THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 130 - NO. 24 | BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 13, 2025 | $.35 A COPY

St. Leonard Church Celebrates

Saint Anthony Feast Day

with Annual Sunday Procession

Carrying the majestic wood carved statue of St. Anthony are the faithful devotees of the beloved Saint. ***(Photos by Gerri Palladino)***

On Sunday, June 8, 2025 following the noon time mass at St. Leonard Church in the North End, a procession, led by the Franciscan Friars, Devotees and the Italian-American Band of Lawrence, took place throughout the neighborhood. On hand to offer his blessing was Pastor of St. Leonard Church Father Michael Della Penna.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Does Mayor Wu Have Her Own #Metoo Scandal?

The latest news seems all bad especially for the manner in which Mayor Wu handled some recent internal turmoil between employees and supervisors. According to Joe Battenfeld in the *Boston Herald* on June 9th, there are now allegations that a member of Wu's cabinet, inappropriately propositioned another City Hall employee. Wrote Battenfeld, is whether those alleged advances "constitute a breach of the city's anti-harassment policies."

I tend to agree with both Joe Battenfeld from the *Boston Herald* and with Josh Kraft who is running against Mayor Wu in the September preliminary on Tuesday, September 9th.

As I read Josh Kraft's statement on this scandal, this incident may continue to have legs and is not a passing problem. This story will likely hang around for a while.

The following statement is from Josh Kraft in response to new reporting today that raises serious questions about the mayor's response to the latest scandal at City Hall:

"The information published today(June 9) in the Boston Globe is troubling and the clearest example of a culture inside City Hall that expressly tolerates sexual harassment. In fact, this is the second example of a member of Mayor Wu's senior team engaging in harassing behavior without any consequences.

It should be concerning to all Bostonians that we have a mayor who hasn't taken allegations of sexual

(Continued on Page 11)

Boston City Council Quietly Passes $4.8 Billion Dollar Budget

Mayor Wu Quickly Signs Off with No Changes

by Patti Sartori

Without its usual fanfare and testiness, the Boston City Council unanimously approved Mayor Wu's proposed $4.8 billion dollar FY 2026 budget last week, including $9 million in Council amendments. Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee Councilor Brian Worrell noted the importance of devising a budget that reflects the needs of residents, especially given the Federal Government's threats to cut and withhold funding from Boston, due to its sanctuary city status.

"Despite the uncertainty, we delivered a budget that doesn't just maintain the status quo, it pushes us forward. This budget is stronger when it reflects the people we serve," Worrell stated at the weekly council meeting. Although Worrell did acknowledge that while the amended budget includes investments that reflect the Council's values, it does not solve long term challenges like the city's housing crisis.

Unlike past budget votes, this year there was minimal discussion, no threats of a mayoral veto and no public safety cuts. It was however, amended to the tune of $9 million dollars prior to its 13-0 unanimous council approval. Mayor Michelle Wu joined councilors at City Hall on Monday for a signing

(Continued on Page 5)

The Meaning of Father's Day

by Patti Sartori

Father's Day should be more than a day to gather for a back yard barbecue or purchase a card on the second Sunday in June. Father's Day should be a time to pause and recognize the quiet strength, steady hands and sacrifices of the men who have shaped our lives, not just through biology, but through love, responsibility, support and example.

Fatherhood doesn't always look the same. For some, it's a biological father who was always there with steady guidance, a warm hug and solid advice. For others it's a grandfather, step-father, uncle, coach, mentor or even a mother who stepped in and chose to be present, offering wisdom and support when it was needed most. Father's Day is for all of them, the men

(Continued on Page 5)

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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

HELIOPOLIS

Last week, we discussed Helios, the Sun god and his Roman counterpart named Sol. This week, attention is directed to an ancient Egyptian city near Cairo, named Heliopolis in honor of that Sun god. It was also well known as the "City of the Sun." Herodotus, the famous ancient Greek historian, claimed that its inhabitants were the wisest and most ingenious of all Egyptians. Berosus, another Greek historian claimed that this was the city of Moses, while others tell us that it was a place of resort for all Greeks who visited Egypt for instruction and knowledge. Plato lived here for about three years. It is also listed as the residence of the Egyptian priest named Manetho, who wrote the first history of Egypt in the Greek language.

Strabo, a Roman geographer and historian spoke of this city being built on a long artificial mound of earth in order to keep it above the seasonal flooding of the Nile which occurred every year for thousands of years. The oracle of Apollo and a famous temple of the sun were located here, as well as a fountain which gave forth-excellent drinking water. I am told that the fountain still remains and that it inspired the name "Fountain of the Sun."

Obelisk is the name given to the monumental pillars of Egypt. These are huge monoliths (monos meaning single, plus lithos meaning stone). They are square in shape but taper to the summit and look like a miniature Bunker Hill Monument or Washington Monument. They usually stood in pairs to dignify entrances to temples.

The Cleopatra's Needle of New York was erected in Central Park on February 22, 1881

The usual height was ten times the thickness at the base. Hieroglyphic inscriptions on the sides of these pillars tell the story of the persons or events for which they were erected. Heliopolis was noted for its obelisks, many of which were removed to other countries in later years. Two very famous obelisks are the one popularly known as "Cleopatra's Needles." One of these was taken to London in 1878, and erected on the Thames embankment. The other was taken to New York City in 1881, and set in Central Park.

The largest obelisk in existence is the one in the piazza of Saint John Lateran in Rome. It came from the Temple of the Sun, in Heliopolis, where it was originally erected about 1500 B.C. by Thothmes III, one of the greatest of the Egyptian Pharaohs. The obelisk is of Egyptian granite, 105 feet high, nine feet square at the bottom, and six feet square at the top, and weighs 450 tons. Another monument, the huge obelisk in front of St. Peter's in Rome should serve as a constant reminder of two of the most brutal men that this world has ever known. It was brought to Rome, also from Heliopolis, and was transported via a special boat that was constructed by the Roman emperor Caligula. The obelisk was erected on the "spine" (median strip) of Nero's Circus, and at the base of this monument is where St. Peter and countless numbers of Christians were martyred. It was moved from its original site to its present location by Pope Sixtus in 1586. I am told that the bronze cross now at the top contains a relic of the true cross.

NEXT ISSUE: *Mithras*

Vacant Office Buildings Place Financial Strain on Residential Property Owners

The number of empty office buildings in the City of Boston continues to grow, commercial values steadily decline while Boston faces a potential $1.7 billion shortfall in the next five years, according to a recent fiscal oversight agency. The most recent numbers are even more concerning that the $1.4 billion projected shortfall issued not too long ago go by the Boston Policy Institute (BPI) and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University.

"Empty offices continue to threaten Boston's fiscal future, as once attractive buildings sell for half their former value and property tax collections weaken faster than anticipated. A lack of decisive action, combined with a faster-than expected decline tax assessments, has further darkened the outlook," the report stated.

BPI predicted a $1.7 billion decrease in office values over the next five years. If assessed values in the commercial real estate market hit a deeper decline of 35-45%, it could push the potential shortfall to over $2 billion in the next five years, assuming property taxes continue to rise and office values continue to fall.

Since the onset of Covid-19, office buildings have continued to sit empty, leading to a decline in value end decimating the city's commercial tax base. The vacancy rate for offices in the City of Boston has risen from 8% in 2019 to almost 24% as of today, according to the report. Adding to the current situation is the fact that the city budget relies on three-quarters of its revenue from property taxes.

In order to try and make up the difference, Boston's residential homeowners received a substantial increase earlier this year in property taxes due to the falling commercial values. If the city continues to raise property taxes, instead of seeking other budgetary solutions, commercial and residential values could become even more depressed over time, the budget report stated.

The report suggested "the city cut spending in the budget, instead of increasing property taxes. Boston leaders sometimes imply that their budget is self-healing, that shortfalls cannot happen, and that the city can always collect the maximum amount of revenue allowed under the state law. The way shortfalls get filled, in the current budget process, is through automatic tax rate increases. And while that might be fine when increases are small, large rate hikes carry substantial economic and political risks."

Tax rates for residential homeowners may potentially rise to 25% over last year's level by 2029, if the city does not adjust spending or reduce revenue goals.

Last year, City Hall dismissed the BPI report predicting a $1 billion shortfall in 2029. This year Gregory Maynard, executive director of the Boston Policy Institute (BPI) said, "I hope Mayor Wu and the administration takes this more seriously this year. I think the pushback we got from City Hall last year was pretty dishonest. The mayor calling the BPI report false information and then proposing a tax shift which was explicitly aimed at solving the problem we identified. I think what this makes clear is that the city needs to get serious about taking the health of downtown Boston much more seriously."

Coletta Zapata Proposes Increase to Visitor Parking Violation Fines in the North End During TD Garden Events

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (District 1) introduced an ordinance to raise parking violation fines for non-residents in the North End during TD Garden events. Coletta Zapata's proposal comes in response to the North End's unique challenges as one of Boston's most densely populated neighborhoods with limited on-street parking. During TD Garden events, residents frequently face difficulty finding parking in the neighborhood due to visitors parking in resident-only zones without permits. By increasing fines, Coletta Zapata aims to deter these parking violations and ensure North End residents have access to on-street parking in the neighborhood.

"North End residents shouldn't have to compete for parking in their own neighborhood every time there's a TD Garden event. By increasing fines for unauthorized parking, we're dissuading people from using on-street neighborhood parking and protecting quality of life for North End residents who rely on limited parking." said Councilor Coletta Zapata.

Currently, the fine for parking in a resident-only space without a permit is $60, while event parking at nearby garages like the North Station Garage can cost up to $65. Because the cost difference is so small, many drivers choose to risk the fine instead of paying for legal parking. Raising the fine would help make illegal parking a less appealing financial choice.

Under Coletta Zapata's ordinance parking in the North End during TD Garden events without a valid North End resident parking sticker would result in a $100 ticket with an additional $33 penalty if the ticket is not paid within 21 days. The Councilor's proposal comes following success in 2015 when the City of Boston implemented a $100 fine for illegal parking in resident-only areas during Fenway Park events, which dissuaded unauthorized parking.

A hearing for the ordinance will be scheduled in the upcoming months and posted on the Councilor's social media. For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata by phone at 617-635-3200 or by email at *elizabeth.sanchez@boston.gov*.

POST-GAZETTE

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

e-mail: postgazette@aol.com

Website: www.BostonPostGazette.com

Subscriptions in the United States $35.00 yearly

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

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

Vol. 130 - No. 24 **Friday, June 13, 2025**

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.***

COMMENTARY

The Pride I Feel as an American When I see My Country's Flag Waving

by Patti Sartori

Every time I see the American Flag waving proudly on a flagpole, whether it's billowing above a school, standing tall atop a government office building or moving ever so slightly on a neighbors front lawn, I feel something powerful bubbling within me, typically with tears in my eyes. And it's not just pride. It's a deep awareness of the price that was paid by others for my pride. The Stars and Stripes of the American flag are not just mere symbols sewn onto material, they stand as representation of the sacrifice, struggle and hope of our nation.

