

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 131 - NO. 13

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, MARCH 27, 2026

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**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday, March 29, 2026

## Massachusetts State Legislature Receives Low Marks in Latest Poll

The Massachusetts State Legislature is not on the voters' nice list this year. A new Pioneer Institute poll results found low favorability for the State House occupants, and high support for subjecting politicians to the public records law as well as auditing state law makers. The poll, commissioned by the Pioneer Institute and conducted by Opinion Diagnostics, found only 28% of respondents ranked the state Legislature very or somewhat favorable while 51% selected very or somewhat unfavorable. Only four months ago, in November 2025, a Suffolk poll found 49% approval of the job the Legislature was doing.

The most recent poll also reported over 82% of respondents said state legislators should allow the State Auditor to audit them and 79% said the Legislature should submit to a voluntary audit even if courts rule an audit unconstitutional. State Auditor Diana DiZogio has been pushing a ballot question, which was passed by



72% of Massachusetts voters in November of 2024, to audit the state Legislature but lawmakers on Beacon Hill have vehemently pushed back.

Over 86% of those polled stated the Legislature should be subject to public records laws, which they have long exempted themselves from, and 83% believe the Governor's Office, which is also exempt, and judicial branch of government should be subject to making records public. Mary

Connaughton, director of government transparency for the Pioneer Institute, said the poll "demonstrates that the Legislature's unwillingness to submit to the will of the voters when it comes to agreeing to an audit by the State Auditor, its failure to streamline the process citizens have to go through to access officials' financial information, and its penchant for exempting itself from state laws are not sitting well with Massachusetts residents."

## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### Fetterman Pushes Mullin Nod Forward

U.S. Sen. John Fetterman, D-PA, crossed party lines last week to advance his colleague Mark Mullin's nomination to lead DHS in a very close vote. Senate Homeland Security Committee Chair U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-KY, voted against sending the nomination to the Senate floor for a final vote, but Fetterman voted in favor of sending the pick to the floor for a final vote. All other 13 committee members voted along party lines, making the final tally 8-7 in Mullin's favor.

### Fight Dementia with Red Meat

New research suggests that a meat-heavy diet may help ward off dementia but just for a select group of people with a genetic risk factor tied to Alzheimer's disease. Scientists say the findings could eventually pave the way for custom nutrition strategies to support brain health in those more prone to cognitive decline.

### Minting Trump Coin for 250th

The Commission of Fine Arts last week approved a new 24-carat coin featuring President Donald Trump's likeness to celebrate America's 250th birthday. The U.S. mint is now allowed to begin production. Calvin Coolidge was the only past president to be featured on a U.S. coin while still alive. His portrait was on a commemorative coin to mark the nation's sesquicentennial in 1926.

### Shutdown \$2.5 Billion Economic Hit

The over one-month long Department of Homeland Security shutdown has dealt a \$2.5 billion blow to the economy so far. White House economists have

(Continued on Page 11)

## Boston City Hall Reins in Spending

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's administration is halting spending thanks in part to snow removal expenses from the late January and February storms. Mayor Wu has initiated a freeze on travel, office supplies, renovations, city swag and apparel, and other expenses her administration feels unnecessary, including filling open city positions. A spokesperson for the Wu administration said, "We are using every tool available to ensure a balanced budget as we close out this fiscal year, and prepare responsibly for the next. These changes protect what matters most to our communities, keeping our residents safe, delivering high-quality city services, and maintaining long-term financial stability."

A recent memo forwarded to all city departments outlined a



plan to freeze budgeted spending for transportation and travel, office supplies and materials, office furniture and equipment, miscellaneous equipment and special appropriations through the end of the current Fiscal Year 2026, ending on June 30. Additional steps began in December, 2025, including delayed hiring, reduction for employees' travel and swag, such as city-branded items like clothing and such.

"We recognize that these controls will create challenges

for departments, however, they are necessary given the external fiscal pressures currently affecting the city. Taking these steps now will ensure that we can responsibly manage available resources and maintain critical city services," stated Chief Financial Officer Ashley Groffenberger. Wu has noted President Trump's threat to cut federal funding to sanctuary cities as well as decreasing commercial values and tax revenue as directly impacting the city budget, and has directed city departments to slash their FY27 budgets by 2%. "With fewer resources available to absorb increased costs, additional targeted reductions will be necessary as we work to deliver a responsible and balanced budget for FY 27," Groffenberger said.

## TSA Receives Back Up from ICE



As thousands of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers continue to work at airports across the country, all without having been paid since mid-February, President Trump has followed through on his threat to deploy Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to a number of U.S. major airports to assist with the growing number of angry and frustrated travelers, with wait times

(Continued on Page 11)

## Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



### HISTORY'S FIRST PANTY RAID



**Statue of Hercules stealing the belt of Hippolyte at the Michaelerplatz entrance to the Michaelertrakt, Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria**

We have been examining the stories associated with the fictional strongman named Hercules (Heracles in Greek). The selection of Hercules as our anchorman for this series on mythology is most appropriate because he is claimed to be one of the most ancient and most famous of all mythological heroes, and his legendary accomplishments are said to be the richest and most comprehensive of all myths.

I reminded all readers that the memory of Hercules is not strange to Italy. Renaissance Rome honored him in many works of art. There is a statue entitled *The Farnese Hercules*, which is now in the National Museum at Naples, a painting of Hercules killing the Hydra (his second labor) and another of Hercules crushing Antaeus, both are in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, a statue of Hercules crushing Antaeus, in the Bargello (National Museum) at Florence, and a statue of Hercules slaying Cacus, a cattle thief in the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence, near the copy of Michelangelo's David.

All the famous "Labors of Hercules" were imposed upon him as punishment for killing his wife and children during a period of madness. We have discussed the first eight of the celebrated "Labors of Hercules." Today's labor is associated with the Amazons, a race of women who were represented in Greek legend as having lived in the northeastern part of Asia Minor near the shore of the Black Sea. They formed their own independent state, which was governed by a queen in the mythical town of Themiscyra on the River Thermodon. This was the capital from which they made warlike excursions against other tribes in Asia Minor.

In order to please his daughter, King Eurystheus, author of these labors, required Hercules to fetch the belt or girdle of Hippolyte, queen of the Amazons at that time. Because these women were such formidable enemies, Hercules selected a group of sturdy companions to accompany him on this venture.

After a long and dangerous journey, Hercules and his friends finally landed at the Amazons' town of Themiscyra, where they were met by the queen herself. After some discussion, Hippolyte decided to give up the belt and avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Greatly disappointed that this labor should be accomplished with so little effort, Hera, queen of the heavens, posing as an Amazon, caused the other women to believe that their queen was being abducted. As the women attacked the ship, Hercules believing that Hippolyte had betrayed him, killed the queen of the Amazons and took her belt. Following a perilous journey back to his home, Hercules delivered the famous belt of Hippolyte to the king.

**NEXT ISSUE:**

*The Golden Guernseys*

## Christopher Columbus Welcomed to the White House

by Patti Sartori

President Donald J. Trump is making good on his promise and commitment to Italian-Americans, first signing a proclamation last October hailing Columbus as an American hero, "Columbus Day - we're back Italians," Trump declared after signing the proclamation, and now, just this week, the President has honored Italian Heritage and Pride by erecting a statue of Christopher Columbus on White House grounds. The new statue has been placed outside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The 13 foot, one-ton replica of a Carrera marble Columbus statue that had been toppled and dumped in Baltimore, Maryland's inner harbor during 2020 Black Lives Matter riots, was commissioned by the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations and is part of the White House's celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Insulted and angry Italian-Americans retrieved shards and remains of the marble belonging to the vandalized and wrecked statue from the harbor. These pieces were then used and incorporated by the artist into the newly created statue.

"Columbus statues have long stood as symbols of pride and cultural identity for more than 18 million Americans of Italian descent. Columbus Day itself emerged in the aftermath of the 1891 New Orleans lynching, when 11 Italian immigrants were killed by a mob of thousands, an event that prompted a national effort to promote the acceptance and assimilation of Italian Americans. This history remains central to why these monuments matter," said Basil M. Russo, the conference's president.

The statue is on loan to the White House, via the National Park Service, until January 20, 2029, when the group will reassess based upon the next President's plans.

## Boston City Council Considers Voting Rights for "Legal Status" Immigrants

by Patti Sartori

Boston City Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia introduced a home rule petition at last week's council meeting granting immigrants with "legal status," but without full citizenship the right to vote in local elections. According to Mejia, via the 2020 census, there are close to 700K non-citizens with legal status in Boston. "Boston is home to thousands of legal residents who contribute every day. They are our workers, parents, students, small business owners, people who deeply invest in their neighborhoods and in the future of the city. They pay taxes and do their fair share of heavy lifting when it's time to act, yet they're excluded from decisions that directly shape their

schools, their public safety, and their daily lives," Mejia stated.

The council considered and passed a similar home rule petition in 2023 granting voting rights to non-citizens, which was signed by Mayor Wu and sent to the State House, where according to Mejia, "Everything goes to die." Mejia's petition states immigrants with legal status constitute more than 28% of the city's population, pay on average \$2.3 billion in taxes annually, and hold roughly \$6 billion in spending power." If passed, Boston would join municipalities in Maryland, Vermont, San Francisco and New York granting non-citizens the right to vote.

Thanks to Council President Liz Breadon's newly imple-

mented rules do not allow for debate on matters that are not being voted on at council meetings, so Councilor Mejia as the sole sponsor of the petition was the only councilor allowed to speak. Seven of the 13 councilor members did sign onto Mejia's order, including Councilor Liz Breadon, Miniard Culpepper, Ruthzee Louieune, Enrique Pepen, Henry Santana, Ben Weber and Brian Worrell.

Councilors Ed Flynn, Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Sharon Durkan, John Fitzgerald, and Erin Murphy did not add their names to the petition. The matter was referred to the Committee on Government Operations for a hearing.

## Arkansas Governor Booted from Restaurant Thanks to Political Affiliation

Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders was recently kicked out of a restaurant in her home state thanks to her political affiliation. Sanders feels she was treated rudely when asked to leave while having lunch. "Last week, I was having lunch with two other moms at a restaurant when the owner approached a member of the State Police Executive Protection Detail and said my presence made their employees feel threatened and told us to leave," Sanders said in a statement about her recent dining experience at the *Croissanterie* restaurant in Little Rock Arkansas.

"Arkansans are known for their warm hospitality, and while that restaurant certainly doesn't meet that standard, my administration will continue to focus on lifting Arkansans up, not tearing others down with discrimination and hate," added Sanders. It seems the governor was sitting in the establishment

after enjoying an hour-long lunch and had already paid the bill and tipped the staff when the restaurant's owner approached a member of the security detail and requested the governor leave. According to Governor Sanders office, the request was made due to concerns that her presence was making employees feel threatened and uncomfortable due to her political views.

Sanders and her lunch partners complied with the request and left the restaurant, but as doing so, were met with a shout from an individual standing alongside restaurant staff and a crude hand gesture in the governor's direction. Management of the *Croissanterie* issued a statement explaining they were "surprised and uncertain on how to best respond" upon learning the governor had arrived at the establishment, adding "By the time we entered the dining room, she was already seated and eating. At that point, we

chose not to interrupt, expecting that the party would complete their meal and depart without issue," however as time went on, the governor's security detail became more widely noticed, by both employees and guests and questions were raised about them remaining in the restaurant.

