

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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**Saint  
Patrick's  
Day**  
March 17th

**Saint  
Joseph's  
Day**  
March 19th



## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### Uber's for Women Only

Uber has launched a new feature earlier this week allowing both women drivers and passengers across the U.S. to be matched with other women for trips, expanding a pilot program aimed at addressing concerns about the safety of the ride-hailing platform.

The new feature is being rolled out nationwide despite an ongoing class-action suit in California, filed by Uber drivers arguing that it discriminates against men. There will be a new feature, an app called "Women Drivers."

Uber says about one-fifth of its drivers in the U.S. are women, though the ratio varies city to city.

### Platner Planting Hate in Maine

Maine Democrat voters will be choosing a new U.S. Senator. The race currently pits the outgoing Maine Governor Janet Mills against a Democrat Socialist by the name of Graham Platner in the 2026 Democratic primary election.

Platner had a large Nazi tattoo — an SS Totenkopf — on his chest which set off a public furor especially when he said he had no idea what that tattoo signified.

RealClearPolitics has him polling ahead of Mills and the Maine Democratic Party is circling the wagons. Last week, U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego, D-AZ, endorsed him and called him a "fighter."

As Isaac Schorr recently penned in the *New York Post* (March 10), "(Candidates like Platner) are no longer on the fringe of the Democratic coalition. They're steering the ship ... Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and other pro-Israel Democrats have wilted under fire."

### Texas Dem Running Supported Defund the Police Movement

Texas Democrat U.S. Sen. nominee James Talarico once "proudly" supported the Defund the Police movement with campaign cash to a group pushing to cut millions from the Austin Police Department. Records showed Talarico shelled out \$2,500 to the Austin

(Continued on Page 8)

## A SOMBER DAY for the United States Military

Regardless of which political party a President of the United States is affiliated, witnessing the dignified transfer, a ritual that returns the remains of U.S. service members killed in action, is considered one of the most somber duties of any commander in chief. Last Saturday, President Trump joined devastated families at Dover Air Force Base for the dignified transfer of soldiers killed in the war in the Middle East, between the U.S.-Israel, and Iran. During his first term, Trump said witnessing the transfer was "the toughest thing I have to do" as president.

"It's a very sad day," Trump told reporters while aboard Air Force One, saying he was "glad we paid our respects." Both President Trump, and Vice-President JD Vance were present for the transfer as were the First and Second Ladies. Also present were various administration officials, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles.

As part of the protocol, President Trump did not speak



(L-R): President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice-President JD Vance and Second Lady Usha Vance salute as the dignified transfer takes place at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. (Photo courtesy of the White House)

during the transfer, but did salute as each flag draped transfer case was carried from the military aircraft to awaiting transfer vehicles, which would transport them to a mortuary facility to prepare them for their final resting place. Their families stood solemnly by during the ritual.

Sadly this isn't the first time the President attended this type of ritual. In December 2025, he traveled to Dover to honor two

National Guard members and a U.S. civilian interpreter killed in an ambush attack in the Syrian dessert. He also attended dignitary transfers several times during his first term, including a Navy SEAL killed during a raid in Yemen, for two Army Officers whose helicopter crashed in Afghanistan and for two Army soldiers killed in Afghanistan when a person dressed in an Afghan army uniform opened fire.

## U.S. Department of Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem Ousted from Trump's Cabinet

by Patti Sartori

Former South Dakota congresswoman and governor has fallen out of favor with President Donald Trump. Noem has led the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) since Trump began his second term in January, 2025. The President announced on Truth Social last Thursday, that he will nominate Senator Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla, to replace Noem, effective March 31.

"The current Secretary, Kristi Noem, who has served us well, and has had numerous spectacular results, (especially on the Border!), will be moving to Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas, our new Security Initiative in the Western Hemisphere we are announcing on Saturday in Doral, Florida. I thank Kristi for her service at 'Homeland.'"

Noem responded on X with a post of her own, thanking President Trump for her upcoming appointment. "Secretary Rubio and Secretary of War Hegseth are incredible leaders and I look forward to working with them closely to dismantle cartels that have poured drugs



into our nation and killed our children and grandchildren. The Western Hemisphere is absolutely critical for U.S. security. In this new role I will be able to build on partnerships and national security expertise, I forged over the last 13 months as Secretary of Homeland Security. We have made historic accomplishments at the DHS to make America safe again. We delivered the MOST secure border in American history, 3 million illegal aliens have left the U.S., we have located 145,000 children, FEMA delivered disaster relief at a 100%

faster rate, we ushered in the golden age of travel, saved American taxpayer \$13 billion and revitalized the U.S. Coast Guard."

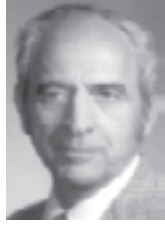
Noem was responsible for managing Trump's mass deportation effort which has led to more than \$2 million reported self-deportations in 2025 and approximately 670,000 removals of illegal immigrants, leading to a deluge of criticism from the progressives and far left in DC. Under her watch, reversal of open border policies and drug interceptions have reached record numbers.

It's been reported that President Trump was none too happy with Noem's testimony last week, in front of the bicameral Judiciary Committee, particularly regarding a contract for advertisement featuring herself. Trump seemed to take issue with Noem stating that he approved a taxpayer-funded ad subcontracted to a firm with connections to her inner circle. The White House has repeatedly stated that the President did not know about the ad and did not approve it.

## Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



### BIRD AND BULL



**Statue of Hercules and the Cretan Bull by Lorenzo Mattielli, Hofburg Palace, Wien, Vienna, Austria**

Continuing our coverage of Hercules and his celebrated labors, we recall, briefly, that this demigod was the offspring of one of Zeus' paramours. Later, in a period of madness brought on by the unrelenting hostility of Zeus' wife, Hercules killed his own wife and children. When he regained his senses, he was horrified at what he had done and sought advice from the Oracle at Delphi. He was advised to go to Tiryns and perform whatever ten labors King Eurystheus would demand of him. We also learned that Hercules would, in fact, perform twelve labors because two of them, the second and fifth, were disqualified.

For his sixth labor, Hercules was required to return to Arcadia to drive off the Stymphalian birds (inhabitants of Lake Stymphalus). These birds were man-eating monsters with claws, wings, and beaks of brass. They were also equipped with feathers that could shoot out like arrows. As an aid in performing this sixth labor, Hercules borrowed a pair of castanets from the goddess Minerva. The castanets were of brass and originally made by Vulcan, the smith of the gods. The castanets were clashed from a mountainside near Lake Stymphalus. When the frightened birds flew up, Hercules shot great numbers of them and scared off the others.

The first six labors of Hercules were performed in the Peloponesus. Now the envious king began to assign tasks in distant territories, making them more dangerous. For the seventh labor, it was demanded that Hercules bring back the Cretan Bull.

The legend of King Minos and the Cretan Bull remains unknown to most people today. The story is now related briefly because of its importance to the subject at hand — "The Labors of Hercules."

Minos, the son of Zeus and Europa, aspired to the throne of Crete. He prayed that a beautiful bull would come out of the sea, vowing to sacrifice it to Poseidon (god of the sea) to help in achieving his ambition. The bull appeared as requested and shortly thereafter Minos became king of Crete. The bull was such a beautiful animal that Minos treacherously concealed it and substituted another in its place. Greatly angered, Poseidon caused the bull to become ferocious, while at the same time, made Minos' wife conceive a great passion for the animal. An ancient inventor named Daedalus (known as the cunning artificer) helped the queen to gratify her passion and this union brought forth the "Minotaur" or "Minotaurus," a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a human. We now understand the origin of the name Minotaurus (Minos the king and Taurus the bull). We also now understand why the beast was kept in a special labyrinth below the palace of King Minos.

Some writers have hinted that the capture of the bull was facilitated by King Minos, who because of the embarrassing episode in creating the Minotaurus, wanted to be rid of it. The bull was captured without incident by Hercules and brought back to the Peloponesus where it was sacrificed at Athens.

**NEXT ISSUE:**

*Horses that Eat People*

## The U.S. and Iranian Conflict Should Not be Taken Lightly

by Patti Sartori

The growing conflict between the United States and Iran has quickly become one of the most serious international crises in recent years. Over the past several weeks, U.S. and Israeli forces have carried out air strikes on Iranian targets, while Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks across the Middle East, raising fears of a wider regional war. The fighting intensified after coordinated strikes targeted key Iranian leadership and military infrastructure, and the conflict has since expanded beyond Iran itself. Retaliatory attacks have struck locations in countries

such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, and Oman, as both sides engage in military operations and threats of further escalation.

Yet amid the headlines about military strategy, geographical tensions, and political debate in Washington, it is important not to lose sight of the humanist of war. American service members have already been placed in harm's way, and some have paid the ultimate price while carrying out their duties. Each loss represents a son or daughter, a spouse, a parent, or a friend whose sacrifice leaves a lasting impact on

families and communities back home.

Throughout American history, from World War II to more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces have stepped forward to serve their country in times of danger. Their willingness to defend the nation often requires extraordinary courage and sacrifice. When conflicts like the one unfolding with Iran arise, the bravery of those in uniform becomes especially clear.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Kennealy Chooses Running Mate

Peabody City Councilor Anne Manning Martin has accepted Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Kennealy's offer to join him in his quest for the corner office. Martin will run for Lt. Governor as part of the Kennealy/Martin ticket in the upcoming September 2026 primary election.

With 34 years of law enforcement experience, Manning Martin had served 8 years on the Peabody School Committee and for the past 19 years served as a City Councilor, known to be a fierce, tough, no-nonsense leader who refuses to back down, who focuses on government transparency,

fiscal discipline, and common sense.

"I've spent my career in law enforcement and local government holding people accountable. I don't back down, and I don't look the other way. The people of Massachusetts deserve leaders who will fight for them, not protect a broken system. Governor Healey's policies have driven families and business out of our state, undermined local control, made our communities less safe, weaponized the MBTA Communities Act, and sent utility bills through the roof," Manning Martin stated.

"Anne Manning Martin is exactly the kind of partner

Massachusetts needs. She's tough, she's battle tested and she doesn't tolerate nonsense. She has spent over 30 years protecting her community in law enforcement and 27 years defending taxpayers on the Peabody City Council and School Committee. She understands what Governor Healey's failed policies are doing because she hears it directly from the people she serves," Kennealy said.

Kennealy and Manning Martin will face off against two other Republican candidates for Governor, Mike Minogue and Brian Shortsleeve in the upcoming September primary election.

## Boston in Running as Finalist to Host 2028 Democratic National Convention

The last time Boston hosted the Democratic National Convention in 2004 former Massachusetts Senator John Kerry was the Democratic Presidential Nominee. Could this be an omen of some sort? There are certainly no shortage of local politicians champing at the bit for an opportunity in the national spotlight.

Boston is one of five cities chosen to move forward in the process. The other cities under consideration include Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Denver. Given Chicago just hosted the 2024 convention, it would be unusual for it to host consecutively. It was during the 2004 DNC in Boston in which the relatively unknown Senator from Chicago, Illinois had the key note speech at the Fleet Center, introducing him

to the broader American voter. Four years later, Barack Obama was the chosen Democratic Presidential candidate, going on to serve two terms as President of the United States.