As Americans we often proclaim our freedoms of liberty, justice and opportunity and often take them for granted. But when I see the flag, I think of the cost to ensure those freedoms. Maybe because my dad was an extremely proud Veteran of the United States Army that I think of the young men and women who left, and continue to leave their homes and families to fight and defend a country they so fervently believe in. Sadly many did not return. Others returned forever changed. I also think of the imperfect parts of American history and realize the courage it took to confront them and correct them.

I make no apologies for the unwavering sense of pride I feel whenever I see the American flag, because the flag continues to remind me that what we have wasn't free. It was fought for, earned and very often paid for in silence by people neither looking for nor earning any recognition. It reminds me that being an American isn't just about enjoying rights and freedoms, but rather speaking up when it matters and most importantly teaching the next generation the truth about the cost.

Seeing the flag doesn't just make me feel patriotic, it makes me remember, and in remembering it challenges and encourages me to be worthy of the price it represents.

That's the weight I feel as a proud and appreciative American and a burden I carry with gratitude.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

The opinions expressed by our columnists and contributors are not necessarily the same as those of The Post-Gazette, its publisher or editor. Photo submissions are accepted by the Post-Gazette provided they are clear, original photos. There is a $5 charge for each photo submitted. Photos can be submitted via e-mail: postgazette@aol.com. If you want your photos returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The North End Marching Band

Entertained Boston Red Sox Fans During Italian Heritage Night at Fenway Park

Bunker Hill 250 Presents

Events Lineup

Revolution Ignited Festival
June 13-17, 2025

Revolution Ignited: A series of events will honor the legacy of the Battle of Bunker Hill, bringing history to life through archaeological trenches, a beer garden, original research, exhibits, and immersive storytelling. The series kicks off with a celebration on **Friday, June 13th, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM at City Square Park**. This milestone event offers a deeper understanding of Charlestown's past and its lasting impact on American history.

Salutes to the United States Army, 250th Anniversary
June 14th-17th

Continuing the tradition of Charlestown honoring armed services, the United States Army will celebrate their anniversary with a ceremony and will participate in various events throughout the week. The U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus and the Musical Ambassadors of the Army will play a tribute concert, honoring those who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill on **Tuesday, June 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.**

Bunker Hill Parade
June 15th

Even more spectacular in this 250th anniversary year! This beloved Charlestown tradition honors the Battle of Bunker Hill, the armed services, and the essence of American heritage while celebrating the historic neighborhood of Charlestown. Marking the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill — and of the U.S. Army and Navy — the parade features more military units than ever, including the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, Commander-in-Chief's Guard, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Special this year: the Brothers of the Battle, descendants of those who fought, marching to honor their families' legacy. This once-in-a-generation event will bring history to life. Don't miss it!

Bunker Hill Monument 200th Anniversary
June 16th

Celebrating the monumentalization of Bunker Hill with a re-enactment of the laying of the cornerstone and ceremony, a visit to Dr. Joseph Warren's Tomb, toasts, speeches and a dinner.

Bunker Hill Day:
A Tribute to Higher Ground
June 17th

Bunker Hill Monument and St. Francis De Salles Church. Remembrance events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, the people who fought, and all that was sacrificed.

Battle of Bunker Hill Re-enactment
Stage Fort Park, Gloucester, MA
June 21-22

Colonial and British forces clash in a tactical recreation of the Battle of Bunker Hill, demonstrating the strategic complexities of Revolutionary War combat. Re-enactors will precisely map the battle's three-stage assault, from initial fortification to amphibious landing and infantry charge, revealing the military precision that defined this critical engagement.

For a complete listing, please visit https://www.bh250.org/

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

From Cheerful Cherries to Macabre Melons

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

Ah, summer — the time of vivid sunshine, warm breezes, and days spent relaxing at the beach. It is also the time when I crave fresh fruit the most. The early summer crop of June boasts some of the juiciest, most succulent fruit around. What constitutes summer if not a big bite out of a fire-engine red watermelon, its pulp disintegrating into a sweet and refreshing drink? What else can brighten June mornings like a pile of gem-hued strawberries artfully scattered over cereal or pancakes? What about the clinking of ice cubes floating in a glass of peach or cherry juice — doesn't the mere thought of such a drink bring relief on a stiflingly humid day? Yes, summer fruits have always appealed to me, which is why I was both delighted and surprised to find that they contain a wealth of folklore and superstitions woven between their stems and vines. So let us embark on a journey of taste and the sort of lore that has been handed down from our ancestors, originating from the days when agriculture formed the backbone of almost every society.

1) Cherries: I love to bake with cherries. Their tartness perfectly accentuates sweet cakes and muffins. On Memorial Day, I even made a fruit crisp with a blend of peaches and cherries, and it was simply sublime. If people loved cherries so much that they wanted to guarantee a good crop of them, a Swiss superstition states that the first cherry of a tree must be eaten by a woman who recently gave birth to her first child — hopefully, the woman's fertility would rub off on the tree and ensure a plethora of fruit for the next harvest. Meanwhile, Italian author Andrea Malossini asserts that it is lucky to find a twin cherry, or two cherries sharing a single stem. Another Italian proverb states *"Giugno ciliegie a pugno,"* meaning that June has an abundance of cherries!

2) Strawberries: Did you happen to catch the full moon this month on June 11th? If you did indeed catch a glimpse of the moon, you saw what is called the Full Strawberry Moon. The Algonquin tribes knew June's full moon as such because it coincided with the time that strawberries were ripe for gathering. A quaint legend states that if a person breaks a double strawberry (two strawberries that somehow grew together in one) in half and shares it with another person, the two would be destined to fall in love. There is still some debate about how strawberries got their name. One version states that the little yellow seeds resembled flecks of straw, while another popular theory declares that the shoots of the plant would often be dispersed around the ground, leading the fruit to develop a name that derives from the Anglo-Saxon word for "strewn." In Italy, strawberries are known as *fragole* and grow wild. They are enjoyed drizzled over panna cotta or marinated in balsamic syrup.

3) Peaches: Peaches are excellent in juices, in pies and just plain cut up in delectable slices. I know it is summer when I can smell peaches in the air. It was once believed that eating a peach would impart wisdom. They are also thought to bring longevity and keep evil spirits at bay — not bad for a fruit found readily in supermarkets everywhere! In China, the country to which the fruit is native, peaches are closely associated with immortality and divinity. This is because the blossoms of the peach tree appear before the leaves do, an unusual occurrence. As such, the Chinese will often adorn doorways and gates with peach wood to drive away malevolent forces and attract good luck. In Italy, peach, or *pesca*, is a popular flavor for marmalades, jams and pastries.

4) Melons: Yes, watermelons are the quintessential summertime fruit for us in the United States, emblems of relaxation and hot weather. However, among the Romani people of the Balkans, watermelons have a far stranger connotation — vampires! According to folklore, a watermelon left alone at night on the full moon has the potential to turn into a vampire, rolling around and scaring townspeople. The full moon also features in an Italian superstition about melons. Andrea Malossini writes that melons will grow fatter and fuller if planted under the full moon in March. Perhaps the hope is that they will grow to resemble the moon! For me, summer always meant my father bringing home and breaking open a fresh cantaloupe from an Italian market, revealing the sunny orange hue within. How I love these summer *meloni*!

So there you go, a sweet bevy of fruit folklore and superstition. Hopefully this adds more curiosity and wonder to your enjoyment of Earth's bounty during the summer months. Enjoy a season of fresh fruit and healthy eating — but please, keep an eye on any melons left out overnight!

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

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. SU25P0476EA

Estate of
JOHANNA COPPOLA
Also Know As:
GIOVANNA COPPOLA

Date of Death: December 26, 2024

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 **Evelyn Flanagan** of **Duxbury, 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 **Evelyn Flanagan** of **Duxbury, 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 July 24, 2025.

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. BRIAN J. DUNN,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 05, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 06/13/2025

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani

When Push Comes to Shove, We're Always on Our Own Back Then and Now, Right?

As someone who grew up in the Fifties and Sixties in Lower Roxbury, I well remember growing up in a neighborhood which too few elected officials barely acknowledged us. For most politicians of that era representing my community, we were no more than add-ons for elected officials. Our congressmen, our state senators? I don't remember any of them coming here to talk to their Roxbury constituents. The only elected person who recognized us was Rep. Charlie Iannello who lived with us over on Harrison Avenue right next to St. Philip's Church. He was all we had. As far as the at-large Boston City Council or five-member Boston School Committee, we were on our own.

I remember that April 26, 1965 rally headed up by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mel King, a candidate for school committee that year and other members of Boston's Black community. From time to time, I travel down Harrison Avenue and remember exactly where I was when Dr. King passed by me. We acknowledged each other's presence with a smile. A connection of seconds which now lives on for over 60 years.

Much has changed over the past 60 years, many things for the better but there will always be work to do because we are all imperfect. We continue to strive for a better place. Maybe someday we will get there. As a friend of mine Wayne Lucas said in a quote in a newspaper news story, "we still have work to do."

That 1965 rally occurred about five weeks following the "Bloody Sunday" in March when a march headed toward the State Capitol in Montgomery was attacked by local law enforcement as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, emboldening the Civil Rights movement to never give up.

I also remember that both the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act happened in 1965. I was still a 16-year-old who lived on Bataan Court in Orchard Park at the time. A week later I turned 17 years old. Fast-forward, today that teenager is now 77 years old.

Dr. King while in Boston spoke to legislators in the State House and reminded all that while Boston wasn't Birmingham and Massachusetts not Mississippi, it had its own issues involving race to address.

I believe that Boston today is a much better place to call home for all of our citizens. We are a far more open city today where we have created the environment and the opportunity to grow wiser today. The fight Dr. King waged is still a fight for all of us. We are living in a better place today. We have always had more in common with each other as we march on into the future together. We cannot change the past but we can change the future by our actions 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. MI25C0617CA

In the Matter of
SAVANNAH JADE McCARDELL

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Savannah Jade McCardell** of **Everett, MA**, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Judith Jade Basile**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of July 02, 2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court
Date: June 04, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
MIDDLESEX, ss

Docket No. MI25E0028PP

To: Lucia Doucette of Fitchburg, MA, John Lopes of Lowell, MA, Madalena Lima of Tyngsboro, MA, Justin P. Lopes of Tyngsboro, MA, Louis M. Lopes of Billerica, MA, Maria Lopes of Raymond, NH and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by **Lucia Doucette** representing that they hold as Tenant in Common in an undivided part or share of certain land lying in Lowell in the County of Middlesex, and briefly described as:

90 Park Ave E, Lowell, MA 01852

The Land in Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts with the building thereon, situated on the northeasterly side of Park Avenue East, containing eighty-five hundred fifty-five and 6/10 square feet, more or less, and being lot numbered seventeen (17) on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Lowell, Mass. Belonging to E.A. Smith and F.B. Shedd, Trustees" by Osgood and Snell, C.E.'s dated 1893 and recorded with Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 14, Plan 10, bounded as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY: on said Park Avenue East seventy-six and 2/100 (76.02) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY: on lot numbered fifteen (15) on said plan, one hundred eight (108) feet;
NORTHEASTERLY: on lot numbered eighteen (18) on said plan seventy-five (75) feet; and
SOUTHEASTERLY: on lot numbered nineteen (19) on said plan one hundred twenty and 15/100 (120.15) feet.

