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POST-GAZETTE

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*“We ask a lot of those who wear our uniform.
We ask them to leave their loved ones,
to travel great distances, to risk injury,
even be prepared to make the
ultimate sacrifice of their lives.
They are dedicated. They are honorable,
They represent the best of our country,
and we are grateful.”*

— George W. Bush

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Grab and Smash NYPD-Style

More than 200 illegal mopeds and scooters were smashed last week in NYC under the weight of a bulldozer as a warning to scofflaws who don't register their rides and often use them to commit crimes. The “crush” at a Sanitation Department garage in Staten Island accounted for a fraction of the 5,700 illegal mopeds and scooters that NYPD officers have seized so far only in this year, according to Police Commissioner Jessica Tish.

Latest from Truth Social

“After 15 years of Dumocrats promising that ‘Climate Change’ is going to destroy the planet, the United Nations TOP Climate Committee just admitted its own projections were WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!”

Video Fries Foul Worker

An employee was fired from a Massachusetts McDonald's franchise over a video. The viral video shows her stuffing French fries into her mouth and then putting them back in the box. She will face criminal charges. Southbridge police said the woman, not yet identified, was formally charged at the Dudley District Court earlier this week. She was caught grabbing handfuls of fries and shoving them into her mouth, while a co-worker in the kitchen can be heard laughing.

CBS Beijing Blunder

CBS Evening News Anchor Tony Dokoupil was forced to broadcast live from Taipei, Taiwan during the meetup in China between Presidents Trump and

(Continued on Page 2)

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell GREEN LIGHTS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

by Patti Sartori

Only a few days after the Massachusetts State Supreme Judicial Court ordered Attorney General Andrea Campbell to decide if her office would represent State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's office or the state Legislature in the ongoing audit ballot, Campbell agreed to allow DiZoglio to hire a special prosecutor in her quest to conduct a legislative audit. “This will move forward,” Campbell stated in a recent appearance on GBH's *Boston Public Radio*. Campbell said her office will not represent the state auditor, nor the state Legislature. Campbell will also allow the Legislature to appoint a special assistant attorney general in the case.

“We are pleased that the AG has now publicly committed to



allowing our office to appoint an attorney of our choosing to represent the will of the people in our pursuit to enforce the legislative audit in court. Attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan did an

excellent job representing the 72% before the SJC, and we are thrilled to be moving forward with her generous offer to take on this important case, DiZoglio's spokesperson wrote in a statement.

The Attorney General's green light allows DiZoglio to access House and Senate budgets, audits, transactions related to each chamber's balance-forward line item, and a listing of all monetary agreements that each chamber entered into with any current or former members during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. The audit was overwhelmingly approved by Massachusetts voters (72% in support) almost 18 months ago, back in November 2024.

Mayor Michelle Wu Faces Rare Pushback from Boston City Council

by Patti Sartori

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu issued a sharp warning to any councilor planning to vote against her \$4.9 billion dollar budget, hoping the no vote would push the mayor to increase her FY27 budget. In a letter to the council, Wu suggested that a vote to reject her proposed budget, beginning July 1, would be “fiscally irresponsible” and made perfectly clear she would not be bullied into an increased spending plan.

“Some councilors have expressed a hope that rejecting the budget would result in the administration resubmitting the budget with higher revenue assumptions to allow for increased spending. Increasing the bottom line of the budget by either inflating revenue

projections or drawing from the city's reserves would be fiscally irresponsible. The proposed FY27 budget represents the maximum revenue that can be responsibly budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year,” Wu stated in a letter to the council.

Only 7 councilors, out of the 13 sitting members, needed to reject or vote no on the mayor's budget, with a number of councilors speaking out publicly against the cuts in the mayor's budget proposal. At-Large Councilor Erin Murphy did not hesitate to declare her concerns over the budget, stating “I am prepared to vote no on the mayor's budget because I do not believe it adequately meets the needs of Boston residents.” District 4 Councilor Brian

Worrell said he is also hearing concerns from constituents on a regular basis, acknowledging “We've heard from a countless amount of communities who have voiced their concerns about the cuts.”

The mayor said “it's the city's policy not to use reserve funds unless it is intended for extraordinary and non-recurring events,” but also stated, she “has decided to dip into the city's reserve fund to close the \$48.4 million deficit for FY26, and will file a supplemental budget with the council this week.” District 6 Councilor and Chair of the Council Ways and Means Committee Benjamin Weber said he has no immediate

(Continued on Page 2)

City of Boston Suffers a Setback in Property Valuation Lawsuit

The City of Boston's motion to dismiss a lawsuit alleging the city unlawfully inflated assessed values and taxes of commercial properties that filed abatements will move forward, as Suffolk Superior Court Judge Peter Krupp rendered a decision last week, denying most of the city's motion. Krupp allowed most of the lawsuit to proceed, and did grant the city's motion to dismiss monetary damages the city could have been responsible for and required to pay commercial property owners, if

the court ultimately rules they were unlawfully overtaxed.

In his decision, Justice Krupp determined the allegations against the city “satisfy” criteria for “extraordinary” circumstances to allow the court to act and take jurisdiction. The plaintiffs, 148 State Street, a downtown commercial property, filed the lawsuit in December 2025. “The facts alleged here satisfy the enumerated factors. Inflating a property owners assessment, unrelated to the property's fair cash value,

deliberately and substantially violates the constitutional and statutory requirements that assessments be strictly proportional. Compounding this alleged illegality is the assertion that the policy has been implemented in retaliation for taxpayers' exercise of their protected right to petition for an abatement and appeal an adverse ruling,” Krupp stated. He then went on to add, “the alleged add-back policy, where

(Continued on Page 9)

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



Res Publica

by David Trumbull



SACRIFICIUM *(The Sacrifice)*



Most readers understand that “sacrificium” is the Latin root for our English word “Sacrifice.” The pagan sacrifice was serious business to the pre-Christian ancients, as it formed the major part of every religious act.

Their sacrifices were either bloodless offerings or blood offerings. The bloodless variety used fruits, cakes, and choice articles of food that were either burned at the altar or placed on special tables before it. Liquid offerings were also made and these included wine, milk, water, and honey. Cattle, goats, swine, and sheep were normally used for blood offerings; however, special animals were also used as they identified

with certain gods. Horses were sacrificed to Poseidon (Roman-Neptune), and dogs to the goddess Hecate, as she was often associated with the dog of the lower world and together they haunted gravesites. Both ancient Romans and Greeks followed the rule of sacrificing male animals to gods and females to goddesses, while dark or black colored animals were sacrificed to the gods of the lower world.

The Romans eventually established special rules regarding the victims that were considered appropriate to the various divinities. A young white steer was reserved for Jupiter, Neptune, or Apollo, while a red

calf was used for Vulcan, and a male goat for Mercury, to name just a few. Firm rules were also established regarding the condition of the animals; only those that were without blemish, and had not yet been used for labor were sacrificed.

Rules were also set down to govern the age of the victims. Lambs could not be offered before their first shearing, and sheep could be offered only after they had given birth to lambs. Suckling pigs had to be five days old, and calves had to be thirty days old. Mature animals that were used for sacrificial rites were considered to be those whose upper and lower rows of teeth were complete. It appears that the use of animals for religious sacrifices was controlled by firm rules, and those who varied from the exact requirements were required to atone, or make amends if discovered. When victims meeting the specific requirements could not be obtained, the law permitted the substitution of a wax representation, one made of dough, or a specific substitute animal. Instances where animals were sacrificed in great numbers at one time have been recorded but are rare. One such mass sacrifice occurred in commemoration of the Athenian victory at the battle of Marathon, where five hundred goats were slain.

NEXT WEEK:
The Sacrificial Altar

Honor the Memory of Those who Gave ALL

This Memorial Day we remember and honor the women and men who died to preserve our freedom. Even as we enjoy kicking off summer — however we chose this weekend — that is itself a testimony to their sacrifices. We enjoy the cookouts, trips to the beach, and so forth because they made it possible. We especially honor those who died for our country when we decorate their graves or participate in patriotic parades and ceremonies this weekend.

At those solemn memorial events in our towns and cities, in our churches and synagogues, and in the halls of our veterans or other lodges, a familiar, haunting melody will mark the day.

The familiar bugle call “**Taps**” is generally believed to be based on a traditional French call to curfew (from Middle English “curfeu,” from Old French “cuvrefeu,” meaning cover the fire and turn in for the night).

According to the **United States Department of Veterans Affairs**, the use of “Taps” is unique to the United States military, as the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying ceremonies and memorial services. “Taps” originally began as a signal to extinguish lights. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for “Extinguish Lights” was the one set down in the Infantry manuals which had been borrowed from the French. The music for “Taps” was changed by Major General Daniel Adams Butterfield for his brigade in July 1862. Butterfield was not pleased with the call for “Extinguish Lights,” feeling that it was too formal to signal the day’s end. With the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, he created “Taps” to honor his men while in camp at Harrison’s Landing, Virginia following the Seven Days’ battles during the Peninsular Campaign.

The same *Veterans Affairs* internet resource, <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/taps.pdf>, states that the earliest official reference to the mandatory use of “Taps” at military funeral ceremonies is found in the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891, although it had doubtless been used unofficially long before that time, under its former designation, “Extinguish Lights.” The first use of “Taps” at a funeral was during the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. Captain John C. Tidball of Battery A, 2nd Artillery ordered it played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. Because the enemy was close, he worried that the traditional three volleys would renew fighting.