We are grateful to advance to this next round of consideration and look forward to working with the Democratic National Committee (DNC), our many partners, and the greater community to demonstrate how Boston is a world-class city and the right choice to host the Democratic National Convention in 2028. Boston 2028 is grateful for the leadership of Governor Maura Healey, Mayor Michelle Wu and our Democratic leaders across the Commonwealth. They have been instrumental in getting us to this point in the process. We are excited about the potential

of hosting this major event in Boston, which would be a moment of great civic pride and could bring in as much as \$400 million of economic benefit to our Commonwealth," President of Boston 2028 Steve Kerrigan said in a statement.

Each of the five finalist cities will be subject to a site visit by DNC representatives to assess logistical and operational components of each city's bid. "The DNC is proud to be moving forward with our 2028 Democratic National Convention plans, another critical step toward retaking the White House and finally putting an end to Republicans' betrayal of working families," DNC Chair Ken Martin said in a statement.

The Democratic National Convention will be held from August 7 to 10, 2028.

## Nothing but Finger Pointing Over ICE Detainers

by Patti Sartori

Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons claims Boston Police ignored 167 immigration detainer requests last year, not 57 reported by Commissioner Michael Cox. Lyons says all of the detainer requests ignored by the city last year relate to serious criminal charges and illegal immigrants facing criminal charges.

According to Lyons, "ICE lodged 167 immigration detainer requests against criminal illegal aliens in Boston Police custody in 2025, many more than the department admits. Commissioner Cox says police will not honor our detainers because they are committed to building and strengthening trust within the neighborhoods,

but how does releasing illegal aliens back into the communities they victimize build trust? It only shows the people of Boston that local police leaders are so politically motivated that they would rather release criminals than work with ICE."

(Continued on Page 10)

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Friday, March 13, 2026

**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.**

## Marie Greco

Marie passed away peacefully at the age of 88, having lived a full and vibrant life rooted entirely in the neighborhood she loved most, the North End. Born, raised, and remaining there until her final moments, Marie was truly a fixture of the community.



Her days were often spent enjoying the simple pleasures of life at her favorite spots: Spagnuolo's Restaurant, The Thinking Cup, Modern Pastry, and St. Leonard's Church. Nothing made her happier than sitting with a cup of coffee and a pastry, surrounded by the people and neighborhood she cherished.

Marie shared a special bond with her lifelong friend Claudia Spagnuolo and formed lasting friendships with many of the employees and patrons of the North End restaurants she visited daily, as well as her friends and neighbors at Paul Revere Court. It was impossible to walk down a street in the North End without someone recognizing her. She knew everyone, and everyone knew Marie.

A deeply devoted Catholic, Marie attended rosary meetings regularly and lived her faith through kindness, prayer, and generosity of spirit. She brought warmth and encouragement to everyone she encountered, often offering prayers or sharing words of wisdom. Her favorite saying was, "You could be bitter, or you could be better." Those words reflected the way she chose to live her life.

She was predeceased by her parents, Anthony and Francesca "Magiotta" Greco. Marie was one of seven children and was predeceased by her beloved siblings Antoinette, Michael, Lilly, Josephine, Frank, and Anthony.

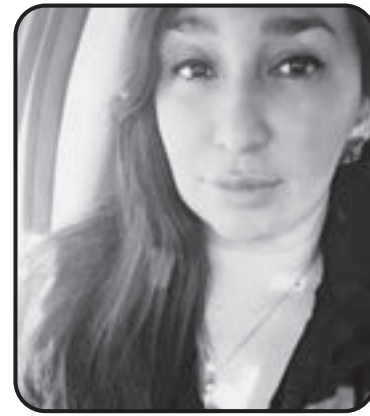
She will be lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews, who treasured their visits with her in the North End and the stories, laughter, and love she always shared.

Marie's presence will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the neighborhood she called home for 88 wonderful years.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113, at 10:00 a.m.

## Marcia Ixchel Gamez Urbina

May She Rest in Peace



Marcia Ixchel Gamez Urbina peacefully passed away at her home in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 5, 2026, at the age of 37, just two days after celebrating her birthday. She was born on March 3, 1989, in Puerto Cortés, Honduras, daughter of her loving parents, Edith Urbina and Cesar Augusto Gamez Barahona.

Marcia spent her childhood in Omoa, Honduras, where she was known for her vibrant spirit and warm personality. She attended Abraham Riera Peña School in Omoa and continued her studies at José Trinidad Fiallos and Franklin D. Roosevelt schools. From a very young age, Marcia was full of energy and curiosity. She loved playing soccer, climbing trees, dancing, singing, and spending time outdoors. She especially enjoyed dancing punta, a traditional Honduran dance she shared with family and friends.

Marcia was also known for her enthusiasm and active participation in Honduras's national celebrations. From a young age, she stood out as a baton twirler in several traditional patriotic festivals, proudly carrying the spirit of her country. Her love for these celebrations was so great that she would volunteer for any role available, enjoying every moment of being in the parade and always a contagious smile. For Marcia, every parade was an opportunity to share joy and pride in her roots, and her presence at these events left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to see her shine.

Marcia loved spending time with her siblings, going fishing, and enjoying days at the beach together. She also had a playful heart and a love for the small joys of childhood; her favorite character was Winnie the Pooh, and she slept with her Winnie the Pooh stuffed animal until her last days. A cherished childhood memory is how she used to visit nearly every house in the neighborhood just to say hello, spreading joy wherever she went. She was deeply loved by all who knew her.

Marcia had extraordinary artistic talent from a very young age. Her love and skill for art were inherited from her father, who shared the same passion. Her mother nurtured her creativity by providing all kinds of art materials, which Marcia used enthusiastically: drawing, painting, modeling with clay, and creating in every possible way. She possessed remarkable fine motor skills and a natural gift for art that remained with her throughout her life. During her youth, on August 18, 2001, Marcia suffered an unfortunate car accident that caused a head injury. She underwent surgery and remained in a coma for 15 days. Over the years, as a consequence of this tragic event, she began experiencing seizures and other neurological issues. Despite these challenges, Marcia demonstrated extraordinary strength and resilience, facing each obstacle with courage, determination, and the unwavering support of her family.

Later, Marcia moved to the United States in 2005, where she continued her studies in New Jersey. She attended Morristown High School before moving to Rockaway, New Jersey, and graduating from Morristown Knolls High School in 2009. She later studied Business Administration at Berkeley.

In 2013, Marcia met the love of her life, Maxsuel Ferreira de Oliveira, through a friend who invited her to dinner at the restaurant where he worked. The connection between them was immediate, and they quickly fell in love. Although Marcia lived in New Jersey at the time, they stayed in close contact, frequently talking on the phone and strengthening their relationship. Later that year, Maxsuel traveled to New Jersey during Christmas to meet her entire family, and Marcia knew at that moment that he was the one.

In 2015, Marcia moved to Boston to begin her life with Maxsuel. That same year, they were blessed with their first daughter, Audrey Gamez Ferreira, born on September 14, 2015. Marcia embraced motherhood

with deep love and dedication. On January 15, 2019, Marcia and Maxsuel celebrated their love by getting married, continuing to build a beautiful life together in Boston. The family grew again with the arrival of their second daughter, Emery Gamez Ferreira, born on January 26, 2022.

Marcia devoted herself completely to her family. While Maxsuel worked hard to provide for them, Marcia dedicated herself to being a present and loving mother, ensuring that their home was always full of warmth,

care, and joy. She was known for her leadership, independence, and ability to take on responsibilities in any situation, always making sure that everything around her ran smoothly.

The four were inseparable. As a family, they enjoyed cooking together, going out to restaurants, and playing soccer. Marcia especially enjoyed celebrating birthdays and made sure that everyone around her felt special and remembered. She loved seafood and also had a special talent for cooking and baking.

Marcia also loved her Honduran roots and was very proud of her culture. She especially enjoyed Honduran cuisine, including traditional dishes like baleadas, which she loved to share with family and friends.

Out of love for her husband and his Brazilian heritage, Marcia learned to speak Portuguese to communicate with his family. She built a close relationship with her mother- and father-in-law and valued every moment they spent together during visits. With her mother-in-law, Marcia learned to prepare two traditional Brazilian dishes, as well as a Brazilian peach cake that became a favorite at family gatherings. Marcia also used Portuguese to communicate with her brother- and sister-in-law, as well as her close circle of Brazilian friends, further strengthening those family ties and friendships.

Marcia kept her passion for art alive and patiently shared that love with her daughters, encouraging their creativity just as her mother had done with her.

Marcia had a wonderful sense of humor and loved joking with those around her, always bringing laughter wherever she went. She had a natural ability to build community wherever she was, forming deep bonds of friendship with both near and far acquaintances. She leaves an infinite number of friends who will miss her deeply. Marcia was a timeless friend: whether you knew her in childhood or yesterday, she had the ability to make you feel seen, valued, and loved.

Above all, Marcia was a dedicated wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend. She spent her days caring for her family, staying connected with her loved ones, and ensuring that everyone around her felt valued and loved. She was truly the light of any place she entered.

Marcia is survived by her beloved husband, Maxsuel Ferreira de Oliveira; her two daughters, Audrey Gamez Ferreira and Emery Gamez Ferreira; her parents, Edith Urbina and Cesar Augusto Gamez Barahona; and her siblings, Erick, Halida, and Emilio. She also leaves a large and loving extended family of uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, and many cherished friends who will always remember her fondly.

Though her time in this life was far too brief, the love Marcia so generously gave will live on through her daughters, her family, and the countless lives she touched. Her laughter, creativity, strength, and beautiful spirit will never be forgotten. Her life was also an example of strength, resilience, and unconditional love, even in the face of the most difficult trials. In every act of kindness, every celebration of life, and every shared moment of love among those who knew her, Marcia's light will continue to shine.

Family and friends will honor Marcia's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home North Shore Chapel in Peabody, on Saturday, March 14th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She will be laid to rest in Honduras.

## ANTONIO "TONY" FIERRO

Antonio "Tony" Fierro, 92, a beloved lifelong resident of Boston's North End, passed away peacefully on March 4th, 2026, with his loving family by his side.

Born in Italy, Antonio ultimately made his home in the North End upon arriving to the United States from the old country. He became a familiar and cherished presence in the neighborhood. Known for greeting everyone with a warm smile, Antonio had a gift for making people feel welcome. He was a true "fixer of all things" always ready to lend a helping hand, repair what was broken and share his practical wisdom with family, friends and neighbors. He was always just a phone call away.



Antonio is survived by his devoted wife of seventy years, Virginia (Rosa), his son Angelo and his daughter Angela. He was predeceased by his beloved siblings, Carmella, Anna, Fedele and Giuseppe Fierro. He also leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews who will cherish his memory.

Antonio's kindness, generosity and ever-present smile will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Family and friends were invited to visit and pay final respects on Thursday, March 12, 2026, in St. Leonard's Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston, followed by a Mass of Christian burial. Services concluded at his final resting place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden, MA.