"As business owners and members of this community, we recognized that any course of action carried consequences. Allowing her to stay risked being perceived as a lack of support for the community that makes up a majority of our team, as well as their families and friends. Conversely, asking her to leave could be viewed as denying service based on differing beliefs." The Restaurant management said they "ultimately made the decision to support our employees and guests who expressed they were uncomfortable. We regret being

(Continued on Page 11)

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Website: [www.BostonPostGazette.com](http://www.BostonPostGazette.com)

Subscriptions in the United States \$35.00 yearly

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

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 Caesar L. Donnaruma 1953 to 1971  
 Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990

Vol. 131 - No. 13 Friday, March 27, 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.

## IN REMEMBRANCE 1st Year Anniversary



*Mary DiBazzo-Trumbull*  
 1954 - 2025  
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 by the Staff of the Post-Gazette

**BCYF NORTH END COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 Community Meeting

Please join us to discuss the progress of the new BCYF North End Community Center!

**MONDAY, MARCH 30 | 6pm**  
 BCYF NAZZARO | 30 North Bennet Street

Interpretation, translation, and disability accommodations are available to you at no cost. Contact 617-426-6000 or visit 617-635-4804.

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,  
 The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF PAULA MIZZONI



Paula Mizzoni, 67, of Boston's North End, passed away peacefully on March 15th, surrounded by her family at AdviniaCare rehabilitation in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Despite her battle with uterine cancer, which she kept largely to herself, Paula remained more concerned for others than for her own pain. Her strength and resilience left a lasting impression on the nurses and patients at the facility.

Born to the late Joseph and Marie (Fiorentino) Mizzoni and the granddaughter of the late Joseph and Angelina (Galeno) Fiorentino, Paula was deeply rooted in her North End community. She dedicated many years of her life to her family's bakery, Mike's Pastry, where her hard work and commitment were evident every day.

Paula is survived by her daughters, Danielle Mizzoni of Lynnfield, and Stephanie and Jessica Firicano of Rhode Island. She is also mourned by her sisters, Angela Mizzoni of Medford, and Maria (Mizzoni), along with her brother-in-law David Harrison of Whitman. A loving

grandmother, she cherished her nine grandchildren and leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who will miss her dearly.

Known for her selflessness, Paula consistently prioritized the needs of others, lovingly caring for her great-grandparents, parents, and Uncle Mike until their passing. Her loving nature, thoughtfulness, and compassion made her a beacon of light in the lives of those around her.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Leonard's Church, 320 Hanover Street, North End, Boston, on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Family and friends are cordially invited to celebrate her life. Paula's ashes will later be interred with her parents at Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford, Massachusetts.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Endometriosis Association at [\[endometriosisassn.org\]\(http://www.endometriosisassn.org/\)](http://www.endometriosisassn.org).

Paula's legacy of love and kindness will undoubtedly remain in the hearts of many.

## St. John School Expands Offers a Two-year-old Program

Tucked away in a quiet corner of historic North Square in Boston's North End neighborhood, sits St. John School (SJC), a cornerstone of the North End community for 131 years. SJC is thrilled to announce the opening of a brand-new program, designed specifically for two year olds.

This expansion marks an exciting chapter for the school, providing the youngest learners with a nurturing faith-based introduction to early education. The mission and motto of SJC, "Be, Belong, Become," offers a seamless education journey from this new early childhood program all the way through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Parents can expect a curriculum rooted in deep

Catholic values, where kindness, integrity, and service are woven into each lesson.

SJS proudly celebrates the rich heritage of its community by offering an Italian language program, in addition to a low student-to teacher-ratio where every child receives the personalized attention they need to thrive spiritually and academically. It's this excellence which attracts families from all over the region, including suburban commuters who along with Boston residents, find the North End location ideal. And Boston residents from specific neighborhoods can even take advantage of the school's dedicated bus transportation.

Understanding the needs of busy family schedules and dynamics, SJC provides a robust-after school program until 6:00 p.m. for students in PreK3 (age 2 years and 9 months) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This program is much more than childcare, it is an extension of the school day featuring diverse extracurriculars such as ballet, chess, drama, and debate club.

Whether your child is just beginning their journey at age two or looking for a rigorous, compassionate elementary experience, St. John School provides a "home away from home" that prepares students for the city's top high schools.

For more info, please use the following link: [sjsne.com/apply](http://sjsne.com/apply)

## St. Leonard Church

320 Hanover Street - North End, Boston  
 Holy Week & Easter Mass Schedule

### Saturday, March 28, 2026

- 4:00 PM Vigil Mass (St. Stephen)
- 4:15-4:45 PM Confessions
- 5:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 \* Blessing of the Palms

### Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

- 9:00 AM, 10:30AM, (Italian) & 12:00 PM Mass  
 \* Blessing of the Palms
- 11:00 AM Mass (St. Stephen)
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Confessions
- 3:00-4:00 PM Adoration and Praise/Worship

### Monday, March 30, 2026

- 7:30 AM Mass
- 12:05 PM Mass

### Tuesday, March 31, 2026

- 7:30 AM Mass

### Wednesday, April 1, 2026

- 7:30 AM Mass
- 12:05 PM Mass
- 5:30 PM Confessions and Adoration
- 6:00 PM Rosary and Talk
- 7:00 PM Mass

### Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026

- 7:30 AM Morning Prayer
- 7:30 PM Rosary
- 8:00 PM Mass (Adoration after Mass until Midnight)  
 \*Followed by a procession to North End churches

### Good Friday, April 3, 2026

- 7:00 AM Morning Prayer
- 12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 PM Passion of Our Lord  
 \*Followed by Confessions
- 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

### Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026

- 7:00 PM Confessions
- 8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

- 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM (Italian) & 12:00 PM Mass
- 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM Mass (St. Stephen)
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Confessions



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

### The Sacred Celebrations of Holy Week

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by javi\_indy on Freepik)

After the damp and bitterly cold early spring fog, in which every raindrop feels like the prick of an ice crystal, I look forward to the promise of Easter, the premiere holiday of the season. Signs of Easter sprout around me as surely as the first purple tulips spring from the rich soil. Marshmallow Peeps wink playfully at me as they line shop shelves in brilliant hues ranging from robin's egg blue to bright tutu pink. Baskets and wreaths boast eggs dyed with bold solid colors or glittery patinas. At the mall, costumed Easter Bunnies pose for family photos with children in frilly dresses and crooked bow ties. However, as much as the coming Easter fills me with pleasant anticipation, I am reminded that the week preceding the holiday brims with its own unique customs and traditions. The week's very name, Holy Week, reveals its profound importance in the religious year. Italians call Holy Week *la Settimana Santa* and celebrate its arrival with much fanfare. The Holy Week festivities in Italy emphasize seasonal spring folklore while also paying homage to the intricate and inspiring spirituality of this period. Whether filled with displays of palm leaves or colorful eggs, Holy Week in Italy and around the world heralds the Easter holiday with the reverence, love and joy it deserves.

Holy Week begins this year on March 29<sup>th</sup>, which is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when adoring crowds welcomed Him by waving palm branches in the air. Along with its religious significance, Palm Sunday remains attuned to the seasonal beat of spring, symbolically falling during the time of the year when tree branches begin to blossom. My father grew up

in the mountainous region of Abruzzo in Italy, where he would spend Palm Sunday, or *Domenica delle Palme*, collecting the olive branches that grew plentifully in the hills and fields near his home. This was the same country wilderness, laden with ancient orchards and thick forests, about which village elders whispered stories of sprites hiding under rocks and wolves darting among the trees. My father and his friends would then bring the branches to the local parish, where the priest would bless them. This quaint sylvan ritual embodied all the pleasures of spring, such as communal outdoor excursions and metaphorical links to the themes of rebirth and spiritual awakening. Throughout Holy Week, Italians also give their homes a thorough spring cleaning in preparation for Easter and the days of visiting to follow. Holy Week ends with Good Friday, or *Venerdì Santo*, the solemn remembrance of Jesus's Crucifixion. In Italy, processions of black-robed participants set the somber and pensive atmosphere of the day. Processions that focus on the Virgin Mary are known as the *Addolorata*, a name indicative of Mary's grief and pain. Therefore, Holy Week begins in triumph but ends in tragedy, encompassing all the emotional spectrum necessary for the joy of Easter.

For me, Holy Week has always meant Easter preparations, particularly those with an emphasis on the Italian traditions of my ancestors. My parents would reserve a day, usually Holy Saturday, for decorating eggs with my brother and me. Eggs have formed an integral part of Easter celebrations since ancient times due to their rebirth symbolism: though they appear cold and sterile on the outside, they contain new life

inside. I always enjoyed picking the egg dyes, and I would often choose a bright or glittery color to match the cheerful hues of the flowers growing outside my home. Easter eggs form a sweet part of Italian holiday customs as well. During Holy Week, my father would always buy a gigantic chocolate *uovo di Pasqua* (literally, "Easter egg") from a specialty shop in the North End, wrapped in pastel foil. We would patiently wait until Easter to ceremoniously break the egg open, eagerly anticipating the treats concealed within — usually candy. An Italian superstition decrees that everyone must wear at least one new piece of clothing on Easter, again illustrating the theme of renewal central to the holiday, and as such my mom and I would often shop for a new outfit during Holy Week. When I was a child, this meant a lacy, flowery dress. Though I no longer seek out itchy dresses, I do pick my new clothes with bright colors or a flowered pattern to reflect the spring season. Finally, my mother and I spend much of Holy Week planning our Easter menu. On Holy Saturday, I bake my traditional Italian ricotta pie to be served at the feast the next day. Therefore, I associate Holy Week with the joy and promise of an exciting holiday to come. Its customs have instilled in me an appreciation for the blooming new season of spring, for the spirituality of Easter, and for my Italian heritage as a whole.

Holy Week is a profound and multifaceted period of the year. It revels in the springtime and the resurgence of nature all around us, from the flowers fluttering proudly in the sunlight to the bunnies munching on the fresh green grass. It grants us an opportunity to enjoy the warm spring weather and to find peace and reflection in the spiritual traditions of the pre-Easter season. In Italy, people honor Holy Week by engaging in symbolic rituals like collecting olive branches on Palm Sunday, cleaning their homes, and decorating eggs. No matter which customs we take to heart, we should celebrate them in a way that expresses gratitude toward nature and the cycle of the year. Easter, after all, is the supreme holiday of hope and rebirth, and Holy Week encapsulates that feeling. Holy Week teaches us that if we live in harmony with nature and with respect for the ways of our ancestors, we will find a strength inside us brighter than any spring sun.

*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.*

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## THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



### America Celebrates its Birthday in Fog of War

Lately, I have been taking a long look at how America is doing and I must say things could be much better. This War in Iran has been bothering me. It does seem like we entered this war without a real plan or even focus. Has this war been about getting rid of the Islamic Republic and freeing the people of Iran brutalized by mullahs in power since 1979? Or are we just talking about money?