Taps is now played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag, and to signal the “lights out” command at day’s end.

LOCAL: 2026 Home Base Memorial Day Flag Garden to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Wednesday, May 20 - Monday, May 25, 2026. Soldiers & Sailors Monument, Boston Common.

See: <https://fundraise.massgeneralbrigham.org/event/2026-home-base-memorial-day-flag-planting/e770193>

Democratic National Committee Visits Boston



The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is eying Boston for the 2028 National Convention. DNC leadership, headed by Chair Ken Martin, toured Boston last week, led by the Massachusetts Democratic stronghold of Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Boston 2028 Chair Steve Kerrigan. “Over the course of their visit, Chair Martin and the DNC team members toured potential Boston venues for all aspects of the 2028 Democratic National Convention and experience the city’s rich history and unique atmosphere,” a Boston 2028 press release

read. The tour included a visit to Fenway Park, a reception at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square and stops at View Boston, J.J. Foley’s and other locations.

Healey, Driscoll, Wu and Kerrigan kicked off the tour with a press conference on Monday, May 18. The host committee is highlighting the city’s history, walkability and safety, with a track record of hosting major events, and promoting the accessibility of the MBTA from local hotels to the TD Garden on Causeway Street, where the convention would be held.

The 2028 convention is scheduled for August 7-10. The last time a Democratic National Convention was held in Boston, July 2004, former Massachusetts U.S. Senator John Kerry was the Democratic Presidential nominee. Boston is the final city on the tour, and is competing against Atlanta, Chicago, Denver and Philadelphia. It is estimated that hosting the convention could bring up to \$400 million in economic benefit to the region.

• **Wu Faces Pushback** (Continued from Page 1)

plans to call for a budget vote, and noted his reservations that a no vote would lead to a reduced spending plan with deeper cuts.

District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn said he has not yet decided how he will vote on the mayor’s proposed budget, but does take issue with the mayor “proposing to balance the budget on the backs of veterans, seniors, educators, students with disabilities and first responders. I believe during these challenging times, we must demonstrate fiscal discipline, fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency. Raising taxes is not the answer to our struggling economy. It’s time for positive leadership.”

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

Xi. Reportedly, “poor planning” left the network scrambling to get to China, especially after rivals Tom Llamas of NBC News and David Muir of ABC News were all set up in their Beijing TV studios.

Budget Airlines Merger
Allegiant Air has recently purchased Sun Country Airlines, combining two low-cost carriers at a turbulent time for the budget airline industry following the shutdown of Spirit Airlines.

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

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

Each Memorial Day

We Pay Tribute to Those Who Died in War Serving this Country

by Virginia Papa Gardner,
Chaplain, American Legion Auxiliary Post 440

In Newton, where I am from, the American Legion Post 440 family places a wreath on bridges and memorial stones around the city. We honor the men and women from Newton that made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. I have the honor of offering a prayer and laying a wreath at many of these services.

We all do the same thing at these ceremonies, we honor the name carved into the stone. We often look at the name, the date, do the math and calculate their age when they were killed and offer a prayer. However, behind the name on the stone, the wall, bridge, or plaque lies the untold story. There is a family, a story and a life cut short. A story that ends with an emptiness in their heart that time will never heal.

One such family was the Forte Family in Newton.

In 1920 Nicola and Concetta Forte left Benevento, Italy to begin their new life. They started their new life in Newton, with them came a legacy of love, generosity, unwavering devotion to family and to their new adopted country. Nicola and Concetta worked hard and started a family. The American dream was now a reality, a better life and opportunity for their children. Their son, Pasquale graduated from Newton High School and married Lucy Bottari, together they had four children, Nick, Richard, Guy, and daughter Lori. Their oldest son, Nick, was married and his wife was expecting their second child. Richard, had just graduated from Newton High School and was accepted into Northeastern and Boston University for Engineering, and he was engaged to be married.

Suddenly, something changed his mind. He believed as many of us did, fight to stop communism, fight for freedom, and fight to preserve the American Dream. This compelled him to enlist in the Army. His brother Guy recalls the following; “The day was September 18, 1968 Ritchie was leaving for Vietnam. In my heart I remember thinking this could be the last time I see my brother. Something made me got back for one last good-bye. I reached to shake his hand and he pulled the back of my neck towards him and gave me a kiss on my forehead. He told me he loved me. I left for school and I don’t think my tears stopped until I arrived at Newton High School. I was 15 years old.”

Richard wrote home often. His letters told of the horrors of war and he wrote this “God has kept me hard and brave so far. I pray God keeps me that way for the rest of my tour. It can be rough to see your buddies blown to bits” Three months later, one month before his 21 birthdays, on December 23, 1968 Richard was killed in action.

Life for the Forte Family was never the same. Richard’s death had a profound and lasting effect on his family. Richard’s dad never got over this tragedy. His son Guy says he was a changed man. Richard’s mom became very quiet. The unimaginable pain of losing a child brought an emptiness where happiness once reigned. Their son, their child was gone forever. Today, after almost 58 years, there is still an unmistakable sadness when Richard’s brother Guy speaks of this painful and heartbreaking part of his life.

I look differently at the names on the stones now. Richard, like thousands of others made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and us.

Freedom, to preserve the American dream, to defend the Constitution, and to fight communism. We owe the life we have today to our brave American Military and men like Richard Joseph Forte. His name and others etched forever in the stone must never be forgotten.

As American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain, I am honored to take part in the American Legion Post 440 Memorial Day Ceremony.

Pray for Peace!

ABCD NE NSC Seniors Learn Scam Prevention and Online Safety with Eagle Bank

Seniors at the ABCD North End Neighborhood Service Center (NE NSC) recently attended an informative and interactive financial literacy workshop hosted by Eagle Bank. The workshop focused on cyber fraud awareness, identity theft

prevention, scams targeting older adults, and online safety.

The presentation was led by Christopher DiBenedetto, Compliance Officer at Eagle Bank, and Gisella Di Paola, SVP/Retail Banking Officer at Eagle Bank and also an ABCD North End/West End NSC Advisory Board member. Participants were highly engaged throughout the session, asking questions and sharing experiences related to scams and financial safety. Discussion topics included phishing emails, fake text messages, identity theft, romance scams, and strategies to protect personal and financial information. Lunch for attendees was generously sponsored by Regina Pizzeria.

The event highlighted the ongoing partnership between Eagle Bank and the ABCD NE NSC in supporting and educating local older adults.

(L-R): ABCD North End/West End NSC Director Julia Power, Christopher DiBenedetto, Compliance Officer at Eagle Bank, and Gisella Di Paola, SVP/Retail Banking Officer at Eagle Bank, also an ABCD Advisory Board member, presenting the financial literacy workshop



Felting Class at the Nazzaro Center



Explaining the concept of a felting class.

Whenever you are looking for a fun activity, head toward the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street in the North End and ask for Patricia Romano, she never fails to let you down. She is always

thinking of creative ways for you to express your artistic ability and hone your skills, whether it’s a sewing class, arts and crafts, knitting and crocheting, or in the most recent activity, felting. There is no better way to spend a few hours with friends and neighbors, and even more gratifying and enjoyable when you leave with a handmade item. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to participate in one of these activities, make the time, you won’t be disappointed.

A huge shout out of thanks to the continued generosity of the



The finished product, compliments of a Nazzaro Center felting class.

North End Athletic Association (NEAA) for supporting these activities!



Participants of a felting class listen to directions.



Felting class participants concentrate on their craft.

The Lion of Zoppas

BY LUCA SOLDI

The Lion of Zoppas by Luca Soldi is a reflective book that blends personal storytelling in a historical backdrop. Set in the industrial landscape of Northern Italy, the book follows a determined protagonist navigating ambition, identity, and the weight of legacy.

Giuseppe Soldi was a World Champion amateur cyclist, from Cremonese Po Valley, or Forcello di Stagno Lombardo, Italy, post World War II, where the land is flat and the fields stretch without a hill, or ridge, and nothing but straight roads with carts rolling past. And the bicycle, of course.

To Giuseppe the bicycle was not a toy. It was the only way to cover the endless countryside. But for Giuseppe it quickly became something more, it became the road to the world. When Giuseppe’s father took over the old village mill in Migliaro, it was simply a change of scenery, as the values of hard work only grew stronger.

In Migliaro, the cycling club had just been founded. Giuseppe joined at fifteen, and he was quick to be noticed. The whole village followed him, every Sunday when there was a race. People lined the roads or drove along the route. Sixteen victories as a junior, that’s not a number, that’s a story.

Giuseppe learned that races are won during the week, not on race day. They are won in solitary training on the country roads, when no one is watching and the only thing pushing you



forward is that inner voice that says; “one more kilometer, one more.” The kid who had learned to ride along the country roads between Forcello and Migliaro quickly became a national champion, but in between were choices to be made, decisions to be questioned, setbacks to endure. Yet through it all, Giuseppe never stopped dreaming, persevering or cycling.