### St. Joseph's Table

**MARCH 19, 2026**  
**6:00 - 9:00PM**



**Sacred Heart Church Conference Room**  
**(9 Sun Court St, North End Boston MA)**

Bring a non-meat dish and honor St. Joseph on his feast day

**ALL ARE WELCOMED**

Event sponsored by St. Theresa Society  
 Feel free to contact us, if you have any questions at: [sainttheresaboston@gmail.com](mailto:sainttheresaboston@gmail.com)



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

### A Pair of Fabulous Spring Feasts

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



Hello, spring! I can feel the shifting of Mother Earth all around me, humming with the thrill of rebirth. The signs of spring manifest everywhere. They are present in the sound of gurgling water as melting snow rushes down the storm drain. They are evident in the delicate white crocuses I recently saw lining the front path of someone's home. They appear in the candy-colored Easter eggs and grinning cloth bunnies that fill the seasonal departments of big-box stores. Though the weather may still oscillate between balmy temperatures and wintry cold spells — perhaps even nor'easters! — spring fever nevertheless grips my mind with all the energy of a hopping red-breasted robin. After the chilly and dark days of winter, the song of spring profoundly reverberates in our soul. The reawakening of nature and the growth of vegetation mimics the renewed energy and cheer blossoming in all living creatures. The calendar has tapped into this sense of rejuvenation and grants us two folkloric feasts that welcome spring and its accompanying beauty and promise. March 17<sup>th</sup> bursts with green to herald St. Patrick's Day. Two days later arrives St. Joseph's Day, a holiday honoring Italian heritage and commemorating one of the country's most beloved saints. Jointly, these two feasts celebrate the joy of spring and usher us into a season of hope and renewal.

Every year, I eagerly anticipate St. Patrick's Day. This holiday shines like a beacon of spring, an undeniable seasonal turning point. The very decorations of St. Patrick's Day overflow with spring imagery, from the lush green shamrocks to the rainbows which melt into

pots of gold. St. Patrick's Day holds a special significance in Boston, due to our city's love of festivities and its large Irish-American population. I celebrate most holidays with symbolic food, and St. Patrick's Day proves no exception. I bake a creamy Irish soda bread studded with plump raisins and zesty caraway seeds. The bread is accompanied by a fresh spring greens salad laden with earthy beets, tangy goat cheese, and sweet caramelized pecans. Meanwhile, my father-in-law goes the traditional route and makes an Irish boiled dinner replete with potatoes, carrots, turnips and parsnips. Sometimes he will whip up a batch of Guinness stout brownies to end the meal. These seasonal foods encourage me to live in the present, patiently waiting for and then reveling in the unhurried edible treasures of the Earth. However, there is much more to St. Patrick's Day than food. This feast day honors St. Patrick, or *San Patrizio* in Italian, a Roman-British man first brought to Ireland as an enslaved person. The most well-known legend concerning St. Patrick states that the patron saint of Ireland used a shamrock to teach people about the Holy Trinity, thus establishing this little spring plant as an enduring symbol of the holiday. St. Patrick's Day reminds me of brisk spring days when the forest appears lush and green after a rain shower, and a gossamer rainbow arches across the sky. This is a decidedly spring holiday, and as such forever lives in people's hearts for its sense of joy and hope.

Two days later, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, arrives another feast of spring that holds enormous significance for my family. It is St. Joseph's Day, or *la Festa*

*di San Giuseppe* in Italian. My father lovingly remembered breezy St. Joseph's Day celebrations in his mountainous hometown of Sulmona in the Abruzzo region of Italy, where the tender tree buds and the baying of lambs whispered the coming of spring. St. Joseph's Day serves as Father's Day in Italy, reflecting on the role of *San Giuseppe* as the husband of the Virgin Mary and the stepfather of Jesus. In Sicily and other regions of Italy, including many Italian-American communities, people build altars to St. Joseph loaded with bread, candles, pastries and fava beans. Fava beans form an integral part of St. Joseph's Day festivities because, during the Middle Ages, this spring crop saved the inhabitants of Sicily from a famine after they prayed to St. Joseph for help. Another delightful Italian tradition involves doing charitable actions and donating food on St. Joseph's Day, a philosophy which should be carried throughout the year. My father spent the days before this holiday scouring the woods with his friends, searching for firewood to help construct *il falò di San Giuseppe*, a giant bonfire held on the eve of the feast. These bonfires, with their abundant warmth and light that illuminates the inky night sky, symbolize the sun on its journey from winter to spring. Sometimes, people will throw an effigy into the bonfire to represent making a fresh start for spring. Of course, St. Joseph's Day has also become synonymous with *zeppole*, or fried, puffy donuts. My father loved his *zeppole* sweet and stuffed with cream, like the ones he would buy from bakeries in the North End around St. Joseph's Day. Meanwhile, my grandmother preferred savory *zeppole* made with potato. Either way, they are delicious. All of these sweet treats remind me of a holiday that instills in me a pride in my heritage and gets me excited for spring.

As two quaint and folkloric holidays approach us, we can revel in our anticipation for spring. After all, spring is not just a season; it is a resplendent manifestation of renewal, hope and optimism for the future. The greenery of St. Patrick's Day and the warm bonfires of St. Joseph's Day symbolize the essence of the spring season, calling to mind rites of purification and regrowth. Whether we admire the first crocuses and daffodils, take in the birdsong of the early morning, or enjoy Irish soda bread or *zeppole*, there are a myriad number of ways to greet the rebirth of nature. The most important thing is that we fill our season with love and optimism, always looking ahead. When we do so, we will find that springtime's sense of hope and promise is the best pot of gold there is.

*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.*

(Photo by [gpointstudio](#) on [Freepik](#))

## THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



### The Wheel Still Spins Round and Round

Here I am a few months away from my next birthday. I still don't think I'm old and to ensure I keep it that way, I rarely look at myself in the mirror. That will stop the aging process, right?

Well, folks we're at war again. This time in Iran. Didn't we just get over that forever war in Afghanistan after twenty useless years where once again our U.S. troops were sacrificed. I am thinking since my daughter was 15 years old and a high school freshman, we have been at war somewhere for something. And the wheel keeps spinning.

Back in the late '60s into the early '70s, America was at war then too. It was Vietnam back then. Over 58,000 young American died in that godawful war.

Today, the battle of our lives is on the move again. We are at war with the Mullahs but it remains the same old story.

Weeks into this new war, we see a joint effort of airstrikes by us and Israel. President Donald Trump says we are winning tremendously but when the smoke clears, we've created lots of rubble on the ground but the Mullahs go on fighting us to no end. Trump said the war would be over in mere weeks but I wasn't too sure when I heard that and I am still not too sure today. Looking at current events, it could very well turn into a protracted strategy. Republicans hate calling it a war, it is just a mere "conflict." Democrats want to call it a "war" so they can rattle Trump's cage.

As for the war itself, we did take out Iran's head of state but like that old tune from the Who, "The king is dead long live the king." Are we all hoping for an uprising by the people of Iran? What if they don't revolt? What if they can't revolt? In the end of this "historic war", Jeff Kuhner's words not mine. "What happens to the people of

Iran? Will life change for them or will they be the next group of collateral damage folks?"

In 1966 at age 18 I joined the U.S. Air Force and luckily was never deployed to Nam. Nothing ever really changes except names and geography. Then Vietnam. Today Iran. Tomorrow someplace else will come along. You can be sure.

I just read the obituary of Juan Jose Valdez, the 88 year old who was the last Marine out of Saigon as the US scrambled for safety as the North Vietnamese approached the city. U.S. troops had been evacuating this hellhole from the end of March 1975 until April 29, 1975 when U.S. troops scrambled to escape with an armada of 81 helicopters being guarded by 800 Marines and U.S. fighter planes roaring overhead. I can still see that photo on the embassy rooftop where everyone was jumping aboard to safety from the madness of it all.

Valdez was the last Marine to leave, being lifted to safety from the rooftop of the US Embassy in Vietnam. It was the final humiliating chapter of the War in Vietnam. Juan Jose Valdez passed away on February 15 in Tucson, Arizona.

Many Vietnam veterans came to understand that the war, in which 58,000 Americans and three million Vietnamese died, seemed like a tragic waste. In 1990, Valdez told the *Los Angeles Times*, "When we left, we left with our tails between our legs."

Will this so-called historic war be worth it all? In the end, we can't defeat an enemy through airstrikes from the sky, just as President Nixon learned back in April 1970. Back then B-52s launched an unrelenting dropping of bombs on Cambodia. It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.

God Bless America. Save us from our past.

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# USS CONSTITUTION

2 MONTH OUTLOOK

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| March 15 <sup>th</sup> | St. Patricks Day/Evacuation Day Parade       |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> | Evacuation Day Ceremony                      |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup> | Underway for USS Massachusetts Commissioning |
| April 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Egg Hunt                              |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Service                               |

Public Visitation Hours:  
WED-SUN 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# Donne 2000

## Celebrates Carnevale & Festa della Polenta

by Doreen Giammarco



(L-R): Connie Federico, Miranda Federico ( Consigliere), Rosa Giammarco( President) , Doreen Giammarco (Co-Secretary), Anna Ristaino( Co-Secretary), and Dora Volp (Co-Treasurer)



Frank Susi and Joe Giammarco preparing polenta

Carnevale is a festival that dates to the 11th-century in Venice, Italy. It runs for two weeks each year before ending on Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday. The city turns out for extravagant public celebrations including parties, historical reenactments and processions along the Grand Canal and elegant masquerade balls.

In keeping up with tradition, Donne 2000 has been celebrating Carnevale for many years. This year we combined Carnevale with our Festa della Polenta at the Amici Club in Medford, MA, and what a feast it was! It is such a popular event, and it is always sold out!

Polenta dates to ancient Roman Times. It was a grain porridge that was a staple for soldiers and common people because it was filling, easy to prepare and inexpensive. For centuries it was considered peasant food and was eaten daily by



Maria Ferrusi (Vice President) cooking the sausages

rural families. Polenta has changed dramatically over the years. It is now made with cornmeal. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century when Italy industrialized and people's diets became more diverse, polenta's reputation changed. Polenta evolved from a symbol of poverty to a popular and beloved regional specialty.

Donne 2000's Carnevale feast was an impressive team effort. The polenta masters, Frank Susi and Joe Giammarco, long time members of the Gizio Club in Boston, prepared the polenta for 90 guests. These two men have quite a few notches on their belt for preparing polenta for large groups of people at their club functions. Making the polenta was a two-day process. The first day they mixed the cornmeal and water to the perfect consistency and let it cool overnight. On the second day they carefully cut slices of polenta that were layered in pans, with tomato sauce or olive



Marina Cacici, Frances Milano, and Louise Cardillo

oil and pancetta. All other foods were prepared by Donne 2000 members. The sauces were prepared by Adriana Susi. The delicious mustard greens and cabbage were prepared by eight other members. The sausages were roasted by Maria Ferrusi. The succulent porchette were cooked by Miranda and Rosa. It was a labor of love and a celebration of food, culture and community. Guests donned their fascinators, beads, masks and costumes adding to a very lively Carnevale celebration.

This event was just another example of how Donne 2000 continues to keep alive and carry-on Italian traditions for future generations,

Donne 2000 is a non-profit organization that keeps Italian traditions alive from generation to generation through ethnic and cultural events. Please visit our Donne 2000 Facebook Page.

# umbria

Italian steakhouse

## & mia

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266 Hanover St. 617.720.0444

### AquaPazza

Oyster Bar & Italian Kitchen  
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### Dolce

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The Italian Experience  
617-770-3483

Giardino  
Breakfast & Lunch  
617-770-3360

# PIRANDELLO LYCEUM

## Scholarships 2026



The Pirandello Lyceum President, Virginia Papa Gardner and the Board of Directors are pleased to announce the **Pirandello Lyceum Scholarships** are now available for high school graduates — Class of 2026.

The application and the eligibility requirements are available on the website — **pirandello.com**

The application with the required information are due before, but no later than **APRIL 1, 2026 (POSTMARKED)**.