Be any and all of said measurements more or less.

Setting forth that the petitioner desires that all said land may be ordered to be sold **at a private sale for not less than SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($750,000)**, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end, that commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any portion of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute and pay over the net proceeds thereof in such a manner as to make the partition just and equal.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Lowell before ten o'clock on the 27th Day of June 2025 the return date of this citation.

Witness, Honorable Terri Klug-Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court, this **16th day of May** in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.**

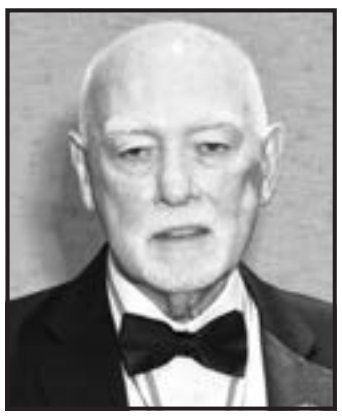
Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate Court

Run dates: 05/30, 06/06, 06/13/2025

CIAO Celebrates at a Fundraising Dinner

Italian American Alliance Chairman Dr. Domenic Amara Receives the DaVinci Award of Excellence.

by Virginia Gardner



Dr. Domenic Amara

On May 2, 2025, the Cultural Italian American Organization (CIAO) held its first fundraising celebration dinner. CIAO was founded four years ago by Dr. Paul Sergi of Canton. **Since its founding, CIAO has successfully initiated the Italian language program at Canton High School and an adult education program in partnership with the Canton Library.**

Virginia Gardner, Chairman of the National Chapter of the Italian American Alliance, Officer of the Pirandello Lyceum, and CIAO Event Coordinator, served as the Master of Ceremonies and interviewer for the evening.

Distinguished keynote speakers included Arnaldo Minuti, Consul General of Italy in Boston; Ivana Marroncelli, Director of the Education Office at the Consulate General of Italy in Boston; and Anthony Sammarco, historian and author. Additional speakers included Dr. Paul Sergi, State Senator Paul Feeney, and State Representative Rob Consalvo.

Dr. Sergi presented the Da Vinci Award of Excellence to the following honorees: Domenic Candelari, Robert Consalvo, Sr., Heidi Olson, and Dr. Domenic Amara

Dr. Domenic Amara serves as Chairman of the Italian American Alliance, President of the Pirandello Lyceum, CIAO Officer, and Educational Consultant. Although he was unable to attend the event, Virginia Gardner accepted his distinctively designed Da Vinci Award on his behalf.

Dr. Amara played a pivotal role in developing the curriculum for the CIAO Italian Language School and worked tirelessly to raise funds for the program.

Following the award presentation, Virginia Gardner offered these remarks on behalf of Dr. Amara:

"*It is no surprise to me that after meeting with Dr. Paul Sergi and learning of this important Italian language school project, Dr. Amara, without hesitation, volunteered to help. The three most important things to Dr. Amara are family, education, and his Italian heritage.*

At the 2023 Pirandello Lyceum I Migliori Award Ceremony, Dr. Amara delivered a passionate speech. He called on all of us to take up the cause and be warriors and defenders of our heritage. That includes the responsibility to teach the Italian language to our children and grandchildren. He urged us to work to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to learn the language of their ancestors.

Anthony Sammarco

In his speech, he said:

'With each passing generation, we notice our history, heritage, and the lessons of those who came before us being diluted — or lost altogether. And that brings me to my point: we shouldn't let that happen. If we do, those who come after us will be the worse for it.'

In closing, Dr. Amara said:

'The Pirandello Lyceum is just one of many organizations working to preserve our heritage: the Dante Alighieri Society, Sons and Daughters of Italy, Knights of Columbus, National Federation of Italian American Organizations, the North End Historical Society, Augusta Boston, and the Italian American Alliance. There are many more social and religious organizations, all in our immediate area. Any one of them would welcome your participation. I plead with you to seek them out.'

Dr. Amara has dedicated his life to defending, promoting, and teaching the Italian language and culture. I'm sure he would agree: now it's time for us to do our part."

CIAO was honored to welcome several distinguished guests, including: Nick Maffeo, President of Canton Co-Operative Bank, Doug Smith, Vice President for Advancement at Stonehill College, State Representative Robert Consalvo, State Representative William Galvin, State Senator Paul Feeney

Proceeds from the dinner will go directly toward enhancing classroom resources and supporting extracurricular materials for both the high school and adult education programs. Dr. Sergi expressed his gratitude to all attendees and sponsors and emphasized that this is only the beginning. "Our goal is to build a sustainable, community-rooted program that inspires future generations. We're just getting started."

For those who were unable to attend but would like to support CIAO's mission, donations are still being accepted. Checks can be made payable to C.I.A.O. and sent to 8 Hickory Lane, Canton, MA 02021. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Sergi at 617-733-7253.

The entire event can be viewed at *https://www.youtube.com/atch?v=4KmG1LqKmHk&t=2863s watch?v=4KmG1LqKmHk&t=2863s*

Democratic Party Stunned in Disbelief at Polling Numbers

by Patti Sartori

Shocking poll numbers showing Democrats are still falling behind Republicans on economic issues have stunned Democratic leaders and supporters. In spite of tariff chaos, stock market uncertainty, high interest rates and a stagnant housing situation, Democrats have not been able to gain ground on what is traditionally the top voter issue, the economy.

"You'd expect the Democrats would have this massive lead on the economy. It ain't so! Exclaimed CNN analyst Henry Enten on recent polling results. Republicans led Democrats by eight points when respondents were asked which party was closer to your economic views. Survey results were similar to a November 2023 CNN poll showing Republicans with an 11-point advantage over Democrats.

"How is it possible after all the recession fears? After the stock market's been doing all of this, after all the tariffs that Americans are against, and Republicans still hold an eight-point lead on the economy?" Enten added.

The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll results are even more horrendous for Democrats, showing Republicans increasing their margins on economic issues under President Trump. "In May 2024, just before Donald Trump was re-elected president, Republicans had a nine-point advantage. Look at where we are now in May 2025. The advantage actually went up by three points. Now, Republicans have a 12-point advantage when it comes to the party with a better economic plan. Again, this is after months of supposed economic uncertainty in which the stock market's been going bonkers, in which tariff wars that Americans are against have been going on. And yet, despite all of that, the Democrats are down by 12 points on the economy." Enten explained.

The most shocking and what should be quite concerning to the Democratic base is a poll asking "which is the party of the middle class?", an answer which traditionally provides Democrats a "huge advantage" over Republicans. However, "in our latest CNN poll, among registered voters, 'Which is the party of the middle class?' — It is tied!" the shocked analyst revealed.

Democratic leaders should be paying close attention to this polling trend, with Enten noting 1989 polling showing Democrats with a 23-point advantage, which dropped to a 17-point lead in 2016, and a 4-point edge in 2022 prior to the current results.

• **Boston City Council Pages Budget** (Continued from Page 1)

ceremony stating that she was "very happy to approve and sign" an amended version of her proposed budget for fiscal year 2026. "Through Council's leadership and thoughtful deliberation, this amended budget continue the investments in housing, economic and quality of life issues, public health and safety, youth summer jobs and many other shared priorities," Wu wrote in a letter notifying councilors of her decision to approve their amended budget. Adding, "Importantly, it makes these critical investments in a fiscally responsible way, ensuring departmental budgets are equipped to deliver city services."

In order to allow for increased investments, such as the $1.6 million for city housing vouchers, cuts were made to specific departments, including Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Property Management, Human Resources and other departments. "I think we all demonstrated fiscal responsibility," said District 1 Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. Focus areas included youth employment opportunities, veteran services, pest control, traffic enforcement, adult English language classes, mental health services, emergency preparedness, a merchandising licensing pilot program to bring additional revenue into the city and funding for immigrant protections. "We're doing so much with very little resources right now. This budget reflects that," said At-Large Councilor Henry Santana.

According to the city's chief financial officer Ashley Groffenberger the approved budget is still subject to change, due to the federal government's threats to cut funding to Boston and other sanctuary cities across the U.S. "Unlike many major cities, Boston's budget is stable and resilient to short term economic volatility, but we're not immune to challenges and will continue to actively monitor, manage and adapt to the changing environment."

This year's annual budget represents a 4.4% increase over last year, Fiscal Year 2025, and more than $300 million in federal funding, not counting the potential cuts the city is challenging in court.

• **Father's Day** (Continued from Page 1)

who show up, stand firm and give without expecting much in return.

The meaning of Father's Day isn't always about what was said out loud, but rather about recognizing and appreciating the long hours worked to provide, quiet sacrifices made, advice given without judgement and lessons taught by example and not lecture. It's about all the times dad fixed things that were broken, especially hearts and spirit.

For many it's a difficult day bringing mixed emotions. Not everyone has a relationship with a father that brings joy. Some feel the weight of absence or loss. But even those moments offer a chance to reflect on those who filled those gaps or to honor a memory with love and respect.

Father's Day is more than just a holiday we celebrate each June. It's about the unconditional love that so often goes unnoticed until we stop and look back. It's a reminder that love doesn't always need words and that showing up, again and again is powerful expression of love.

Regardless of how or with whom you choose to celebrate, whether it's with a hug, phone call, a thank you, a prayer or a memory, never forget that Father's Day is about honoring the person or people who have helped raise us, shape us and stand behind us, one steady step at time.

Elected Officials and Italian American Leaders Testify at State House in Support of Columbus Day

by Virginia Gardner

On Wednesday, June 4th in the Gardner Auditorium at the Massachusetts State House, two bills, H3292 (sponsored by Rep. Christine Barber (D), Somerville) and S2113 (sponsored by Sen. Joanne Comerford (D), Northampton) were discussed during a hearing. If approved, the bills would replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day in Massachusetts.

Bills, H3292 and S2113 must receive a favorable recommendation from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight in order to move forward in the current legislative session. The hearing is a part of that process. With barely three days' notice, the Italian American Alliance was able to make a strong presence. Tommy Damigella, VP of the IAA, and President of the North End Historical Society, Virginia Gardner, IAA National Chapter Chairman, and Officer of the Pirandello Lyceum, and Marissa Babin, member of the IAA attended and spoke in opposition of this Bill. Also in attendance from the IAA were Angelo Firenze and Kathy Cammarata.

From the opening statements it was obvious the very small group of agitators represented the Indigenous Peoples group. Their anti-Italian sentiment was unmistakable and they harbor sincere hate and disrespect for Italian Americans. However, thanks to IAA Vice-President Tom Damigella, the IAA has partnered with NAGA (Native Americans' Guardian Association), a national native Indigenous people's group. Tom Damigella presented a letter from NAGA President, Eunice Davidson, providing the committee members the opportunity to recognize that NAGA supports Columbus Day.