What makes this book particularly engaging is its balance between external conflict and internal reflection, where personal sacrifice often accompanies achievement. Soldi’s writing stands out for its detail and emotional depth. He offers vivid scenes of factory life and community dynamics while exploring the inner struggles of the central character. The “lion” becomes both a symbol of strength and a burden, representing pride, resilience, heartache and the expectations that come with success.

Overall, the *Lion of Zoppas* is a thoughtful end evocative read. It will resonate most with readers who appreciate character driven stories grounded in history, an underdog type of persona, offering a window into a specific time and place and a focus on ambition and identity.

Giuseppe Soldi passed away on July 6, 2025, after a brief illness. He was eighty-four years old and lived a full life. There are men who become champions. And there are champions who remain men. Giuseppe Soldi was both.

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Summer’s Bright Hello

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by freepic.diller on Freepik)

The lovely, luxurious days of summer are so close that I can take a bite out of them, sweet as a strawberry pie melting in my mouth. Puffy white clouds dot a perfectly azure sky, rimmed by the trees of a now glorious deep green. Warm days enable me to step out in flowing sundresses and no jackets, relishing the glow of the bright afternoon light. The other day, I caught a whiff of sunscreen emanating from the patio outside my school, and that scent immediately transported me to the beach, to the feeling of sand caressing my feet and the sharp cry of seagulls. There is perhaps no other season as exhilarating, as carefree, and as vivacious as summer. When the sunlight goes on well into the evening and the school year begins to wind down, I am grasped with the desire for celebration, for whirlwind excursions in nature. Indeed, it seems as if the whole world is gearing up for a feast once the summer commences. The next weekend, for example, offers two important summer festivals with their own unique customs and significance. Memorial Day constitutes a national remembrance that also opens the season. Meanwhile, Pentecost is a religious holiday celebrated with many folkloristic traditions. Both of these holidays encourage us to welcome the beauty of summer with love and open hearts.

Memorial Day arrives this year on the 25th of May. A patriotic holiday, Memorial Day differs from the height-of-summer fanfare that characterizes the Fourth of July. Instead, it focuses more on reflection and intimate gatherings of family and friends. There is a sense of hope and renewed expectation on Memorial Day, as people step out into the summer for the

first time, shedding away their cares as they enjoy the glowing sunshine and the warm breezes that ruffle the leaves. Memorial Day always reminds me of images of vintage Americana: blueberry pies sitting on checkered tablecloths, flags gently waving in the breeze, the curl of smoke rising above a barbecue grill, umbrellas dotting the bright-blue ocean shore. The long weekend of Memorial Day has often been considered the unofficial start of summer, when people emerge to take their vacations and a relaxed sense of joy permeates the air. However, it is also important to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day: that all of these summer joys we take for granted would not be possible without the brave sacrifice of the men and women who died for our country. I remember spending a quiet Memorial Day weekend evening watching incandescent green-gold fireflies blink in and out of the dark trees in my backyard, while the melodious notes of an Eagles song played from some far-off barbecue. This moment epitomized both the simple summer pleasures and the nostalgic sense of memory that typify this holiday. This Memorial Day, I plan to spend time with my family, eating my corn pudding and a summer fruit crisp full of peaches and cherries. As I experience the delights of the season, I will remember to be grateful to those whose courage paved the way for the very freedoms I am enjoying.

Immediately before our Memorial Day, Italians will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 24th. This important Christian feast occurs on the seventh Sunday after Easter and honors the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus’s

disciples. It also closes the fifty-deed Easter period — in fact, the name “Pentecost” derives from the Greek word for “fifty.” For Italians, Easter, or *Pasqua*, does not end on the Sunday of the holiday, but rather encompasses a fifty-day period peppered with many saints’ days and Easter-related festivities. The fortieth day after Easter, for example, is Ascension Day, or *Festa dell’Ascensione*. Commemorating Jesus’ Ascent into Heaven, Italians honor this day with springtime festivities, like the *Festa del Grillo*. During this Cricket Festival, children buy cages with toy crickets inside, which are thought to bestow good luck. Pentecost also brims with quaint and unique traditions. In Italy, the holiday is often referred to as *Pasqua Rossa*, or “Red Easter,” after the red vestments worn by clergy on this day. Many church services scatter rose petals upon the congregation, symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit and incorporating a beautiful summertime flower into the celebration. The English, meanwhile, know Pentecost as Whitsunday. They mark the holiday with Whitsun Ales, or outdoor fairs that include folk dancing, decorations of flowers and garlands, and charitable contributions to the local parish and other causes. Europeans know that it is so wonderful to experience a holiday where spirituality, community, and the love of summer seamlessly combine into an unforgettable celebration.

Pentecost and Memorial Day are two diverse holidays that nevertheless share the similar themes of love and community. They encourage us to consider our spirituality and our memory, our values and the commitments to those that we cherish. During the summer, it often seems as if the world is renewed once more, full of energy and a zest of life. It is a prime time for celebrating nature, for reaffirming our love to the world, and for celebrating the blessings we have in life. These holidays, with their deep significance and their beloved customs, remind us that summer is more than a season, but rather a state of the soul. As long as we embrace life with the same excitement and joy as a tree blooming under the golden sunshine, so will the sweetness of the early days of summer live forever within us.

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani



How Much of the Past Should We Preserve?

The above question I find pretty thought provoking, don’t you? I have come to the conclusion that life should be lived like a never-ending story. I know how the story began. I won’t know how it ends until the time is right. In between I live life to the fullest. Enjoy every moment of it. Learn from it often. Don’t repeat the errors of your ways. Keep trying to get better. I just celebrated my birthday and blew out some candles, again. I enjoy blowing out those candles; let ‘em keep coming every 12 months.

Something I acknowledge as I stroll along this journey of mine is that when you get to that turning point when fear and guilt dissipate and like being a passenger on a plane, you become free to roam wherever you wish. You get to speak your mind. You get to do the things you want to do. When you undo all those chains that have held you down, and really live the life you always wanted and didn’t know, it is truly a rebirth. Speak what you wish and if somebody else doesn’t like you doing that, you can simply tell ‘em where they can go. I hit that turning point in life a few years back.

When President Trump came along in 2016, I was MAGA all the way. However, over time and into Trump’s sixth year in office, I’m not that MAGA anymore. I recognize the good that Trump has done but I can’t condone all the stupid things he’s done either. He is truly “tu sei paz” at times. If you disagree with me, that’s your prerogative. I have finally realized that after this lifetime I am still on, that I write for me and not simply to have you agree with my thoughts and opinions. I want to make us all think about what it is that we each believe.

Finally, circling back to the title of this commentary. How much of the past should we preserve? How about holding onto what still works? How about letting go of what we don’t need anymore? We don’t live in the past. That’s done with. We don’t live in the future either. We are where we are right now. God has put all of us here in the present. It is all we really have. Tomorrow is another day and yesterday no longer has a life of its own.

Life is something we get to understand and appreciate on a daily basis and depending on where we want to be. Our goal should be to keep on living and keep on doing as we work through this life’s journey and learn from every moment of it. Live long and positive and preserve your sense of humor. Everything else you do is an extra gift. Oh, and whatever you do, try not to go insane with all the insanity swirling around you left and right.

In the end, the only thing worth preserving is, dare I say, sweet orange marmalade. Maybe you like raspberry or grape better. Do you want to be a passenger in life or a driver? We all can make that choice on a daily basis in life. Try it, you’ll like it.

North End Neighbors' Night

Enjoy complimentary sips, snacks, and more from your favorite local shops!



May 29th 5-7 pm

Heart + Sole • Boston Bottle • Shake the Tree
Aperitivo / Project Paulie • Sidecar • I AM BOOKS
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Oh, What a Day ...
at the Garibaldi Meucci Mesuem
Staten Island, New York



Front row, (L-R): Elaine Frangente (President, OSDIA Lawrence (MA) Ladies Lodge #2026), Carol Rossi (GMM National Overseer Co-Chair), Rudy Viscomi (OSDIA MA State President), Ronnie Sementa, Rita Anderson; Back row, (L-R): Angelo Rossi (GMM National Overseer Co-Chair), Angela Bombino, Anna Vitale-Kerkorian, Lynne Martell, Julie Sbraccia-Manos, Mary Ellen Sorenson, Cheryl Caira (OSDIA MA State Council Member), Lilia Viscomi (OSDIA MA State Council Member), Frank Gagliardi, Stephen Russo, Robert Russo, Margie Cahn, Tom Siracusa, Enza Rullo, Dean Saluti (President OSDIA Renaissance Lodge #2618), Michele Siracusa, Lino Rullo, Kevin Caira (OSDIA National First Vice President), Nora DiRuzza (OSDIA MA State Council Member), Robert Webb and Joanne Webb

On April 18th, early in the morning, 26 Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) members boarded a bus in Watertown after accepting their brown bag consisting of breakfast and coffee and headed to Staten Island, New York. The purpose of the trip was to attend an exciting and historical event at the Garibaldi Meucci Museum, an Italian-American Cultural Heritage Center listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is owned and operated by OSDIA. It is the historic home of the true inventor of the telephone, Antonio Meucci and the legendary international hero Generale Giuseppe Garibaldi. After many long years of petitioning the City of Staten Island, the two adjacent streets at which the Museum is located were being renamed to General Garibaldi Way and Antonio Meucci Way.