For more information, call Virginia Papa Gardner at 617-721-1062

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## ATTENTION EAST BOSTON RESIDENTS

Sail Boston, Inc. is hosting an East Boston community briefing to brief you on plans for the return of the Tall Ships this July

Thursday, March 19, 2026  
6:00 – 7:00 PM

Maverick Landing  
31 Liverpool Street  
East Boston, MA 02128



For more information please visit [sailboston.com](http://sailboston.com)

«Love one another as I have loved you.»

(GV 15,12)

# FAMILY DAYS

15 MARCH | 12 APRIL | 17 MAY | 21 JUNE

SUNDAYS 4-5PM AT ST. LEONARD PARISH HALL (ENTRANCE ON PRINCE ST.)

Join us for prayer, sharing, and games.

All families, kids, parents, grandparents, and friends are warmly invited!

For more information, contact Matteo:  
[matte.locatelli@gmail.com](mailto:matte.locatelli@gmail.com)



## THE PIRANDELLO LYCEUM "I Migliori" Award Dinner

Saturday, April 25th at 6:00 PM  
at Spinelli's 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.

| AWARDEE                | CATEGORY                  | SPONSOR                              |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Antonio Calvagno, Esq. | Corporate Law             | Sponsor Daniela Messina, Esq.        |
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| Joseph DiPietro        | Environmental Services    | Sponsors Michael & Joseph Belivacqua |

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$100.00 per person  
Music by Enzo Amara

Proceeds support the Pirandello Scholarship Fund

Reservations may be made on the Pirandello Lyceum webpage or  
mail check to: Pirandello Lyceum, P.O. Box 227, Marlborough, MA 01752  
For more information, contact Virginia Papa Gardner at 617-721-1062

**Make your Reservations Now!!**

## The Red States are Winning!

If it's red vs. blue, hands down the red states are the sure winner. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released domestic migration data showing where people are moving to within the United States. In 2025, North Carolina gained 84,000 people, followed by Texas at 67,000 and South Carolina with 66,000. The blue states suffered the largest losses including California with minus 229,000, New York down 137,000, Illinois lost 44,000 and Massachusetts lost over 33,000 residents to other states.

American taxpayers are high tailing it out of high tax states for friendlier states. The top three red states have either no income tax or rates that are dropping, while blue states are raising taxes and other fees each year. It's not just taxes that people are running from,

but it's the goal of homeownership that is enticing many. For example, New York and California's median home prices are \$559,000 and \$833,000 respectively and Massachusetts is \$625,000.

Other factors enter into the decision to flee these blue states, including right to work laws, in worker friendly states that are able to attract more businesses and offer higher incomes like North Carolina, Texas and South Carolina vs. strong union states like California, New York and Illinois. For families with school age children education is a top concern. States with school choice options such as Arizona, Florida, West Virginia, offers many more school options, regardless of income and other educational learning environments. States

like California and New York do not provide parents with these types of choices.

As Americans choose environments with lower costs of living, better job markets and superior schools, often resulting in political implications. Migration will see some states lose congressional seats while others will gain. California is on target to lose four seats in the next apportionment, while New York and Illinois will each lose two. Meanwhile, Texas and Florida will each gain four seats.

Basically, red states, which tend to lean Republican are gaining population, while blue states, which trend Democrats, are losing the most population, which could very well prove a very significant effect on the balance of power in Washington DC.

## MARCH AS

# Women's History Month 2026



March is recognized across the United States as Women's History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the achievements, struggles, and lasting contributions of women who have shaped the nation and the world. Established to bring greater awareness to women's roles in history, the month serves as both a celebration of progress and the work that still remains.

In 1987, Congress officially designated March as Women's History Month, coordinating it with International Women's

Day on March 8. Throughout history, women have led movements for justice and equality. Trailblazers such as Susan B. Anthony fought tirelessly for women's right to vote, civil right icon Rosa Parks sparked a movement that changed the nation, along with many other strong and successful women over the past century.

Women's History Month and International Women's Day also highlights everyday heroes whose contributions often go unrecognized — teachers, nurses, caregivers, mothers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who strengthen families and neighborhoods. It's their daily acts of leadership and service that forms the backbone of our society.

March is marked by discussions and exhibits that spotlight women's achievements in science, politics, business, sports and the arts. These successes inspire younger female generations, to see themselves as future leaders and change makers. At the same time, Women's History Month encourages reflection on remaining challenges.

Women's History Month stands as a powerful reminder to understand our shared past and shaping a more inclusive future. By honoring their courage, creativity and determination, we celebrate not only our past but also the promise of generations yet to come.

### • U.S.-Iran Conflict

(Continued from Page 2)

As Americans follow the developments of this conflict, it is vital to remember that war is never just about politics or strategy. Behind every mission are individuals who have sworn an oath to serve their country. Honoring their service means recognizing the risks they face and remembering those who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Regardless of where one stands politically on the conflict itself, the sacrifice of American service members deserves the nations deepest respect and gratitude. Their commitment to protecting the United States and its allies is a reminder that freedom and security often come at a profound cost!

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
The Probate and Family Court Department  
Middlesex, SS Division  
Docket No. M26P1031PO

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

To all persons interested in the **SMC Trust**, a petition has been presented by **Louise P. Paolini of Newton, MA** to said Court praying that **Susan S. Paolini of Hudson, MA** and **Michael J. Penta of Watertown, MA** be removed as Trustee(s) and appoint **Some Suitable Person** as successor trustee(s) without sureties on his/her bond.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **10-U Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on **April 1st, 2026**.

Witness, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this **4th day of March 2026**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate Court

Run date: 03/13/2026

## Are the Potential Health Benefits of Owning a Dog Worth It?

Approximately 43% of U.S. households own a dog with a number of researchers suggesting there are many physical and mental benefits to having a four-legged furry friend to pal around with. Thanks to positive effects on heart health and stress levels, owning a dog has the potential to increase the length of your life, but certainly offers no guarantee.

Owning a dog can come with a few stress factors, including training issues, expensive vet bills and devastating loss., however the American Heart Association (AHA) notes a number of upsides, all of which may contribute to a longer life. Dog owners tend to be more active, have lower blood pressure, a resting heart rate and a lower risk of dying from all causes than non-owners, other studies have found.

A number of studies published have linked owning a dog to a 32% lower risk of dying from all causes over the course of a decade and a study



**Sawyer**  
Australian Labradoodle

from Sweden found that canine ownership was associated with a lower risk of early death from a stroke or heart attack.

One theory why a dog could extend your life span is they make you more active. A British study found they're approximately four times more likely to meet the UK and U.S. recommended 150 of moderate to vigorous physical activity each week, compared to non-dog owners. Regular exercise helps with blood sugar and weight management and even brisk walking can reduce the risk of dying from all causes by 31%.

Even just petting a dog can boost your mental health by lowering the stress hormone cortisol and raising the feel-good chemical oxytocin. According to a 2022 AHA survey, 95% of pet owners rely on their pooches for stress relief, and having a dog around can also decrease loneliness for those who are single or elderly seem to benefit the most from a pet.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
ABCD NORTH END NSC'S  
**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 20  
12PM  
ABCD North End NSC  
1 Michelangelo St  
Boston, MA 02113  
Traditional Irish meal will be served  
RSVPs are encouraged  
617.523.8125  
Sponsored by EAGLE BANK

# Ieri e Oggi

## Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

### Ukiyo-e



Ukiyo-e is a traditional Japanese art form that emerged during the Edo period (17th–19th centuries). The term “ukiyo-e,” meaning “pictures of the floating world,” encompasses woodblock prints, paintings, and illustrations that vividly depict the urban culture, entertainment, and daily life of the era.

The true significance of ukiyo-e lies in its reflection of the transient, pleasurable aspects of life in Edo Japan. This genre offers insight into the aesthetics, values, and lifestyle of a society fascinated with present pleasures and cultural experiences.

“Floating world” captures the fleeting nature of life and the enjoyment of ephemeral moments. Ukiyo-e artists frequently illustrated kabuki actors, courtesans, landscapes, historical stories, and scenes from everyday life. These prints were widely accessible due to their affordability, appealing to a broad audience. Renowned masters such as Hokusai and Hiroshige contributed significantly to the art form, producing works celebrated for their beauty, technical skill, and cultural impact.

In 1603, the city of Edo (Tokyo) became the seat of the ruling Tokugawa shogunate. The chōnin class (merchants, craftsmen and workers), positioned at the bottom of the social order, benefited the most from the city’s rapid economic growth. They began to indulge in and patronize the entertainment of kabuki theatre, geisha, and courtesans. The term ukiyo (‘floating world’) came to describe this lifestyle. Printed or painted ukiyo-e works were popular with the chōnin class who had become wealthy enough to afford to decorate their homes with them.

The earliest ukiyo-e works emerged in the 1670s, with Hishikawa Moronobu’s paintings and monochromatic prints of beautiful women. By the 1740s, artists such as Okumura Masanobu used multiple woodblocks to print areas of color. In the 1760s, full-color production becoming standard, with ten or more blocks used to create each print. Artists rarely carved their own woodblocks for printing; rather, production was divided between the artist, who designed the prints; the carver, who cut the woodblocks; the printer, who inked and pressed the woodblocks onto handmade paper; and the publisher, who financed, promoted, and distributed the work.

The 19th century also saw the continuation of masters of the ukiyo-e tradition, with the creation of The Great Wave of Kanagawa, one of the most well-known works of Japanese art, and Hiroshige’s The Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō. Following the deaths of these two masters, and against the technological and social modernization that followed the Meiji Restoration of 1868, ukiyo-e production went into steep decline.

In the 20th century there was a revival in Japanese printmaking: the shin-hanga (‘new prints’) genre capitalized on Western interest in prints of traditional Japanese scenes, and the movement promoted individualist works designed, carved, and printed by a single artist.

Ukiyo-e was central to forming the West’s perception of Japanese art in the late 19th century, and had a strong influence on the early French Impressionists such as Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet and Claude Monet, as well as influencing Post-Impressionists such as Vincent van Gogh, and Art Nouveau artists such as Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

# Saint Apollonius the Apologist

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Apollonius was a senator of Rome in the late second century, and well-educated in philosophy. Through his thorough study of Holy Scripture, he converted to Christianity, during the reign of the Emperor Commodus.

Commodus turned a blind eye on the Christians because his empress, Marcia favored them (though it is unknown whether she herself converted). A servant of Apollonius publicly denounced his master as a Christian. The servant in accordance with another Roman law, was put to death for his accusation, while Apollonius was ordered to renounce Christianity to save his life. He refused, and was brought before the senate. There Apollonius delivered a magnificent defense of Christianity before his fellow senators, earning his title of “Apologist.”

Because of his influence in society, those judging him paid close attention to his defense of Christianity, which is recorded in the Roman Martyrology.

“Are you bent on dying?” asked Perennis, who was a high-ranking Praetorian Magistrate.

“No,” said Apollonius, “I enjoy life; but love of life does not make me afraid to die. There is waiting for me something better: eternal life,



given to the person who has lived well on earth.”

Apollonius pointed out that everyone must die and that it was better to die for the sake of true belief and the true God than to die of some ordinary disease because a martyr becomes the seed of new Christians. He argued that Christianity is superior by its concepts of death and life: death is a natural necessity which has nothing frightening about it, while the true life is the life of the soul.

