hoodies, mugs with the city seal, just to mention a

few, could result in big bucks being deposited into the city coffers.

The order would allow the Office of Tourism, Sports & Entertainment along with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion to consider a city merchandise licensing program. Councilor Durkan wrote in the order, “a similar program in NYC earns approximately \$24 million annually.” The NYC Merchandise Licensing Program uses a variety of logos from the NYPD, FDNY, NYC

Taxi Commission, amongst others for both apparel and merchandise.

While the order did not reference exactly what official Boston merchandise might look like, it did state “licensed merchandise featuring iconic Boston symbols, landmarks, and neighborhoods would foster a sense of pride among residents and visitors.” Councilor Durkan’s objective is to assist the city in earning money from royalties or fees when a licensed business creates and sells City of Boston branded mementos. She hopes the sales would support small businesses along with local artists and designers. “When people wear or use Boston-Branded merchandise, it acts as free advertising, advancing interest in the city, its culture, attractions, and thereby contributes to Boston’s Brand visibility on a global scale,” said Councilor Durkan.



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

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

Anthony “Biffo” Coppola

April 6, 1926 - February 20, 2024



Anthony “Biffo” Coppola of Boston’s North End passed away February 20, 2024.

Beloved son of the late Domenic and Maria (Capodilupo) Coppola. Husband of Diane (Marcy) Coppola of Reading. Adored father of Anthony Coppola and his partner Christina Gaudin of Revere, Carol Dimino and her husband Joe of Fort Lee, NJ, Michele Smith and her partner Daryl Prince of Las Vegas, NV, Dominic

Coppola and his partner Laurie D’Elia of East Boston, Marc Coppola and his wife Karla of Burlington, and the late Richard Coppola. Cherished grandfather of Anthony Coppola, Joseph Dimino, Carissa Rubin, and Marco Coppola. Dear brother of the late Johnny “Blah” Coppola and Joseph “Cheegelo” Coppola. Also survived by loving great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors on Saturday, February 24, 2024 in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover St, Boston with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated. Services concluded with interment in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park, Peabody.

Photo Submission Guidelines

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



LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 135, Boston, MA 02113

I MIGLIORI - HONOREES TO BE FETED SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

The 39th Annual *I Migliori* Awards Dinner will be held on April 6th, 2024 at Spinelli’s Hall in Peabody, MA. This is the Pirandello’s signature event, which honors outstanding men and women of Italian heritage who have demonstrated outstanding professional and personal achievement and extraordinary contributions to the Italian American community. The 2024 Honorees are:

Dr. Mary C. Rorro
Justice Frank Gaziano
Fr. William Cucciferro
Mayor Carlo DeMaria
Entrepreneur Domenico Staniscia
Fashion Designer Sondra Celli
Univ. Vice President Marguerite La Rosa Dennis

The *I Migliori* Award — the Best in Mind and Deed — has been called by *Boston Magazine* the most prestigious award that an individual of Italian American descent can receive. It is presented by the Pirandello Lyceum, an eminent group of Italian Americans dedicated to maintaining, celebrating, and sharing Italian culture in America.

Dinner Tickets are \$ 100 per person. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the Pirandello Scholarship Fund, which last year provided five scholarships to college-bound students who intend to study Italian language and culture. Reservations for the *I Migliori* Awards Dinner may be made by sending checks payable to the Pirandello Lyceum, to **James Pinzino, Pirandello Lyceum, P.O. Box 227, Marlborough, MA 01752.** For additional information, contact Dr. Domenic Amara, 617-913-6842.

In addition, Lino Rullo GR UFF, the Pirandello Lyceum’s Scholarship Fundraising Chairman is also reaching out to members and friends for *special contributions of \$100*, or whatever you can, for the Scholarship Fund. Those contributing to this fund will have their name appear on the *I Migliori* program booklet. **These Special Scholarship Contributions** are made payable to the Pirandello Lyceum and may be mailed to James Pinzino, Pirandello Lyceum, P.O. Box 227, Marlborough, MA 01752. Please indicate with your check whether you are purchasing tickets and/or making a contribution to the Scholarship Fund so we can allocate the funds accordingly.

The Number of Migrants Entering the U.S. Greater than the Population of 36 States

by Patti Sartori

Almost 7.3 million migrants have illegally crossed over the Southern Border and entered the U.S. under President Biden’s watch. This number is greater than the combined population of 36 states, and was reported by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and accounts for almost 1 million border encounters in the current fiscal year which runs from October, 2023 - September, 2024.

If this pace of illegal entries continues, fiscal year 2024 will exceed last year’s record of 2,475,669 South Western encounters. The number alone surpasses the population of New Mexico, a border state. CBP data shows the total number of Southwest land encounters since Biden took office in 2021 is 7,298,486. This is larger than the population of 36 states combined including, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

In comparison to the largest U.S. state, the 7.3 million is almost 19% of California’s population of 39 million, 24% of the state of Texas and its 31 million population, 33% of the population of Florida and 38% of New York. It’s more than half the size of Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. If the number of illegal immigrants who entered the U.S. under President Biden’s watch were gathered together to form a city, it would be the second largest city in the U.S. after New York City. This does not include the approximately 1.8 million who “got away” and avoided Border Patrol and Customs, which would then make it bigger than New York City!

Combine these figures and we have close to 10 million illegal migrants who have crossed into the U.S. during the Biden administration, the result of which could only be achieved by intentionally refusing to allow our Border Agents and Law Enforcement to enforce U.S. laws. Eric Ruark, Director of Research for numbers USA, a non-profit that advocates for immigration restriction said, “this unprecedented surge in immigration isn’t an accident. It is the result of deliberate policy choices by the Biden administration.”

Republicans have pointed the finger of blame to Biden for years by reversing former President Trump’s border policies and allowing the overwhelming surge of migrants. Biden signed 94 executive actions in his first 100 days as President aiming at the dismantling of the Trump era border restrictions. He could reinstate them with the stroke of a pen. The Biden administration has denied responsibility and boomerangs the finger of blame right back to the Republicans in Congress.

The Presidents critics say the allure of government benefits and the belief they will not be deported under Biden’s weak border policies encourages these illegal migrant crossings. “The administration has refused to enforce existing immigration law and has taken every opportunity to aid and abet illegal border crossings through policies such as catch and release, mass parole, and offering temporary work permits to tens of thousands of foreign workers who make the dubious claims for asylum,” said Ruark.

The spokesperson for the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) said the Biden Administration has “sent the signal that if you come to the U.S. illegally, if you abuse the asylum system, you’ll be released into the country and allowed to remain here, in most cases given work authorization. Even if you neglect to show up for your hearings, the odds of being removed are negligible. The President claims he doesn’t have the authority to enforce our laws. He absolutely does. He is deliberately not enforcing those laws.”