The attendees, approximately 180 strong, consisted of dignitaries/politicians representing various departments and precincts of Staten Island, National OSDIA Officers/office staff, Museum Officers/Commissioners/Staff and Overseers, many OSDIA members representing New York lodges and many OSDIA members from afar: Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the busload of 26 from Massachusetts, as well as residents from the neighborhood.

The ceremony opened with a short history of both Garibaldi and Meucci and the founding



Center: Joseph Sciamie, GMM Chairperson/Pres., SIF; Standing: Lou Santoro, Nat'l Treas.; Michael Polo, Imm. Past Nat'l Pres.; Kevin Caira; Nat'l 1st VP; Paul Polo, Past Nat'l Pres; Thom Lupo, Nat'l Pres.; Ernest Magliato, NY GL 2nd VP; Joseph Fratta, Pres., CSJ; Luigi Squillante, NY GL 1st VP; Carol and Angelo Rossi, National GMM Overseer Co-Chairs



of the Museum. Many citations were presented by various departments of the City of Staten Island. Dr. Frances Curcio, who was the impetus and driving force in bringing the street naming to fruition, was honored and gratefully thanked. An original, one-of-a-kind photograph of General Garibaldi taken with Union soldiers during the Civil War was presented as a gift to the Museum by the Museum National Overseers Angelo and



National GMM Overseer Co-Chairs Carol and Angelo Rossi, Joseph Sciamie, GMM Chairperson/Pres., SIF (center) presenting the Museum with an original picture of Gen. Garibaldi with Union soldiers

Carol Rossi who were given it by their home lodge here in Massachusetts, (Renaissance Lodge #2618). When the street signs were unveiled, it is certain the cheers were heard in Manhattan and beyond!!!

After the ceremonies during which our MA contingent each waved Italian flags, the attendees were treated to a scrumptious lunch and tour of the grounds and the Museum. Before heading home, a delicious dinner at Osteria Santina, complete with wine and tartufo for dessert, sated our appetites. On the long ride home, we watched the movie *Moonstruck*, starring Cher, while dipping into our goodie bags containing wine, biscotti, amaretti, and chocolates.

All in all, it was a stellar day and one that will be remembered throughout history — because of the street signs now naming the corner!!!



Overseers: Front row (L-R): Catena Spiritosanto (PA), Colette Grillo (NY, Carol Berardi (NY), John Tornatore (CT), Wendy Corso Ruud (FL). Back row (L-R): Angelo and Carol Rossi, National Overseer Co-Chairs

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The Symbolic Red Poppy

by Melinda Myers

Memorial Day weekend may prompt visions of the red poppy known as Flanders or corn poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*). This beautiful flower inspired the poem *In Flanders Field* written by the Canadian doctor Lt. Colonel John McCrae who ran a field hospital during World War I. The red poppy continues to symbolize sacrifices made by veterans. On National Poppy Day, celebrated the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, members of the American Legion Family distribute crepe paper red poppies, requesting donations used to support veterans. The flower has a long history linked to bloodshed and death as well as life and fertility. While you may associate it with World War I, it was also the subject of a medieval poem, *Le Chanson de Roland*, where the blood red flowers of this poppy were associated with a battle during the reign of Charlemagne. Its more positive past includes the Greeks' dedication of the flower to Aphrodite, the goddess of vegetation and its association with Ceres, the Roman corn goddess. Pictures show her holding sheaths of corn and seed pods of this poppy. In Great Britain it also symbolized fertility and remembrance, perhaps inspired by the longevity of the seeds that can sprout and grow after being dormant in the soil for up to 80 years. Corn poppy is native to Europe and Asia and arrived with imported agriculture seeds. Before extensive use of herbicides, it could be seen growing in farm fields which inspired the common name, corn poppy. Its beautiful red flowers were once used as dye, for coloring red ink and medicinal purposes. The individual flowers only last a day but the plant blooms for months, leaving an abundance of seeds behind. Make sure they are not invasive in your area before adding them to your garden. In areas where they don't pose a threat you can enjoy them in the garden, use as cut flowers and watch for visiting pollinators. Plus, the deer tend to leave these plants alone. Plant the seeds directly in the garden in fall or early spring. Allow the plants to set seed if you want them to return each year. When the seeds drop on bare soil and are left undisturbed, seedlings will appear in next year's garden. Just thin out unwanted seedlings and add them to the compost pile.



Grow Flanders poppies in full sun to light shade and those in hotter climates should plant them in a spot with afternoon shade. Although tolerant of a wide range of soils, they prefer those that are moist and well-drained. They do not tolerate wet, soggy conditions. Mature plants will grow 12 to 30 inches in height and are often used in naturalized, informal, or cutting gardens. Flanders poppy's close relative, oriental poppy, is a popular perennial garden plant and cut flower. Grow it in full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil. Enjoy the late spring to early summer blooms. And don't worry when the foliage disappears after flowering. This is normal and you can partner it with a later blooming perennial to cover the void that's left in your garden. Take a moment to remember our veterans as you enjoy a weekend of gardening and visiting with family and friends.

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* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



A Seat at the Table: LA FESTA DELLA MAMMA



Domenico Susi

Today I invite you to join me at the butcher block table at Sulmona Meat Market in the heart of Boston’s North End, where generations of family, tradition, and Abruzzese cooking continue to live on. Founded in 1960 by Domenico Susi’s father-in-law, Silvio, who came from Sulmona, Italy; a town in the Abruzzo region where meat stands at the center of its culinary tradition, the market was created to bring authentic, high-quality meats and family recipes to their new American community and to local restaurants.

I had the pleasure of meeting Domenico Susi and his two sons, Franco and Giancarlo. When I arrived, Domenico was seasoning, rolling, and carefully tying his house made pancetta. Sausages hung overhead, pancetta dried nearby, and throughout the market there was the unmistakable feeling that old traditions were still very much alive here.

Through the years, Domenico has practiced century-old butchery techniques with a deep commitment to quality. Today, he and his sons continue these traditions of the business, with the same care and dedication that have defined it for generations. While the market continues to serve the general public, it also serves many of the North End’s most distinguished restaurants, including Carmelina’s, DePasquale Ventures, and Lucia’s.

After spending some time speaking about the many meats and specialties this beautiful market offers, I asked Domenico to tell me his story and where it all began, assuming perhaps “it was in Italy.”

He smiled gently and told me no.
“In Italy, I was in the seminary from the age of 11 years old,” Domenico explained. He shared that a priest from his church wanted him to join and, with the permission of his family, brought him there, where

he remained until he was 17 years old. When I asked him if he wanted to become a priest, he shook his head and quietly answered, “No.”

I asked him when he came to this country and whether he came with his family, and again he answered no.

“I came when I was 21 years old in 1967,” he told me. “I married my wife Anna in St. Leonard’s Church.”

The following year, his first son Franco was born, followed later by the birth of Giancarlo.

As Domenico spoke, Franco joined our conversation and lovingly elaborated on the story behind both the family and the market itself.

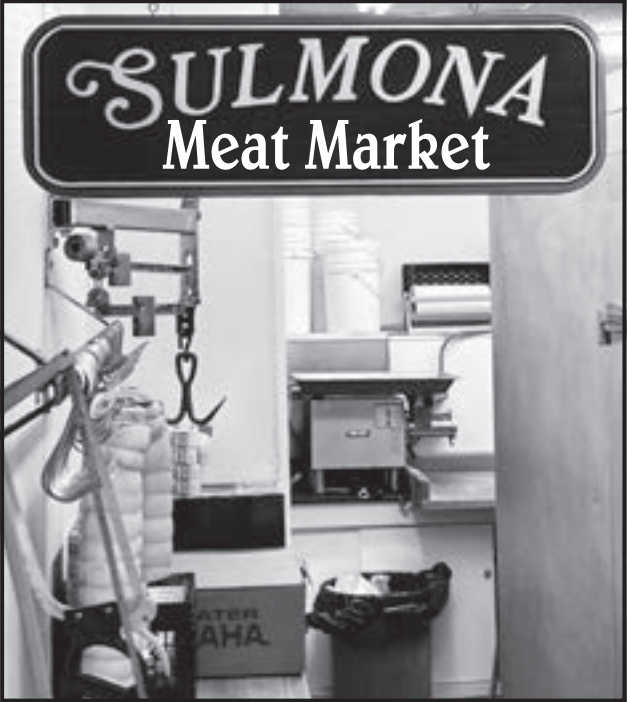
“When my maternal grandparents, Silvio and Adelia, first came to America, my grandfather opened this meat market with another man and eventually owned it by himself,” Franco explained. “Ironically, my mother and father grew up together on the same street in Sulmona, Italy, but my mother and her family came to America before he did. She and my father met again in Italy during the summer while she was back visiting family. They started dating, my mother returned here, and my father shortly followed. They got married, and at the same time my father was attending night school, my grandfather told him to come work with him here at the market. From 1967 on, he worked beside him, and eventually my father officially took over the business in 1982.”

When I asked Franco about the role of his mother in all of this, and the influence she had on both the family and their lives, his expression softened immediately.

“I grew up with my grandparents and parents all together in one home,” he said. “The two women at the center of everything were Mamma Anna and Nonnina Adelia. I called my grandmother ‘Nonnina.’ My mother had been a hairdresser, but after she started having children, she stayed home with my Nonnina while my father and Nonno Silvio worked here in the market. Mamma and Nonnina took care of us. They cooked all the time, traditional Abruzzese food. My Nonnina baked pizzelles and all kinds of cookies.”