He explained that paganism is futile because idols are human artifacts without life, autonomy, reason, or virtue. Saint Apollonius then took the opportunity to give the whole court a reasoned apology of his Christian faith. He remained steadfast in his refusal to renounce Christianity and in his belief in eternal life. Despite his eloquent defense, which remains one of the most priceless documents of Christian antiquity, Apollonius was condemned to death, his legs were crushed and then he was beheaded around the year 186AD.

Though the address has not survived, St. Jerome, who read it, extolls both its eloquence and its accuracy.

The feast day of Saint Apollonius is April 18.

## New England Patriots Organization Steps Up When Needed

As the U.S.-Israel conflict intensifies, Americans are escaping the Middle East with the assistance and generosity of the New England Patriots. “Air Kraft,” emblazoned with the Pats logo and six championship trophies, brought Americans safely home last week. “Americans boarded one of the many State Department charter flights leaving the Middle East to the U.S. This plane landed safely this morning in Washington D.C.” stated the assistant Secretary of State for Public Global Affairs.

During the Patriots off season, team planes are operated by a charter company. “We encourage the charter company to use them for missions like this



and other humanitarian and national interest type missions,” the team said. This isn’t the first time the Kraft family has used the planes for humanitarian

missions. During the height of the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Kraft family sent a team plane to China to pick up desperately PPE for health care workers.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stevens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **March 21, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

- 2012 FORD FUSION, GRAY**  
3FAHP0JA7CR241201
- 2011 GMC SIERRA, WHITE**  
3GTP2VE30BG157308
- 2016 JEEP CHEROKEE, BLACK**  
1C4PJMCB6GW123132
- 2007 HONDA CIVIC, RED**  
2HGFA16527H513855
- 2010 FORD FUSION, BLUE**  
3FAHP0JA6AR299944
- 2008 HONDA CIVIC, BLACK**  
2HGFG12698H533793
- 2012 MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS, WHITE**  
WDDHF8JB8CA605212
- 2009 FORD FOCUS, BLUE**  
1FAHP34N09W135937
- 2015 TOYOTA COROLLA, RED**  
5YFBURHE3FP315956
- 2011 HONDA CIVIC, BLUE**  
2HGFA1F30BH505504
- 2003 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, BEIGE**  
1LNHM81W73Y672826
- 2021 YAMAHA DIRT BIKE, BLUE**  
JYACJ26C4MA007391
- 2025 ZHILONG ST, BLACK**  
HZ2TBCNF0S1016008
- 2025 ZHILONG ST, BLACK**  
HZ2TBCNF5S1014741
- 2024 ZHILONG ST, RED**  
HZ2TBCNF8R1009432

Run dates: 03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2026

### YOU'RE INVITED

to a special Fundraiser Event supporting the  
**North End Historical Museum**

March 23, 2026 · 6:00 PM  
Umbria Restaurant  
Hanover Street, North End  
Hosted by Frank DePasquale

#### The North End: A Historical Gateway

For nearly 400 years, Boston’s North End has been a gateway for new arrivals to the city. From the original settlers of 1630 to generations of immigrant families, the neighborhood has shaped Boston’s cultural and historical identity.

The new North End Museum, designed with Trivium Interactive, will bring these stories to life through engaging and immersive exhibits celebrating four centuries of history.

We are raising the final \$80,000 needed to complete the project and open June 30, in time for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Tall Ships, and the World Cup celebrations.

#### Evening Program

- Appetizers and beverages
- Auction bids for special gifts
- Gift certificate drawings
- 50/50 drawings

#### Donations:

NEHS, PO Box 130152  
Boston, MA 02113  
Online: Northendboston.org

#### Donations:

- Benefactor ..... \$25,000
- Patron ..... \$10,000
- Legacy ..... \$5,000
- Donors of \$5,000 and above will be permanently recognized on a bronze plaque in the museum.
- Leadership ..... \$2,000
- Inspiration ..... \$1,000
- Heritage ..... \$500
- Tradition ..... \$200
- Supporter ..... \$100

## DISTRICT ONE BUDGET TOWN HALLS

### NORTH END & WHARF DISTRICT

Thursday, March 19 at 6PM  
Nazzaro Community Center  
30 N Bennet Street

Translation, kids activities, & food will be provided.  
Questions?  
gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov

**GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA**



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

Negative Press Project reaches new heights of ambition with *Cycles I*, their fifth album via Envelopmental Music. Though scattered to the four winds, the San Francisco Bay — founded chamber jazz octet came back together to realize 12 compositions by pianist Ruthie Dineen and bassist Andrew Lion — and joined forces with the world-renowned cutting-edge string ensemble Friction Quartet (violinists Otis Harriel and Kevin Rogers, violist Stephanie Bibbo, and cellist Doug Machiz). The result is a stunning coalescence of post-bop jazz and postmodern classical music, both simultaneously at their most adventurous and most accessible. *Cycles I* is especially complex in terms of the emotional landscape it evokes and explores. The music is both relevant and urgent. For instance, the tension-fraught interplay with which Friction begin Lion's album-opening "Shoten Zenjin (Morning Arrives for Aya)" before Dineen and saxophonists Chris Sullivan, Lyle Link, and Tony Peebles provide sweet but hard-earned release. Beginning with Schwartz's drum passage, Dineen's "Aelorean" drives the program forward with precise momentum. Conceived on October 21, 2015, the very date the DeLorean jumps to in the hit film *Back to the Future*, its title is a play on the tune's Aeolian-mode foundation. It continues in the prodigious pulse of Lion's "Waltz in Progress," with the bassist's ever-so-slight lag behind drummer Schwartz's ride cymbal beat reminding us of the cautious hesitation that's become a feature of our everyday lives; in the troubled yet hopeful dissonances that horns (saxes plus trumpeter Rafa Postel) and strings share in Lion's "Libre"; and in the undaunted fatigue guitarist Luis Salcedo channels into his gorgeous solo on Dineen's "Miles to Go." *Cycles I* finds its apex in the pianist's "Hold and Keep This Flower," which includes a haunting prelude for Friction Quartet before opening onto a delicate soprano saxophone recitation from Link.

**DAGGERBOARD -  
THE SKIPPER AND  
MICK CLARK (CD)  
Wide Hive Records**

Daggerboard — the collaborative effort of trumpeter/composer Erik Jekabson and multi-instrumentalist/composer Gregory Howe — retracts its spotlight on the rhythm section with *The Skipper and Mike Clark*, on Howe's own Wide Hive Records. The titular characters are bassist Henry "Skipper" Franklin and drummer Mike Clark: two of the living legends of jazz. Their solid, powerful groove has never been quite so front-and-center on Daggerboard's recordings as it is on *The Skipper and Mike Clark*. Its eight Howe-Jekabson compositions are shaped around the rhythmic possibilities that the two bring

to the fold. From the seamy, crawling opener "Desierto de Tabernas," to the funky struts of "Runnin' Into One" and "A Pride in the Prairie" to the mellow melancholia of "Tranquil Blue," it's the eponymous pair that provide definition and direction. Franklin's two gentle contributions, "Tanzanian Skies" and "Ruaha Daybreak," that seem to be the album's most melodically inclined. There's some sleight of hand at play there, with "Tanzanian Skies" offering one of the bassist's meatiest and most rhythmically complex solos and both tunes giving Clark's virtuosic kit chops a serious workout. "Changing Emphasis" is deliciously orchestral, featuring as its centerpiece a tough but thoughtful tenor solo from Ellis. The saxophonist takes another top-flight turn, this time on soprano, on "Brother Ranelin." Clark and MacNab do gorgeous work on "Tranquil Blue." Jekabson's flugelhorn, meanwhile, shines on "Street Sheik," a moody and lyrical ballad.

**BRIAN LANDRUS -  
JUST WHEN YOU THINK  
YOU KNOW (CD)**

**BlueLand/Palmetto Records**  
In recent years Brian Landrus has learned firsthand just how unpredictable life can be. Through the passing of loved ones, the end of relationships, the betrayal of close friendships — not to mention the social and political upheavals we've all come to know far too well — the saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist and composer has become intimately acquainted with expecting the unexpected. Landrus' thrillingly eclectic new album, *Just When You Think You Know*, vividly captures that sensation of uncertainty and surprise — in the spontaneity and interactions of his stellar quintet and the startling stylistic variation from one track to the next. This album brings together a remarkably versatile quintet adept at navigating the curves and twists that the composer lays in their path. Landrus' rhythm section has bassist Lonnie Plaxico and drummer Rudy Royston. Landrus reaches back in his life and career for a few thematically resonant pieces, "Untold Story," "Beyond" and "Under Dark" all originated in 2002, and "All In Time," which opens the album. "Continuance" shifts to an alluring bossa nova feel, pairing Landrus' soulful flute with Stryker's lyrical acoustic playing, plus the sultry R&B groove of "Untold Story," and once more on the simmering hard-bop swing of "One Year." The spiritual intensity of "From the Night" gives way to the radiant title track; the smoldering, Rhodes-tinted groove of "Something Special" contrasts the lush funk of "Paroxysm." "Dear Fred," and "El Perro Sigma" is an ode to the composer's much-missed Chihuahua, Herman. The title track was written in response to the uncharacteristic actions of a close friend, while "All in Time" and "One Year" charts the dissolution of a romantic relationship.

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

by Sal Giarratani

**IRISH SOCIAL CLUB  
UPCOMING SHOWS**

On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, DJ Sean McCarthy will be on stage at 2:00 p.m., and Black Velvet Band will be performing on stage from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Again on March 22, Black Velvet Band. On March 29 Erin's Melody with Margeret Dalton. Weekly dances usually held on Sunday evenings from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The Irish Social Club is located at 119 Park Street, West Roxbury. For more information, call 617-327-7306.

**FINAL REMINDER OF  
THIS YEAR'S MUCHO  
SNOWY WINTER**



**A final reminder of what Boston residents were put through by Mayor Wu's Wokish snow clearance strategy.**

This past Saturday, I snapped this photo at the corner of Lubec and Porter Street in East Boston. This massive mass of snow was present at this corner going back to that first brutal storm that ended on Monday, January 26. However, the rising temps this past weekend going into this week melted down all those snow mountains within a mere 36 hours. Thank God for warmer weather and the sun shining over us.

**U.S. REP. DAN CRENSHAW  
DEFEATED BY STEVE TOTH**

Down in Texas, U.S. Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-2nd CD in the Houston area, a former Navy SEAL who was first elected in

2018 as a strong conservative was defeated in last Tuesday's GOP primary by Steve Toth, one of the most conservative members of the Texas House. In this race, Toth was endorsed by both U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Turning Point Action and President Trump endorsed every House Republican in Texas running for re-election EXCEPT for Crenshaw. Apparently, Crenshaw went down getting on Trump's bad side.

Over in the Dallas area, the two Democrats running were incumbent U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett and James Talarico who was being called a moderate and supported by many in the Texas Democratic Party who wanted to move the party toward the political center. Will Toth keep pushing his party to the right? Which strategy will work depends on the results in the November midterms. I used to like Crenshaw until I didn't anymore.

**THE ORIGINAL**

**NORTH SOUTH RAIL LINK**

I remember those freight cars that used to slowly traverse Causeway, Commercial and Atlantic Avenue down at Boston's waterfront. The name of the railroad company was Union Freight Railroad which connected North Station with South Station carrying freight between both train stations. It ran on the streets overnight. I remember hearing the train and bells warning folks of the train's approach. One time my dad took me down to the end of Salutation Street to see the train for myself. I swear it was only going about two miles an hour and a railroad worker walked along with the train waving one of those old-fashioned lanterns lit up bright red. We moved off Salutation

Street in 1955 when my family moved to Roxbury where I grew up. Recently I found out that was called the shortest railroad line in America. It started in 1872 and went out of business in 1969/70.