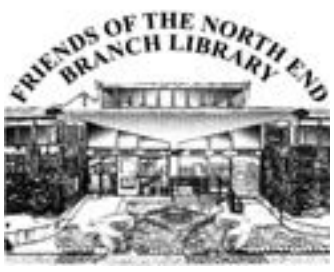
State Representatives Jeffrey Turco (D), Revere, David DeCoste (R), Norwell, and John Marsi co-sponsored and plan to go forward with Bill H3419 which would establish Indigenous People's Day on August 9th of each year and leave Columbus Day untouched. The Italian American Alliance (IAA), an organization that actively supports a wide slate of holidays and recognitions linked to racial or ethnic identities, says they support this bill.

According to the IAA the link to testify via zoom was NOT functioning which prohibited two of our members, President James DiStefano and Dr. Domenic Amara, an opportunity to access the link.

We urge you to write in support of H3419 to make August 9th Indigenous Peoples Day. Written testimony, can be submitted. The emails for the committee are below:

svetlana.yefimenko@mahouse.gov
riley.nichols@masenate.gov
Nick.Collins@masenate.gov,
James.Eldridge@masenate.gov
Antonio.Cabral@mahouse.gov
Chynah.Tyler@mahouse.gov
Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov
Becca.Rausch@masenate.gov
john.velis@masenate.gov
peter.durant@masenate.gov
Estela.Reyes@mahouse.gov
Jennifer.Armini@mahouse.gov
Dennis.Gallagher@mahouse.gov
Leigh.Davis@mahouse.gov
carmine.gentile@mahouse.gov
Hannah.Bowen@mahouse.gov
Colleen.Garry@mahouse.gov
Hannah.Kane@mahouse.gov
Michael.Chaisson@mahouse.gov

Hearing Details - Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
To view testimony, go to Mass.gov and search in "Events Archives"
State Rep, Jeff Turco at approx - 38:00 minutes
State Rep John Marsi - 48:00 minutes
IAA group:
Marissa Babin, member IAA - 2:30:00 minutes
Tommy Damigella, VP IAA - 2:45:00 minutes
Ginny Gardner, IAA National Chapter, Chairman - 2:59:00 minutes

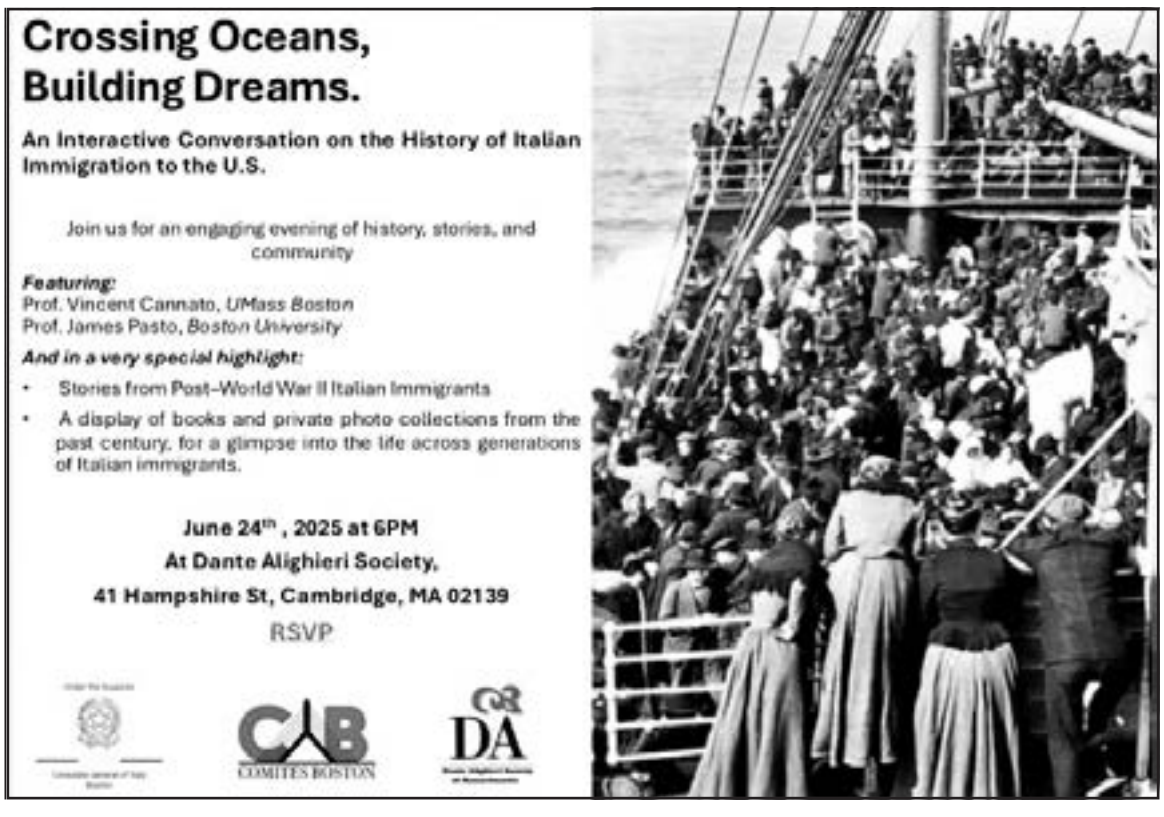


Friends of the North End Library
North End Library Renovation Committee

Since our meeting with Patricia Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services on April 9th to discuss the city's plans for a renovation of the North End Library, there has been a tremendous amount of interest in forming a Renovation Committee to determine what the community's needs are and how to best advocate for them.

If you are interested in being a part of this initiative, our own Rory Harrington will be organizing the first meeting to get it started.

Contact Rory at: *rjjharrington@gmail.com* to get involved!



2025 NORTH END FESTIVAL DIRECTORY

JUNE

PADRE PIO PROCESSION June 22
Italian Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

ST. THERESA SOCIETY June 29
Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

JULY

MADONNA DEL GRAZIE July 13
Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 2 pm

SAN ROCCO July 20
Italian Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

ST. JOSEPH July 25, 26, 27
Sunday Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

AUGUST

ST. AGRIPPINA July 31, August 1, 2, 3
Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Thursday
Sunday Procession 12 noon

MADONNA DELLA CAVA August 8, 9,10
Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Friday
Sunday Procession 1 pm

MADONNA del SOCCORSO August 14, 15, 16, 17
North, Fleet & Lewis Sts. (Fisherman's)
Sunday Procession 1 pm - Flight of the Angel 8 pm

SANTA LUCIA August 28
Thursday, Feast & Procession 5 pm
Thacher & Endicott Sts.

ST. ANTHONY'S FEAST August 29, 30, 31
Endicott & Thacher, N. Margin Sts.
Sunday Procession 12 pm

SEPTEMBER

SAN GENNARO FEAST September 5, 6, 7
Paul Revere Mall (Prado) Hanover St.
Sunday Procession 12 pm

ST. ROSALIA di PALERMO TBD
Procession Only - North Square 1 pm

ADDITIONAL ITALIAN FESTIVALS

Gloucester, MA
SAINT PETER'S FIESTA June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
Sunday Mass 10 am (Outdoor) - Procession 12 pm
For more details visit: http://stpetersfiesta.org/

Malden, MA
SAINT ROCCO FESTIVAL August 8, 9, 10
Pearl Street, Malden, MA
Sunday Procession 1 pm

Lawrence, MA
FEAST of the THREE SAINTS August 29, 30, 31
Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino
Common & Union Streets, Lawrence
Sunday Procession 3 pm

Cambridge Festival
SS COSMAS AND DAMIAN 100TH Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7
Sunday Procession 1 pm
Warren and Cambridge St., Cambridge

• **St. Anthony Procession** (Continued from Page 1)

St. Anthony Procession Volunteers gather together before stepping off for the annual procession through the streets of the North End neighborhood in Boston

Pastor of St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street, in Boston's North End is Father Michael Della Penna as he blesses the sacred statue of St. Anthony

Eddie Summers, of the St. Joseph Society, assists with the St. Anthony ribbon during the annual procession

The Roma band prepares to lead the St. Anthony procession

Phyllis Torra placing a generously adorned ribbon on the beloved St. Anthony statue

President Trump Deploys National Guard in Quell to Calm Los Angeles Riot

California Elected Officials File Lawsuit

Following U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) massive raids carried out across Los Angeles, California last week, violent protests broke out before evolving into full blown riots in the City of Angels streets and neighborhoods. As cars were torched and businesses were looted, President Trump swiftly moved to federalize the National Guard, marking the first time a President has done so without a Governor's consent since 1965, when Lyndon Johnson ordered troops to protect civil rights marchers in Alabama over the objection of Democratic Governor George Wallace.

California state officials, led by Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta, claim Trump has exceeded his authority and abused the 10th Amendment by calling up the National Guard under a federal law intended to address invasion" or rebellion. "Donald Trump is creating fear and terror by failing to adhere to the U.S. Constitution and overstepping his authority. This is a manufactured crisis to allow him to take over a state militia, damaging the very foundation of our republic. Every Governor, red or blue, should reject this outrageous overreach. This is beyond incompetence — this is him intentionally causing chaos, terrorizing communities, and endangering the principles of our great democracy. It is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism. We will not let this stand," Newsom said in a statement following the filing of a lawsuit against the Trump administration.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta declared in a statement, "Let me be clear: There is no invasion. There is no rebellion. The President is trying to manufacture chaos on the ground for his own political ends. Federalizing the California National Guard is an abuse of the President's authority under the law — and not one we take lightly. We're asking a court to put a stop to the unlawful, unprecedented order."

Trump dismissed the lawsuit as nonsense suggesting many California officials were privately relieved, he stepped in and intervened. "If we didn't do the job, that place would be burning down. I watched Minneapolis burn in 2020 … We wanted to be politically correct. And what you're doing is destroying the fabric of our life in this country right now. We did the right thing. I think Gavin, in his own way, is probably happy I got involved."

Governor Newson has publicly pleaded with President Trump to call off the National Guard and urged the public not to riot, warning that doing so will give Trump a spectacle.

Los Angeles protestors ignored the Governor's advice, instead choosing to spray lighter fluid on an American flag and spitting on it while watching it burn and chanting "Burn it down," as they called for the destruction of America.

"This a day I hoped I would never see in America. I don't care if you're a Democrat or a Republican this is a line we cannot cross as a nation — this is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism," Newsom posted on X. President Trump and Border Czar Tom Homan indicated they would be amenable to arresting Governor Newson if he attempts to impeded the National Guard's attempt to stabilize the city and end the disruption and chaos.