Franco smiled as he spoke about growing up on Endicott Street in Boston’s North End surrounded by family, tradition, and food. And listening to him, it became clear that Sulmona Meat Market is more than just a butcher shop. It is the story of immigration, sacrifice, hard work, and family. And within this story are the women who stood quietly at the center of it all, Mamma Anna and Nonnina Adelia, cooking, baking, nurturing, and preserving the traditions of Abruzzo inside their home while generations carried those same traditions forward inside the market itself.

Behind the sausages hanging overhead, the house made pancetta, and the recipes passed from one generation to the next, lives something far deeper, the enduring presence of home, lovingly carried from Sulmona, Italy, to Boston’s North End, one meal, one tradition, and one family at a time.



ABRUZZO PORCHETTA COURTESY OF SULMONA MEAT MARKET

Pork roast (Franco suggested either ordering the roast from them, seasoned, tied and ready to bake or using a Rib Belly or Pork Shoulder roast with skin on)

Olive oil
Salt
Black pepper
Garlic
Fennel Seed
Rosemary
Kitchen twine

Rub the pork with olive oil and season well with salt, black pepper, garlic, fennel seed and rosemary, as desired. Roll tightly and tie securely with kitchen twine. Place seam side down on a rack set inside a roasting pan.

Roast slowly at 325° degrees until the pork becomes tender and the internal temperature reaches about 190° degrees, approximately 4 to 4½ hours. Increase the oven temperature to 425° degrees for the final few minutes of cooking, allowing the skin to blister and turn deep golden brown and crisp.

Remove from the oven and let rest before carefully removing the twine. Slice and serve warm.

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

North End Cares Annual Fundraiser 2026

North End Cares held its annual fundraiser last week at Umbria, on Hanover Street in Boston. It was by far the most successful fundraising effort the organization has ever held. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the entire North End Cares Board, along with the generosity of host Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures, and all who attended the event, the evening surpassed all expectations.

Whether it’s an Easter Party, Basketball Bonanza, National Night Out, Bingo, Summer events, or a Christmas Celebration, North End Cares continues to enhance the quality of life for the entire neighborhood, all led by local volunteers. The North End Cares Board would like to thank all those who donate and support the organization!



(L to R) North End Cares Board Members Danny Coakley, Karen D’Amico, Maria Lanza, Olivia Scimeca, Anne Fitzgerald, Ciara D’Amico and Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures, at the organizations recent fundraiser held at Umbria on Hanover Street.

ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center’s Memory Lane Group

ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center’s **Memory Lane Group** meets every other week, 10am, on the first and third Tuesdays, at the Michelangelo, 1 Michelangelo Street in Boston’s North End. The coordinator’s name is Ruth, and she sincerely and openly welcomes new members and participants!

This past week the group took their first group field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston. Thanks to coordination of District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata’s office and the generosity of Mayor Michelle Wu’s Age Strong Commission, a shuttle bus picked the group up from the Michelangelo in the North End, dropped them off in front of the MFA and delivered them back to the Michelangelo. The MFA tour guides said they were a very fun group to tour with!

If you have not taken the opportunity to attend the Memory Lane Group and participate in their activities, seize the next opportunity. You will not be sorry.



Participants of the ABCD NE/WE Memory Lane Group during a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. (L to R) Rachel Manupelli, Virginia Gillette, Ruth Blackman, Emily Trask, Joyce Rossi, Marie Colleameno, Diane Pesaturo and Samantha Peracchi of District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata’s Office.

2026 NORTH END FESTIVAL DIRECTORY	
JUNE	
SANTA MARIA DI ANZANO <i>Italian Mass St. Leonard Church</i> <i>Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i>	June 7 10:30 am 1 pm
SANTA ANTHONY of PADUA <i>Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i> <i>Mass St. Leonard Church</i>	Saturday, June 13 1 pm 5 pm
ST. THERESA SOCIETY <i>Mass St. Leonard Church</i> <i>Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i>	June 28 10:30 am 1 pm
JULY	
MADONNA DEL GRAZIE <i>Mass St. Leonard Church</i> <i>Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i>	July 12 10:30 am 2 pm
SAN ROCCO <i>Italian Mass St. Leonard Church</i> <i>Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i>	July 19 10:30 am 1 pm
ST. JOSEPH <i>Sunday Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.</i>	July 24, 25, 26 1 pm
AUGUST	
ST. AGRIPPINA <i>Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Thursday</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i>	July 30, 31, August 1, 2 12 noon
MADONNA DELLA CAVA <i>Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Friday</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i>	August 7, 8, 9 1 pm
MADONNA del SOCCORSO <i>North, Fleet & Lewis Sts. (Fisherman's)</i> <i>Sunday Procession 1 pm - Flight of the Angel 8 pm</i>	August 13,14, 15, 16
SANTA LUCIA <i>Thursday, Feast & Procession</i> <i>Thacher & Endicott Sts.</i>	August 27 5 pm
ST. ANTHONY'S FEAST <i>Endicott & Thacher, N. Margin Sts.</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i>	August 28, 29, 30 12 pm
SEPTEMBER	
SAN GENNARO FEAST <i>Paul Revere Mall (Prado) Hanover St.</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i>	TBA 12 pm
ST. ROSALIA di PALERMO <i>Procession Only - North Square</i>	TBA 1 pm
ADDITIONAL ITALIAN FESTIVALS	
Gloucester, MA SAINT PETER'S FIESTA June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 <i>Sunday Mass 10 am (Outdoor) - Procession 12 pm</i> <i>For more details visit: http://stpetersfiesta.org/</i>	
Newton, MA ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL July 15-19 St. Mary of Carmen Society <i>The Lake - Nonantum at Pelligrini Park</i>	
Malden, MA SAINT ROCCO FESTIVAL August 7, 8, 9 <i>Pearl Street, Malden, MA</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i> 1 pm	
Lawrence, MA FEAST of the THREE SAINTS August 28, 29, 30 Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino <i>Common & Union Streets, Lawrence</i> <i>Sunday Procession</i> 3 pm	
Cambridge Festival SS COSMAS AND DAMIAN Sept. 10,11,12,13 <i>Sunday Procession</i> 1 pm <i>Warren and Cambridge St., Cambridge</i>	

Saint Bartholomew of Braga

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Bartholomew Fernandes was born near Lisbon on May 3, 1514 to Domingos Fernandes and Maria Correia; he was baptized mere hours after in the local parish church of Nossa Senhora dos Mártires.

He entered the Order of Preachers on November 11, 1527 and made his solemn profession on November 20, 1529. On the completion of his studies in 1538, he taught philosophy in the monastery of the order at Lisbon and then for about two decades taught theological studies in the various houses of his order. In 1551, he received his master's degree at the provincial chapter of Salamanca in Spain.

During the course of teaching theological studies at the Batalha convent he was summoned to Évora at the request of Luis of Portugal, Duke of Beja to undertake the religious education of his son who was entering the religious life himself. In 1558 — against his own wishes — and out of obedience to his provincial, he accepted



the appointment to the arch-episcopal see of Braga and in 1559 received his episcopal consecration at the monastery of Saint Dominic on September 3, 1559 from the Bishop of Coimbra, João Soares. Pope Paul IV confirmed this appointment in

the papal bull “Gratiae divinae premium” on January 27, 1559.

On the resumption of the General Council of Trent in 1561, Bartholomew went to the council and took part in the last sessions. He was highly esteemed among the Fathers of the council both on account of his theological learning and the holiness of his life, and he exercised great influence in the discussions, particularly those with regard to the decrees on the reform of ecclesiastical life. On the conclusion of the council he returned, in February, 1564, to his see. Braga devoted himself to the task of carrying out the reforms of the Council of Trent as well as the decrees of his own provincial synod. A great famine and plague revealed the depths of his charity.

After repeated requests, he received, on February 20, 1582, permission to resign his see, and return to the monastery of his order at Viana. He passed away on July 16, 1590. The Feast of Saint Bartholomew of Braga is July 16.

Boston Live Tours

Meet Antonio Drougas, or Tony as he is known to his viewers and followers of **Boston Live Tours**, a digital live channel that highlights Boston's neighborhoods, history, events and local stories through live streams and short-form video, all of which are easily accessed on Facebook and Instagram.

What began as a spoof video post, a tiffany collar for Lola, his wife Pia's pet cat, turned into 10K views before going viral with 1.2 million views. From there it was, “let's add

live stream as I walk from my home in the North End to work uptown.” Thirty followers grew into tens of thousands in one years-time.

Tony focuses on big positives in local neighborhoods, with special attention to the North End, where he and his family call home. You can always catch him out and about making promo videos of businesses, where his most recent feature was a pastry tour of the North End. His goal is to continue expanding Boston Live Tours

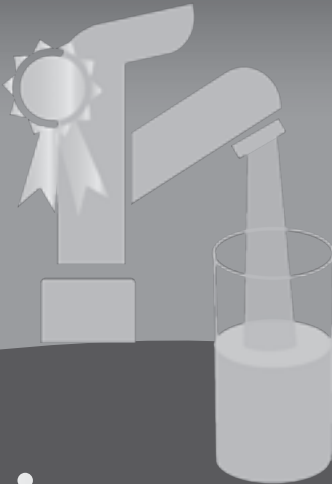
coverage, including live events, local business spotlights, and real time neighborhood tours that have begun to gain interest and engagement across Tik Tok and other platforms.