Who is in charge of this war? Our generals or our political class? We saw what happened in Vietnam, didn't we? Are we just repeating history for history's sake? Have we not learned anything from our recent past? If we can't learn from history, Aren't we just doomed to repeat it?

We keep destroying everything in sight over in Iran but the mullahs stay in power and as I said when this war began, What if the people do not rise up or can't rise up, what then? Well it seems we have entered "what then." Do we just keep hitting them? Until when? Do we just put all the lights out in Iran? Who does that help? What does that do? What happens to the people over in Iran?

President Trump says we're this close to total victory but how close is "this close"? I've been around long enough and I've seen this movie before. I can't believe how many people are still trying to convince themselves that this war was a necessity. It is good versus evil and they're evil, end of story.

While driving to work I put on the Jeff Kuhner radio show and I keep listening to Kuhnerman

and he is still trying to convince himself everything is working out fine. Listening to him and his audience, this war will end victoriously when the Straits of Hormuz are opened up to shipping and free of Iran's control. The straits were ALREADY opened before this War began.

We haven't sent boots on the ground yet and I hope we don't because that is how a war organically grows larger and larger. Remember how quickly Vietnam went from a few advisors to over 500,000 pairs of boots on the ground. The fog has already fallen into this war.

I voted for President Donald Trump three times but I expected much better than this. What is the real purpose of this war? Back here in the states, all most of us are seeing is higher and higher gas pump prices. How can this be good for anyone?

Someone asked me what I thought of the upcoming midterms and all I can see is Democrats doing better than they did in 2018. The last folks I want controlling both the House and the Senate are all those useless passive progressive Democrats like Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries and the lot. Things can only get worse as we wait for this endless war to end.

Republicans and Democrats are the Uniparty and always have been. Neither of them are worth putting into office. One party wants to put TSA workers into the poorhouse and the other wants to give us \$4 gas at the pumps. Our Founding Fathers must be all rolling over in their graves. God save America.

Celebrate the Return of  
Parade Day in Eastie

Honoring Albert "Buddy" Mangini

with our

Pasta Dinner



The East Boston Italian Heritage  
Parade Committee Presents

PASTA DINNER

Friday April 17th 5:00

Sacred Heart Church Hall  
303 Paris St. . East Boston

\$25 Adults

\$15 Kids

Venmo: @ebitalianheritage

# Pirandello Lyceum

## Sponsored Beautiful Italian Opera Arias Program

— A Great Success —

New President of the Pirandello Lyceum, Virginia Papa Gardner addressed a full house of opera lovers at the Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts cultural center in Cambridge. She thanked them for attending the Sunday, March 15 event performed by the Boston Bel Canto Opera singers led by Director



Maestro Bradley Pennington

Bradley Pennington. The audience appeared captivated by the beautiful arias from *La Rondine*, *La Favorita*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Rigoletto* and others sung by opera singers Adrianna Repetto, Bronwen Upton, Joseph Holmes and Paul Soper. When singer Joseph Holmes, past graduate of Wakefield High School, sang “Nessun Dorma,” it was an exciting moment to remember.

President Virginia Papa Gardner announced that this lovely concert was the 28th annual Italian opera aria concert sponsored by the Pirandello Lyceum and looks forward to planning such future Italian cultural events. She invited the audience to regularly check the Pirandello website ([pirandello.com](http://pirandello.com)) for future programs.



Adriana Repetto



Joseph Holmes



Bronwen Upton



Paul Soper

## Forever Young Program for Older Adults

### Returns for Spring 2026

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the return of the Forever Young Program this coming spring.

This free program for older adults, offered in partnership with Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), provides a welcoming space for fun and fitness, featuring activities such as bocce, cornhole, and archery.

The program will take place once a week on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., from April 1 through June 25 at City parks. Each month brings a new activity, providing participants with opportunities to try something different in a welcoming environment.

#### CORNHOLE AT EDWARDS PLAYGROUND

10 Eden Street, Charlestown

Test your aim and enjoy some lighthearted competition with cornhole, a game that's as entertaining as it is social.

- Wednesday, April 1, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 15, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 29, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

\*Note: no class on Wednesday, April 22, due to BPS School Vacation\*

#### BOCCE AT LANGONE PARK

529 Commercial Street, North End

Experience the timeless game of bocce, a relaxing and strategic sport that's easy to learn and fun for all.

- Wednesday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



(Photo by Matt Conti)

- Wednesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 27, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

#### ARCHERY AT LANGONE PARK

529 Commercial Street, North End

Try your hand at archery in a safe and guided environment.

- Wednesday, June 3, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 10, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 24, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Each session is designed to encourage physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement. Sessions are drop-in and pre-registration is not required. Join us to try something new and make a friend.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks), call 617-635-4505, join our email list, and follow our social channels at [@parks.boston.gov](https://twitter.com/parks.boston.gov) on Bluesky and [@bostonparksdept](https://www.facebook.com/bostonparksdept) on Facebook and Instagram.

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## The Rita A. DiMento Women's Clinic Clothing Drive

### A Huge Success!



Mary Ponti, of the Women's Clinic, with just a few of the 14 boxes of clothing and other items collected at St. Leonard Church in the North End for the Rita A. DiMento's Women's Clinic at Arch Street, Boston.

Thanks to the generosity of the North End community, families, friends volunteers and parishioners of St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street, the Rita A. DiMento Women's Clinic at Arch Street will be blessed once again. Helping others in need during the Lenten season has become a specialty of St. Leonard parishioners. Various items of women's clothing, outerwear, footwear, toiletries, and other essentials were gathered and organized on Saturday, March 21 in St. Joseph Hall for donation to the shelter. Overall the event was an even larger success than last year with over \$1,000 in gift cards collected and donations still being counted.

Special thanks to Father Michael Della Penna, Pastor of St. Leonard Church, the Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus #1513. A huge shout out of gratitude to the following donors for their assistance; Golden Goose Market for the coffee, and baked goods were provided by Patricia Romano, Pat Tivnan and Lynne Martell.

### Photo Submission Guidelines

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



# Pirandello Lyceum Announces the 2026 1 Migliori in Mens et Gesta Award - the Best in Mind and Deeds

Virginia Papa Gardner, President of the Pirandello Lyceum, has announced the 2026 recipients of the 1 Migliori in Mens et Gesta Award (The Best in Mind and Deeds). This award recognizes outstanding Americans of Italian descent who have made significant contributions to the Italian American community, their professions, and society. The Honorees will receive the 1 Migliori Award at the Annual Awards Dinner, Saturday, April 12, at six o'clock at Spinelli's Banquet Hall in Peabody, MA. The Master of Ceremonies will be Anthony Amore, Master of Ceremony, Director of Security and Chief Investigator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Best Selling Author.

Dinner tickets are \$100 per person. Proceeds from the event benefit the Pirandello Scholarship Fund. Reservations for the 1 Migliori Awards Dinner may be made by sending checks, payable to the Pirandello Lyceum, to James Pinzino, Treasurer, Pirandello Lyceum, PO BOX 149, Northborough, MA 01532. For information, contact Pirandello Lyceum President, Virginia Papa Gardner, @ 617-721-1062.



## President's Award - ARNALDO MINUTI Consul General of Italy in Boston

Arnold Minuti is the Consul General of Italy in Boston since September 2022 and a career Diplomat with more than twenty-five years of experience in international relations, political affairs multilateral diplomacy and consular services.

He joined the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in 1998 after earning a Master's degree in Law. Over the course of his career, he has held senior postings across Africa, North America and Latin America, as well as Key leadership roles in Rome and Paris.

His overseas assignments include service at the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa as Head of the Commercial Office, Consul of Italy in Canada, responsible for Alberta and Saskatchewan, Deputy

Head of Mission at the Italian Embassy in Mexico City, and Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to UNESCO in Paris. In Paris he also served as Italy's Delegate to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE).

In Rome, Mr. Minuti has held several senior positions, including Head of the Office of Public Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and most recently, Head of the Office for international Cooperation against Global Threats and Counter terrorism within the Directorate General for Political Affairs and Security.

He was promoted to the rank of Counselor of Embassy in 2017. Born in Parma, Italy, Mr. Minuti is married with two children. He is a Lieutenant of the Carabinieri Reserve Corps and a Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

*Nominated by Lino Rullo, Gr. UFF.*



## ANTONIO CALVAGNO - Corporate Law

Antonio was born and raised in Italy, where he built a distinguished legal career before relocating to the United States with his wife to join their two sons, who had moved to the U.S. for their studies. Their eldest, Salvatore, graduated from Northern Vermont University, and their youngest, Stefano, from Boston University.

Antonio currently serves as Assistant General Counsel for a corporation headquartered in North Andover, Massachusetts, and also manages his own practice focused on U.S.-Italy transactions. His wife is an Italian language educator at Haverhill High School, following prior teaching positions at Merrimack College, Lesley University, and the Dante Alighieri School in Cambridge.

Unable to practice law in the United States with his Italian credentials, Antonio pursued an American legal education, earning his J.D. and passing the Massachusetts Bar Exam. He is now a Massachusetts registered attorney. His Italian legal background includes earning his law degree in 1983, passing the Italian Bar Exam, and serving as a partner in a local firm before holding roles as General Counsel and Compliance Officer in the banking sector. From 1989 to 1995, he also served as an Honorary Judge at the District Court of Catania.

In 2010, Antonio was appointed Honorary Commander of the U.S. Air Force's Global Hawk Detachment in Sigonella, recognizing his bilingual skills and longstanding affinity for the United States.

*Nominated by DANIELA MESSINA, ESQ.*



## STEPHANIE RUFO - Social Media Marketing

Stephanie Rufo is the Senior Manager of Brand PR and Influence at PATRÓN Tequila, where she's spent the last five years shaping impactful brand storytelling and building meaningful cultural connections. With over nine years of experience in the spirits industry, she's led the launch of PATRÓN's first always on influencer network and supported major initiatives such as the introduction of standout innovations like PATRÓN EL ALTO, PATRÓN EL CIELO, and PATRÓN CRISTALINO. Her work extends across some of the brand's most ambitious in culture moments, including introducing PATRÓN as the official tequila of the GRAMMY Awards, and entering the world of Formula 1 with a three year partnership as the official tequila of Oracle Red Bull Racing.

Stephanie has helped guide high-profile partnerships with global talent such as Becky G, DJ Mustard, Missy Elliott, and FISHER, and spearheaded the PR and influencer strategy behind PATRÓN's Live Nation partnership, bringing the brand to life across leading music festivals such as Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits, and Governors Ball. She has also led PATRÓN's event and talent sponsorships at Coachella and Stagecoach for the past three years, overseeing talent integrations, and

brand visibility at two of the most influential festival stages in the world.

Before joining PATRÓN, she built her foundation at NYC-based agency Hunter PR, working on Diageo Reserve brands including Johnnie Walker and Tanqueray. One of her proudest career milestones was helping to launch Jane Walker by Johnnie Walker — the brand's first ever female iteration of its iconic Striding Man logo, a purpose-led campaign rooted in progress and representation.

Her work has been recognized across the industry, earning her a spot on Ad Age's 2023 Leading Women: Rising Stars list and The PR Net's 2024 Most Influential.