Biden is now playing the blame game by calling on Congress to pass new laws which he says would let him solve the border crisis. He claims to need Republicans in Congress to give him the “authority to shut down the border when it becomes overwhelmed.” While the debate continues to go back and forth, House Republicans have impeached Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for allegedly refusing to enforce immigration laws. The two articles of impeachment advanced against Mayorkas accuse him of “refusing to comply with Federal immigration laws” and violating the “public trust”. The Department of Homeland Security has criticized the impeachment as a politically motivated move and insists the Biden administration is fully enforcing the laws on the books.

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

A March So Merry

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



The changeable weather which characterizes this time of the year has placed me in the mindset of spring, a fact which is only enhanced by the arrival of the month of March. Finally, it appears that we can leave the last dregs of winter behind! Spring arrives in March, the month of delicate flower buds, bright green shamrocks and the rebirth of vegetation. Hopefully the unpredictable New England climate will soon allow me to put away my heavy winter coat, making room for my light jackets and floral dresses. March has always sparked such hope inside me precisely because it tastes and feels like spring, fresh and minty and green. I know I am not alone in my excitement; after all, the presence of the spring equinox in March imbued the month with the symbolism of regeneration and renewal across many cultures. Italian traditions, for example, pay homage to the new life which blossoms in March. Inspired by folk customs and my own personal recollections, I compiled a list of five reasons why March appeals to me immensely. These are the reasons why I eagerly await the third month of the year and all its associated pleasures.

1. March Weather: We all have heard the saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. There is actually a corollary to that famous proverb: if March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion. This just goes to show the changeable nature of weather in March. The Italians even

repeat a dictum which intones: “*Marzo pazzarello, guarda il sole e prendi l’ombrello.*” Translated, this means: “Crazy March, look at the sun and grab the umbrella.” The proverb certainly rings true for my own memories of March. One day, I may be walking under a cloudy sky, propelled by a brisk breeze and practically swimming in misty rain. The next day, I can venture outside in a t-shirt and take heed of leaf buds peeking out in the sunshine. The unpredictable weather is part of March’s unique charm, and it keeps us looking forward to spring.

2. Spring Fever Abounds: On March 10th, Daylight Savings Time will begin, heralding longer days. I love the thrill of unexpected daytime, of walking outside at five o’clock and seeing dappled sunlight on the forest trees. It energizes me and makes me appreciative of the cycle of time. However, sundry other signs of spring appear in March. The green shoots of the first crocuses and daffodils look striking against the dark, damp soil. Red-breasted robins chirp the arrival of spring as they scamper among the woods. The other day while walking outdoors, I marveled at the number of people promenading about and enjoying the nice weather, finally emerging from their winter hibernation. March is a glorious doorway, preparing us for the wonderful spring to come.

3. Girl Power!: March 8th is International Women’s Day. In Italy, this date is

commemorated as *la Festa della Donna*. The beautiful mimosa flower, which blooms early in March, serves as the symbolic emblem of this holiday for Italians. International Women’s Day serves to celebrate women’s rights and raise awareness of issues affecting women around the world. Similarly, March is Women’s History Month in the United States. As a history teacher, I love exploring the past for strong female role models whose dedication and courage pave the way for the women leaders of today. I also admire the way the women’s holidays of March highlight the plight of women worldwide, calling people to action.

4. St. Patrick’s Day: A Bostonian simply cannot avoid St. Patrick’s Day, and with good reason! This holiday brims with the joy of the imminent spring during a transitional month when buds still only shyly poke their heads out of trees and much of the ground remains muddy. St. Patrick’s Day colors the world with green, especially in the form of the cheerful shamrock and leprechaun decorations that adorn homes and businesses, forebears to the lush spring vegetation. March 17th, the feast of St. Patrick, calls for wearing my favorite green dress, for blasting traditional Irish folk music from my iPhone, and for ebullient family gatherings where we feast on fresh spring salads and thick slabs of soda bread.

5. St. Joseph’s Day: St. Joseph’s Day arrives on March 19th, two days after the festivities for St. Patrick conclude. This holiday, particularly revered in Italian-American communities, allows me the opportunity to celebrate and take pride in my Italian heritage. My father would always bring home *zeppole*, or Italian doughnuts, around St. Joseph’s Day. Italians also celebrate this holiday with outdoor excursions and picnics, marking it as a decidedly spring festival. This is the time of year, after all, when my father and his childhood friends would wander the Abruzzi countryside of their youth, smelling the new peach blossoms and watching farmers ready their fields for spring planting.

So, there you go — five absolutely wonderful traditions and customs to love in March. From blustery winds to scarlet-feathered robins, from delicate mimosa flowers to lively shamrocks to creamy *zeppole*, March abounds with unique and indelible heralds of spring. We should all take the opportunity to start March — or any other month, for that matter — by looking around us and making a list of at least five special aspects of the month that bring us the most joy. By doing so, each day of the year becomes its own present, yielding its treasure to all those who seek to appreciate it.

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 Giaratani



Migrants Moving to Seaport Because the Governor Says So

Of course, that is not what our governor says. She basically says you gotta talk to United Way of Mass Bay. All we know is what they tell us. They were going to hold a community meeting to tell residents of Fort Point, Seaport District and South Boston what’s going on but that apparently is not going to be happening. Sounds like a great job done deal and folks shouldn’t worry about not getting their community meeting until all the migrants have moved into 24 Farnsworth Street which, by the way, isn’t that far from the Children’s Museum, I might add.

Apparently as long as our Right to Shelter law stays in place, THEY will keep heading to Boston. Migrants? These are really just illegal immigrants who arrive at the border needing anything we will give them. The open-door sign is hanging on the state’s shingle. Come on up, mi casa, su casa.

The Melnea Cass Recreation Center is now filled up but the welcome hasn’t been taken down, so now we need more places to take people to and how dare anyone question what’s going on. If you do, you get called all kinds of bad names. Don’t question our decisions, just shut up and follow orders.

I always believed the government was our business. We run it, not them. They work for us. I guess all the stiff working at the Statehouse apparently never got that memo. I think it’s called our U.S. Constitution.

The patients are running the asylum nowadays. How stupid do our leaders think we are? Not that stupid, not that stupid at all. Where will the next batch of migrants, i.e., illegal immigrants be housed.? In my neighborhood? Maybe yours? But never where the movers live. Never there.

One more reason that Trump keeps going up in the polls. How come the other side never sees this?

Trump Closes in on Republican Nomination

(Wins South Carolina Primary -
Beats Out Nikki Haley in Home State)

by Patti Sartori

Former President Donald Trump won South Carolina’s Republican Presidential Primary on Saturday, February 24, 2024, tightening his grip on the nomination while leaving his last remaining rival, Nikki Haley with few options. The race was called in his favor almost immediately after the polls closed at 7:00 p.m.

The former President has been victorious in all GOP nominating contest so far, beginning in Iowa and New Hampshire, before moving onto Nevada and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Trump’s victory places Haley, the former two term governor of South Carolina, in a very precarious situation. Haley has vowed to remain in the race and declared in her speech, “I am not going anywhere.”