Saint Alice of Schaerbeek

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Alice was born at Schaerbeek, near Brussels, then in the Duchy of Brabant. A frail child, at the age of seven, she was sent to be boarded and educated at the Cistercian La Cambre Abbey, where she remained for the rest of her life. The name of the abbey is derived from the Latin: *Camera Sanctae Mariae*

Alice was a very pretty girl and lovable child, and soon showed a high intelligence and a great love for God. She became a lay-sister at the abbey at 20 years of age. She contracted leprosy and had to be isolated in a small hut. The disease caused her intense suffering, which she offered for the salvation of sinners and the souls in purgatory.

Eventually she became paralyzed and afflicted with blindness. Her greatest consolation came from reception of the Holy Eucharist, although she was not allowed to drink from the chalice because of the presumed danger of contamination. However, it is said that the Lord appeared to her with assurance that He was in both the consecrated bread and the wine. She passed away in 1250, at the age of 30.

The little we know about Alice's life comes from a Latin biography, written sometime between 1260–1275. It is believed that Arnulf II of Ghistelles, abbot of Villers Abbey 1270–1276, is its likely author. Alice's biography was also translated into Middle Dutch, as witnessed by one extant manuscript.

By decree of July 1702, Pope Clement XI granted to the monks of the Congregation of St. Bernard Fuliensi the faculty to celebrate the Devotion to Alice. She was Canonized a saint in 1907 by Pope Pius X. The feast day of Saint Alice of Schaerbeek is June 5th.

She is known as the patron saint of the blind and paralyzed.

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Paul Gauguin

Paul Gauguin born June 7, 1848, Paris, France. He is known for his paintings, sculptures, ceramics and engravings. He sought to achieve a "primitive" expression of spiritual and emotional states in his work. The artist, whose work has been categorized as Post-Impressionist, Synthetist, and Symbolist, is particularly well known for his creative relationship with Vincent van Gogh as well as for his self-imposed exile in Tahiti, French Polynesia.

Paul Gauguin is one of the most significant French artists to be initially schooled in Impressionism, but who broke away from its fascination with the everyday world to pioneer a new style of painting broadly referred to as Symbolism. As the Impressionist movement was culminating in the late 1880s, Gauguin experimented with new color theories and semi-decorative approaches to painting. He famously worked one summer in an intensely colorful style alongside Vincent Van Gogh in Arles, south of France, before turning his back entirely on Western society. He had already abandoned a former life as a stockbroker by the time he began traveling regularly to the south Pacific in the early 1890s, where he developed a new style that married everyday observation with mystical symbolism, a style strongly influenced by the popular, so-called "primitive" arts of Africa, Asia, and French Polynesia.

Gauguin passed away on May 8, 1903, aged 54, on Atuona, Marquesas Islands in French, Polynesia.

Facts ON wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best . . . forgetting the rest

NOAH HAIDU – STANDARDS III
(CD)
Infinite Distances

On the heels of glowing reviews from national press, widespread streaming and radio play, and sold-out touring across the U.S., acclaimed New York pianist Noah Haidu released *Standards III*. This new album is the third installment in Haidu's *Standards* series, continues his collaboration with legendary bassist Buster Williams and noted drummer Billy Hart while also debuting an equally impressive new band featuring Gervis Myles on bass and Charles Goold on drums, both rising stars in the New York scene. The two trios explore imaginative interpretations, contemporary influences, and grooves so deep you could fall into them. Haidu's clear, light touch renders variations on themes composed or inspired by Thad Jones, Richard Rodgers, Sammy Cahn, Dinah Washington, and Jerome Kern. Popular artists Chappell Roan and Stevie Wonder provide additional source material and inspiration, while the original "Slipstream," a striking reinterpretation of the title track from Haidu's debut album, holds its own alongside any standard. Steve Wilson (alto saxophone), Peter Washington (bass), and Lewis Nash (drums) also join Haidu for "Slipstream." This third collection of standards continues to build on the buzz, which has been growing around Haidu's recording efforts in recent years. His Keith Jarrett tribute project *Slowly* garnered a rave from *The Wall Street Journal* and a spot in *DownBeat*'s Best Albums of the Year issue.

JOHN YAO AND HIS 17-PIECE INSTRUMENT – POINTS IN TIME
(CD)
See Tao Recordings

Trombonist and composer John Yao presents the long-awaited return of his stellar big band, the 17-Piece Instrument, after a ten-year hiatus It's been 20 years since trombonist, composer, arranger and bandleader John Yao arrived in New York City; 10 years have passed since the release of his first big band album, the exuberant *Flip-Flop*. He'll celebrate that tandem anniversary with *Points in Time*, the long-awaited follow-up by Yao and His 17-Piece Instrument (JY-17). While the album arrives as a commemoration of those two significant dates, the music it contains is deeply informed by a number of professional and personal milestones that have marked that two-decade journey. For the album's repertoire, Yao culled favorite tunes from throughout his discography, revising small-band compositions in vibrant new big band arrangements. He also showcases the new pieces he's penned over the intervening years, including works premiered during the "Big Band & Beyond" concert series that the JY-17 hosted at Greenwich House Music School in the wake of *Flip-Flop's* release. Several of those new compositions are inspired by the most indelible experiences of Yao's life. Since arriving in New York, he met and married his wife, Natalie; supported her throughout her valiant battle with cancer; and celebrated the birth of the couple's son, Nolan, following Natalie's triumphant return to health. All three are reflected in poignant selections on *Points in Time*: the early days of romance and the fatigue and determination of health struggles on the elegant, moving "Early Morning Walk," the sheer joy of new life on "Song for Nolan." The musicians that make up the 17-Piece group also can be traced to multiple points along Yao's timeline. Tenor saxophonist Tim Armacost, was a classmate from Queens College, where Yao earned his master's degree, and trombonist Matt McDonald is an acquaintance from Yao's days in Chicago. Saxophonists Billy Drewes and Rich Perry, trumpeter Nick Marchione and drummer Andy Watson among them — shared the stage with Yao when he subbed in the legendary Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. Drewes is also a member of Yao's three-horn quartet Triceratops, and several members, including Perry, McDonald, trumpeter David Smith and bassist Robert Sabin, reprise their roles from *Flip-Flop*.

The big band bug never quite left him, however. That passion is evident in Yao's writing and arranging for *Points in Time*, on which he revels in, as he puts it, "big band being big band." Yao isn't averse to modernism in his own work; witness the striking "The Other Way," a bold venture into 12-tone technique that points the way to the JY-17's planned third outing. "Traditional big band elements like sax or trombone soli, or brass opposing saxes, or shout choruses are textures that sometimes get overlooked in the big band idiom nowadays," "Not Even Close," which Yao wrote for his quintet in tribute to VJO founder Thad Jones and recorded on his debut album, *In the Now*. He once again drew on Jones' inspiration as he revised the tune for big band, crafting exchanges between saxes and brass reminiscent of Thad's classic "Little Pixie." He wrote "First Step" around the same time, but even before forming the JY-17 recognized that it was meant to be a big band chart.

The final reinvention is the brooding "Triceratops Blues," the first tune he penned for the three-horn band. Following the release of *Flip-Flop* Yao has also been commissioned to contribute compositions and arrangements for high school ensembles; *Points in Time* is bookended by updated versions of two such commissions, the original "Upside" and a fresh take on Herbie Hancock's "Finger Painting." The thrill that Yao describes in hearing these young bands play his music echoes his feelings about big band music in general, shedding light on why he's returned to the form despite the formidable hurdles.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS

of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL DIVA DAY

I have very much enjoyed my post-retirement as a permanent substitute teacher over at Quincy High School. I even join in on all the fun of school activities during Spirit Week. Here is a great photo of me with health teacher Kristen Thibeault during "Diva Day." I borrowed that cool wig and with my shades on, the students started calling me "Howard Stern," and I didn't even know they knew who Stern was.

AS OF LATE, TUNING OUT THE KUHNERMAN

It seems over the past several months, I have noticed that *The Kuhner Report* on WRKO has become the cheering squad for all things TRUMP, TRUMP, TRUMP. Kuhner seems to be constantly talking up everything Trump does even when some of the stuff is getting quite pazzo.

Last Friday for instance he was pouncing on Elon Musk like he was Public Enemy Number 1 for bashing President Trump and questioning whether the president might be lurking somewhere inside the pages of the Epstein Files. Kuhner went ballistic at such a thought. Elon went from being St. Elon into the personification of Evil in the blink of an eye.

Then, he starts feeding his "Kuhner Country" audience just enough information to keep them on his side. Things have got so boring for me lately, I have now switched over to good music on Sirius Radio.

DOOBIE BROTHERS ON THE RADIO

This past weekend, the Doobie Brothers took over the mic on Classic Vinyl Sirius 26 and hosted all the shows, playing their own great music and their favorite bands too.

This Doobie Brothers weekend was in honor of the June 6th release of the group's new *Walk this Road* album, which they were playing cuts of over the weekend with new hits like "Walk this Road" and "Angels and Mercy."

It was a "Live from Nashville" weekend for this great band that has been around since I was about 27 or so. When I think of this iconic band, I think of great music and also Michael McDonald who is back with the band.

When I think of this band, the first thing I think of is "Taking it to the Street" by Michael McDonald. I can't believe that song came out in 1976 during the Bicentennial. It still sounds great to listen to today.

So, the new album is out and the cuts on it are pure Dooibie Brothers. Check it out.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Nancy Sinatra just turned 85 years old on June 8th, but those boots of hers are still walkin'. I remember when that song topped the music chart way back in 1966. By the way, James Darren another great singer from the '50s and '60s who passed away last September, would have been 89 on June 8th himself

ANOTHER BIRTHDAY CANDLE FOR THE PEOPLES AUDITOR

Here's an old photo of the state auditor and myself. She just celebrated her birthday last week and I am sending a belated Happy Birthday Greeting to the "Peoples" State Auditor Diana DiZoglio whom I last met when I was wishing her Happy St. Patrick's Day greetings, sending a belated Happy Birthday greeting to "Peoples" State Auditor Diana DiZoglio

SLY STONE DEAD AT 82

Sly Stone, frontman for Sly and the Family Stone, has passed away at 82 years old. Whenever I think of him, I always think of his hit song, "Everyday People," which sadly has shown up in one of those endless Big Pharma TV commercials. His alleged drug use and other issues forced the band to split up for good in 1983. By 2011, he found himself homeless and ended up living in a camper. Among other ailments that took him from us was COPD. Anyone familiar with this medical ailment knows it is like a slow-moving death that often takes years to kill you but lets you suffer endlessly along the way to the very end.

ZUMIX STREET CORNER SINGERS

The ZUMIX Firehouse in East Boston is a powerful neighborhood institution, an East Boston-based non-profit organization dedicated to building community through music and arts. Its core belief is that music is the most powerful means of developing adolescent self-identity.

Recently, I listened to a great bunch of young singers entertaining folks near the Quiet Few on Sumner Street.

GIGI HOLDS CHARLESTOWN CAMPAIGN KICK-0FF

Here's an old photo of the state auditor and myself. She just celebrated her birthday last week and I am sending a belated Happy Birthday Greeting to the "Peoples State Auditor Diana DiZoglio whom I last met when I was wishing her Happy St. Patrick's Day greetings, sending a belated Happy Birthday greeting to "Peoples" State Auditor Diana DiZoglio.