By the way, North Station was the Boston & Maine Railroad and South Station was the New Haven and the New York Central railroads. Those slow-moving trains crawling through the North End at night were pushing freight from north to south or south to north.

From the '70s forward there have been moves to recreate a North South Link via a tunnel underground. Gov. Dukakis was a big exponent of this link being constructed. However, I think the total cost of such a link must have been too high to be viable.

If it had been done, it would have been about 25 years ago or so when the Central Artery was depressed and the O'Neill Tunnel built.

Here's asking. Does anyone out there have any photos of those old slow-moving trains on their way between North and South stations? If you do, could you email me an old photo showing them chugging along those street tracks?

Send to [sal.giarratani@gmail.com](mailto:sal.giarratani@gmail.com). I will run it right here for all to see. A good look into the way things used to be.

**BIG FUNDRAISER  
COMING UP ON MARCH 23**

Tom Damigella, president of the North End Historical Society informed me of a big fundraiser for the North End Historical Museum on March 23, hosted by Frank DePasquale and held at Umbria Restaurant. For more information, contact Tom at [northendhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:northendhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

Justice Coalition, the "minimum possible" amount back in 2020 following the uproar from the George Floyd killing.

Not long after he donated, the Austin City Council moved to cut \$150 million — one-third of funding-from the police budget. Homicides then began to surge dramatically by nearly 50 percent.

**Sad to See  
Politico's Massachusetts  
Playbook Fold**

The last edition of Politico's *Massachusetts Playbook* folded up for good a few weeks ago. I enjoyed reading it on my laptop every weekday morning to find out all the latest news in one spot. There was no stated reason behind the newsletter ending. Playbook author/reporter Kelly Garrity broke the news. She will be joining the *Boston Globe*.

**2026 Best State Capitals  
to Live in  
According to WalletHub**

The personal finance company WalletHub has released its report on 2026 Best State Capitals to live in. Number 1 Austin, TX; No. 2 Raleigh, NC; No. 3 Atlanta, GA; and No. 12 Nashville, TN. Closer to home: No. 14 Concord, NH; No. 16, Montpelier, VT; No. 17 Providence, RI; and No. 23 Boston, MA.

**End Quote**

"We say to them, if you want our help, help is here, and we will provide that."

— Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announcing

sanctuary for Iranian players who risked their lives by refusing to sing their national anthem at the World Cup match last week

**EAST BOSTON  
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**SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR  
MARCH/APRIL 2026**

Saturday, March 14th  
Saturday March 28th  
Saturday April 11th  
Saturday April 25th

zines!  
lasercut puzzles  
ñ press reunion  
collagraph printmaking

# Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Ash Wednesday took place on February 18 and ends on April 2. In the Christian religions, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the forty days before Easter. In the Catholic traditions, a celebration is held during the week that precedes Ash Wednesday. The French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian cultures go overboard making merry before the solemn days that follow. The French call the festivities Mardi Gras, the Spanish and Portuguese Carnival, and the Italians Carnevale. The celebrations are party time for the folks who participate, and in the past, I have been one of them, experiencing the festivities in cities like New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, Caracas, San Juan and as a musician, Boston.

The famous New York restaurant, Mamma Leone's opened in Boston back in December 1972, on the first floor of a parking garage located above the Mass Pike, just off Copley Square. After the Leone family sold the original restaurant located in New York's theater district, the corporation that bought it and decided to expand and Boston was one of the locations. Just before lent in the early spring of 1973, the management decided to offer Carnevale entertainment at the Boston restaurant and called Uncle Nick, who at that point in time, was the vice president of the musicians' union in Boston. They wanted four small bands to stroll among the tables of diners during the 2 weeks that preceded Lent. My uncle put the whole thing together due to a business meeting with the executives of the Boston operation. He then called for a meeting at his office with the 20 musicians who would be part of the 4 bands and everything was laid out in detail.

Uncle Nick, himself, would lead the first band of 5, all of whom would be dressed like chefs: checkered pants, white shirts, white aprons, and tall white chef's hats. The other three bands would be dressed with black pants, white shirts, red white and green sashes around our waists and caps with Italian flags on the front. I was to lead a novelty band. It included an accordionist, a musician playing washboard, Dad playing washtub bass and yours truly playing kazoo and a toy friscoletto, a plastic flute with a push pull handle that gave the instrument its tones. Another band would be led by a guitar player and a fourth by a violinist. Each of the bands would feature Italian music ranging from excerpts from opera (only Italian, of course) to Neapolitan street songs. We were to stroll in consecutive order at given intervals and serenade the diners while they ate. We began about 2 weeks before Ash Wednesday and things worked out rather well. There were a couple of changes made to instrumentation and personnel, but nothing major.

As part of the contract, we were to be fed, seeing that

most of the playing surrounded the late afternoon-early evening hours. Uncle Nick made arrangements with the management that a lower-level room be set up as a dressing room with tables in place for a buffet style dinner. When we were on our breaks, we could choose what we wanted for dinner and help ourselves. Each afternoon, the buffet table was set up for us with everything from antipasti, pasta courses, meat and fish courses, vegetables, salads and an assortment of Italian pastries. An urn of coffee and an assortment of sodas accompanied the food. Uncle Nick was happy with this type of treatment partly because this wasn't often the case and partly because we were being paid a very handsome sum, way over union scale.

There was one problem, though. The food was awful. Although it was Italian in appearance the taste left a lot to be desired. After the second day of employment, we all complained to Uncle Nick. He hadn't tried anything except the coffee. On the third night, after listening to everyone in the bands complain, he sampled the dinner offerings. My band was on a break at the same time that he sampled the food and I could tell by the look on his face that he was in agreement with us ... bad tasting food.

That evening, after the restaurant closed to the public, Uncle Nick had a meeting with the management. They wanted more entertainment and he agreed to provide it. He also mentioned the food, which they assured him was the same as they were serving to the public. When I drove my uncle home, he told me about his meeting and their reaction to his comment about the food. He didn't want to push the issue in fear that he would insult them. After listening to my uncle detail their responses, I came up with a possible solution. He liked my idea and decided to present it to the head chef. The next day, when we arrived at the restaurant, he told the head chef that the food was too heavy for the musicians and they couldn't perform as well as they should. He asked if they could eliminate the pasta, meat and fish dishes and substitute cold cuts and sliced bread instead. He explained it that way, adding that the bands could make sandwiches and partake of the salads which might be better on their stomachs when they performed. Phrased that way, the kitchen staff was more than happy to accommodate us especially after Uncle Nick slipped the head chef a \$20.00 tip.

That night, some friends arrived at the restaurant to partake of the food and Carnevale entertainment. Most of them complained to me before they left. They loved the entertainment and hated the food. Considering they were mostly Italian; I thought about how everyone loves their own gravy better than anyone else's and let it go at that without saying

anything. The next night, some friends — fellow teachers — came in for dinner. They were African American and loved the entertainment but complained about the food. This time I spoke to Uncle Nick about it on the way home.

Uncle Nick had another business meeting with the management at the end of the week. They told him that their patrons loved the music and Mardi Gras festivities. He thanked them assuring them that it would continue for the forth coming last week of the Carnevale season. They then asked him why he had requested a change of menu for the musicians. As diplomatically as he could, he tried to tell them about the complaints surrounding their food. The head man gave my uncle every excuse he could about how large the portions were and how well the waiters served each course. He decided not to push the issue as the man didn't seem like the type who could handle constructive criticism very well. On the way home that night we talked about the complaints my friends had and he added in that several of his friends who had eaten at the restaurant had the same complaints. The verdict was in ... the food was not good. Well, we finished performing on the Tuesday night before Ash Wednesday and the job came to an end. After that week, they had Uncle Nick book a small group to stroll during the weekend dinner hours, but that was short lived. Mamma Leone's went out of business. I guess the New York corporate executives couldn't run a good Italian restaurant. Thank God for places like La Summa, Lucca's, Filippo's and the rest of the restaurants in the North End.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

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by  
**Marianna  
Bisignano**

In Italy, *La Festa di San Giuseppe* (The Feast of St. Joseph) is celebrated each year on March 19th and also serves as Father's Day throughout the country. While the celebration takes place across Italy, it is especially beloved in Sicily, where a centuries-old legend tells how St. Joseph answered prayers during a devastating drought. When the long-awaited rain finally came and the famine was avoided, the Sicilian people promised to honor him with a feast in gratitude.

From this promise grew the beautiful tradition of the St. Joseph's Table, an altar filled with symbolic foods, ornate bread sculptures, and a statue of St. Joseph placed at the head. Families and friends gather to share the food and celebrate together, a custom many Sicilian immigrants proudly brought with them to the United States.

As with so many Italian celebrations, the foods of the day are deeply rooted in tradition, *fava beans, pane mafalda, pasta con sarde*, and an array of sweet pastries prepared especially for the feast. Among the most beloved is *Zeppole di San Giuseppe*, a delicate pastry resembling a cream puff, traditionally filled with rich crema pasticcera, topped with an amarena cherry, and lightly dusted with confectioners' sugar. For my version, I've chosen to prepare the smaller Bigné-style pastries, often referred to as Italian Cream Puffs. *Buona Festa di San Giuseppe!*

## ITALIAN CREAM PUFFS (BIGNÈ)



1 cup water  
7½ tablespoons unsalted butter  
¾ teaspoon salt  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
4 large eggs

Preheat the oven to 375° and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium saucepan, combine the water, butter, and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat until the butter is fully melted. Add the flour all at once, stirring quickly with a wooden spoon until the mixture forms a smooth dough and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Cook for about 1–2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and let the dough cool slightly for 3–5 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition until the dough becomes smooth, glossy, and pipeable. Spoon or pipe small mounds of dough onto the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 2 inches apart.

Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until puffed and golden brown. Do not open the oven during baking.

Remove from the oven and let cool completely before filling with pastry cream, whipped cream, or ricotta cream. Dust with powdered sugar before serving.

### Crema Pasticciera (Italian Pastry Cream)

2 cups whole milk  
⅔ cup sugar  
6 egg yolks  
¼ teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
⅓ cup all-purpose flour  
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

In a medium saucepan, whisk together the milk, sugar, egg yolks, salt, vanilla and flour until smooth. Place the saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring constantly with a whisk or wooden spoon. Continue cooking and stirring until the mixture thickens into a smooth custard. Remove from heat and transfer the cream to a bowl. Place plastic wrap directly on the surface of the cream to prevent a skin from forming. Let cool, then refrigerate until chilled before using to fill cream puffs (bigné).

Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at [bisignanomarianna@gmail.com](mailto:bisignanomarianna@gmail.com)

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# THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso



## Loch Tummel, Braemar and Balmoral

In 2017, while visiting Joshua Tree, a ranger lamented to me the difficulty the park had attracting the casual nature lover as the desert lacks the icons that have become emblematic of national parks such as snow-capped mountains. But the beauty of ecotourism is that no two places are alike. Nature's landscapes are as varied as our world is big and the rewards of nature are in its very biodiversity.