Suffering an embarrassing defeat on her home turf, Haley’s struggling campaign will continue to be pressed by fellow Republicans urging her to drop out and allow Trump to focus on his likely 2020 rematch with President Biden.

Next on the primary calendar will be Michigan, Idaho, Missouri and North Dakota, followed by the upcoming Super Tuesday blockbuster primaries to be held this upcoming Tuesday, March 5th, including Massachusetts voters where each will be given an opportunity to choose a presidential candidate who will represent their political party in the November election.

Mission Possible: BEST LENT EVER

Like most of us, approaching the midpoint of Lent, you are likely feeling some regret that you haven’t fully engaged the challenge and opportunity of the Lenten Season for true spiritual renewal. There is plenty of time, however, for a midcourse correction. That is our mission this week as we embark upon the second half of Lent. Saint Leonard Parish invites you to pick up the pace of our Lenten journey that began with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads and sets our sights on the renewal of our faith commitment at Easter.

The mission will take place on Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday evenings, March 4th -5th & 6th at 7 o’clock at Saint Leonard Church in Boston’s beautiful North End. Father Bill Schmidt will preach the three nights of the mission and challenge us to make this our best Lent ever! A mission is really a retreat, setting aside time to be attentive to the movement of God’s grace in our lives. As we set aside this time for the Lord, we open our hearts to God ‘s grace and trust in His mercy and love as He leads us along the road He sets before us during this Lenten Pilgrimage.

Father Michael Della Penna, O.F.M. and Father Bill Schmidt, J.A.P. will present the retreat like a W.W.F. ‘tag team’ as we wrestle with the opportunities and challenges of this Lenten Season to emerge victorious at Easter through the saving life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, Our Risen Lord. Capiche?

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Saint Eugene de Mazenod

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Eugene de Mazenod was born on August 1, 1782. His father, Charles Antoine de Mazenod, was one of the Presidents of the Court of Finances, and his mother was Marie Rose Joannis. Eugène began his schooling at the College Bourbon, but his education was interrupted by the occurrence of the French Revolution. With the approach of the French revolutionary forces, the family fled to Italy.

Eugène became a boarder at the College of Nobles in Turin but a move to Venice meant the end to formal schooling. With their money running out, Eugène’s father sought various employments, none of which were successful. His mother and sister returned to France — eventually seeking a divorce so as to be able to regain their seized property. Eugène was fortunate to be welcomed by the Zinelli family in Venice. One of their sons, the priest, Bartolo Zinelli, took special care of Eugène and saw to his education in the extensive family library becoming a major influence in the academic and spiritual development of Eugène.

Once again the French army chased the Mazenod Family from Venice, forcing Eugène and his father and two uncles to seek refuge in Naples for less than a year, and finally to flee to Palermo in Sicily. Here Eugène was invited to become part of the household of the Duke and Duchess of Cannizaro as a companion to their two sons. Being part of the high society of Sicily became the opportunity for Eugène to rediscover his noble origins and to live a lavish style of life.

At the age of twenty, Eugène returned to France and lived with his mother in Aix en



Provence. Initially he enjoyed all the pleasures of Aix as a rich young nobleman. Gradually, he became aware of how empty his life was, and began to search for meaning in more regular church involvement. His journey came to a climax on Good Friday, 1807 when he was 25 years old. Looking at the sight of the Cross, he had a religious experience.

In 1808, he began his studies for the priesthood at the Saint-Sulpice Seminary in Paris and was ordained a priest at Amiens on December 21, 1811. Napoleon had expelled the Sulpician priests from the seminary but Eugène stayed on for a semester. As a member of the , Eugène committed himself to serve and assist Pope Pius VII, who at this time was a prisoner of emperor Napoleon I at Fontainebleau, he experienced firsthand the suffering of the post-Revolutionary Church.

On his return to Aix, Father de Mazenod asked not to be assigned to a parish but to dedicate himself fully to evangelizing those who were not being

reached by the local church: the poor who spoke only the Provençal language, prisoners, youth, the inhabitants of poor villages who were ignorant of their faith. The goal of his preaching and ministry was always to lead others to develop themselves fully as humans, then as Christians and finally to become saints.

On January 25, 1816, he invited other priests to join him in his life of total oblation to God and to the most abandoned of Provence. Initially called “Missionaries of Provence,” they dedicated themselves to evangelization through preaching parish missions in the poor villages, youth and prison ministry. In 1818, a second community was established at the Marian shrine of Notre Dame du Laus. They became a religious congregation, united through vows and the evangelical counsels. Changing their name to Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the group received papal approval on February 17, 1826.

In 1841, Bishop Bourget of Montreal invited the Oblates to Canada. At the same time, there was an outreach to the British Isles. This was the beginning of a history of missionary outreach to the most abandoned peoples in Canada, United States, Mexico, England and Ireland, Algeria, Southern Africa and Ceylon during the founder’s lifetime.

Father De Mazenod was called to Rome and, on October 14, 1832 and eventually consecrated Bishop of Marseilles, a position he held until his death in 1861. Bishop Eugene was Canonized on December 3, 1995. The Feast Day of Saint Eugene de Mazenod is May 21.

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Happy 94th Birthday

Amelia

Reminder: BOSTON DOG LICENSING DEADLINE IS MARCH 31



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year.

“Licensing your pet is not only a legal requirement, but it also serves as their identification,” said Alexis Trzcinski, the Director of Animal Care and Control. “We always

advise pet owners that having a license provides a quicker way for them to be reunited with you if they get lost.”

All dog owners must license their dogs by March 31, 2024. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog’s current rabies certificate. For spayed and neutered pets, owners must submit proof of spaying or neutering if they have not done so previously.

Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50.

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The Rullo Family (L to R, back row): Rob Rullo, Lino Rullo, Riccardo Rullo, Kristin Rullo, Enza Rullo and Carmine Rullo. (L to R, Front Row): Everly, Paige and Isla



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Riccardo Rullo, Esq. Elected P

The Justinian Law Society recently celebrated its 81st year anniversary at the Battery Wharf Hotel in Boston. The program featured the installation of the 2024-2026 President, Officers, and Board of Directors. We were graced by our new President, Riccardo Rullo, Esq., and his leadership team. Riccardo, a former scholarship recipient, has proven himself to be an integral part of the Societies vibrancy since he joined 16 years ago. His installation marks a significant milestone in the organization’s history in that he and his entire leadership team are young lawyers.



Oath of President - Justice Peter DiGangi (Ret) and Riccardo L. Rullo, Esq.