Born and raised in Boston, Stephanie recently returned home after spending a decade in New York City. A proud graduate of Boston Latin School and Boston College, she comes from a big Italian family and is a lifelong Boston sports fan. This April, she will accomplish a major personal milestone as a first time Boston Marathoner.

Stephanie is deeply honored to be a recipient of the 1 Migliori Award from the Pirandello Lyceum — an organization in which her grandparents, Peter and Gloria Siragusa, were proud and active members — and she looks forward to continuing her family's legacy by becoming involved in its community.

*Nominated by Gloria Siragusa Rufo*



## DR. STEPHEN ZAPPALA - Medicine

Dr. Stephen Zappala is a Urologic Surgeon in Andover, MA and Assistant Professor at Tufts Medical. His parents, Salvatore and Grace Zappala, were from Trecastagni, Sicily. He truly represents the "Sicilian Immigrant Story!" His father was in the live poultry business and his mother was employed in shoe manufacturing; both stressed the importance of education to their three children. I asked Dr. Zappala about his parents and his Italian heritage, and he humbly stated that THEY should have received this Migliori Award!

A Lawrence native, he received a Catholic education — the Venerini Sisters, the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Marist Brothers (Central Catholic) and the Jesuits of Boston College, attended UMASS Medical with surgical training at UCLA and Children's Hospital in London, England.

Dr. Zappala's practice in Andover includes teaching and clinical research, he has been issued 13 patents

on medical devices and has published over 20 scientific papers. He is a Board member of several corporations, an Advisor to the Consul General of Italy, and a senior member of the Saint Alfio Society. He lectures extensively and is involved in several medical societies.

At the 7th Global Summit on Prostate Cancer, he was awarded the "National Community Service Award" recognizing his contributions on Prostate Cancer in African-Americans and the NAACP.

Dr. Zappala is an internationally recognized expert on Renaissance Art and specifically, Michelangelo Buonarroti and the Sistine Chapel Ceiling. His novel Sistine Chapel interpretations are featured in numerous publications and his book is soon to be released. He is passionate about gardening, cooking, and fishing.

He is married to Margaret Zappala for 39 years, has two children Michael (wife Audrey) and Carolina Zappala, and three adorable grandchildren: Madeline, Ann and Salvatore.

*Nominated by Dr. Ernesto Valdesolo*

## ROSS ZAGAMI - Financial Services

Ross was born in Messina, Sicily and immigrated to the United States in 1963 when he was eight years old, as the eldest of three children. He and his parents settled in the North End before moving to Roslindale, then Belmont, where he was a standout soccer player and graduated high school in 1973.

He is a graduate of UMass Boston (Boston State) and holds an MBA from Anna Maria College.

Ross was the owner of Ross Zagami Financial Services for over forty years, in which given his fluency in Italian, he specialized in helping recent Italian immigrants. For over three decades he has served as President of the Italian Juventus Club Boston, and currently serves as President of the

Watertown Sons and Daughters of Italy.

Ross is on the Board of Directors of the Italian American Alliance. As a musician dedicated to traditional Italian music and art, he has planned and facilitated many successful area events, including opera performances from Sicily. He has worked with the New England Conservatory and the New England Federation of Italian Social Clubs.

He is Executive Director of the Amici Project, in which he's raised funds for the IAA and its Watertown chapter. He has also raised funds for flood victims in Messina, as well as for the church in his hometown of Pezzolo, Sicily, where he frequently visits and has a second home.

Ross has served as a de facto liaison with the Italian Consulate in Boston, hosting or facilitating musical groups and events from Italy.

*Nominated by James DiStefano*



## MICHAEL COLOMBA - Entrepreneur

Michael Colomba was born in Castellammare del Golfo, a coastal town and municipality in the Trapani province of West Sicily, in 1959. In 1970, he immigrated to the United States with his parents and four siblings. Although he has spent most of his life in the United States, deep down Michael still considers himself Italian.

Oftentimes, he is reminded of his Italian roots, the many Italian dialects, and how he is part of his proud Italian heritage and culture.

Michael feels very fortunate to have experienced success at a very early age. He has been involved with and successful in diverse business ventures, such as: a real estate developer, aviation, hospitality, a restaurateur, and food manufacturing. His latest venture is a sports facility.

Michael also actively participates in and supports various cultural non-profit organizations and

several Italian organizations. He is the treasurer and supporter of a homeless shelter - the Community Day Center of Waltham. He is also a Board Member of the Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston, Waltham Downtown Partnership, and a member of the ComItEs New England.

Michael Colomba is a benefactor, sponsor and promoter—both here and in Italy—of various Italian/Sicilian causes—films, concerts, operas, and other various events that inspire Italian art, literature, music, and culinary activities.

While forever holding Italy in his heart, Michael is grateful for all the American opportunities he has had. He feels proud of and is blessed with ten grandchildren; and, hopes that he will be the blueprint that will inspire and motivate his grandchildren to ensure and carry on forward his Italian identity and heritage.

He hopes he can continue to earn the honor, trust and pleasure of receiving the prestigious "1 Migliori Award." *Nominated by Marisa DiPietro*



## JOSEPH DIPIETRO - Military & Public Service

Joseph DiPietro is a proud Italian-American business owner whose family's entrepreneurial journey began in 1946, when his grandfather, Clinton, founded Haverhill Sheet Metal. In the 1970s, Joseph's father, Tom, acquired the company and rebranded it as Climate Design Systems. Tom later sold that enterprise in 2001.

In 2006, Joseph established what has become Revise Inc.—a company he has steadily grown through dedication and vision. Today, it encompasses Revise Heating and Cooling and Revise Home Energy Solutions, employing more than two hundred twenty people throughout New England.

Joseph resides on his family's working farm alongside his wife, Anna, their two children, Natalie and Paja, and his parents, Tom and Jeanna. To keep

generations under one roof, he recently constructed an in-law apartment for his parents—a quiet testament to the closeness he values.

Deeply committed to his community, Joseph volunteers as a ski patroller and maintains a strong partnership with the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, where he supports cancer patients and their families. His own wife's battle with breast cancer opened his eyes to the crushing financial strain such illnesses impose—no one, he believes, should ever face the choice between life-saving treatment and basic necessities like food.

He often recalls his Nonna, who immigrated from Bazzano. Her door was never locked; the house was filled with the aroma of home-cooked meals, aunts bustling in the kitchen, and an open welcome for anyone who walked in. That warmth, that sense of family, still shapes him.

*Nominated by Michael and Joseph Belivacqua*



## WENDY MURPHY - Law & Ethics / Journalism

Wendy J. Murphy, JD, is adjunct professor of Sexual Violence and Law Reform and co-director of the Women's and Children's Advocacy Project (WCAP) at New England Law, Boston.

WCAP runs the Hate Crimes Against Women Project and the Judicial Language Project which entails students using sociolinguistic research to critique the language used in law school and society to describe violence against women and children. Over the years WCAP has sued the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education in D.C. federal court to stop enforcement of the Campus SaVE Act, which weakened Title IX, sued Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in Massachusetts federal court to prevent enforcement of new sub-regulatory guidance documents that weakened Title IX, filed a lawsuit in Massachusetts federal court to validate the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and sued the federal government to overturn a federal law that forbids women to register for Selective Service.

Wendy was Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, served as the Mary Joe Frug Assistant Professor of Law at New England Law, Boston, worked as a child abuse and sex crimes prosecutor and in 1992, founded the first legal organization in the nation to provide pro bono legal services to victims of violence involved in the criminal justice system.

Wendy is an impact litigator who files specialized lawsuits in state and federal courts, with concentration in the advancing constitutional and civil rights for women and children. Her work has changed the law in many states to better protect women and children from violence and abuse.

Wendy has authored numerous scholarly articles including a landmark piece explaining the legal relationship between sexual assault on campus and Title IX. She has been dubbed the "goddaughter of Title IX" by the "godmother of Title IX," Dr. Bernice Sandler. Her work in the area of campus sexual assault, beginning in the early 1990's led to groundbreaking victories against Harvard College in 2022, as well as Harvard Law School and Princeton University in 2010, which led to widespread awareness and reforms regarding Title IX, producing the well-known April 2011 Dear Colleague Letter.

Wendy, a non-partisan public speaker and a columnist for the Boston Herald has been described by Emmy Award-winning journalist Emily Rooney as the "best talker" on television with a "finger on the pulse of victims and women's rights." She has worked as an on-air legal analyst for several national networks, including NBC, CBS, CNN, and Fox News, regularly providing legal analysis for print and television media. Wendy has published multiple books, including "And Justice For Some," and "Oh No He Didn't, Brilliant Women and the Men Who Took Credit For Their Work."

*Nominated by Virginia Gardner*

# “Tavola Di San Giuseppe” Tradition Hosted by the St. Joseph Society in Boston’s North End



(L-R): Salvatore Paterna, Eddie Summers, James McCall, Mimi Geloso, Maurizio Caporotta, Ernesto Caporotta, and Gerry Taverna

The Sicilian tradition of honoring St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of families, fathers, carpenters, laborers and the protector of the Catholic Church, with a feast like table decorated with symbolic foods was once again celebrated by the St. Joseph Society, in Boston’s North End neighborhood, beginning with a Mass at St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street and finishing with a sumptuous spread.

It is believed this tradition roots back to a period of drought and famine, pushing Sicilians to

pray to St. Joseph for relief. When the rains finally came,

the crops were harvested, a table of gratitude was prepared and shared in thanks for his powerful intercession. A statue of St. Joseph is placed on an elevated tier, surrounded by lilies, which are associated with his purity. The table is filled with a variety of foods holding a symbolic meaning.

Breads are baked and displayed in shapes representing the Catholic faith, including crosses and staffs. Fava beans, sardines, fish, oranges, lemons and various sweets, including St. Joseph zeppole are typically offered. The food and celebration are meant to be shared with friends, family and those in need. The St. Joseph Society, members, friends, family and volunteers did an outstanding job providing a feast for everyone and keeping the tradition alive.



As part of the St. Joseph Society’s 2026 Annual St. Joseph Table Celebration, the newest members of the organization were sworn in during an official ceremony.

(Photo by Charles Rachal)



Statue of sleeping St. Joseph surrounded by Lily’s and a bread baked into the shape of a staff representing traditional items found at on a St. Joseph table.



(L-R): Marnie Martorano, Mary Moriarty, Mimi Geloso, Jimmy Martorano, and Tim Hannah during the 2026 St. Joseph Society annual St. Joseph Table celebration in the North End.

## NEMPAC to Host PERFORMATHON

Featuring 120+ Student Performers Supporting Arts Education

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will present its annual **Performathon** on Saturday, April 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Urban Wild in Charlestown. The event will feature **more than 120 student performers** raising funds for tuition assistance and accessible performing arts education.

Performances will feature NEMPAC artists-in-training currently enrolled in the Center’s private music instruction program, dance and musical theater program, and school partnership collaborative programs, alongside NEMPAC faculty artists. **The Performathon highlights the depth, diversity, and impact of NEMPAC’s education programs across disciplines and age groups.**

**Hosted this year at the uniquely creative venue Urban Wild**, the Performathon is designed to be a **true community, fun-filled day for all to enjoy**. Attendees can make a day of it with multiple food and beverage options available on site, and activities from our partnering vendors including an Instrument Petting Zoo, Photo Booth, and an Arts & Crafts station.