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

Last Monday would have been my father's 115th birthday. He was born on June 9, 1910, and Christened Giovanni Pietro DeCristoforo. After name changes occurred, he became John DeChristoforo, and finally John Christoforo. His father, Nunzio (Grandpa), did nothing to counter the changes as he was illiterate in both Italian and English. As a result of being unable to read and write, nor have a specific trade, he was a laborer all of his life, working with a pick or shovel every day of his working career.

Because of Grandpa's financial status, he was always only one step of the bill collectors that haunted him much of his life. During the 1920s, things were so difficult, the family left East Boston and moved to Peace Dale, Rhode Island, where we had family and Grandpa could work in their family business. He eventually moved my grandmother, Antonetta, my father and Aunt Mary back to East Boston and bought a two-family house on Chelsea Street. The house, which existed just to the left of Santarpio's Pizza, was eventually taken over by eminent domain, and torn down to make way for the overhead ramp that leads to Logan Airport from the Callahan and Sumner Tunnels.

Grandma was sick much of her life and passed away on Easter Sunday in 1950. Grandpa, attempting to be as independent as possible, rented a first-floor apartment on Brooks Street and remained there until the age of 80, and then headed to a Winthrop based nursing home due to a bout with liver cancer that eventually ended his life at the age of 82.

Growing up, my father developed an interest in music and football. He was a skinny kid and beyond high school, the sport became just a dream. At East Boston High School, he studied machine shop as a trade and took music lessons on the side, studying violin, and later, bass violin and tuba. He had a passion for higher education, but it was just a dream due to financial circumstances, and after high school, he went to work for an iron works by day, and played music at night with dance bands and jazz bands of the day. He would eventually leave the iron works business and work only as a musician due to his ability as a bassist. He would eventually go on the road with the Dorsey Brothers, and later, Vaughn Monroe.

At one point in time in the early '30s, he was working in a band with sax player Nick Conte. One Saturday, they had a double header and he accompanied Nick back to his folks home for dinner between the engagements and met Nick's sister, Angelina. Three years later, they were married (October 25, 1936) and became John and Anne De Christoforo. Two years after that, on October 21, 1938, I showed up, and Nick Contini (Conte) became my Godfather.

Dad left the traveling bands and settled back in Boston. Before WWII started, he played six nights per week and made a pretty good living, eventually becoming one of Boston's busiest bass players. Once the war began, he accepted a teaching job at East Boston High School, instructing students in the same machine shop he had graduated from in 1929. From 1942 through 1948, he would also coach his favorite sport, football. I guess he was at it both day and night for a few years, but he was young and could handle things rather well. In 1948, he became one of four members of a new Boston schools department that specialized in science and technology. As a result, he left East Boston High School as a teacher and a coach. Dad would stay with this new position for the rest of his career with the Boston schools, retiring in his mid-60s. He would stay with music until old age and ill health sidelined him around 1990. After retiring from the school department, he became involved in the politics of the Boston Musicians' Union and served on the board of directors for several terms.

At the beginning of WWII, he was thinking of joining the Marines, but was recruited by the OSS, the forerunner to today's CIA. Before Italy switched sides, they were housing Italian war prisoners in the forts on Boston Harbor islands and at the long-closed immigration station in East Boston. The OSS needed someone to interrogate the prisoners, and Dad accepted the position fitting it into his schedule. Babbononno, his father-in-law, became his recording secretary, and both men without wearing uniforms, did their parts in the war effort.

My father always had a passion for medicine, but considering the financial circumstances his family dealt with when he was young, this path in life was just a dream. Once I was within the framework of reason, he would lecture me about the advantages of higher education. I had no interest in medicine … nor anything else beyond playing baseball, hanging on a street corner and working part-time at the Seville Theater.

The day after I finished high school, I went to work at a construction site. I was told I would drive a tractor, but wound up with a pick or shovel in my hands. When I got home that first afternoon with my hands covered with blood blisters, I told Dad that he was right about education, and I wanted to go to college. That September, I became a freshman at Boston State College, today's U.Mass, Boston. My father was happy that his only son was now a college student and was heading somewhere.

Once I graduated, Dad convinced me to look toward a master's degree. He had taught me the bass violin, his main instrument, and by the time I was in my third year at Boston State, had turned professional and joined the musicians' union. After graduation, I began working on a master's degree part time. By 1964, I finished my last course, took the final exams and now had two degrees. Playing music, modeling and acting took up much of my time beyond that point, but I continued to take graduate courses at Boston State and Harvard until I had another masters' degree (1969). In the early '70s, I met Dean Saluti who talked me into exploring doctoral programs at Boston University. Dad was quite happy as I excelled beyond his expectations where education was concerned.

Due to circumstances within my control, by 1981, I had a wife, a son and a doctorate.

(Years later, I would head to MIT and do post-doctoral research in something called internet communications.) By then, Nanna and Babbononno were gone and Dad was retired, but happy with his son's directions in life.

Within a short time, he was the grandfather of two boys and spent a great deal of time with them teaching them the finer points of baseball, their best sport. (My wife gave birth to two jocks.)

Dad's health began to wane in the late '80s, and he passed away in 1991 at the age of 81. When I think back, I will always be grateful to my father for the directions in life he exposed me to including writing, which, at my now advanced age, is a contact sport!

GOD BLESS AMERICA

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **June 30, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2013 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT
Vin #WVWBP7AN5DE555302

2004 MITSUBISHI GALANT
Vin #4A3AB36F24E104684

2007 NISSAN MURANO
Vin #JN8AZ08W17W666217

2006 VOLVO XC90
Vin #YV4CZ852361279892

2006 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCM56766A115466

2016 TESLA MODEL X
Vin #5YJXCBE49GF000667

2010 TOYOTA COROLLA
Vin #1NXBU4EE8AZ356923

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 06/06, 06/13, 06/20/2025

by Marianna Bisignano

Cannelloni, the classic stuffed pasta said to have originated in Italy's Campania region, are traditionally made with fresh pasta sheets that are cut and rolled around a savory filling. Manicotti, on the other hand, as found in Italian American cuisine, are typically made using thin crepe-like pasta sheets, in Italy known as crespelle, rather than the denser pasta dough used in traditional Cannelloni.

When it comes to Manicotti, most Italian American Nonna's have their own cherished recipes passed down through generations. These recipes often include not only the crespelle themselves, but also the rich, creamy ricotta stuffing that gets wrapped inside. My Nonna used a simple crespelle recipe and filled them with the same ricotta mixture she used in her lasagna.

Though Nonna's Manicotti are almost identical to the Cannelloni you'd find in Southern Italy, they're lighter, more delicate, and if you ask me, so much more delicious!

NONNA'S MANICOTTI

Manicotti Della Nonna

For the Crespelle (Crepe-Like Pasta Shells):

9 large eggs
3 cups whole milk (or substitute part/all with water)
3 cups 00 or 0 flour (all-purpose works too)
1 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons butter, melted
Pastry brush
8-inch non-stick skillet

For the Filling:

2½ to 3 pounds (5 to 6 cups) whole milk ricotta
3 eggs
Handful of chopped fresh parsley
1 cup grated Pecorino Romano or Parmesan cheese
Handful of shredded mozzarella (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
Homemade marinara or meat sauce
Extra grated cheese for topping (Pecorino, Parmesan, or mozzarella)
3 (13x9-inch) baking dishes
Wax or parchment paper

**Note: This recipe makes 24 but can easily be cut in half to make 12*

To make the batter:

In a blender, combine eggs and milk. Blend until smooth. Add flour and salt. Blend again until the batter is thin and lump-free (thinner than pancake batter). Let rest for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Heat an 8-inch non-stick skillet over medium heat and lightly brush with melted butter. Pour in about ¼ cup of batter and swirl to coat the bottom of the pan in a thin layer. Cook until bubbles form, flip, and cook the other side for about a minute. Do not overcook, they should resemble cooked lasagna sheets. Transfer cooked shells to wax paper-lined baking sheets. Repeat until all batter is used (yields approx. 24 shells).

To make the Filling:

In a large bowl, mix ricotta, eggs, parsley, grated cheese, mozzarella (if using), salt, and pepper.

Lay shells flat and use an ice cream scoop or spoon to portion the ricotta filling onto each one. Lightly coat the bottom of each baking dish with marinara or meat sauce. Roll each filled shell and place seam-side down in the dish. Spoon more sauce over the top and sprinkle with grated cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool slightly before serving to allow the filling to set.

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

THOUGHTS BY DAN
ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

Masterpieces of Short Fiction

One of the key takeaways from a fiction writing course I took in college some twenty years ago was a lesson we either knew (given that most of us taking the course had already waded in the waters of creative writing) or learned soon into the semester; writing a short story was far more difficult than writing a novel. Both brought the same challenges, but the former offered much more limited space to develop them. Not surprisingly, great short stories are rarer than great novels as bearing genius for the latter does not necessarily mean talent for the former. And yet, short literary masterpieces abound and have made an invaluable contribution to the global literary canon. Here I salute the greatest works of short fiction I have come across over the years. Rather than going through the arduous and often foolish task of ranking them, I have listed them by author. My criteria included matters of craft and economy of words but the unifying requisite was impact. There are many different genres and styles represented here but genuine brilliance can shine through all venues.

Karen Blixen (April 17, 1885-September 7, 1962): Blixen (pen name Isak Dinesen) is best remembered for her memoirs *Out of Africa* and *Shadows in the Grass*. These are but the only two of her books, however, dealing with her life in East Africa. By the time she wrote *Out of Africa* she had already mastered the short story in the compilation *Seven Gothic Tales* and she would return to the craft with *Last Tales*.

Ray Bradbury (August 22, 1920-June 5, 2012): Of all of Ray Bradbury's cautionary tales, *The Veldt* remains the most chillingly relevant. In the story, virtual reality has been improved to such a point that it is indistinguishable from the real article. Because it is a science-fiction story, the line between the virtual world and the real world blurs and the actions within the former have consequences for the latter. Bradbury was writing in fantastical terms, but is his prediction that off from where AI has brought us?

Willa Cather (December 7, 1873-April 24, 1947): Willa Cather and her contemporary Edith Wharton opened up an unprecedented amount of doors for women writers in America. Strangely, while Cather's "prairie trilogy" chronicling the life of women pioneers is a pilar of American literature, her short fiction has been largely forgotten. "A Beggars Christmas" is worth seeking out, though, as a charming early work of a young lady who was to become one of the prominent voices for the women who worked this land.

Joseph Conrad (December 3, 1857-August 3, 1924): Conrad adapted his style freely to the needs of his stories, consequently some of his work has been difficult to categorize. While *Lord Jim* an *Nostromo* are undoubtedly novels, *Heart of Darkness* has been (like Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde)* been qualified as a novel though it was first published in book form as part of a short story compilation. Few dispute that "The Secret Sharer" is not a novel but it is treated as a short story when it runs more like a novella. Of his work invariably considered a short story I think the best is "A Smile of Fortune" a tale of intrigue with Conrad at his best exploring his greatest fascinations: doppelgangers, the exploits of European merchants on foreign islands, the toll this takes on the locals and the mental breakdowns of the protagonist.