The ceremony began with the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department Color Guard presenting the flags of the United States and Italy, accompanied by the national anthem of each country. The Society was honored by the presence of many dignitaries from the Greater Boston and Italian American community including Consul General Arnaldo Minuti who shared remarks with the 100 plus attendees. State Representative Paul Donato, leader of the state’s Italian American Caucus also brought praise and well-wishes to President Rullo and Society. After a scrumptious meal the society honored outgoing Treasurer Matt Duffy for his 8 years of service before recognizing the invaluable service of outgoing president Mark Ventola by presenting him with a “Justinian Chair,” similar chairs have been presented to outgoing presidents for decades. The installation ceremony, long officiated by the late Judge Joe Ferrino, were conducted by Honorable Peter DeGangi [Ret.] of the Probate and Family Court and his Herald Honorable Sally Ann Janulevicius of the District Court Department. President Rullo then enthusiastically addressed the crowd promising to keep alive his family tradition of exemplary service to the Italian American community. Riccardo’s father, *Grande Ufficiale* Lino Rullo, President Emeritus Dante Alighieri Society and Italian Heritage Month (as well as its co-founder); his mother, Enza; sibling, Carmine; cousin, Roberto; and family friend Steve Gaziano were also in attendance as were: Suffolk Clerk Magistrate John Powers, Speaker Bob DeLeo, Middlesex County D.A. Marian Ryan, Hon. Peter Agnes, Co-Founder of Italian Heritage Month; Sal Bramante Vice President Dante Alighieri Society with his table, representing Tony Cassano, their president who was unable to attend; Sons of Italy Grand Lodge President Rudy Viscomi; Richard Vita, President of the Italian Heritage Month Committee – who are hard at work preparing for its 25 year anniversary this year; *Cavaliere* Pam Donnaruma Editor and Publisher of the *Post-Gazette* newspaper; Nick Leo; Attorney Marc Whittaker, President of Eagle Bank along with his management team; Deputy Consul General Silvia Salomoni; Prof. Ivana Marroncelli and Prof. Paolo Gaudenzi of the Italian Consul General’s office; Tony Pelusi served as Master of Ceremonies and did a magnificent job to the delight of the crowd and gratitude of the event committee.



Justinian Law Society Board receiving Oath of Office



(L to R): Steve Gaziano, Riccardo Rullo and Carmine Rullo

resident of Justian Law Society



Anthony R. Pelusi, Esq. presenting a “Justinian Chair” to outgoing President Mark J. Ventola, Esq.



Anthony R. Pelusi, Esq. (R) presenting award to Matthew T. Duffy, III, Esq., former Treasurer of the Justinian Law Society 2016-2024



Joey Giangregorio, Hanover Wine & Spirits and Riccardo L. Rullo, Esq.



Riccardo L. Rullo, Esq. gives his acceptance speech after he receiving the Oath of President by Justice Peter DiGangi (Ret.)



Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Robert DeLeo and Riccardo Rullo, Esq.



State Representative Paul Donato



Dante Alighieri Society (L to R): Justice Peter Agnes (Ret.), Chairman Emeritus of the Dante and Co-Founder of Italian Heritage Month, Jay Shortall, Philip Celeste, Lino Rullo, President Emeritus of the Dante and Co-Founder of Italian Heritage Month, Riccardo Rullo, Esq., Enza Rullo, and Luigi Lessa Quarttrone and Frank Vitiello



The Consul General of Italy office in Boston (L to R): Prof. Paolo Gaudenzi, Science and Technology Counselor, Prof. Ivana Marroncelli, Education Office Director, Riccardo Rullo, Deputy Consul General of Italy in Boston, Silvia Salomoni and Consul General of Italy in Boston Arnaldo Minuti



The Justinian Law Society is shown here loaning the original transcript of the Sacco & Vanzetti Trial to the Dedham Museum, who will hold it on display at their museum located at 612 High Street, Dedham, for all the public to see. (L to R): Justinian Immediate Past-President Mark Ventola, Joseph Borsellino Founder of the Dedham Human Rights Commission, John Tocci representing Dedham Museum and Archive, Justinian Law Society Historians, Judge Sally Janulevicus and Justice Peter Agnes (Ret.).



(L to R): Frank J. Ciano, Esq., Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan, Joseph A. Amoroso, Jr., Chairman of East Cambridge Savings Bank



Justinian Law Society 2024-2026 Officers (L to R): Treasurer Alexander J. Capano, Esq., President Riccardo L. Rullo, Esq., Secretary Nicholas M. Carrozza, Esq, and Assistant Secretary Antonio Calvagno, Esq.

(Photo by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Babbononno used to talk about the unification of Italy which took place on March 17, 1861. He would not arrive on Earth for another 14 years, but from the way he spoke about one of the great liberators, Giuseppe Garibaldi, you would think he fought with him, side by side. In case March 17 sounds familiar, but not for anything Italian, it is that we Bostonians celebrate Evacuation Day on that date, and St. Patrick’s Day, too. With all of the Irish in and around Boston, and with our local history taking precedent, Italian unification seems to have taken a back seat. (I left out St. Joseph’s Day for us Italians)

A while ago, my late friend, Colonel John Silva, gave me a British magazine article about Garibaldi which detailed his directions in life. Babbononno used to call him the liberator, but not much was ever included in European history books that we read here in the States, just short passages on Italian unification followed by German unification. Back in 2011, John Silva and I wrote a monograph, a scholarly work, for a couple of colleges on Italian unification, as it was the 150th anniversary that year. In brief, Garibaldi helped free parts of South America from Spanish domination. Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina became independent countries thanks to Garibaldi.

At about the time our Civil War broke out, Garibaldi and his wife were living with Antonio Meucci in New York. Babbononno used to mention him as the man who invented the telephone, and I used to correct him saying that it was Alexander Graham Bell, not Meucci. In 2006, the U.S. government would finally give Meucci the credit he deserved, so I guess Babbononno was right all along.

While Garibaldi was in New York, he was contacted by President Lincoln, who was aware of the man’s charisma and military capabilities. In 1861, the north wasn’t doing that well fighting the south and the president continuously changed military leaders. He knew how Garibaldi fought the Spanish with his rag-tag armies and his pregnant Brazilian wife on horseback, by his side. Lincoln offered him the position of a two-star general (major general) hoping that Garibaldi’s involvement might change things. Garibaldi refused stating that he would

accept only if he became general of all the American forces and if Lincoln immediately freed the slaves. Lincoln refused on both accounts and Garibaldi eventually returned to Italy and became one of the three liberators that unified the land of our ancestors.