This event is made possible through the generous support of lead sponsors Seven Hills Farmstead, Urban Wild Boston, and Hood

Park, with additional sponsor support from the North End Athletic Association, Representative and Chair of House Ways and Means Aaron Michlewitz, Rita Pagliuca, and Andrea Waldstein; and in collaboration with Falcetti Music, The Loop Lab, and Henry Bear’s Park.

No registration required to attend, and the event is **FREE!**

**For more information:** <https://nempacboston.org/support/performathon/>

**To support performathon:** <https://givebutter.com/IH6Kth>

**Parking & Public Transport:** Urban Wild is located in the Hood Park development. There is a parking garage directly adjacent to Urban Wild, entitled the 100 Hood Park Drive Garage. Parking is free up to 3 hours. Visit <https://www.propark.com/facilities/100-hood-park-drive-garage/> to learn more about parking at Hood Park.

For public transportation you will want to take the Orange Line to Sullivan Square. Urban Wild is about a 10-minute walk from the Sullivan Square T station.

Urban Wild is fully accessible. For accessibility questions please contact Miguel Petris at [operations@nempacboston.org](mailto:operations@nempacboston.org).

## Saint Leonard of Noblac

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

St Leonard of Noblac was born to the Frankish nobility in the year 496. He was part of the court of the pagan King Clovis I. He was converted to Christianity by Saint Remigius, Bishop of Reims.

During a foreign invasion which they were losing, the Queen suggested to Leonard that he invoke the help of God to repel the invading army, he did, the tide of battle turned, and Clovis was victorious. Following the victory Remigius, converted the King, and a thousand of his followers to Christianity. Leonard, who was also converted refused the offer of becoming bishop.

He undertook a life of austerity and preaching. He entered the monastery at Orleans. His brother, followed his example, leaving the King’s court, he built a monastery at Meun.

It is said that while King Clovis was hunting nearby, Clothilde, his wife, went into labor. Leonard was called to her bedside. He prayed with the King through the night and, through the intercession of his prayers, the Queen and the child were saved. Following safe delivery, Clovis offered him land which Leonard used to establish a monastery at Noblac near Limoges, where he became Abbot.

Leonard, desiring more seclusion, left the monastery and withdrew into the forest where he lived on herbs and fruit and converted many. He built himself an oratory, leaving it only for journeys to churches. Others, recognizing his holiness, came to live with him, and a monastery was formed. Leonard had a great compassion for prisoners and converted many. He passed away of natural causes around the year 559. The feast day of Saint Leonard of Noblac is November 6th.





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### THE RUNNING MAN (Blu-ray) Paramount Pictures

Arnold Schwarzenegger leads this thrilling, big-screen action blockbuster remastered for Blu-ray. Set in a dystopic 2017 Los Angeles — now a police state in the wake of the global economy's total collapse — *The Running Man* is the hottest-rated reality competition series, where condemned criminals are given a chance for freedom by running through a gauntlet of heavily armed killers known as "Stalkers." When an ex-cop (Schwarzenegger) is wrongly convicted of a violent crime, he finds himself on the series in the company of other prisoner "contestants." Featuring an unforgettably motley supporting cast including: Yaphet Kotto, Maria Conchita Alonso, Jim Brown, Jesse Ventura, Toru Tanaka, Mick Fleetwood, Dweezil Zappa and Richard Dawson. A game nobody survives ... but Schwarzenegger has yet to play.

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Blu-ray)

Mill Creek Entertainment

Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie and Robert DeNiro star in this powerful thriller about the birth of the CIA. Edward Wilson (Damon) believes in America, and will sacrifice everything he loves to protect it, but as one of the covert founders of the CIA, Edward's youthful idealism is slowly eroded by his growing suspicion of the people around him. Everybody has secret ... but will Edward's destroy him? A gripping, spellbinding masterpiece with an all-star cast including: Alec Baldwin, Billy Crudup, William Hurt, Michael Gambon, Timothy Hutton and John Turturro. The untold story of the most powerful covert agency in the world.

### ELI ROTH PRESENTS

### DREAM EATER (Blu-ray)

Mill Creek Entertainment

During their holiday at a cabin deep in the snowy Laurentian Mountains, Mallory documents her boyfriend Alex's violent parasomnia. When his sleepwalking gets worse, Mallory suspects the cause may be something far more sinister than a mere sleep disorder. Using her expertise as a documentary filmmaker, Mallory digs into Alex's shadowy past and begins to unravel a decades-long mystery steeped in trauma and the occult. As darkness closes in, and ancient evil awakens — plunging the couple into a downward spiral of madness and horror that threatens to destroy more than just their relationship. By the time the end credits roll, *Dream Eater* will have you questioning who you questioning who you're really sleeping next to at night. A film that won't let you sleep.

### THE CHASE (Blu-ray)

Mill Creek Entertainment

Bubber Reeves (Robert Redford) escapes prison and sets his sights on returning to his small hometown in Texas, where his lonely wife Anna (Jane Fonda) seeks comfort in the arms of another man. The local sheriff, Calder (Marlon Brando), who believes Reeves is innocent of the crime that put him behind bars, struggles to maintain order amidst rising panic.

Robert Duvall, Angie Dickinson, Janice Rule, E.G. Marshall, and James Fox round out the superb caducer Sam Spiegel's gripping tale of justice and betrayal. A breathless, explosive story.

### NOT WITHOUT HOPE (DVD) Ketchup Entertainment

In a gripping true story from a New York Times best-seller, friends Nick Schuyler, Will Bleakley, and NFL players Marquis Cooper and Corey Smith face disaster when their boat capsizes in the Gulf of Mexico. Battling massive waves, sharks, dehydration, and hypothermia, they cling to hope as Captain Timothy Close and his Coast Guard crew launch a daring rescue through a ranging storm to save him. Based on a true story, *Not Without Hope* stars Zachary Levi and Josh Duhamel.

### EVIL NUN (DVD) Greenfield Media 1

When a Catholic youth ministry is invited to spend the night in a vacant Mexico church, they find themselves suddenly trapped by the ghostly apparition of a vengeful nun. Now their only hope is to break the curse before she claims them all, one deadly sin at a time. A ghoulishly haunting nightmare!

### POPPY (DVD) IndiePix Films

Nineteen-year-old Poppy Simpson is an irrepressible young woman with Down Syndrome and an assumption she should get to do what everyone else does — have a job, drive a car, get married. Holding her back is Dave, her older brother and only family since the death of their parents. Poppy and Dave work together in their inherited car repair business, and its clear Poppy has mechanical smarts. But her super-protective brother doesn't think she's up to getting her driver's license or the apprenticeship she was promised by their late father. Quietly rebellious, Poppy secretly begins to teach herself to drive. And it's not until she teams up with an old school friend who needs his car fixed in time to enter the local burnout competition that her plans progress in this acclaimed feel-good drama.

### PICTURE OF A NYMPH (Blu-ray) 88 Films

A hauntingly beautiful tale of love, art, and the supernatural, *Picture of a Nymph* (1988) stars Yuen Biao in one of his most tender and visually stunning roles. Set in ancient China, the story follows a gentle scholar whose chance encounter with a mysterious young woman leads to a love that transcends the boundaries of life and death. But when he unwittingly releases a vengeful demon from centuries of imprisonment, the spirit of his beloved becomes the demon's only hope for regaining power. To protect her, the scholar paints her likeness, allowing her to hide within the portrait — but his devotion soon draws the wrath of dark forces. Blending romance, fantasy, and dazzling martial arts spectacle, this film is a visually rich masterpiece of Hong Kong cinema that captures the eternal struggle between passion, sacrifice, and destiny.

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

### SAD NEWS ON PAGE ONE OUT OF IRAN

Last Friday, the Page 1 headline of the *NY Post* was quite sad. Seems the mullahs in charge in Iran are still hanging on and are now publicly executing teenage protesters.

Saleh Mohammadi, a 19-year-old wrestling star was executed for participating in anti-government protests in Iran, as the ayatollah's regime and its boots on the ground attempt to retain control over domestic unrest amid relentless bombardment by U.S. forces.

It is looking more and more that there is no regime change coming anytime soon. When all is said and done, was this

current war with Iran even necessary? You tell me.

### TRUMP'S UNKINDNESS ON MUELLER AN OFFENSIVE MOVE

We all know there was no love lost between Robert Mueller and President Trump but his public reaction seemed pretty crass. When asked Trump stated a one worded response "Good" and that response to me was undignified. When I was growing up I was taught that if you have nothing good to say about someone, say nothing. However, Trump shows that's not his style, it only makes him look like an unfeeling dumb guy. I didn't like what Mueller did. It looked like he was trying to railroad Trump but when the guy

died recently at 81 years old, the last thing out of anyone's mouth should be GOOD because that's not a good response. It's cheap and Trump needs to be better than that.

### FLORIDA KEEPS KISSING COUSINS

A Florida measure to ban marriage between first cousins went down in defeat a few weeks back after a bill this measure was tucked into failed to pass the state legislature.

Legislators are hoping to bring the measure back again in the next session.

I was also surprised to learn that 16 states including New York and New Jersey are among those states allowing first cousins to canoodle.

## Raise Your Garden to New Heights

by Melinda Myers



### Raised bed vegetable gardens make planting, weeding and harvesting easier.

Photo by [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com)

Elevated and raised bed gardens can expand your planting options and make planting and maintenance easier and more convenient. You'll be able to plant, weed and harvest with minimal bending or even from the luxury of a chair or bench.

Elevated gardens are basically containers on legs. You can find plans to make your own or purchase one from your local garden center or garden supply retailer. Consider one on wheels or add your own for ease of moving. You'll be able to move your garden into the sun or shade as needed each day or out of the way when you entertain.

Set the garden in place first. Once filled with soil, it will be very heavy and difficult to move unless you have added wheels. Those who garden on a balcony should confirm the space will hold the weight of the elevated garden bed once it is filled with moist soil and mature plants.

Including raised beds in your gardens and on or near your patio is another way to increase planting space and easier access. Purchase a prefab raised bed or make your own from a long-lasting material such as interlocking block, fieldstone, plastic lumber or naturally long-lasting wood. Consider the available space, your gardening goals and one that provides a comfortable height for gardening. Select one with corners or edges suited for sitting or narrow sides to allow easy access from a garden bench.

Line the bottom of your raised bed with hardware cloth to reduce the risk of animals burrowing into your garden. Lay the hardware cloth over the ground and bend it up along the inside of the raised bed walls. Add a liner of landscape fabric to keep the soil in place when placing your raised bed on a patio.

A three- or four-foot width makes it easy to reach all parts of the garden for planting, weeding and harvesting. Raising your planting bed at least 8 to 12 inches improves drainage and provides an adequate space for most plants to root and grow. If you want to minimize bending, go higher or add benches to increase your gardening comfort and ease.

Once your raised bed is complete or elevated garden is in place, fill it with quality planting mix. You can calculate the volume of soil that is needed yourself or use one of the many soil calculators available online.