Whether you are born and bred in Boston and would like to see it from a different perspective, or you plan to visit in the near future, Tony and Boston Live Tours will open your eyes to the people, neighborhood culture and its history. For further details and information contact bostonlivetours@gmail.com

Award winning taste.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission has won the 2025 New England Water Works Association AWWA/NE Chapter Tap Water Taste Contest!

We're proud to provide water from protected natural sources that is quality-tested and meets the highest



Award winning service.



From source to service. The Commission is honored to have received the JD Power Customer Satisfaction Award for the fourth time in recent years.

As always, Customer service is our #1 priority!



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Run dates: 05/22, 05/29, 06/05/2026

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



This week begins my 36th year as a writer for the *Post-Gazette*. Last week’s column mentioned that, on the 15th of May, I would celebrate 35 years writing stories about my family. I think then, it is only befitting that I rewrite that first story about how Nanna and Babbononno first got here, how they met and, well, you’ll see what I mean.

Michele Contini (Babbononno) was born in Foggia, in 1875. (For you non-speakers of Italian, Michele is pronounced as Mick-Ale-eh, similar to the Spanish of Miguel.) My great-grandfather, Angelo, died when Michele was just a boy and Maria, my great-grandmother brought up her four boys as best she could. Michele was a bit on the wild side and she sent him to the parish priest to be trained in at least one trade. As a result, my grandfather received what was considered a good education. He made it through the 6th grade. The priest taught him woodworking, furniture making, how to read music and gave him lessons on guitar and drums. All the training allowed Michele to obtain a day job as an apprentice furniture maker and work as a musician at night.

According to the story as I remember it, my grandfather was married at a young age and wound up joining the Italian marines. Now, there had been a tradition that was started by Thomas Jefferson, back when he was president (it ended once Harry Truman left office). The tradition was due to Jefferson being an Italophile. He would have an Italian marine military band come to the United States and serenade the government officials. In 1896, Michele Contini was a drummer with the Italian marine band that came to Washington to continue the tradition. While he was performing in our nation’s capital, he was informed by the Reuter’s service via their transatlantic cable, that his young wife had died and his mother, was taking care of his two children, Paul and Grace.

When the tour was over, Michele couldn’t find it in his heart to return to Italy. He resigned his commission and stayed in the United States. He had a few dollars but couldn’t speak the language. After the detachment of Royal Italian Marines headed back to Italy, Michele left Washington and wandered about for a while. He headed for New Orleans but found it to be unfriendly to the Italian population that lived

there. From there, he headed to New York, but found the city too big, too confusing and too noisy. He then headed for Portland, Maine, but that was an outpost of civilization back then. Next, he tried Boston, liked the city, and decided to stay.

One day while having dinner in a North End restaurant, he happened to strike up a conversation with a man named Antonio Ceruolo. Michele told Antonio that he was looking for a place to stay and Antonio mentioned that one of his roommates had just moved out of their Salem Street apartment and Michele was welcome to take his place.

He accepted and the two men became fast friends. Antonio was a plasterer and did hand carving in much of his work. As a result, he always worked and did well financially.

Antonio saved his money to satisfy a dream he had. He wanted to bring his brothers and sisters to America, but not on sterage, the way he had immigrated, and the saved money which was enough for first or second class tickets would accomplish his mission.

One of his siblings was a sister named Giovannina. By the time she arrived, Antonio had met and married Maria, a diminutive Italian immigrant that he would spend the rest of his life with. After their marriage, he moved her to a newly acquired house in East Boston, 111 Orleans Street. When his sister Giovannina arrived, Michele became smitten with her, and the two began dating under the supervision of Maria and another of Antonio’s sisters who had already arrived.

Michele found work as a carpenter during the day and joined a dance band that played Italian music and worked nights, too. He also joined the local Italian Marine Band as the drummer who kept cadence as the band marched in holiday parades in Boston and other Massachusetts cities with large Italian populations. Able to save some money after the 20th century was under way, he asked Giovannina to marry him, and they did at the Mt. Carmel Parish in East Boston. An apartment was carved out for them at Antonio’s Orleans Street house and Michele moved to East Boston.

Deciding to Americanize, my grandparents changed their first names. Michele became Michael and Giovannina became Jenny, not a translation, but she liked the name. Jenny went to work doing hand stitching on men’s

clothing and helped to build up a nest egg. She heard rumors once too often from some of the Italian women who worked with her. They were about Michael having a family back in Italy. Finally, in exasperation, she confronted her husband with the rumors, and he told her the story of his being widowed with two children and how his mother was bringing them up in Foggia. She asked why he never said anything about the situation, and his response was that he felt that if she knew his circumstance, she wouldn’t have married him. Jenny then went to the cookie jar, produced a fist full of money, handed the bills to her husband saying that his children belonged with him and the money was to buy them tickets to America.

Soon, Grace and Paul arrived in Boston. Not long afterward, Angelina (Anne), my mother, was born, followed by Nicola (Uncle Nick), Antonio, and Luigino (Uncle Gino).

At age three, Antonio would pull a large pot of boiling water off the black iron stove and scald himself to death. He would become the first in the family to be buried in America.

Michael always worked two jobs, and as his young family began to grow, he bought a house on Eagle Hill in East Boston, then a Yankee neighborhood with a few Irish and one or two Italian families to add flavor to the mix. The house at 70 Eutaw Street is where my mother and her siblings grew up. Her brothers were taught music by their father and Paul and Nick became sax and clarinet players. Gino played drums for a bit, but after returning from World War II, would be the only Contini brother not to follow in the family tradition and play professionally.

In the early ’30s, Nick and Paul brought home the bass player from the band they were with. His name was John Christoforo but went by Johnny Christie. He and Anne began dating and were married in 1936. Two years later, I came along and would be the only child they had. Paul would father two daughters and Gino, a set of twins. Nick never became a father, unfortunately. I followed in the family business and became a professional bass player at age eighteen. This made it three generations in a row. Gino’s son, Richard, would learn drums in his teen years, but this is a story for another day.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

• Property Valuation Lawsuit (Continued from Page 1)

the city is alleged to add back assessed value to commercial properties that file abatements to challenge over-assessments, and drive up their taxes, allegedly impacts all commercial taxpayers. The plaintiff alleges that at least 60 commercial properties have been subject to the add-back policy.”

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, Pioneer New England Foundation and Sullivan & Worcester, issued a statement, “We are pleased with today’s decision, which allows this case to move forward and get to the truth. This case is about restoring fairness and accountability to the City of Boston’s

tax system. We look forward to proving that the City of Boston violated its commercial taxpayers’ fundamental constitutional protections, including the right to petition the government, which the court described as ‘one of the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.’

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Mary Cassatt



Mary Cassatt (1844–1926) was a pioneering American painter and printmaker who became a key figure in the French Impressionist movement, renowned for her intimate portrayals of women and children.

Born on May 22, 1844, to a wealthy Pennsylvania family, she broke social conventions to study art, moving to Paris to pursue her career, where she became a close friend of Edgar Degas.

Cassatt raised in an affluent, educated family that valued travel, spent five years in Europe as a child, visiting capitals like London and Paris.

Despite family objections, she studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1861–1865). Frustrated by the restricted training, she moved to Paris in 1866 to study privately with masters.

Cassatt faced challenges as a female artist in a male-dominated field but had her work accepted at the Paris Salon in 1872. Degas invited her to exhibit with the Impressionists in 1877. She was the only American artist to officially exhibit with them in Paris, bringing a unique perspective focused on the social and private lives of women.

Known for mastering pastels and using vibrant colors, her work captured tender scenes between mothers and children, often influenced by Japanese painting styles. She never married, valuing her independence to pursue her art, a modern life choice that contrasted with her domestic subjects.

She played a crucial role in advising American collectors, which shaped the Impressionist collections of major U.S. museums.

Later in life, she was a supporter of the women’s suffrage movement.

Diabetes and failing eyesight forced her to stop painting in 1914, and she went blind. She passed away on June 14, 1926, in France.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Division

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU26P0967EA

Estate of
KATHRYN M. MASTROPPOLITO
Also known as:
**KATIE MASTROPPOLITO,
KAYE MASTROPPOLITO**
Date of Death: April 16, 2026
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lisa M. Pelosi of Boston, 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: **Lisa M. Pelosi of Boston, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 19, 2026.

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

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

Witness, HON. JANINE D. RIVERS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 15, 2026

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate
05/22/2026

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. MI26P2395EA

Estate of
VALERIE R. WELDON
Also known as:
VALERIE ROSE WELDON, VALERIE FOX
Date of Death: February 17, 2026
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Louise Ann Santos of Billerica, MA** and **Valerie Lynn Clement of Hopedale, 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: **Louise Ann Santos of Billerica, MA** and **Valerie Lynn Clement of Hopedale, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/10/2026.

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: May 13, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/22/2026

THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso



An Ode to Dunkin’s Sugar Raised: The Silent Disappearance of a Staple

It’s no McRib in that Dr. Frankenstein’s of the food corporate world resurrect it annually nor is it the Choco Taco that went away with much fanfare leaving behind more than a few broken hearts. No, Dunkin’s sugar raised donut became a beloved item by embracing simplicity.