According to Babbononno, Antonio Meucci was the inventor of the telephone. Of course, I ignored this as a child. We were taught in school that Bell invented the telephone in the late 1800s. Meucci had several problems. He was Italian at a point in time when Italians were new to America and not well liked. His English skills were very poor at best and he didn’t have money enough to market his invention. When he became ill and needed medicine, his wife sold his equipment and invention to purchase what he needed and Bell, who had at one point worked with him, bought everything from a second-hand store and took the credit for the invention. As I mentioned above, it wasn’t until 2006 that Meucci was given credit as the inventor of the telephone. So, I now tell the world, “Antonio Meucci invented the telephone and Alexander Graham Bell invented the busy signal”

Babbononno liked history. At night, when I was a kid, he would tell Mom, Nanna and me about things that happened in American history that sounded fascinating, and they were, coming from a great story teller. I now can only imagine that he did the same thing with my uncles a generation earlier. There were drawbacks to Italian advancement in America due to several things according to Babbononno. He claimed that after Italian unification, southern Italians were still as disenfranchised as they had been when controlled by Spain, France or Austria. Those who took over were mostly northerners and allied themselves with the clergy and local politicians. They emphasized education, and to counter this, the southern locals emphasized the trades. If a man came home with a sore back or calloused hands, he had proven himself. The same emphasis followed immigrants to America after 1880, and as a result, some of the greatest craftsmen and tradesmen made their marks on America. They brought their children (the boys) up to believe that this was the way to go, and combined with the Italian American uncanny abilities for organization, saw their sons

become captains of industry, especially in the trades. It wasn’t until my generation came along that education came into play as part of the equation.

To prove this point, a few years ago, I sent some information to Dean Saluti. As you may know, he is the president of the Greater Boston Renaissance Lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in Massachusetts. At one point, he was the head of the Culture Commission for the Sons and that info I sent him listed all of the famous Italian Americans whom I have researched, mainly through Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. We’ve come a long-long way in the past generation or two, and that includes in industry, politics, law, medicine, education, the sciences, the arts, sports and entertainment. Our people have done it all, and if Babbononno was alive today, he would be just as proud as I am as to their accomplishments and the fact that their names end in vowels.

I remember a conversation with Dad and my uncles, Nick and Paul, and a few of their fellow musicians back when I was a young man. All of them had Anglicized their names so that they sounded more American. Dad became Johnny Christie. Uncle Paul and Uncle Nick’s last name went from Contini to Conti. Their Jewish musician friends had done the same thing for the same reasons. You had to make changes to compete, but things have changed. When my son, Michael, decided to become an actor, I mentioned that Dad had become Johnny Christie and I had become Johnny Christy Jr. as musicians and entertainers, and I then asked him if he was going to use either of those Anglicized spellings for his stage name. He then said, “My name is Michael Christoforo, and that is the name I am going to use in everything throughout the rest of my life.”

So, considering all of this, on March 17, when we Bostonians celebrate Evacuation Day and America celebrates St. Patrick’s Day, pick up your wine glass (or in my case a Scotch on the rocks) and extend a toast to Italian unification, because it was part of the reason so many of our ancestors came to America. In Gallic, the Irish might say, “Slanta.” In English it might be, “Here, here.” But in Italian it will always be, “Salute e cent’ anni.”

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 16, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

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In Sicily, the Pupa cu L’uova — also known as Pupi cu l’uova or Cuddura cu L’uova — are delightful small breads or cookies adorned with a hard-boiled egg on top or nestled inside. They feature a doughy cross design over the egg and are delicately finished with a sugary icing and colorful sprinkles. With their humble origins rooted in peasant tradition, these Easter delicacies have been lovingly crafted for generations by Nonnas as gifts, mostly for the children. The “Cuddura cu L’uova” come in an array of shapes including baskets, dolls, horses, doves, and hearts, each offering unique flavors and textures that vary from region to region.

I was so intrigued by these amazing delicacies and wondered why my own Sicilian Nonna never made them. My mother’s cousin Jean told me “*Your Nonna didn’t make them, it was your great-grandmother Catherine Mastroeni that made the “Pupi” for us (her grandchildren) at Easter every year. She used an anise flavored dough made with yeast, and they were more like a sweet bread than a cookie. Her eggs were never dyed, but they were beautiful and so delicious! We called them “goodoodies” from their dialect around Messina*”. Determined to preserve this legacy, I have recreated many renditions including the yeast bread as well as the lard and butter cookie. I invite you to partake in crafting these delectable treats for your loved ones this Easter season. Let us honor and uphold this beautiful Sicilian custom together. *Buona Pasqua!*

SICILIAN ‘DOLL WITH THE EGG’
EASTER COOKIES
Pupa cu L’uova



Cookie Dough:

¼ cup vegetable shortening
¼ cup unsalted butter,
softened
½ cup granulated sugar
3 large eggs
zest of one organic lemon
1½ teaspoons lemon juice
zest of half an organic orange
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ cup whole milk
2 ½ to 3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

8 dyed or un-dyed hard-boiled
eggs

Icing:

3 to 4 cups confectioners’
sugar
½ cup whole milk
1 teaspoon anise, vanilla or
lemon extract (optional)
nonpareils or sprinkles for
decorating (optional)

To make cookies:

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter, shortening and sugar. Add eggs and beat until fluffy. Add the zest, extracts and milk and mix. Gradually sift in 2 ½ cups of the flour, with the baking powder and salt. Add the remaining ½ cup flour (or more if needed) until a soft dough forms.

Place dough on a lightly floured board and knead gently for a few minutes, then let dough rest for 10 minutes.

Separate dough into 8 sections, making the 8th section a bit larger than the rest (this will be used to make 7 crosses that will be placed on top of the eggs). You will be able to make 7 baskets and use the 8th section for the crosses. Take one of the 7 sections of dough and roll it into an 8 to 10-inch log. Take the log and fold it in half, twist/braid the halves together and then connect it into a circle, pinching the ends together. Place this “basket” on the prepared baking sheet and gently place a hard-boiled egg inside, pressing the dough so it adheres to the egg. Repeat until all “baskets with eggs” are made.

Take the remaining section of dough and divide it into 7 sections. Each will be used to make a cross that will go on top of the egg and connect to the basket (see picture).

Bake for about 20 to 25 minutes, or until underneath the cookie is golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool well before icing.

Icing:

In a medium bowl, add confectioners’ sugar and gradually add the milk (and extract, if using) until it becomes an icing consistency. Using a pastry brush, brush icing on cookies, decorating with nonpareils or sprinkles, if desired. Let the icing harden and enjoy or refrigerate (hard boiled eggs should never be left unrefrigerated for more than 2 hours).

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

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Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Amerigo Vespucci

Amerigo Vespucci was the third son of Nastagio Vespucci and Lisabetta Mini, who were friends of the wealthy Medici family, who ruled Italy from the 1400s to 1737. Vespucci's father worked as a notary in Florence. While his older brothers headed off to the University of Pisa in Tuscany, Vespucci received his early education from his paternal uncle, a Dominican friar named Giorgio Antonio Vespucci.

When Vespucci was in his early 20s, another uncle, Guido Antonio Vespucci, gave him one of the first of his many jobs. Guido Antonio Vespucci, who was ambassador of Florence under King Louis XI of France, sent his nephew on a brief diplomatic mission to Paris. When Vespucci was 24 years old, his father pressured him to go into business. Vespucci obliged. At first, he undertook a variety of business endeavors in Florence. Later, he moved on to a banking business in Seville, Spain. According to some accounts, from 1483 to 1492, Vespucci worked for the Medici family. During that time, he is said to have learned that explorers were looking for a northwest passage through the Indies.