Jack Finney (October 2, 1911-November 14, 1995): It's surprising Finney's name is not better known in science-fiction circles as his 1955 novel The Body Snatchers was the basis for what is arguably the defining low-budget shock-horror film of the Cold War, Invasion of the Body Snatchers. He is also the author of my favorite sci-fi short story, "The Third Level". While this unsettling time-slip piece from 1952, about a commuter who stumbles upon a portal in New York's Grand Central to the city as it was in the 1890s may not have been directly adapted to film its spirit can be felt in such classic episodes of The Twilight Zone as "A Stop at Willoughby" and "Walking Distance"

F. Scott Fitzgerald (September 24, 1896-December 21, 1940): Fitzgerald has been given due credit for his short stories but, to me, his best are not the most celebrated ("The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"). If anything, Fitzgerald seemed to me out of his element there. A much more powerful work for me and his best short story is his early work from 1921 "O Russet Witch!" and with the poignant "The Bridal Party" almost a decade later. "May Day" is an undisputed gem as is the epic "Babylon Revisited". For a lighter side of Fitzgerald I recommend "The Camel's Back" a story no one else seems to have appreciated, including the author himself.

Ernest Hemingway (July 21, 1899-July 2, 1961): Hemingway is one of the few authors credited as much, if not more to some estimations, for his short fiction as for his novels. Indeed, there are many to choose from in Hemingway's work in selecting just a few is a painful process. Still, his two African short stories "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" stand out. His "A Day's Wait" is a must-read as is the haunting "Wine of Wyoming". No other work better captures the liberating effect of a retreat into the wilderness as his two-part Big-Two Hearted River.

Langston Hughes (February 1, 1901-May 22, 1967): That the art of the short story should have come natural to Langston Hughes is not surprising. He was a poet, after all, renowned for the simplicity and succinctness of his prose. No matter the medium, Hughes was gifted with the unique talent of telling you all he wanted to tell you with minimal words. In 1958s "Thank You, Ma'am" he uses much the same craft he used in his poetry (minimalistic description, short terse sentences) to create the first short story that made an impact on me when I read it in eight-grade. The story is quite simple, in a large city at night, a robust woman returning home from work is assaulted by a youth attempting to rob her. To his surprise, she overpowers him but rather than turning him in she brings him home with her. From here on, the dialogue between the two takes over the story and we learn of the hard life from both perspectives. It's a brilliant piece not only because of its timeless potency but as an example of how much can be accomplished with scarce literary conventions.

Henry James (April 15, 1843-February 28, 1916): I count The Turn of the Screw and The Beast in the Jungle among the greatest works of literature, but they are not quite short stories in my eyes. Evaluations vary, but I think they are better categorized as novellas. Nonetheless, my two favorite stories by James are much like Turn of the Screw in that they are, whether one takes the apparitions as literal or not, ghost stories only on a superficial level. At heart they are examinations of the darker realms of the human mind exploring themes of jealousy, lust, sexual repression and the very real terrors they create in our minds. "The Way it Came" is about a man and a woman intended to meet in person, an event held off until death, ironically, seemingly brings them in contact … or does it? James suggests that the encounter beyond the grave could just as easily be the paranoid musing of the man's jealous wife. "The Jolly Corner" explores the idea that our most frightful hauntings may be the ghosts of our own past, but it is also so much more than that. It is a somber tale of regret, the value we place on the people and places of our past and the toll the march of time takes on them.

Rudyard Kipling (December 30, 1865-January 18, 1936): Now, if you want a more straightforward ghost story you will not be disappointed by Kipling's "The Phantom Rickshaw", though it too deals with apparitions that coincide with guilt. In the tale, a British officer in India is haunted by the ghost of the woman he jilted (and who died soon after, implicitly of a broken heart) to marry another. For a change of pace, "The Man Who Would Be King", included in the same short story compilation as the Rickshaw tale is a classic Kipling tale of adventure among the British Tommies. Finally, I pull from The Jungle Book (which after decades of pop culture references exclusively to the Mowgli stories has been forgotten in its original form as a compilation of short stories, some not even interrelated) for the charming "Toomai of the Elephants" an enchanting tale telling of the bond between the titular small boy in charge of his father's worker elephants and on the magical night he is invited to the fabled dance of the elephants.

Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809-October 7, 1849): I have not included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on this list despite being a devote fan of the Sherlock Holmes canon. The reason is because, quite simply, I take the Sherlock Holmes stories as all of one piece. Poe, however, who in many ways invented detective fiction has standalone pieces worth mentioning. "Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Black Cat" take us into the dark mind of killers while "Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Purloined Letter" are thrilling tales of suspense. Best of all is his longer shot story, "The Fall of the House of Usher" that sends chills and melancholy in equal doses.

John Steinbeck (February 27, 1902-December 20, 1968): Steinbeck's short fiction does not measure up to his novels but "The White Quail" from 1935 is worthy of consideration, offering an interesting take on a dysfunctional marriage.

Mark Twain (November 30, 1835-April 21, 1910): Through a career that would culminate in candidacy for America's greatest author, Mark Twain wore many hats; humorist, satirist, polemicist, abolitionist, anti-imperialist and humanitarian. No matter his aim or his target, however, Twain's work was always a good time. "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" is a delight and the dark humor of "The Stolen White Elephant" is classic Twain. For a combination of humor and pathos, "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" is a winner.

Tennessee Williams (March 26, 1911-February 25, 1983): The best short stories of Tennessee Williams owe a debt to his true calling as a playwright. Usually confined to one or two settings and a few characters, the stories are driven by dialogue and the emotions inferred from there. Among the best: "The Field of Blue Children," "The Angel in the Alcove," "The Mysteries of the Joy Rio" and "Something by Tolstoy."

Richard Wright (September 4, 1908-Novemebr 28, 1960): The tragedy of Richard Wright is that he did not live to see the Civil Rights movement gather steam, dying of heart attack at the dawn of what would prove a revolutionary decade. Nonetheless, Wright is in many ways the literary face of the Civil Rights movement, setting the tone through his works (novels, plays, essays and stories) for many of the principles which would be taken up by Civil Rights leaders and activists in the years following his death. His body of work as a whole is an essential window into a turbulent time, but don't neglect his ingenious piece "The Man Who Lived Underground". The premise could not be more timeless; a Black man, Fred Daniels, is accused of a murder he did not commit and escapes the law by hiding out in the sewers of the city. The bulk of the work details his view of the life above from the grated windows of his underground hideaway which becomes a somber allegory to the view so many men like him had of the world they always felt in turn unseen by. A clarification, though. Wright intended "The Man Who Lived Underground" but left it unfinished at the time of his death. What I read was the piece published as a short story in the Signet Classics compilation Black Voices. In 2021, Wright's estate published it in novel form through the Library of America series. I look forward to reading the story as Wright wanted it to be told.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

Docket No. MI25P2065EA

Estate of
JANICE N. NASH

Date of Death: March 16, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jennifer Nash** of **Littleton, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jennifer Nash of **Littleton, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 06/13/2025

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 **June 14, 2025 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2006 NISSAN SENTRA, SILVER
3N1CB51DX6L535146

2016 KIA FORTE, BLACK
KNAFK4A63G5559017

2014 JEEP PATRIOT, GRAY
1C4NJRBB6ED550860

2008 CADILLAC DTS, BLACK
1G6KD57948U139201

2002 TOYOTA COROLLA, SILVER
2T1BR12E62C557582

2010 TOYOTA YARIS, BLACK
JTDBT4K34A1358793

2014 HONDA CIVIC, GRAY
2HGFB2F88EH519850

2012 FORD ESCAPE, BLUE
1FMCU9EG8CKB82790

2009 FORD F-150, GRAY
1FTRX14859FA86988

2002 CADILLAC ELDORADO, RED
1G6EL12Y22B104697

2008 HONDA ACCORD, GRAY
1HGCS12858A022034

2023 JEEP COMPASS, SILVER
3C4NJDDNXPT517805

1988 CHEVROLET G-SERIES, BEIGE
2GBGG31K1J4148114

2002 DODGE RAM, RED
3D7HU18N02G152636

2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA, GOLD
KMHD84LF8HU065258

2005 TOYOTA RAV4, BLACK
JTEHD20V056040318

2002 HONDA CIVIC, BEIGE
1HGEM21942L008740

2000 TOYOTA COROLLA, SILVER
1NXBR12E9YZ414553

2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS, RED
2MEFM75W74X622041

2008 NISSAN XTERRA, GRAY
5N1AN08W78C528638

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT, SILVER
KMHCT4AE8HU241939

2013 BMW X6, SILVER
5UXFG2C58DL787517

2025 DONGFANG DF200STS, BLACK
LXDTCLNN2S1060059

2023 BENTELLI SPRINT, BLACK
LLOTCAPH7RG015210

2020 ZHEJIANG ZUMA, RED
L1UGDKLS7RA000403

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF8R1009981

Run dates: 05/30, 06/06, 06/13/2025

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. MI25P2944EA

Estate of
ELIZABETH PALESTER
Also Known As:
ELISABETH PALESTER

Date of Death: February 13, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Caroline Alterio** of **Arlington, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Caroline Alterio** of **Arlington, 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 July 08, 2025.

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: June 10, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

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

Docket No. SU25P1190EA

Estate of
EDWARD JOSEPH McNABB, JR.
Also Known As
EDWARD J. McNABB, JR.

Date of Death: December 29, 2024

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 **Edward J. McNabb, III** of **Scituate, 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: **Edward J. McNabb, III** of **Scituate, 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 July 09, 2025.

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. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **June 23, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2022 ZHEJIANG RIYA
Vin #LEHTCB15XNR602409

2013 NISSAN ROGUE
Vin #JN8AS5MV3DW124840

2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU
Vin #1G1ZT54864F110378

2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER
Vin #5N1AR2MM7DC614790

2009 KIA OPTIMA
Vin #KNAGE228595310933

2009 TOYOTA COROLLA
Vin #2T1KU40E39C133273

2015 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCR2F36FA271374

2006 SUBARU LEGACY
Vin #4S3BL626067211218

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 05/30, 06/06, 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25P2539EA

Estate of
RICHARD MAYNARD DALTON
Also Known As:
RICHARD M. DALTON

Date of Death: February 08, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Heather M. Dalton** of **Revere, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Heather M. Dalton of **Revere, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25P2995EA

Estate of
PATRICK J. YOUNG
Also Known As:
PATRICK J. YOUNG, SR., PATRICK JOSEPH YOUNG

Date of Death: January 12, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Brendan M. Young** of **Watertown, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Brendan M. Young of **Watertown, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 06/13/2025

EXTRA *Innings*

by Sal Giarratani

This Past Weekend I was Watching Some Exciting and Quite Entertaining Baseball

No, it was not on TV or NESN or ESPN or anything like that. It was happening over at a baseball field off Washington Street in Norwood at Wall Field. My grandson Owen now plays on a Little League team. He's all decked out in his Rays powder blue uniform. This is the way I remember baseball growing up too. My team was the St. Philip Phillies and I was mostly a pinch hitter back in those days before the DH spot was invented. I also played first base because I was a lefty and that's where lefties were played.