Check the soil moisture regularly as the limited soil mass

and increased exposure to wind, heat and sunlight make raised beds dry out more quickly than in-ground gardens. Reduce the need for frequent watering by incorporating a certified organic and sustainable soil amendment, like Wild Valley Farms wool pellets ([wildvalleyfarms.com](http://wildvalleyfarms.com)). Research found adding these pellets made from 100% wool waste helps reduce watering by 25% and increases air space in the soil for better plant growth. You'll only need a one-pound bag of these wool pellets to cover about 30 square feet if you add the pellets as you plant or it is enough to amend 12 gallons of soil when mixing thoroughly in your mix, following label directions.

Further boost your gardening success by selecting the best plants suited to the growing conditions and your gardening goals. In no time, you'll be enjoying the flavor and beauty these gardens provide.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

This event is brought to us through the generosity of the John D. McGeorge Foundation.

Jackson Gillman  
@ The North End Library  
25 Parmenter Street  
Boston  
4/8/26, 6:00pm

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# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



A while back, I was talking about my problem when I started working at the Seville Theater. I had told the manager and assistant manager that I was sixteen years old and they believed me because I looked older than my age. When I started, I was on the bottom of the food chain. I inherited the shifts that no one else wanted. After working for two weeks, Mr. Wall, the assistant manager, asked if I would be interested in doing some maintenance work. As an usher, I would earn the minimum wage, sixty-five cents per hour. Doing maintenance, I would earn \$1.00 an hour, and I agreed. When I told Babbononno, he didn't know what kind of maintenance work I would be doing and gave me a pair of work gloves to use to avoid splinters in my hands. I didn't want to burst his bubble by telling him that I wouldn't be handling any lumber, but that was his point of reference and he was proud of his grandson, so I took the gift and kept my mouth shut.

At the end of the first week of ushering and doing maintenance, I received two pay envelopes, one with my usher's pay and the other for the other work which consisted of helping to repair theater seats, painting the floor of the balcony and running a few errands. When I looked inside the corresponding pay envelope, there were just two dollars waiting for me. I questioned Mr. Wall the assistant manager and he told me that he didn't think my work was that good and the two dollars was all that it was worth. I wasn't happy and told Dad and Babbononno. Dad was ready to intervene, but I told him that I wanted to handle the situation. I knew that the head of maintenance had the ear of the assistant manager and I mentioned to him what I found in my pay envelope. He just shrugged. I also told him that my father was going to have the family attorney look into the matter and walked away. The next day, I was working a shift in my usher's uniform and was called into the office by Mr. Wall. He stared at me for a few seconds without saying anything and then handed me an envelope. I opened it and the rest of the money that was owed to me was there. He then said, "I guess you're not one of those people just off the boat." At that point, I knew exactly where he was coming from. I thanked him for the remainder of what was owed me and began to walk out of the office, and as I did, he

smiled saying, "Hey kid, you're not so dumb."

When I arrived home, I told Dad and Babbononno just what happened and they just smiled. Dad said something I didn't get at first, "Justice is sometimes its own reward."

What I also didn't know was that Dad and Mr. Ray, the manager, knew each other from years back. Mr. Ray was well-known in society circles and Dad played with bands that catered to the society crowd, hence the relationship. Word had gotten back to Mr. Ray about the pay situation and I think he exercised his authority regarding the scenario.

Well, I labored under the gun of Mr. Wall from then on. He didn't make it easy for me, but Mr. Ray did. He was what Dad called, "Very Yankee." He sometimes was abrupt, and always formal or semi formal in his approach to me. Years later, when I was a young adult, Mr. Ray would tell me to call him, Jim, when we went out to dinner or when he joined me and my musician friends after work at Ken's in Copley Square late at night. However, I could never bring myself to call him anything but, Mr. Ray. Behind his back, some of the long-time ushers referred to him as Papa, but face to face, it was always, Mr. Ray.

I survived the summer of 1952. That fall, I began my tenure as a student at Boston English High School. Mr. Wall approached me again regarding my working papers, a situation which seemed to slip my mind every time it was brought up. It got to a point where Mr. Wall became exasperated and threatened to fire me if I didn't obtain them. I thought my career as an usher was over because I was only 14 years old by late October, still two years younger than the minimum age to obtain them. Then, one day, I headed for work and all traces of Mr. Wall were gone. I asked Mr. Ray where he was and was told that he was transferred to another theater. I didn't say I was glad, but I was happy about the situation. Then I thought about it, "Sometimes, the enemy you know is better than the enemy you don't know." So, I asked Mr. Ray who was going to take his place and I was told that the company was doing away with the position of assistant manager, and he, Mr. Ray, would be running things by himself.

As time went on, I worked my way up the ladder. I would give Mr. Ray excuses whenever he

mentioned working papers and thought I was conning the man. When I turned 16 and actually obtained them, I discovered that Mr. Ray knew how old I was all along. He just let things slide.

Ushers and candy girls came and went over time. When I was 16, Mr. Ray called me and one of the candy girls into the office one evening. He told us in his abrupt way that he had caught both ushers and candy girls stealing from the concession and had fired them. Theresa, the candy girl, and I just stared at each other. Mr. Ray then added, "I discovered you two were not involved," and pointing to each of us added, "You are now head candy girl, and you are now head usher. Go out and hire new crews to work for you, go-go, I'm busy." With that, I became the head usher, a position I would maintain through high school, college and beyond.

I hired a new crew of ushers including a fellow English High student named Henry Giggi. I have lost touch with him over the years, but we were pals back then, and when I made out the schedule, I made sure we worked the same shifts. Some of the young men I hired didn't last long. Mr. Ray either liked you or took an immediate dislike to you. I never asked him his rationale for those reactions, but for those he didn't like, he would find an excuse to get rid of them and make me do the dirty work of letting them go.

A few years ago, I received a phone call from a woman who identified herself as a replacement ticket seller. I remembered her and we had a conversation that almost had me in tears. She told me that she and Mr. Ray had become romantically involved. He was an older bachelor whom I looked up to. I saw the refinement in his manner and copied his method of dress, suit, shirt, tie ... fashionable, never flashy, but always dignified. The woman added that I was the son Mr. Ray never had. He presented me with gifts when I graduated from high school and college, but I thought this was something he did with all his employees. She added that he was as proud of me, as was my father when I began my college career and just as proud when I graduated. I did reach a point in my young life when something had to go, and I quit working at the Seville ten years after I had started. My time spent in an usher's uniform was some of the most memorable in my life and I will never forget what it taught me in the years to come.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



Southern Italian ricotta tarts and pastries beautifully reflect tradition, especially during the Easter, or *Pasqua*, season. From Sicily's *Cassata*, both the ornate version and the rustic *Cassata al Forno*, to Campania's fragrant *Pastiera Napoletana*, these desserts celebrate the richness of sweetened ricotta. Classics like *Crostata di Ricotta* and delicate *Cassatelle* further showcase how simple ingredients are transformed into meaningful, time-honored delicacies.

In Italian American homes, *Pasqua* celebrations continue these traditions, with ricotta pies serving as a centerpiece to mark the end of Lenten fasting. While I have many cherished recipes, the one I'm sharing today is a favorite of many. It's simple to prepare, made with minimal ingredients, and absolutely delicious. 'Nonna's Ricotta Tart' is a perfect addition to your *Pasqua* dessert table!

**NONNA'S RICOTTA TART**  
*Crostata Alla Ricotta Della Nonna*



**Pasta Frolla**

- 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cups all-purpose flour
- 14 tablespoons unsalted butter, cold
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg

- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 small to medium organic lemon

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and salt. Add the cold butter and work it into the flour mixture using your fingertips or a pastry cutter until it resembles coarse crumbs. Mix in the lemon zest and vanilla, then add the egg and gently combine until a dough begins to form. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and bring it together just until smooth. Shape into a disc, wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 30 to 60 minutes.

**Ricotta Filling**

- 1 pound ricotta cheese (about 2 cups)
- 1 cup sour cream
- ¾ cup granulated sugar

- 1½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Preheat your oven to 350°F.

Take the chilled pasta frolla and line the bottom and sides of a 9-inch tart pan with a removable bottom or a 9-inch pie plate. The leftover dough can be used to make a lattice top, if desired.

In a large bowl, combine the ricotta and sour cream. Mix until smooth and creamy. Stir in the sugar and vanilla extract, blending well. Add the eggs and beat together until fully combined and smooth. Pour the filling into the prepared pasta frolla shell. If desired, the leftover dough can be used to make a lattice top. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until the center is set and the top is lightly golden. Refrigerate overnight and generously sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

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

## Scotland's Pink Castle and the Wonders of Aberdeenshire



Craigievar Castle

I did not have a chance to tour the interior of Craigievar Castle, as I arrived in the off-season. It was regrettable but did not dampen my visit to the castle as, even from the outside, Craigievar is among Scotland's most unique castles. Newer than many, with construction starting in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and then a spruce up by William Forbes in the 1620s, the castle has stood more or less intact for four hundred years.

Of course, his descendants, who resided in the castle until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, did much to preserve it and the surrounding land. More recently, Craigievar Castle has undergone extensive restoration by National Trust for Scotland, which entailed preservation measures for its artifacts and its structure. Most importantly, the volunteers and trustees restored the castle to its distinct pink shade, which has made it an icon since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Forbes family painted over the original off-white with that warm shade of tonal vibrancy. From the hill where Craigievar Castle stands, the view of Aberdeenshire alone makes the trip worth the visit.



Auchindoun Castle

Older and more typical of the state of Scotland's grand castles is Auchindoun Castle. It is also tied to two of the most atrocious massacres in the history of Scotland. Today, Auchindoun survives in ruins, but its story begins in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century when Thomas Cochrane, a faithful

of James III, laid the masonry down.

In 1535, the Auchindoun Castle had become the residence of Clan Gordon. Supporters of William Wallace in Scotland's War of Independence some two hundred years later, the 16<sup>th</sup> century brought Clan Gordon into a new bloody conflict, this time against Clan Forbes during the Protestant Reformation, Clan Gordon remaining loyal Catholics. The feud intensified with the murder of Seton of Meldrum by the Sixth Lord Forbes. Through his connection with the Earl of Huntly, Meldrum had been a close friend of Clan Gordon. In retaliation, the Earl of Huntly accused the Master of Forbes of plotting the assassination of James V of Scotland. Though the conviction of the Master of Forbes was overturned before execution and the family's good name restored, Clan Gordon began growing in power, accumulating the favor of other Clans opposed to Clan Forbes.

In 1571, Clan Forbes massacred twenty members of Clan Gordon in Druminnor Castle, a move which resulted in two full scale battles the Battle of Tillieangus and the Battle of Craibstone, the latter culminating in the siege of Druminnor, seat of the chief of Clan Forbes. Before Parliament stopped the bloodshed, Sir Adam Gordon committed one final act of vengeance, the burning of Corgarff Castle in November of 1571. Margaret Campbell, wife of Forbes of Towie, along with twenty-seven relatives and servants, died in the blaze.



Craigellachie Bridge

Driving further into Moray also brought me further into history. From a tale of bloodshed into a tale of ingenuity and progress. Here I arrived at Craigellachie Bridge, the oldest surviving cast iron bridge in Scotland and an engineering marvel by architect Thomas Telford. The unpredictable currents of the River Spey made navigating a treacherous endeavor in its waters. An overpass was needed, but traditional masonry was out of the question so, with iron imported from Wales, Telford built a bridge unlike any Scotland had seen before with a single archway elevated at one-hundred and fifty feet above the water, safely away from the torrents. The work was completed in 1814 and Telford was immortalized as one of Britain's most innovative architects.