In the late 1490s, Vespucci became affiliated with merchants who supplied Christopher Columbus on his later voyages. In 1496, after Columbus returned from his voyage to America, Vespucci had the opportunity to meet him in Seville. The conversation piqued Vespucci's interest in seeing the world with his own eyes. Vespucci knew that King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain were willing to fund subsequent voyages by other explorers. Then in his 40s, Vespucci, driven by the prospect of fame, decided to leave his business behind and become an explorer before it was too late.

According to a letter that Vespucci might or might not have truly written, on May 10, 1497, he embarked on his first journey, departing from Cadiz with a fleet of Spanish ships. The controversial letter indicates that the ships sailed through the West Indies and made their way to the mainland

of Central America within approximately five weeks. If the letter is authentic, this would mean that Vespucci discovered Venezuela a year before Columbus did. Vespucci and his fleet arrived back in Cadiz in October 1498.

In May 1499, sailing under the Spanish flag, Vespucci embarked on his next expedition, as a navigator under the command of Alonzo de Ojeda. Crossing the equator, they traveled to the coast of what is now Guyana, where it is believed that Vespucci left Ojeda and went on to explore the coast of Brazil. During this journey, Vespucci is said to have discovered the Amazon River and Cape St. Augustine.

On May 14, 1501, Vespucci departed on another trans-Atlantic journey. Now on his third voyage, Vespucci set sail for Cape Verde — this time in service to King Manuel I of Portugal. Vespucci's third voyage is largely considered his most successful. While Vespucci did not start out commanding the expedition, when Portuguese officers asked him to take charge of the voyage he agreed. Vespucci's ships sailed along the coast of South America from Cape São Roque to Patagonia. Along the way, they discovered present-day Rio de Janeiro and Rio de la Plata. Vespucci and his fleets headed back via Sierra Leone and the Azores. Believing he had discovered a new continent, in a letter to Florence, Vespucci called South America the New World. His claim was largely based on Columbus' earlier conclusion: In 1498, when passing the mouth of the Orinoco River, Columbus had determined that such a large volume of fresh water must come from land

“of continental proportions.” Vespucci decided to start recording his accomplishments, writing the accounts of his voyages would allow him to leave “some fame behind me after I die.”

On June 10, 1503, sailing again under the Portuguese flag, Vespucci, accompanied by Gonzal Coelho, headed back to Brazil. When the expedition didn't make any new discoveries, the fleet disbanded. To Vespucci's chagrin, the commander of the Portuguese ship was suddenly nowhere to be found. Despite the circumstances, Vespucci forged ahead, managing to discover Bahia and the island of South Georgia.

There is some speculation as to whether Vespucci made additional voyages. Based on Vespucci's accounts, some historians believe that he embarked on a fifth and sixth voyage with Juan de la Cosa, in 1505 and 1507, respectively. Other accounts indicate that Vespucci's fourth journey was his last.

Vespucci, became a naturalized citizen of Spain in 1505, was given the prestigious title of master navigator of Spain in 1508. Charged with training and recruiting navigators and managing the country's map collections, he held the position until he died of malaria in Seville on February 22, 1512, at the age of 58.

In 1507, a German mapmaker named Martin Waldseemuller first referred to the lands discovered in the New World as America. The name *America* is placed on South America on the main map. The name was bestowed in honor of the Italian Amerigo Vespucci.



LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24D0268DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
DIANLIN JING
vs.
LIRONG JIANG

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B. The Complaint is on file at the Court.

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Jack P. Milgram, Esq., Law Offices of Jack P. Milgram, 21 Mayor Thomas J. McGrath Highway, Suite 203, Quincy, MA 02169 your answer, if any, on or before April 02, 2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024

• Tax Revenue (Continued from Page 1)

One option would be for the state to provide direct aid to the City of Boston. Another is for the legislature to give the city an option to impose a local sales tax or congestion charge for driving downtown.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

Boston Senior Center's Love Memory Lane Valentine Party on February 14. They celebrated with lunch and dancing music. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. Love is a precious gift to be shared. It keeps us all going forward. Everyday should be Valentine's Day, right?

End Quote

"I used to resent his love for our nation. Now it's what I miss most of all. This is how we end

Boston has been working on a plan to transform the downtown and financial district, assist businesses in filling vacant store fronts and attempting to attract more people to the areas beside work related.

up whispering to people who are gone, wishing we could tell them that we've grown and learned and changed. My father believed in a realm beyond this earthly one, so maybe he hears my whispers. Maybe he sees the sad chaos in the country he loved so much. And maybe some of the tears I shed for America are his."

— Patti Reagan, daughter of President Ronald Reagan

• Sumner Tunnel Weekend Closure (Continued from Page 1)

or from Logan Airport to leave their cars at home and explore Massport's list of transportation options which include: the Blue Line or Silver Line, the Logan Express, or the Logan Water Taxi. The MBTA's online *Guide to Travelling to Logan Airport* is available at [mbta.com/Logan](https://www.mass.gov/doc/sumner-tunnel-detour-map-east-boston-to-downtown/download) and includes tips on using MBTA travel modes, how to pay a fare, and more.

Travel tips to the North End and Downtown Boston

MassDOT continues to remind drivers to plan for extra travel time during weekend closures, consider the Blue Line or Silver Line as an alternative to driving, and stay informed by signing up for email updates through the project website.

East Boston to Downtown Boston: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/sumner-tunnel-detour-map-east-boston-to-downtown/download>

Revere to Downtown Boston: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/sumner-tunnel-detour-map-revere-to-downtown-boston/download>

The MBTA is scheduled to operate full Blue Line service during weekend tunnel closures, which provides the most direct connection between East Boston and the downtown area. The MBTA's *Trip Planner* is the best resource for route options and fare calculations on the T.

In certain situations, the buildup of traffic exiting Logan Airport can extend out into East Boston. To minimize traffic backups throughout Logan Airport and on neighborhood

streets, MassDOT can make real-time changes to travel lanes in the Ted Williams Tunnel. While these changes do not eliminate congestion, they are implemented to balance traffic volumes during weekend closures of the Sumner Tunnel and provide safer driving conditions inside the Ted Williams Tunnel.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the area.

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

For questions or to report issues related to construction, please email the project email address: Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI23D3197DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
ROSA V. PILARTE
vs.
LEGNY RAMIREZ

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B. The Complaint is on file at the Court.