**Queen's View with Loch Tummel over Glencoe Mountains**

This also means that there is no place quiet like the forests of New England in autumn. But if a place comes close, it's Scotland's Loch Tummel, a stunning woodland with views ... well, fit for a Queen. Visitors can make up their own minds if the Queen memorialized in the breathtaking 'Queen's View' is Queen Isabel who fled to the forest after her husband, Robert the Bruce, was defeated at the Battle of Methven in 1306 or Queen Victoria who visited the park in 1866. In either case, the sight, the loch swirling through the Glencoe Mountains, embodies the mystic beauty of the Scottish countryside.

After a walk through the Tay Forest Park, I drove on the fabled Road to the Isles, a stretch of road that takes you along some of Scotland's most picturesque hills, where sheep and a few highland cows are often your only companions for miles. I did spot a number of the elegant Scottish red deer and the pheasants that escaped the farms, but the general solitude of the land felt more inviting of reflection than foreboding to the spirit.



**Sheep and highland cows**

By afternoon I had arrived at Aberdeenshire's Braemar Castle, a tall white five-story structure dating back to 1628. Over the next three centuries many additions were made to the Earl of Mar's original vision. Nevertheless, Braemar Castle endured a period of neglect beginning in the late 18th century which lasted until the early 1800s after it had largely run its course as a military garrison. However, after the property was returned to the Farquharson royal family in 1831, heavy restoration began, which was expedited in preparation for a visit by the young Queen



**Braemar Castle**

Victoria and lasted until the early 20th century.

Fittingly, I stopped at the Farquharson's Bar & Kitchen for a dinner of stew and potatoes before I arrived at the last destination of the day, Balmoral Castle, a residence of the Crown since Prince Albert bought the estate from the Farquharson family in 1852. The interior of the estate is open to the public from April to July. Being October, I was prepared to see the exterior only before ending my day. When I arrived on sight, however, a gate opening to the wooded path leading to the castle was closed off. Soon, though visitors began emerging from beyond the path and opening the gate freely. Still, I waited

to better assess the situation before entering. My decision was helped by the arrival of a young couple from New York who announced their Empire State entitlement louder than a bull horn. They sent their local driver away telling him they would call him when they were ready and made their way through the gate once the exiting visitors left. As there were others who were waiting to enter I saw no reason not to follow suit and made my way down the path to Balmoral Castle.

As a modern structure by castle standards (indeed, the title of castle seems hardly justified to the purpose of what has essentially been a summer home for every crowned



**Farquharson's Bar & Kitchen**



**Farquharson's Bar & Kitchen and their stew and potatoes**

head since Queen Victoria), the history of Balmoral has a louder pulse than many of the ancient structures I had visited. This was the place, after all, where Queen Elizabeth II had spent her final days just over three years earlier. History, then, continues to be made at Balmoral and the place continues to evolve both structurally and spiritually. In 2024, private rooms were opened to the public for the first time in the estate's history.

For this visit, however, I had to satisfy myself with seeing the exterior and leaving an ambition for a future visit.



**Balmoral Castle**

## North End Athletic Association Spring Soccer

We're excited to announce registration is now open for the inaugural **North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Spring Soccer program!** This program for **boys and girls ages 7-11** will take place **Saturdays at Puopolo Field**. We hope to see your family on the field with us for an exciting Spring season! **This program will not conflict with NEAA Baseball or Lacrosse!**

- **Location:** Puopolo Field
- **Schedule:** Every Saturday, 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM (April 4 through May 16)
  - **No session:** April 25 (Baseball Opening Day)
- **Cost:** \$35 per player
  - The NEAA will never refuse a child to participate due to inability to pay. If you need assistance, please call John Romano, NEAA Sports Coordinator, at 617-750-9749.
- **Session Format (75 minutes total):** Practice and game folded into one session
  - 30 minutes practice
  - Water break
  - Teams play against each other based on a set schedule (similar to the Fall program)
- **Age Requirements: Ages 7-11 with an April 1 cutoff. We will have ONE age group, so players of all eligible ages will play on the same team.**
  - Your child must be 7 by April 1 or still be 11 on April 1.
- **Registration Priority:** We welcome players from all neighborhoods. However, as space is limited, priority will be given to families who have previously participated in an NEAA program.

**REGISTER HERE:** <https://www.neasports.org/springsoccer> — **DEADLINE IS MARCH 21st, 2026.**

Spots typically fill quickly, so we encourage early registration. We will also be needing coaches!

**NOTE:** All coaches must be CORI checked by the NEAA in order to participate. Please register your interest on the registration form and/or contact Sean ([seandrummy1@gmail.com](mailto:seandrummy1@gmail.com)) and Jose ([jtruz1@gmail.com](mailto:jtruz1@gmail.com)).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sean and Jose (emails above).

We look forward to a great spring season!

Best regards,  
Sean, Jose, and JR - NEAA Sports Coordinator

### • ICE Detainers (Continued from Page 2)

Mayor Wu's office pushed back at Acting Director Lyon's narrative, stating through a spokesperson, "The Boston Police Department tracks and reports every civil detainer request received from ICE as required by law. BPD has repeatedly requested ICE use a dedicated line for these purposes. We have also asked repeatedly over several years for the list of names that ICE is claiming, but have never been able to get those facts." Also adding, "Under state law, decisions on the release of arrested individuals are handled by the court system, not the police."

Mayor Wu and federal authorities have had a steady he said, she said policy and finger pointing regarding President Trump's immigration policy vs. the City of Boston's sanctuary city status and its protection of illegal immigrants. The City of Boston Trust Act prohibits a law enforcement official from

detaining an individual solely on the basis of a civil immigration detainer request after the individual is eligible for release from custody.

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn's formal request last week requiring the mayor to provide the council with specifics on ICE detainer requests ignored by BPD since January 2024, was blocked by the full council in a 9-4 vote. "It's obvious there is a major discrepancy between the data provided by the City of Boston and federal law enforcement. We need to receive the relevant data and know the truth. I'm once again calling on the City of Boston to release this information," stated Flynn.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

**Todisco Services, Inc.**, with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 23, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2014 FORD ESCAPE**  
Vin #1FMCU0GX4EUE01700
  - 2014 JEEP COMPASS**  
Vin #1C4NJDEB9ED699178
  - 2021 DAIX PMZ50-19**  
Vin #L37MMGFV7MZ030123
  - 2000 KAWASAKI NINJA 250R**  
Vin #JKAEXMF19YA072128
  - 2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE**  
Vin #1G1PC5SH8C7337381
  - 2024 ZHILONG ST**  
Vin #HZ2TBCNF2R1009930
  - 1998 MERCEDES BENZ SLK-CLASS**  
Vin #WDBKK47F7WF037376
  - 2008 HONDA RIDGELINE**  
Vin #2HJYK16588H538373
- Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information [info@todiscotowing.com](mailto:info@todiscotowing.com)
- Run dates: 02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2026

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Waltham District Court**

A civil action was filed in the Waltham District Court on October 6, 2025, Docket 25-000507, Ramsay's Towing Inc. v. Robert Silverman, Jason Edmonds et al. The Defendants being in parts unknown, formerly of Waltham, MA. Said complaint seeks possession of the following vehicles in satisfaction of a garage keeper's lien:

- 2018 CRY.300**  
**2C3CCARG7JH234292**  
(Silverman)
- 2015 BMW 435**  
**WBA4B3C50FD669775**  
(Edmonds)

Judgment by default may enter if the Defendants fail to respond within 20 days.

Run date: 03/13/2026

• **Boxing Ringside** (Continued from Page 12)

of one of his hips. He would have his body in a boxer's stance. He would then show me the techniques for throwing a left hook to the body. As he stood there, I would pivot to my right and then let the hook go into the ball. Don't confuse this with what is done with punch pads which are glorified pitter patter routines. This method would focus on one punch and emphasized getting power from the hips while also being in the correct position both in offense and defense.

There are many routines for building strength and agility that were implemented back then. Lifting the ball above the head and then lowering it down towards the back. Lying on the back or stomach and then lifting it with the feet. Rolling on it in order to relieve tension in muscles. There are many more uses for it that don't require beating up the body.

The medicine ball made a bit of a comeback a number of years ago, and is still somewhat popular in gyms, though not boxing gyms. The routines can be adapted for any age or fitness level.

A number of years ago I got to know former Massachusetts Boxing Commissioner Joe Wright. He became known as Medicine Ball Joe because of

an exercise program he developed built around the medicine ball. Joe became the leading authority on teaching proper technique while using it, and became an evangelist for its use. He emphasized building the trunk and the branches, core and limbs respectively. Wright stressed smooth, rhythmic movements over slamming the ball into the body, and had a routine of 20 basic exercises to build on. This would not only result in an excellent routine for boxers, but also the average person. Much better than using weights on isolated muscles.

Joe Wright and the old school trainers along with the Ancients were in agreement with how to best train with a medicine ball. Building strength without building bulk is ideal for boxers. It is also a great way to stay fit while not injuring the body.

So why did Sonny Liston and his trainers make such a big deal out of showing off his ability to with stand being pounded by the medicine ball? I believe it was done to enhance his aura as the indestructible force and to further instill fear into his opponents. I doubt he went through that routine as often as most of us believe. It was more of a stunt than a serious training regimen.



**EXTRA Innings**

by Sal Giarratani



**BOSTON**

**The Way it Used to Be**

There's a new book coming out soon on the way things were back when I was growing up. I grew up loving both baseball and softball. I lived my youth mostly in the South End and Lower Roxbury neighborhoods and we were bonded by our shared experiences together and not by our race, color, ethnicity or religion.

Growing up in Roxbury in the Orchard Park projects, the closest park to play either baseball or softball was the Prairie not far from Mass Avenue

When I was in the batter's box, if I looked down toward right field, I could see the Old Mr. Boston warehouse with the giant whiskey bottle up on the roof. Sometimes at bat I wanted to pretend I could swing the bat and send the baseball flying into that bottle high atop the building. I was a lefty you know.

It always seemed looking back now that only my white friends were taking the bus or streetcar over to the games. My friends who were Black never seemed that interested in seeing the Red Sox. I never thought much of that back then. It never occurred to me that only my white friends, my brother and I would spend so many summer afternoons sitting on those hard wooden benches in the bleachers. I never asked any of my

Black friends why they never went with us to see a baseball game. Race never entered inside my head. At home, we were just kids playing on the baseball field. That's all. However, outside the hood, things were apparently different.

Looking back now, I do remember when I was sitting inside Fenway Park that the crowd in attendance was mostly a sea of white. I never wondered why because I was just a kid and the topic of race relations was a topic none of us ever had.

However, there were times, I wondered why I was almost 11 years old before the Red Sox put the first Black player on the team. That player was Pumpsie Green and he played second base. The year was 1959, the Red Sox were the last MLB team without a Black player. He wasn't the best player but I guess looking back he was the only player Tom Yawkey, the team's owner, could find at the time. Many have accused Yawkey of being a racist who reportedly also turned down Willie Mays as a possible player for the team who went on to become a member of the Giants both in NY and San Francisco. Was Yawkey a racist? We shall never know. After signing Green at the start of the 1959 season, the Sox added the second Black player, Earl Wilson, who turned out to be a really good pitcher for us.

I bring up all these old memories because there's a new baseball book coming out soon. It is called *SEGREGATION GAMES: Boston, Busing, and The Making of Red Sox Nation*, which will be on sale on May 1. The book's author is David Faflik. The book praises former Red Sox outfielder Tommy Harper and his role in moving the Red Sox from its "shadowy past" to a franchise that has "shown growth" in addressing race.