Brodie Castle is as old as Craigievar Castle and just as well preserved and here



Brodie Castle

I did join a tour inside its halls. Although in 1645 Brodie Castle also suffered through a fire started by Clan Gordon, Clan Brodie kept it alive, converting it into a Scots Baronial mansion in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Pictures, artifacts, furniture and the impressive library within the castle halls tells the story of Clan Brodie over the centuries. Their passion for planting daffodils lives on thanks to the botanical efforts of National Trust for Scotland which curates the grounds.

If seen at the right time of day, the walk up to Duffus Castle, with the sun setting behind the hill on which the castle has been standing since 1150, casting off purple and red hues through the remaining masonry encompasses the magic of Scotland, where nature, construction and history unite to tell its story. Indeed, the motte surrounding the castle is the likely reason the site was chosen.



Duffus Castle

That being said, this is not the same Duffus Castle of 1150, which was built by Freskin, a mercenary granted this lot of land by King David I. By the early 14<sup>th</sup> century Freskin's original wooden structure had been rebuilt in stone as it stands today. Ironically, the reconstruction commenced when King Edward I granted Sir Reginald Cheyne two-hundred oaks from the forests of Darnaway and Longmorn. The wood, however, was now used only to build a bridge over the motte and the doorways. Defense against attackers guided Cheyne's construction. He added few windows and a single entrance guarded by a portcullis.

As I left Duffus Castle the sun was almost entirely set. Nightfall would soon be closing around the ancient structure just as it has for nearly a thousand years. The next day and for many future sunrises it will tell its story to many more onlookers.

# Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

## The Lighthouse of Alexandria



The Lighthouse of Alexandria — Built in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. on Pharos Island, Egypt, the Lighthouse of Alexandria also known as Pharos of Alexandria was a 300-400-foot-tall structure and one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The lighthouse was commissioned by the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt to guide sailors using fire and mirrors. It stood for over 1,500 years before being destroyed by earthquakes between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, with ruins discovered underwater in 1994.

Built around 280-247 B.C. by Ptolemy I and II, it took 15-33 years to complete and functioned as a vital navigation aid in the treacherous Alexandria harbor.

It was likely a three-tiered structure with a square base, an octagonal middle section, and a cylindrical top. It had a massive mirror for daylight reflecting and a fire at night.

Estimates vary, but it was roughly 330-400+ feet tall, making it one of the tallest man-made structures for centuries. Three major earthquakes, 956, 1303, and 1323 A.D. severely damaged the structure, leading to its collapse.

In 1994, French archaeologists uncovered thousands of stone blocks, statues, and debris on the seabed near the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Qaitbay Citadel, which was built using some of the fallen lighthouse stones. Today, the ruins are a popular underwater archaeological site.

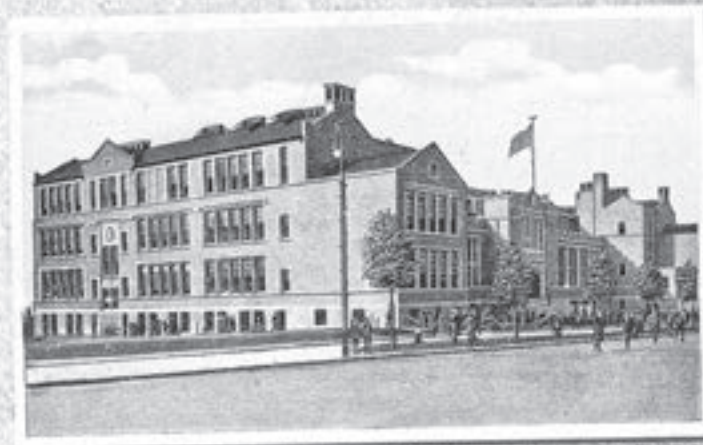
Underwater excavations of Alexandria's harbor show that the Lighthouse must have collapsed towards the west leaving thousands of blocks on the seafloor. Most blocks are of limestone and must have made up the core of the building. This rock must have been quarried nearby. There were also huge blocks of granite from Aswan, which were the frame of a monumental doorway that faced out towards the entrance to the harbor.

Sphinxes, statues, columns, and obelisks were also found. Many of them date from the reign of Ramesses II predating the Lighthouse.

# True Short Stories

By Dr. John Christoforo

## BOSTON ENGLISH HIGH



Ruminations of a 1956 grad who got away with just about everything!

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• TSA (Continued from Page 1)

at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport hitting nearly three hours, Houston's George Bush International Airport reporting two hour wait times and more than an hour at New York's JFK.

The deployment aims to manage massive security lines caused by a partial Federal Government shutdown and widespread TSA staffing shortages. ICE agents have been deployed to major hubs, including Atlanta (ATL), Chicago (ORD), Houston, New York

(JFK/LGA), Newark (EWR), Philadelphia (PHL) and Phoenix (PHX).

ICE personnel are limited in duties and are not performing screening tasks, but are managing crowds, monitoring exit lanes and checking passenger identification. Due to a lack of specialized training, ICE agents are not authorized to operate X-ray machines or metal detectors.

Over 400 TSA officers have quit and thousands have called out of work since February 14, 2026 as they continue to work without pay during the shutdown. "I think you're going to see more TSA agents, as we come into Thursday, Friday, Saturday of next week, they're going to quit or they're not going to show up, so I do think it's going to get much worse," said Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, noting that TSA workers are set to miss paychecks on Friday, March 27, 2026.

While supporting TSA personnel at various airports the primary mission of ICE agents is logistical support, but officials have not ruled out performing law enforcement duties, such as making arrests, if they witness criminal activity. As the shutdown continues, security wait times at airport security have exceeded four hours at some locations. The goal and intention of ICE agent's presence is to stabilize operations.

**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 20, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

**2009 SUBARU OUTBACK**

Vin #4S4BP61C496343304

**2010 CHEVROLET HHR**

Vin #3GNBABB88A5617533

**2018 NISSAN SENTRA**

Vin #3N1AB7AP8JY276486

**2024 ZHILONG ST**

Vin #HZ2TBCNF9R1009519

**2012 KIA SOUL**

Vin #KNDJT2A67C7438116

**2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA**

Vin #KMH4H4AEEDU747983

**2008 CHEVROLET EXPRESS**

Vin #1GCGG25C181151752

**2013 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT**

Vin #WVWRN7AN2DE506658

**2006 BMW 325xi**

Vin #WBAVD13506KT79373

**2002 HONDA CRV**

Vin #SHSRD78842U009411

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

Run dates: 03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

**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. MI26P1153EA

Estate of

**VERONIQUE ALISE BAIN**

Also known as:

**VERONIQUE A. BAIN**

Date of Death: September 09, 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 Josephine A. Bain of Arlington, 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: Josephine A. Bain of Arlington, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With 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 04/14/2026.

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 17, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Run date: 03/27/2026

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**2015 HYUNDAI SONATA**

Vin #5NPE34AF9FH146836

**2008 TOYOTA RAV4**

Vin #JTBMD33V586060483

**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

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**2018 HONDA ACCORD**

Vin #1HGCV1F15JA118949

**2008 FORD E450**

Vin #1FDXE45S88DB15379

**2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT**

Vin #KMHCT5AE2DU128844

**2013 KIA SPORTAGE**

Vin #KNDPB3A23D7422349

**2008 HONDA CIVIC**

Vin #2HGFG1184H544056

**2003 FORD F350**

Vin #1FDWVW37S83EB30371

**2008 BMW 328xi**

Vin #WBAWC33568PD09663

**2015 AUDI A4**

Vin #WAUKFAFL2FN017101

**2024 JIAJUE JJ50QT-3**

Vin #LLPVGAA1R1030112

**2022 NISSAN VERSA**

Vin #3N1CN8EV5NL820265

**2012 NISSAN XTERRA**

Vin #5N1AN0NW7CC516924

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

Run dates: 03/20, 03/27, 04/03/2026

**EXTRA Innings**  
by Sal Giarratani

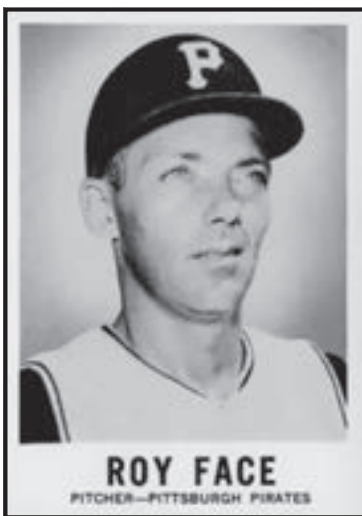
**Islanders Moving AHL Team to Ontario**

The NY Islanders made it official, the team announced plans to relocate their AHL affiliate from Bridgeport, CT to Hamilton, Ontario for the 2026-27 season. The move is subject to approval by the AHL Board of Governors.

The Islanders AHL team has been struggling to draw crowds in Bridgeport. That city has been their AHL home for 25 years. The future of that venue is unclear. The team and the City of Bridgeport have been working together for the future of that hockey arena, The new team name and logo along with ticketing will be announced at a later date.

**From My Inbox This Past Week**

My friend Harry Johnston from Woburn sent me a piece of snail mail last week. He enjoyed a recent piece I did in *Extra Innings* on collecting baseball cards back in the old days and



he enclosed a great old baseball card of Roy Face from the Pirates. I had just published my thoughts on how great Face was as a great relief pitcher.

Johnston in person is just as gracious as he is in his numerous mailings to me. Happy Easter to you and your wife. Two great *Post-Gazette* fans.

**Opening Day on the Road This Year**

The Red Sox opened the 2026 season on the road in Cincinnati against the Reds, which by the way is the very first franchise in

Major League Baseball. When I was growing up my favorite teams beside the Sox were the Cincinnati Reds, the Braves (because they started in Boston) and the NY Yankees (because I loved Mickey Mantle and thought he was the greatest player I ever saw).

**Here is Another Thing**

Growing up, I played plenty of baseball and softball. As I aged much more softball mainly because I could still see a softball heading toward home plate. I had a favorite number too. It was No. 7 because of Mickey Mantle and in 1963 when Boston got Dick Stuart for first base, his number was No. 7 too. As I started growing up, I switched over to Tony Conigliaro's No. 25. I still think it is a shame that the Red Sox haven't retired his number yet. He could have been one of the greatest sluggers of all time if it weren't for that one pitch to his face in August 1967 when he almost died on home plate.

Alright, out there in my audience, does anyone want to let me know what your favorite numbers were and why. I am sure behind every number is a story. Share your story here.

**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. MI25D3227DR

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

LIDA C. CHICA

vs.

MARCELO D. DOS SANTOS

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

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Lida C. Chica, 132 Branch St., First Floor, Lowell, MA 01851 your answer, if any, on or before April 28, 2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 17, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Run date: 03/27/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court**

**Middlesex Probate and Family Court - North Lowell Justice Center 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 656-7700**

Docket No. MI25C0978CA

Docket No. MI25C0979CA

In the matter of:

**ADRIAN ISIAH PIMENTEL**

and

**GABRIEL DEJESUS PIMENTEL**

**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of MINOR has been filed by Adrian Isiah Pimentel and Gabriel Dejesus Pimentel of Marlborough, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Adrian Isiah Vallejo Pimentel, Gabriel Dejesus Vallejo Pimentel.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of April 03, 2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Run Date: 03/27/2026

**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. MI25D3873DR

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

**GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ**

vs.