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Rosa V. PilarTE, 25 Gledhill Ave., Apt 2, Everett, MA 02149 your answer, if any, on or before April 02, 2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24C0120CA
In the Matter of
HEIDE FELLENER BARON
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Heide Fellenzer Baron of Malden, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Heide Fellenzer Baron Murray.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 11, 2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court
Date: FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 03/01/2024

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p: 617.524.1036 p: 800.947.5008 f: 617.522.4646
info@stmichaelcemetery.com www.stmichaelcemetery.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24P0130GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of
CARMEN JUSTIN CLAUDIO
of Lowell, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Luz E. Vazquez of Lowell, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Carmen Justin Claudio** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Luz E. Vazquez of Lowell, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **March 26, 2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 27, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 02, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.
2008 MAZDA MAZDA3
VIN # JM1BK12G381786532
2008 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
VIN # 2CNDL53F286055005
2002 VOLVO VNL
VIN # 4V4NC9JH32N337195
Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.
Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
Run dates: 2/16, 2/23, 3/01, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24C0141CA
In the Matter of
ENI LUSHA
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Eni Lusha of Stoneham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Eni Doka**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 15, 2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court
Date: February 16, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 03/01/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI23P6582GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of
VALERIE FAIETA LOPEZ
of Framingham, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Diana M. Lopez of Framingham, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Valerie Faieta Lopez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Diana M. Lopez of Framingham, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **March 21, 2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 22, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24P0952EA
Estate of
CYNTHIA ANN CONLEY
Also Known As
CYNTHIA A. CONLEY
Date of Death: December 08, 2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Pamela Greco of Lynnfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Pamela Greco of Lynnfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 21, 2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 22, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



Cora Confirms Talk with Montgomery
Rumors have been going around that the Red Sox are still very interested in free agent pitcher Jordan Montgomery who was with the Rangers last season. Many believe Jordan would like to resign with the Rangers but he is open to talks about somewhere else, too.
Montgomery is 31 and has made 30 or more starts in each

of his last three seasons and is coming off a strong season in which he posted a 3.20 ERA over 188.2 innings while leading Texas to their first World Series championship.
Jose DeLeon, RIP
Jose DeLeon, a major league pitcher for 13 seasons who led the National League in strikeouts in 1989, has died at the age of 63 from a battle with cancer in Santo Domingo earlier this week. Over his career, he played with the Reds, Dodgers, Rays and Twins. Overall W-L record 856-119 with a 3.76 ERA.
Happy Birthday to Danny Cater
If you are a baby booming Red Sox fan, you remember Danny Cater. He just turned 84 and

played major league baseball from 1964-75. He played for six teams mostly at first base. He was also involved in one of the worst trades in Red Sox history. The Sox sent an ace relief guy/closer before we called them closers to the NY Yankees for Cater and a player to be named later during spring training in 1972. Layle went on to be a superstar with over 141 saves over seven seasons with the Yankees, a three time All-Star, and won the 1977 Cy Young Award. Cater meanwhile hit .262 in Boston over three seasons here.

Bottom Line

Just announced Red Sox tickets are going up again. Anyone really surprised by the tix price hike? Hey, as long as fans keep buying them, the Red Sox under John Henry will be more than glad to take more money from you. Didn't some guy in the circus business once say, there's a sucker born every minute?

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24D0092DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
MARIE-JUDE DAGUILLARD
vs.
JULES M. DOBLAS
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Marie-Jude Daguiard, 205 Ferry St., Apt. 101, Everett, MA 02149** your answer, if any, on or before **April 02, 2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 03/01/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 09, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.
2006 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
VIN # JTEEP21A460169267
2017 CHUCKS WAGON CHUCKS WAGON
VIN # 4C9CU1726HR364017
2018 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN # 4T1B11HK7JU530442
2010 BUICK LACROSSE
VIN # 1G4GB5EG5AF322641
Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.
Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
Run dates: 2/23, 3/01, 3/08, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Gaeta's Enterprises, Inc. of 14 Newbury Street, West Peabody, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle on or after **March 16, 2024 beginning at 10:00 AM** by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers' lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicle is being stored at Gaeta's Enterprises, Inc.
2012 INFINITI G37x
VIN # JN1CV6AR0CM973779
Signed,
Carmen Gaeta
Gaeta's Enterprises, Inc.
Run dates: 03/01, 03/08, 03/15/2024

Free
Soccer Clinic
in partnership with
The New England Revolution

BCYF Nazzaro Community Center
30 North Bennett Street, Boston 02113



- When: Tuesday, March. 12
- Time: 4:30PM - 6:00 PM
- Who: Youth Ages 8-12

For more info contaact: 617-635-5166

****SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTRATION REQUIRED****





Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Sixty Years Ago, CLAY SHOOK THE WORLD

If you put a hundred boxing experts into a room and asked them what happened in the first fight between Cassius Clay and Sonny Liston, you would probably hear a hundred different explanations for why young Cassius won.

This past February 25th marked the 60th anniversary of the fight and it is still discussed as hotly as it was in the days just after it occurred. The outcome shocked the world as the upstart young fighter from Louisville ran rings around the ferocious Liston forcing the champion to quit in his corner before the start of the seventh round.

Within hours of the fight ending there were cries that it had been fixed. That Liston had bet a huge amount of money on himself. That the mob had forced Sonny to take a dive. That the Black Muslims had threatened him. Outside of the Clay camp, there were not a whole lot of people willing to believe Cassius could have legitimately beaten Sonny.

Looking back, we now have more perspective, though that perspective can be more like looking through a prism with the light split into many sections. I have written about the fight before and stated I believe Clay won the fight fair and square.

To truly understand the astonishment people felt at the outcome, you have to put yourself back to the time and events leading up to the fight. Clay, he was not yet calling himself Muhammad Ali, had only engaged in 19 professional fights. He won the Olympic Gold Medal Champion in the light heavyweight class in 1960 and had an outstanding amateur career. His true gift was in his self-promotion.

He managed to talk his way into the Liston fight by following Sonny around and taunting him. He pulled numerous publicity stunts, made appearances on television talk shows, and became the most famous boxer outside of Liston, and maybe even more so than the champ. Everyone knew who he was. Many liked him, many hated him, and practically nobody gave him a chance against the champion.

Liston had won the title in 1962 by utterly demolishing Floyd Patterson in the first round. He repeated this performance a year later when Patterson again failed to make it through the opening stanza.

Before the Patterson fight Sonny had torn his way through the heavyweight division beating all the top contenders. He was powerful, intimidating, and many of his opponents were beaten before the fight started just from his stare. To most people Liston was simply unbeatable.

While Clay had looked quite good in his short career, he wasn't particularly impressive in his two bouts leading up to the Liston fight. The two fighters who gave him problems were both much smaller than Sonny and, while decent boxers, were nowhere near the status of the Bear.

In March of 1963 Clay took on Doug Jones at Madison Square Garden. Jones weighed in at 188 pounds. The fight went ten rounds with Cassius winning a close decision. It was actually a good fight and a good test for Clay. He had to work hard for the win.

His next fight was in June of the same year when he went to England to face the British Champ Henry Cooper. Cooper, at 185 pounds, was even lighter than Jones. In this matchup, Clay's career came very close to being side railed. As the third round was drawing to a close, Cooper hit Clay with a solid left hook that put him on



In fact, there were many who thought the fight was a suicide for him. After all, Cooper and Jones were no Sonny Liston, and if Cooper could deposit him on the canvas with a left hook, what would Liston do to him?