How best to describe it? It’s not hard. Think of the glazed donut with the sugar used on the jelly donut. That was all it was and that was all it needed to be. It was the perfect offering for when you just wanted a simple donut with added sugar.

Looking back, my favorite donut said a lot about me as a child. My palette for dessert was simple. Soda was generally not brought into my home, I only ever saw Coke or Pepsi in our fridge when my parents were expecting company, and fast food was a rarity. No wonder I never developed a throbbing sweet tooth. Nonetheless, Dunkin Donuts was a frequent stop for my father who needed his caffeine before heading out to the construction site. I still recall our little in-joke when he would send me in to buy him his coffee. “Cream, no sugar” became our code for Dunkin Donuts’ coffee once I memorized the way he liked it. And whenever a stop at Dunkin Donuts was announced, there was only one donut I asked for, the raised sugar. It just hit the spot, just right.

And then, at some point, I couldn’t even tell you when

exactly, the raised sugar began disappearing from the donut shelves. Its discontinuation was never announced and rumors persist that it is still around in those elusive “specific locations.” In my search for reliving (albeit on a much smaller scale; that little circle of calories can do more damage to me at 43 than it did at 5), I stumbled into a rabbit-hole of Dunkin methods that partially explains what happened to the sugar raised.

You see, there is a list of required donuts that each Dunkin (franchised or otherwise) must stock each day. The rest is at the discretion of the manager and it is often based on local tastes. Through this method, Dunkin gradually spurred the disappearance of the lemon donut as well as one I always liked, the butternut. And this too, likely, spelled the disappearance of the raised sugar.

I guess less people liked it than I thought or maybe it was simply too plain to compete against the sugary richness of maple frosted or Boston crème. There are other companies that make their own version of the sugar donut but Dunkin’s raised sugar was an unparalleled bit of perfection in simplicity, the literal sweet spot in sugar for the kid that didn’t need an overkill of cream or jelly squirting out of the dough.

In my adult life I’ve come to frequent on Dunkin’s for my own caffeine fuel and through the years I’ve seen their menu change (they even dropped “Donuts” from their name in 2019 to emphasize their greater variety of offerings) and I do have my go-to selections. Still, the raised sugar formed my earliest memories of Dunkin Donuts and, if internet stories are true, in some magenta and orange donut shop somewhere they are waiting for a revival.

Kraft Sports and Entertainment Issues Clarification on FIFA at Gillette Stadium

Unless you hear it straight from the source it’s all misinformation and not to be believed, at least that’s what Jim Nolan, Chief Operating Officer of Kraft Sports and Entertainment is preaching. With the first World Cup match set to occur at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro in a few weeks, Nolan is clarifying “misinformation” regarding parking, making it clear there will be ample parking space available for any ticket holder preferring to drive.

“There has been a little bit of misinformation out there, but I want to convey, particularly to the local fans, we have significant parking, significant enough parking capacity for anyone who wants to drive to Gillette,” said Nolan.

FIFA advertised 5,000 parking spaces for sale in Gillette parking lots, each at a \$175 fee, but Nolan also made sure to note the venue may open up more areas and increase parking availability for the soccer tournament.

With 70% of ticket sales originating from outside of New England, many will utilize the



\$80 Commuter Rail tickets through the MBTA or the \$95 bus tickets through the Boston Soccer 2026 host committee to reach Gillette Stadium, or “Boston Stadium” as it will be referred to throughout the tournament.

“If I’m speaking to our local fans in particular, if you were coming to a concert, or if you were coming to a

football game, we recommend you travel the way that you would, and as you know, most of the people drive,” said Nolan. He also corrected the tailgating misinformation, saying it is “100% allowed” at Gillette, but will only be open to fans with tickets. He added that tickets will be checked three times: pulling into the parking lot, outside the secure perimeter, and again before entering the stadium.

“With a full stadium event, we’re specifically telling people, don’t come if you don’t have a ticket. Celebrate in your community, go to the Fan Fest in Boston. There are many, many ways to celebrate,” Nolan suggested.

North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Lacrosse Salutes their Moms

What better to do on Mother’s Day than to come to Puopolo Park and watch your children play in NEAA Lacrosse.

Thanks to The Golden Goose Market/Steve DeAngelis, and Dr. Anthony Bova with the help of Allie Paolisso, the NEAA provided coffee and desserts to all the moms. There were 5 travel games played as well as the Sunday afternoon clinic. Special thanks goes out to Allie and her husband Dave — NEAA Lacrosse Commissioner, for all of their hard work putting this great program together. We also thank all of the volunteer coaches — without you this program does not succeed!

Cheers to all the players as well. Attached are some game action photos.



Waiting patiently in goal



Opponents hanging out



Lacrosse Skills Clinic



Heading down field



Good Game Everyone



Lacrosse teams in action

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 June 01, 2026 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2024 ZHILONG Q-MAX
Vin #HZ2TBCNN4R1001397
- 2007 HONDA CRV
Vin #JHLRE48527C034078
- 2007 PONTIAC G6
Vin #1G2ZG58N474143668
- 2010 BMW 328i
Vin #WBAPK5C56AA648805
- 2012 CADILLAC SRX
Vin #3GYFNDE37CS513727
- 2003 DODGE RAN
Vin #1D7HA16K63J652270
- 2007 HONDA ODYSSEY
Vin #5FNRL38787B094044
- 2008 HONDA CRV
Vin #JHLRE48518C066859
- 2017 HYUNDAI SONATA
Vin #5NPE24AF2HH487209
- 2006 SUBARU B9 TRIBECA
Vin #4S4WX85C864414972
- 2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
Vin #2GNFLEEK5E6140883
- 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER
Vin #1GNDT13S642180436
- 2011 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BK3EK7BU629809
- 2006 HONDA ELEMENT
Vin #5J6YH28736L005574
- 2025 ZHILONG Q-MAX
Vin #HZ2TCDMN0S1001455

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after June 08, 2026 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2003 INFINITI G35
Vin #JNKCV51E23M315805
 - 2008 MAZDA MAZDA3
Vin #JM1BK344881133161
 - 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Vin #5NPDH4AE5DH159164
 - 2014 NISSAN SENTRA
Vin #3N1AB7AP4EY204013
 - 2013 FORD FUSION
Vin #3FA6P0HR1DR306788
 - 2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
Vin #1GNFLFEK2FZ117119
 - 2004 ACURA TL
Vin #19UUA66214A007079
 - 2004 MERCEDES BENZ S-CLASS
Vin #WDBNG84J14A392486
 - 2007 HYUNDAI SONATA
Vin #5NPET46C97H210731
- Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 05/15, 05/22, 05/29/2026

LEGAL NOTICE



INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NAME
WHA-5-4-2026-LAWN

WHERE TO FIND
BID PACKAGE

Email Request:
CCHOUA@WATERTOWNHA.ORG

ESTIMATED JOB COST
\$45,000.00

BID DATES:
GO LIVE:
Friday, May 22, 2026

SITE WALK-THRU:
By appointment only

GENERAL BIDS DUE:
Friday, June 5, 2026
@ 10:00 AM

Run date: 05/22/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
Middlesex Division
Docket No. 26W0248
CRISTIANE PEREIRA, Plaintiff(s)
v.
ISMAEL D. PIERINI JUNIOR, Defendant(s)
To the above named Defendant(s) **Ismael D. Pierini Junior**
A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s) **Cristiane Pereira** seeking a Complaint for **Custody, Support, Parenting Time**.
You are required to serve upon **Cristiane Pereira** or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is 1 Raymond Court, #17, Hudson, MA 01749 your answer on or before **16th** day of **June 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of this Court at **370 Jackson St., 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852**.
Witness, **TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq., First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of May 05th, 2026.**
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court
Run date: 05/22/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300
Docket No. SU26D0567DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
SECUNDINO ZELAYA
vs.
GERTRUDIS ALTAGRACIA PENA REYES
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown prohibit defendant from imposing any restraint on plaintiff's personal liberty.
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 **Theresa E. Lane, Esq., Hera Law Group, 163 Main St., Maynard, MA 01754** your answer, if any, on or before **July 02, 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. JANINE D. RIVERS, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: May 13, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate
Run date: 05/22/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **May 23, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:
2012 HONDA CIVIC, BLACK
Vin #2HGFG3B84CH509830
2002 JEEP LIBERTY, ORANGE
Vin #1J4GL58K72W191872
2007 FORD FOCUS, RED
Vin #1FAHP37N57W201536
2015 NISSAN SENTRA, GRAY
Vin #3N1AB7AP0FY338759
2008 INFINITI G35, GRAY
Vin #JNKBV61F78M269101
2018 FORD FUSION, SILVER
Vin #3FA6P0LUXJR138642
2011 INFINITI G37, SILVER
Vin #JN1CV6AR7BM355356
2008 HONDA ACCORD, GRAY
Vin #JHMCP26838C028577
2009 NISSAN ROGUE, GRAY
Vin #JN8AS58V69W161365
2020 HYUNDAI KONA, WHITE
Vin #KM8K12AA3LU572973
2011 TOYOTA COROLLA, WHITE
Vin #2T1BU4EE2BC674846
2010 TOYOTA PRIUS, SILVER
Vin #JTDKN3DU7A0089155
2010 KIA SEDONA, SILVER
Vin #KNDMG4C30A6339835
2010 NISSAN ALTIMA, WHITE
Vin #1N4AL2AP2AC191672
2007 TOYOTA PRIUS, RED
Vin #JTDKB20U377657698
2007 HONDA ODYSSEY, BLUE
Vin #5FNRL38797B044320
Run dates: 05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2026