**ZECARIAH X. RODRIGUEZ**

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

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Gabrielle Rodriguez, 20 Primrose Hill Rd., Dracut, MA 01826 your answer, if any, on or before April 28, 2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 17, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Run date: 03/27/2026

**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. MI26D0448DR

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

**BRENDER N. BIATY**

vs.

**JOE M. BIATY, SR.**

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

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Brender N. Biaty, 28 Brian Road, Lowell, MA 01850 your answer, if any, on or before April 28, 2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 17, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Run date: 03/27/2026

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

forecasted on top of an over \$90 billion loss from last year's record-breaking stoppage.

**Chicago Alderman**

**Blames Murder Victim**

A progressive Chicago alderman is facing fury after blaming a college student for her own death at the hands of an illegal immigrant, by saying the victim was "in the wrong place at the wrong time and ... might have unintentionally started

her accused killer." Her killer was charged with first degree murder.

**End Quote**

"The partial shutdown of the government by the Democrats is a disgrace. The terrorist threat is the highest it's been since 9/11, and we are defunding the department that is responsible for keeping the country safe."

— Robert DiNardo, Farmingdale, NY

• Arkansas Governor Booted (Continued from Page 2)

placed in this position and having to make a difficult decision. However, we stand by our choice to support our employees and guests."

A similar incident took place in 2018 while Sanders was

serving as President Trump's Press Secretary during his first term. Sanders was asked to leave a Red Hen restaurant in Virginia after being told ownership took issue with her political views and job position.

# Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

## Getting Rhythm with the Rope

Going back to the earliest days of boxing, jumping rope was an integral part of training. It was done not only for physical conditioning and to build stamina, it also was an important tool in developing balance and rhythm. Boxers in all weight categories of many different styles would take time to swing the rope.



**Heavyweight Champ Jack Johnson payed strict attention to maintaining good balance.**

Big heavyweights such as Jack Johnson and Sonny Liston were adept at it and developed great agility from the practice. Sonny even had a routine that he once performed on the Ed Sullivan Show where he jumped rope to the song Night Train. It was quite impressive.



**Sonny Liston was a big man, but he was also quite agile.**

Many people thought of rope skipping as something girls did. In fact, Sugar Ray Robinson said when he first started training at a boxing gym he felt a bit silly when told to jump rope. This led to him developing a style where he would hold the rope in one hand and slap it against the floor while jumping. He felt this looked less girlish. Of course, in time he started using the orthodox method and became quite well known for his incredible talent at using the jump rope.

There were many variations on how fighters would use the rope. Many would cross their arms of and on while going through their routine. Some, such as Roberto Duran would jump up very high and bring their knees to their chests and then land back down in a squatting position.

Others would actually do a slight skip as the rope passed



**Ingemar Johansson shows how the Cross Arm technique is done.**

beneath their feet. They rose very little off the ground while doing it this way. Still others would just jump up and down while rotating the rope. Many would do variations on all of these themes.

While jumping rope was a hard workout, I don't think I ever saw a boxer doing it without appearing to be enjoying himself. It seemed to me to have a musical quality to it with the way the beat was kept.

For those who may have thought it was an effeminate thing for a boxer to do, I would only ask: Why didn't you say that to Sonny Liston?



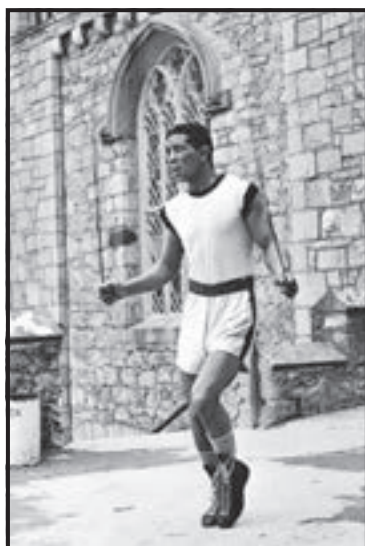
**Henry Armstrong was known for his perpetual motion style of fighting.**



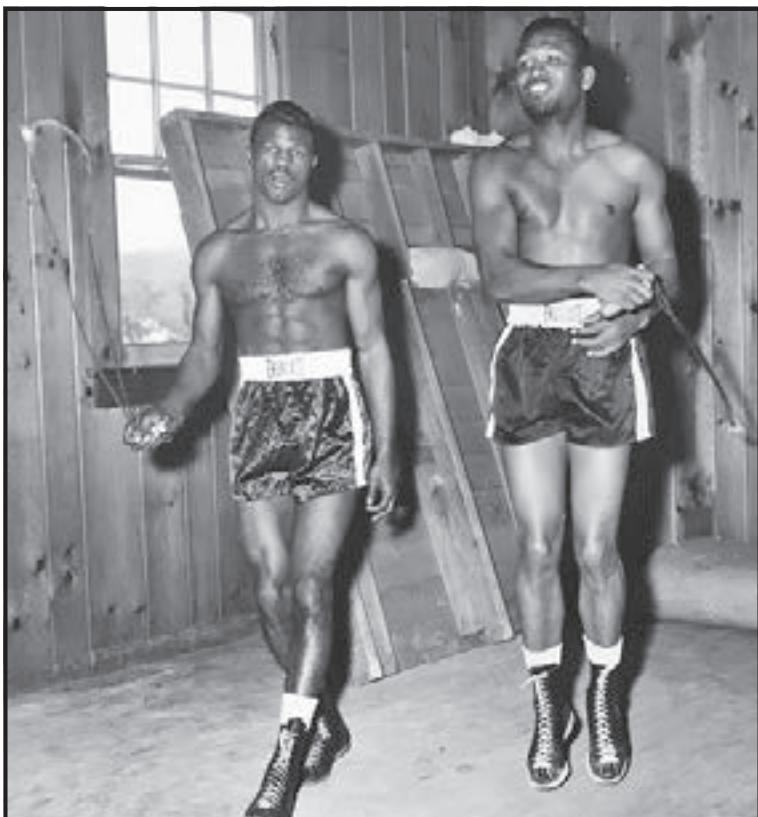
**Roberto Duran pulling his legs up high.**



**Mickey Walker getting lean and hard skipping rope.**



**Randy Turpin training for his challenge against Middleweight Champ Sugar Ray Robinson.**



**Garnet Sugar Hart and Sugar Ray Robinson demonstrate the one hand style of skipping rope.**

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



As we approach the doorstep of April we prepare to enter the new month full of anticipation.

It is, after all, the time when the long (some would say too long) regular season concludes in both the NBA and NHL. It is also the month when national championships are determined in men's and women's college basketball and in men's ice hockey.

In addition, it marks the commencement of the Major League Baseball season and the real spring season — a time when everything begins anew. It is hard to believe but a winner of the World Series won't be determined until around Halloween.

When you think about it, the Celtics are one of the best examples of postseason spring-time success. Some 18 times they have marched through the playoffs, reaching the pinnacle of basketball performance as evidenced by those 18 banners suspended from the rafters at the TD Garden.

As we thought about the entrance into April, one of the athletes that came to mind was Celtics star John Havlicek, the man immortalized by a single play in the playoffs (by a radio sportscaster's call, no less) but whose performance meant so much more to the team over the entire span of years of his 16-year career.

Like a number of Celtics greats from his era he was a Celtics lifer, never playing for another franchise.

Yes, that's correct. John Havlicek came right out of college and donned the uniform of the Green and White, never playing for another franchise during his career. And for a number of those years, he was a bench player, Coach Red Auerbach saving his services for somewhat later in many games.

Almost appropriately, John Joseph Havlicek was born during a basketball playoff month — on April 8, 1940 in Ohio.

He was a three-sport all-star in high school, competing in football, basketball and baseball. In fact, he was later drafted by the Cleveland Browns of the NFL and actually went to their training camp for a brief period, even though he had only played freshman football in college. But it was in basketball that he really found his calling. During his sophomore year at Ohio State the team went to the Final Four, winning the 1960 NCAA Division One National Championship.

He earned All-Big Ten honors during his junior and senior years and was named an All-American during his senior year. During his time as a varsity player in college, Ohio State won the Big Ten title all three years.

Drafted by the C's in the 1962 NBA Draft, Coach Red Auerbach respected his play and Havlicek embraced his position as the team's sixth man, paying back his storied coach by playing so well at important junctures during many games.

In fact, during his rookie season with the Celtics he played in 80 regular season games, averaging 14.3 points per game and 6.7 rebounds per contest. But he wasn't done. In the 1963 playoffs he saw action in 13 games, averaging 11.3 points as the C's

went all the way, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals in six games.

His second season was more of the same as he won his second NBA championship as a member of the Celtics. He averaged 15.7 points across 10 playoff games as the Green and White took down the San Francisco Warriors in five games to win the NBA Championship.

But it was a single moment in the 1965 playoffs that would come to immortalize Havlicek and the radio broadcaster who called the game.

It was the seventh and deciding game of the 1965 Eastern Conference Finals. The Celtics were leading the Philadelphia 76ers and star player Wilt Chamberlain 110-109 with five seconds remaining in the game.

All that the Celtics needed to do was to inbound the ball under their own basket to advance to the 1965 Finals.

Let's just say that buildings were constructed differently back then. Bill Russell's inbound pass somehow hit one of the basket's support wires hanging from the ceiling. That led to a turnover and now the 76ers had the ball and a chance to win.

Hal Greer was set to inbound. Havlicek was guarding Chris Walker. But as Greer's pass came inbounds Havlicek turned, jumped and tipped the ball to teammate Sam Jones.

In those different times, when many more people listened to games on radio, Celtics broadcaster Johnny Most described the action as "Green is putting the ball in play. He gets it out deep and Havlicek steals it! Over to Sam Jones! Havlicek stole the ball! It's all over! It's all over! Johnny Havlicek is being mobbed by the fans! It's all over! Johnny Havlicek stole the ball!"

That description immortalized both Havlicek and Johnny Most. For decades it would be played, though the video of the play can be confusing to fans of today. When they see a video replay of the action, many think they are hearing a TV broadcaster's description of the action. But what they are actually hearing is Most's radio description of the call superimposed onto the video. The call immortalized both player and broadcaster. Perhaps it is still the best known basketball call of all time — at least in this region with the New England Historical Society naming it as the greatest moment in basketball history.

The Celtics moved forward to defeat the Los Angeles Lakers 4-1 in the 1965 NBA Finals.

Havlicek went on to enjoy a great career with the Celtics. He went 8-0 as a player in that number of NBA Final series and had his uniform number 17 retired by the Celtics in 1978. He played 16 years for the Celtics, winning eight NBA Championships.

And Johnny Most had his microphone retired. Way up on a wall within the Garden, it is there — high above courtside.

John Havlicek died on April 25, 2019 in Florida at age 79 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church in Boston.

Johnny Most died January 3, 1993 at age 69 in Boston.