There are a couple of things that can be added when assessing the fight with the advantage of 20/20 hindsight. While it is true Cooper and Jones did not have the fearsome specter of Liston, they did have one thing he lacked...speed. While

both were much smaller than the champ, they were also able to come close to matching Clay in quickness. And as the years have shown us, it was with the smaller fighters that Ali would have his most difficulties.

It should also be remembered that Sonny had only fought a total of less than six rounds in the ring since 1961, stopping Howard King in the third, and then Albert Westphal and Floyd Patterson in the first (Patterson twice). Before that, he was given difficulty by a savvy Eddie Machen in a fight where he won a ten-round decision. Liston also had difficulty with fighters who were smaller and could move.

When you put all of this together, again with the advantage of hindsight, Clay does not look like the 7 to 1 long shot he was made at the time. In fact, it looks to be a somewhat competitive fight. A classic boxer vs slugger matchup.

When watching the fight, I also picked up on a flaw in Sonny's ability that might explain his having problems with fighters who were fleet of foot. Liston was not effective at cutting off the ring on Clay. Instead of sidestepping he followed Cassius in a straight line. This flaw can also be seen in his two fights with Bert Whitehurst. While Liston had fast hands and good head movement, he was not good with his footwork. Ironically, Liston and Clay/Ali had one thing in common; they both did better when facing bigger men.

I still believe the 1964 fight was on the level. I also believe Clay was terrified of Liston going into the bout, but he had the uncanny ability to channel that fear into a sharpness that heightened his already amazing reflexes. Liston tried everything to win the fight including having his corner "juice" his gloves so that Clay was fighting blind in the 5th round. When that failed, a bruised and exhausted Liston quit on his stool before the start of the 7th round, the round Clay had predicted would be the one in which he would take the title.

It was an amazing performance. The world was stunned by what had happened. It began a new era in boxing led by Muhammad Ali that would change boxing forever, both for the good and the bad.

Liston would continue fighting losing a rematch with Ali, and then never getting another shot at the title. He became an enigma with many loyal followers. A man who could never be understood.

While Ali would go on to engage in many great and memorable fights, this was perhaps his greatest performance. The night the kid from Louisville beat Sonny Liston will always be remembered.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



In the aftermath of the 2024 NBA All-Star game in which both teams combined for 397 points, we thought we might take a look at some of the lowest scoring games in NBA history.

It was interesting to discover that the Celtics have played in not only the lowest scoring NBA regular season game since the shot clock was introduced at the start of the 1954-1955 regular season but also the lowest scoring NBA playoff game since the 24-second standard became the norm.

But first why did the 24-second shot clock come into existence? Well, in the early days of the NBA — in the late 1940s and early 1950s — there wasn't one. That led to some very low scores. The lowest scoring NBA game in history took place on November 22, 1950 when the Fort Wayne (now Detroit) Pistons defeated the Minneapolis (now Los Angeles) Lakers by a 19-18 count. Those combined 37 points are often exceeded today by a single NBA team during one quarter of action.

The 24-second shot clock came into existence when two front office executives from the Syracuse Nationals (now the Philadelphia 76ers) looked at games where teams did not employ stalling. They realized that each team took about 60 shots (120 total) over the course of a non-stall game. They then divided 2,880 seconds (in a standard 48-minute NBA game) by 120 and came up with the 24-second interval.

Even so, there would still be the occasional low scoring game. The lowest scoring NBA game in the shot clock era took place some 68 years ago when the Celtics defeated the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Hawks 62-57 on February 27, 1955 in a game played at the Rhode Island Auditorium in Providence. Those combined 119 points are the lowest in the shot clock era. In addition, the combined 51 points in the second half also set a low scoring standard for that portion of a game.

Tied at 49 after three quarters, the C's held Milwaukee to eight points in the fourth to prevail in the defensive battle.

Bob Cousy and Bob Brannum each had 14 points for the Celtics while Bill Sharman contributed 11. Interestingly, the Celtics lost to the shot clock originators (Syracuse Nationals) in the Eastern Division semifinals that year.

Fast forwarding and switching gears a bit, one discovers that the Celtics also won the lowest scoring postseason game in the shot clock era.

It was May 10 — a day of the year that is better known for hockey in Boston sports history.

For it is on that day on the calendar that the region commemorates one of the most memorable moments in the Hub — one that continues to reverberate down through the decades.

It is the game where Bobby Orr scored his famous overtime goal at Boston Garden to give the Bruins a 4-0 sweep of the St. Louis Blues and their first Stanley Cup in 29 years. Captured forever by *Boston Herald* photographer Ray Lussier, the famous shot shows Orr flying through the air moments after scoring the triumphant tally.

And every year TV stations continue to rebroadcast the video version for a new generation of viewers.

But the May 10 we wish to bring to your attention is not that one from 1970 but another — and it is centered on the Celtics. They too have a somewhat significant May 10 in their franchise history — perhaps not as memorable as the one that occurred some 32 years earlier Causeway Street but historic in its own way.

For on May 10, 2002, the Boston Celtics emerged victorious in a hard-fought battle of a playoff game against the Detroit Pistons, winning the contest 66-64 in the lowest scoring NBA playoff game during the era of the 24-second shot clock.

The victory enabled them to take a 2-1 series lead over the Pistons in their best of seven Eastern Conference semifinal series. The C's would eliminate Detroit but would be beaten by New Jersey in the Eastern Conference Finals.

And it took the overall game clock to decide the outcome. As time was running out Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse got off a three-point shot that went through the basket but was ruled a split second late — first by the referees and then by video replays.

The combined 130 points made it the lowest scoring NBA playoff game since the shot clock was introduced into the post season in the spring of 1955.

Paul Pierce proved to be the decisive player for Boston as time ran down, scoring six of his game-high 19 points in the final one minute and 48 seconds.

"It was ugly. It was a grind-it-out, tough-it-out game," noted the Celtics star in a comment to the Associated Press after the game.

Or as Boston-based AP sportswriter Howard Ulman wrote at the time: It was "a game in which neither team could score was decided by a shot that didn't count."

That final tally of 66 would also figure in a negative way for the Celtics less than a year later. Again, the opponents were the Pistons, only this time it was the regular season and it was the middle of winter — January 31, 2003.

And the outcome of the game was one of the worst in the history of the Celtics franchise as the C's were pounded in a 118-66 loss to Detroit on the famed parquet floor no less.

At one point the Pistons put together a 35-2 run in the third quarter. The Celtics also contributed to their own defeat by shooting a woeful 29.9 percent from the floor.

Former Celtics player Chauncey Billups put on a display against his former team 29 points, a total that saw him make all eight of his shots in the first half. Paul Pierce who was ejected late in the third quarter for arguing a call, led the Celtics with 23 points.

As you can see, history has some interesting and fascinating moments. We hope to bring you more as time goes on.