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarratani



800 Grand for Aaron Judge 2013 Card

Aaron Judge just hit another out of the park. A one-of-a-kind baseball card of Aaron Judge in his first professional season with the Yankees sold at auction for a staggering \$838,750. The 2013 Bowman Aaron Judge Superfactor 1/1 — depicting the eventual Yankees captain just after he was selected by the team in the first round of the 2013 MLB draft — is considered the most important unsigned Judge card to exist. It's previous owner didn't realize the card's value until a dealer came to his house to purchase cards — and was left awestruck by the find. The dealer, knowing its true value, posed the question, "So, if I offered you \$25,000 for this card, you would take it?" He didn't even let the owner answer before advising him not to accept the offer. In March, the autographed version of the same card sold for \$5.2 million. **Schwarber Takes Out the Sox Again, and Again, and Again**
On May 14, Kyle Schwarber hit his major league-leading 18th home run, a two-run shot that broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and the Phillies defeated the Sox in Boston, 3-1. With the Red Sox offense in hibernation, I still can't help to remember, we had Schwarber and waved good-bye to him. Imagine, if we still had him, would we be in such dire straits today?

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. MI26P2472EA
Estate of
ROBERT J. MARCIANO
Also known as:
ROBERT J. MARCIANO, SR.,
ROBERT MARCIANO
Date of Death: April 09, 2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Robert J. Marciano, Jr. of Woburn, 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: **Robert J. Marciano, Jr. of Woburn, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/09/2026.
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: May 13, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/22/2026

Batter Up for East Boston Little League



East Boston Little League Opening Day: Stephan Marin from City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata's office, East Boston Little League President Nick Free, Mayor Michelle Wu, Senator Lydia Edwards, Board member Alexis Cervasio, State Rep. Adrian Madaro, MassPort CEO Richard Davey, City Councilor Erin Murphy, and Neighborhood Liaison Carlos Garcia

Growing up I always liked this time of the year as the month of April falls off the calendar on the wall. It's May and May means baseball and its first cousin softball. I grew up on the other side of the city from where I live today. I prepared for endless pick-up games and most were played at Carter Field, the Prairie, or sometimes Marcella Park. I remember purchasing my first new baseball glove at Raymonds, which was next to Filene's. I also bought new sneakers and dungarees over at Mickey Finn's heading down Washington Street toward the Combat Zone. My new glove cost \$5.00, and I still have it somewhere in the house today. I did play on a few organized teams in leagues and everything. I played for the St. Philip Phillies in a baseball league full of inner-city Catholic parishes. A little later, I played on the Fenwood Flyers, a union league while working for the Department of Mental Health. Always a first baseman because I was a lefty and during my wonder years, I was either fat or skinny. When I was heavy, I could whack the ball all over the place or strike out. As a skinny kid, I could hit for a good average but rarely hit homers. I was thinking about all this recently since my grandson Owen is now playing on a team in the Norwood Little League and I was remembering being young and full of both energy and optimistic. On May 2, I attended the East Boston Little League's Opening Day ceremonies at Festa Field. What a great baseball park this is. It's always so positive when you see community volunteers and parents getting so involved with neighborhood children. East Boston Little League President Nick Free, a BPS teacher noted the league has a sizable increase in enrollment this season with more than 150 players (boys and girls), participating on 15 teams in three divisions (Major, Minor and Farm). All the local area politicians showed up, even our own Mayor Michelle Wu in her complete EBLL baseball uniform, cap and all. Almost didn't even recognize her. She looked like she was getting in the zone, hopefully not the strike zone, huh? I had a great day that afternoon watching all those young kids making memories that will last them a lifetime. About 10 years ago, I assisted "Coach

Dom DiMaggio" over in the North End as an assistant coach for a whole bunch of little rugrats learning the rules of baseball as T-Ball players. And

again, like over in Eastie, fans always packed the stands rooting for their kids out on the field doing what most of them once did a lifetime ago.



(L to R): Anthony Guerriero Deputy Director of Federal Affairs and Community Relations for Massport, Brenda Fuentes, Nora Adel, Gaby Perry Business Development Officer (BDO) and Loan Officer at First Priority Credit Union and Lisa Capogreco.



Put me in Coach, I got my sunglasses on and am ready to play.



Ready, set, let's hit the field.



Love these throwback Padres uniforms (Photos by Sal Giarratani)

BoxingRingside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Happy Birthday

to **JOE LOUIS** and **JACK BLACKBURN**

Perhaps the Greatest Team

in Boxing History

Jack Blackburn and the man he trained and who became the greatest heavyweight champion who ever lived, Joe Louis, were both born in May.

Jack on May 20, 1883, and Joe on May 13, 1914. Jack was a former boxer who had faced the likes of Joe Gans, Harry Greb, Kid Norfolk, and Gunboat Smith later took up training fighters. He proved to be one of the best. When he was brought in to teach Joe Louis the fine points, it turned out to be a perfect match. Jack showed the young Louis how to fight like a middleweight, a skill that worked wonders when facing heavyweights.

Blackburn passed away in 1942 at the age of 59. Joe left us in 1981 at the age of 66.

To remember both of these giants, I am sharing a number of photos of the two of them together.



HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

It is an even dozen.

That is how many years the Celtics have been in the postseason since Brad Stevens joined the Celtics organization some 13 years ago. This time, Stevens, the President of Basketball Operations for the Boston Celtics, is being honored for the C's remarkable performance during the 2025-2026 regular season

The team went 65-17 over that lengthy 82-game stretch and finished second in the Eastern Conference standings, enabling the C's to grab a top two seeding in the playoffs. It also marked the fifth straight time that the team has made the postseason since he was elevated to the executive position after serving eight years as the head coach.

This is the second time that Stevens has won the award. He was previously honored for the franchise's performance during the 2023-2024 regular season—a season that culminated in a postseason that saw the Celtics claim Banner 18.

The award is based on performance during the regular season, not the playoffs. That's why Connor Flagg of Maine was able to be named the 2025-2026 Rookie of the Year even though his team, the Dallas Mavericks, did not qualify for the playoffs this spring.

For his part Stephens accepted the award on behalf of the team, noting in the Boston Globe that “these awards are organizational awards and everyone in this building shares in this recognition.”

Head coach Joe Mazzulla agreed, telling the Gobe “I think it is not just him but the front office in general. The front office, the scouting department, the analytics department. There is a lot that goes into signing a guy, drafting a guy and bringing a guy in. It is really a diligent process. There is a lot of alignment into how we play basketball. They allow people to do their jobs and those guys are really good at what they do.”

The first round of the 2026 NBA Draft will be held on June 23 starting at 8 p.m. with the second round to follow on June 24 at the same time. Thus, the NBA Draft is one of the most difficult in its selection since only a maximum of 60 men can be selected across the two nights.

Those not selected could still be signed by a franchise with their performance in the NBA Summer League serving as an audition.

Signed first round picks could earn over \$10 million a year with later picks earning considerably less—down to around \$1.16 million.

With name, image and likeness deals continuing to dominate top college football and basketball programs it seems that the statement of University of Illinois football player Dick Butkus made when he signed his first NFL contract in the early 1960s (“I must be the only player ever to turn pro and take a cut”) has indeed become a reality.

It is hard to believe but there was a time in the basketball career of Brad Stevens when he worked for nothing—literally nothing, joining the staff of the Butler University team as a volunteer for the 2000-2001 season. That is a long way from the day that then Celtics GM Danny Ainge supposedly removed a dollar bill from his wallet and told Stevens there was indeed some \$22 million of those waiting for him if he would sign a multi-year contract on the dotted line.

And thus, it was that when Ainge and other top Celtics executives returned to Boston from Indiana there was a faxed copy of the signed contract waiting for them with the signature of Stevens affixed to the bottom line.

Thus, he left Butler University where he had started as a volunteer assistant and got promoted to the full-time staff a year later. He assumed the head coaching position for the start of the 2007-2008 season.

Both Stevens and his future employers would go on to have successful seasons. Stevens had completed a 30-win season and had lost to Duke by two points in the NCAA Championship Game. The Celtics, of course, would win Banner 17 at the Garden by defeating the Los Angeles Lakers. The celebration would last until approximately 3 a.m.

In 2010 Stevens became the youngest coach to take a team to the NCAA Division One Final Four national championship game.

Butler would not be the only team to have a long basketball journey end in defeat that season. The Celtics would hold a fourth quarter lead over the Lakers before losing to them in Game Seven of the NBA Finals.

Times change and Celtics coach Doc Rivers served out the final year of his contract. He later took the head coaching position with the Los Angeles Clippers in 2013.

Brad Stevens filled that vacancy on Causeway Street before assuming his executive duties. Congratulations. to the Celtics organization as they continue the quest for Banner 19.

What Happens When You Don't Advertise?

Nothing!

For information on advertising in the Post-Gazette, call 617-227-8929.