I plan on getting this book to read because the story within its pages is a story of my life growing up in the late '50s, '60s and '70s. No one can really understand how far Boston has come without having experienced the old days. I am sure this book was written with the hope that we learn from our past to build a better future.

This really isn't a book about baseball; it is a story about how societies grow stronger together as a metaphoric team. Life really is a game and we all need to be a part of the team struggling forward together.

I always respected both Pumpsie Green and Earl Wilson for their courage in coming to a team with such a bad reputation when it came to race. They just wanted to play baseball and to be respected for who they were. This book looks like a must-read.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

**Todisco Services, Inc.**, with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **April 06, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2019 NISSAN KICKS**  
Vin #3N1CP5CU9KL509355
- 2015 HYUNDAI SONATA**  
Vin #5NPE34AF9FH146836
- 2008 TOYOTA RAV4**  
Vin #JTMBD33V586060483
- 2006 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA**  
Vin #3VWVRG71K56M679410

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information [info@todiscotowing.com](mailto:info@todiscotowing.com)

Run dates: 03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2026

• **Hoops and Hockey in the Hub**

(Continued from Page 12)

He joined the staff of the Boston Celtics at the start of the 2023-2024 season.

Tony Dobbins was born in Washington, D.C. and played his college ball at Virginia Tech and later at the University of Richmond. He also played in Europe for several seasons before joining the video staff of the Boston Celtics. After two years in that position he was promoted to the coaching staff of the C's in 2020.

There you have them — the men on the bench. A crucial team that has meant a lot to the Celtics this season.

**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. MI25P6569EA  
Estate of  
**GEORGE WILLIAM RYAN, JR.**  
Also known as:  
**GEORGE RYAN**  
Date of Death: May 11, 2025  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Deborah A. McLaughlin of Westford, 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: **Deborah A. McLaughlin of Westford, 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 04/02/2026.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 05, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 03/13/2026

**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. MI26P0947EA  
Estate of  
**JAMES A. BANKS, SR.**  
Date of Death: November 18, 2025  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Alison J. Graham of Hyde Park, 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: **Alison J. Graham of Hyde Park, 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 04/01/2026.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 04, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 03/13/2026

**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. MI26P1050EA  
Estate of  
**JOHN J. DEVINE**  
Date of Death: January 13, 2026  
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 **John D. Loud of Atlanta, GA** and **Paul J. Devine of Corte Madera, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John D. Loud of Atlanta, GA** and **Paul J. Devine of Corte Madera, CA** 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 04/03/2026.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 06, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 03/13/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

**Todisco Services, Inc.**, with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 30, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2023 BAODIAO 8 LINES**  
Vin #L2BB8BCH6PB607060
- 2010 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE**  
Vin #1GNLVFED0AJ269034
- 2008 MAZDA MAZDA3**  
Vin #JM1BK32G781830723
- 2003 HONDA ACCORD**  
Vin #1HGCM56303A051188
- 2014 NISSAN MURANO**  
Vin #JN8AZ1MW5EW526907
- 2013 NISSAN ROGUE**  
Vin #JN8AS5MV5DW629875
- 2008 HYUNDAI SONATA**  
Vin #5NPET46F38H368462
- 2007 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
Vin #4T1BE46K47U051512
- 2014 MAZDA CX-9**  
Vin #JM3TB3DV3E0436810
- 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA**  
Vin #5NPDH4AEXDH204650
- 2017 HONDA CIVIC**  
Vin #19XFC2F7XHE232559
- 2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA**  
Vin #5NPDH4AE4CH100198

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information [info@todiscotowing.com](mailto:info@todiscotowing.com)

Run dates: 03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Suffolk Division  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
Docket No. SU26P0122EA  
Estate of  
**JOHN ANDREW CHILDS**  
Date of Death: December 27, 2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Adrienne Johnson Otto of Darien, GA**.

**Adrienne Johnson Otto of Darien, GA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Run date: 03/13/2026

# Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

## The Medicine Ball:

### Did Sonny Have the Right Prescription?

I believe when most people think about how the medicine ball was used in training for boxing, they envision footage of Sonny Liston's trainer caroming one off his midsection. Liston would tighten his abdominals and the pounding with his usual stoicism. It was said at the time that this was done to toughen up his midsection so he would be better able to withstand body shots during a fight.

That was an interesting theory. When I first heard this I asked my boxing trainer about it. He shook his head and replied to me sarcastically, "If hitting the guy in the stomach will make him tougher, why don't they hit him on the jaw with a hammer, that will make him unbeatable." His comment certainly made sense to me. Perhaps when training, fighters should have just taken turns beating each other up. The more punishment absorbed the more durable the boxer becomes.



**Sonny Liston absorbing punishment.**

The medicine ball was used in gyms long before Sonny Liston came on the scene. The ball along with Indian Clubs were ubiquitous in gyms for decades. Were trainers pounding their fighters with the stuffed spheroid during those years? Mostly not.



**James J. Jeffries building up strength.**

Medicine balls were typically made of leather and stuffed with sand, rags, or even horse hair. The ball can be traced back to Ancient Greece. The early versions were made using animal bladders with sand inside. Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, recommended using it to recover health and build strength; thus the name "medicine ball."



**The Bikini Girls in Ancient Italy keeping fit.**

Women in the early times also used the ball to maintain health and a trim figure. A mural from the 4th Century AD that was discovered in the Villa Romana del Casale, a Roman site discovered on Sicily, depicts ten women exercising using the medicine ball. The work was found in the "Room of the Gymnasts" also known as the Chamber of the Ten Maidens. Some refer to the women depicted as the Bikini Girls because of the two-piece outfits they are wearing. Judging from the mural, it is safe to assume the medicine ball was used in some sort of a competition at the time.



**Jack Johnson with a one-handed toss.**

There was no mention I could find of using the medicine ball to pound the body. Rather, it was used to build strength and agility by tossing it and going through various motions while holding it. The goal was to achieve a body with long, limber muscles that would be best described as ideal for many different athletic events. Imagine something like a decathlon.

Fast forwarding a couple of thousand years and we started



**Joe Frazier practicing the Left Hook to the body on the Medicine Ball being held by Trainer Yank Durham.**

to believe it was a tool for building imperviousness to punishment by using it to beat up the body. That doesn't sound like a prescription for a healthy body.

The truth is, for most of the years it was used in boxing



**Gene Tunney**

gyms it resembled more closely the ways the Ancient athletes used it. I remember my early days in the gym when my boxing instructor, a man who fought the likes of Marty Servo in the 1940s, had a group of us aspiring world champions use the medicine ball. He would have us stand in a circle in the ring and then toss the ball randomly at one another. We would



**Robert Cleroux perfecting his Hook on the Ball being held by Whitey Bimstein.**

catch it, not let it bounce off of our stomachs, and then quickly toss it at someone else. What we got from this was learning to stay alert while building strength from the tossing and catching, as well as learning to move our bodies to absorb some of the force that would push us back when receiving the throw. This was an important early lesson in developing the ability to roll with the punches. It was also a lot of fun.

Another trainer would hold the medicine ball near the front



**Harry Greb limbering up.**

(Continued on Page 11)

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



THE SILENT SENTINELS OF CELTICS SUCCESS — They are on the bench at every game. They are with the Celtics at every practice. Yet they are known by hardly any of the fans.

They speak to the players during timeouts and in the locker room but hardly ever to the media. Over the decades their numbers have increased.

When Red Auerbach was the head coach the iconic bench boss officially did not employ any assistants — although Bill Russell may have unofficially assumed that role at times.

Now, the C's have an impressive staff of eight. We know that because when the NBA Coaches Association named Head Coach Joe Mazzulla the Eastern Conference Coach of the Month for December, 2025 the organization offered congratulations to not only Mazzulla but to "the entire Celtics (coaching staff) on this award."

The photos of the individual assistants were included along with that of Mazzulla.

We thought we might take a moment to mention each of these eight men who, along with Mazzulla as their leader, have guided the C's to their lofty position in the Eastern Conference as the NBA enters the final month of the regular season.

One name that many fans will recognize is Sam Casell. He was a very valuable bench player for the Celtics back when they defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in 2008 to claim Banner 17.

Let's say he sure went out a winner. The final playoff game against the Lakers that sealed the championship turned out to be the last game he would ever play in his NBA career — a very active one that saw him play for eight different teams across a span of 15 seasons..

During his coaching career his ties to the Celtics remained strong. After a stint with the Washington Wizards he became an assistant under former Celtics Coach Doc Rivers when Doc was the head coach of the Los Angeles Clippers and later the Philadelphia 76ers. He came back to the Celtics as an assistant starting with the 2023-2024 season.

Matt Reynolds is from the Boston area. A native of Lexington, he went to Syracuse University. He served as director of basketball operations for the University of North Carolina-Asheville and as a graduate assistant at Eastern Michigan University. Reynolds joined the Celtics as a member of the video staff in 2015 and began serving as an assistant coach in 2022. He plays a significant role during games, deciding whether the Celtics should use a coach's challenge to initiate a video review of a particular play.

Another assistant from the Boston area is Craig Luschenat. He grew up in Andover and played high school basketball at Andover High School where he served as team captain. He went on to play four years of varsity basketball at St. Joseph's College in Maine, serving as team captain and graduating

with a degree in business and sports management. He later earned a Master's degree at Oxford Brookes University.

During the summer of 2016, he served as an intern with a sports agency where he got to work with players. He was named an assistant coach with the Maine Red Claws (now Maine Celtics) in 2018 and was hired as a player development coach by Boston in 2022. He was promoted to an assistant coach in 2024.

Amile Jefferson grew up in the Philadelphia area and went on to become a college star at Duke University in two ways. First in the classroom where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and later earned a Master of Arts in Christian Studies from the Duke Divinity School.

Then out on the court he was also a star, playing in 150 career games for Duke with the Blue Devils compiling a 124-26 record in those games. During that span Duke won the 2015 NCAA Division One National Championship.

He later played with the Orlando Magic and then overseas before joining the basketball staff at Duke. In 2003, he joined the Celtics coaching staff under Mazzulla.

Tyler Lashbrook does not have a college or pro basketball playing background. He was born in Kentucky and received a Bachelor's degree in news editorial/marketing from Western Kentucky University.

But he also served as a basketball operations intern with the Philadelphia 76ers and later as a video coordinator and player development coach with them.

He joined the Celtics organization in 2023 as a player development coach and was named head coach of the Maine Celtics for the 2024-2025 season. He came back to the Boston bench on a fulltime basis for the 2025-2026 season.

D.J. MacLeay was born in San Antonio and went on to play four seasons of varsity basketball at Bucknell University. After graduation from Bucknell he worked for the Philadelphia 76ers, serving as their video coordinator for three years. He was hired by the Celtics as a player development coach in 2021 and promoted to assistant coach in 2022. He served as the head coach of the 2024 Celtics Summer League team.

Ross McMains has one of the most varied backgrounds of anyone in the NBA. Born in New Hampshire but raised (until age 11) on an island off the coast of New Zealand, he certainly has seen more of the world than most people. Although his family returned to the U.S., he later went back to New Zealand and got a position with a pro team there. He spent time in Europe, eventually acquiring a position as a development coach for the Sacramento Kings in 2012. He later returned to New Zealand, then came back to the U.S. and eventually became the associate head coach of the Maine Red Claws (now Maine Celtics).

(Continued on Page 11)