It was fun watching these little guys out there play their hearts out. The game did seem to go on forever and I lost track of the score too. I really thought the score was something like 16-15 but it was only 3-1 when the last pitch was thrown. Can I say most of the kids were chewing gum like it was going out of production. I swear some of those kids seem to like chewing gum more than playing ball.

At the end of the game, Owen, myself and his dad took some photos together. You'll get to see them next week. Oh, almost forgot, the previous week, Own got hit by a pitch. He was fine but just wondered how he got hit. I told him I got hit once too and it's just one of those things that can happen during a game.

He got whacked between his nose and lips and he was perfectly fine.

When I was hit, the ball got me right above my left eye because I was playing at Marcella Park up on Fort Hill, Roxbury. No lights back then, we played as long as we could before it got too dark. Once I got whacked, the game was called. No one else wanted to meet a baseball in the face like me, I guess.

You know, the last time I attended youth baseball games, it was over in West Roxbury where my nephew Jacob was on a Little League team back about 15 or so years ago.

I am so happy to see that youth baseball hasn't totally disappeared as more and more kids have switched over to soccer. Kudos to all the adults out there that are active in keeping Little League baseball alive.

Don't Forget the Banquet of Champions

The East Boston Athletic Board will be holding its Banquet of Champions celebrating 75 years on Monday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m., at Spinelli's banquet hall. Ticket info email: *mightyminn21@gmail.com.*

The Banquet of Champions honors high school athletes and community leaders who exemplify the tradition of East Boston. This year's honoree's are Joe Ruggiero - Humanitarian Award, Robert Lewis - Special Achievement Award, Joe Mario - Special Recognition Award, Jayson Smith EBHS - Coach of the Year, Vin Schettino - Flashback Award, Joe LoConte - Flashback Award, Anthony "Unky" Geraci - Hall of Fame Award, and EBYBL Johnny Forbes and Mike Gaeta - Institutional Award.

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

harassment by her senior advisors seriously, but instead has moved to terminate employees that are on the receiving end of unwanted behavior while also protecting the perpetrators.

Given the information made public today, her claim that a thorough investigation "found no violations of laws or city workforce policies by any other city employees" is simply not true. Clearly there was nothing thorough about the investigation, and that statement raises serious questions about Mayor Wu's judgment and credibility in this matter.

The people of Boston have a right to know what the mayor knew — or should have known — about this matter. And the people of Boston — particularly women — should demand that there be consequences for senior officials that engage in inappropriate sexual behavior at City Hall.

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. MI25P2945EA

Estate of
JENNIFER ANNE LILLMARS
Also Known As:
JENNIFER LILLMARS

Date of Death: September 04, 2024

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kirk Lillmars** of **Surprise, AZ** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Kirk Lillmars** of **Surprise, AZ** 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 July 08, 2025.

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: June 10, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 06/13/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **July 07, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2021 RAM 1500
Vin #1C6SRFFT2MN704395

2007 BMW X5
Vin #5UXFE83507LZ41571

2015 FORD FUSION
Vin #3FA6P0H95FR108007

2005 FORD FOCUS
Vin #1FAFP36N05W299865

2008 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCP26838A015245

2011 SUBARU IMPREZA
Vin #JF1GE6A65BH515012

2013 KIA OPTIMA
Vin #5XXGN4A78DG158805

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 06/13, 06/20, 06/27/2025

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. MI25C0535CA

In the Matter of
BENJAMIN KISIJA

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Benjamin Kisija** of **Marlborough, MA**, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Zhire Eden**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of July 02, 2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court

Date: June 04, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 06/13/2025

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. MI25C0358CA

In the Matter of
ROSELLE ABIGAIL ROSEMBERT

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Roselle Abigail Rosembert** of **Malden, MA**, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Roselle Abigail Rosenberg**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 20, 2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court

Date: May 22, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 06/13/2025

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

JAMES J. BRADDOCK

The Cinderella Man

Would Have Turned 120 on June 7th

The story of Jimmy Braddock is familiar to most people. His rise and fall and rise again was portrayed in the Ron Howard movie *Cinderella Man*. While Howard played loose with the facts, he did capture the almost mythical story of the man who overcame great odds to make it to the heavyweight title.

Young Jimmy Braddock

Braddock had begun fighting professionally as a light heavyweight in 1923 and ran up a very impressive record of 44 wins, 2 losses, and one draw over his first three years in the ring. The wins included 21 that came via kayo.

A 1928 upset win over contender Tuffy Griffiths put him in line for a title shot against light heavyweight champ Tommy Loughran. Unfortunately for Braddock, not only did he lose a close decision, but in the process, he broke his right hand.

It was downhill for Jimmy after that as he went on to compile a record of just 11 wins, while losing 20 and having 2 draws in his next 33 fights. His paydays were getting smaller and his hand was not getting much better. Also, the Great Depression had set in.

Jimmy with wife Mae and children

With a wife and three children to feed, Braddock went to work on the docks. When work dried up there, he was forced to accept relief checks from the government. He was ashamed of having to do that, and later when things turned around for him, he repaid the money he had been given.

1934 proved to be a pivotal year for the Pride of New Jersey. An upset knockout win over Corn Griffin led to a fight against future light heavyweight champ John Henry Lewis. He beat John Henry by decision. In 1935, he took on heavyweight contender Art Lasky, winning a 15-round decision.

Max Baer (Left) mixes it up with Braddock

Those three wins were enough to earn him a shot at heavyweight champ Max Baer. Very few gave him a chance against the hard punching Baer, and some were worried he could be seriously hurt in the fight.

The fight took place at the Madison Square Garden Bowl on June 13, 1935. It was on this night Braddock became known as the Cinderella Man. In one of the biggest upsets in boxing history, Jimmy won a 15-round decision over Baer. Now, there are some, including me, who believe the fix was in on the fight. I have written about it in the past and still hold that both men were in on the deal, and it was agreed Jimmy would be allowed the win.

Boxing at that time was seen as a way to make money more than bask in glory. Remember, this was during the Great Depression when people were barely getting by and many were homeless and even starving. These men were in the business of earning a living. This was something James Braddock got to be very good at.

With Max Baer

After winning the title, he didn't immediately sign to defend it. He knew he had something of great value and might not get to keep it for long. The first challenger that was put forth was former champ Max Schmeling. Max was coming off an upset knockout win over Joe Louis.

Braddock and Schmeling signed to meet on September 24, 1936. Braddock and his manager Joe Gould then realized they could make far more money facing Joe Louis who had been gaining traction again after the loss to Schemling. Claiming an injury they backed out of the fight.

Braddock, ever the wise business man not only negotiated a large payday to face Louis ($300,000), he also was guaranteed 10% of promoter Mike Jacobs' net profits from Louis' promotions over the next ten years. Quite a sweet deal.

Jimmy put up a heroic fight against Louis, even dropping the challenger in the first round with a right uppercut. However, he could not withstand the power of Louis, finally succumbing in the eighth round. It was the only time in 87 fights that Braddock was stopped.

Jimmy would fight just one more time, winning a ten-round split decision over Tommy Farr. That was in January of 1938.

James J. Braddock had made one of the most remarkable comebacks in boxing history. He was also a very shrewd businessman and left the game with a healthy bank account and a guaranteed income for the next ten years.

During WWII he served in the Pacific Theater training soldiers in hand-to-hand combat. He later opened a restaurant and also invested in a marine supply business, both of which lost money. Eventually, he got into the construction business where he worked on building the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge.

Jimmy the well-dressed man

The Cinderella Man passed away at the age of 69 in 1974. His rags to riches to rags and then to riches again story will always be an inspiration to those who fall on hard times.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

Sometimes when one wakes up in the middle of the night and finds getting back to sleep a bit of a challenge, an option is to turn on one of the overnight sports radio talk shows that are on the air during these hours.

Besides serving as their primary function of getting one back to sleep, once in a while something actually interesting is imparted.

That happened a few nights ago when a caller (that's right someone actually called in during the wee hours of the morning) made a suggestion that he thought would enliven and rekindle the interest in the present NBA All-Star game.

The game, usually played in February, used to feature two teams of NBA All-Stars going through the motions of a no-defense game in which both sides often had a good chance of scoring around 150 points.

Still, it retained the features of a regular NBA game with four quarters, a halftime plus all the rules of a typical in-season game.

Over the last few years a number of different formats — both in timing and scoring — have been tried but nothing seems to have really caught on.

The caller's suggestion was to alter the format to make it more competitive by having a team of veteran stars face a team composed of rookie and second year standouts.

He figured this would reintroduce a competitive aspect back into the game, something that has been missing for a long time. His theory was that the veteran stars would not want to be defeated and embarrassed by a team consisting of younger stars while the younger players would like nothing better than to beat their older brethren in the league, thus making a statement that they did indeed belong in the NBA.

This concept was actually employed (sort of) at the 2025 NBA All Star game where the winner of the 4-team Rising Star Challenge made it into the field against a team composed of veterans in the "finals" of the All-Star event — a modified game in which the veterans won.

However, this is not a guaranteed format since the tournament started with four teams, it meant the Rising Stars squad that advanced to a "Final Four" that featured three veteran teams could have been eliminated which would have resulted in an all–veteran final.

The caller's suggestion would, in essence, guarantee a veteran vs. Rising Stars final.

Whether the format utilized in 2025 returns is an open question.

In a televised interview earlier this month NBA Commissioner Adam Silver stated that the format of the 2026 contest will probably feature a team of All-Star players from the USA going against a team of International Stars.

Silver said this format would fit right in because the game will be televised by NBC — which will also be broadcasting the Winter Olympics in Italy the same month (February 6-February 22).

In fact, this packaging by NBC will provide the NBA with the opportunity it has always wanted — to be packaged along with the Winter Olympics by the same network that will be televising the winter games.

Basketball itself can never be part of the Winter Olympics since the definition of a winter sport by the International Olympic Committee is one that is played upon or contested over a snow or ice surface. So, the next best thing is to be an addendum to the televised package and this time the NBA has achieved that. Silver also indicated the success of the NHL's 4 Nations Face-Off as having an influence, an event, by the way, that replaced the traditional NHL All-Star Weekend last winter.

Right now, it looks as if the NBA Rising Star Challenge will return for 2026 and will be played on the Friday of All-Star Weekend. It will probably feature four teams of first and second year NBA players plus a few G League players in a shortened four-game tournament that produces a winner. However, with the adjustment in format, that winner will not advance to the All-Star event proper because the format for that will consist of USA Stars going against International stars.

However, this format may be only for a year. One will just have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, back in late April, the National Hockey League announced that the 2026 All-Star game scheduled for February in Elmont, N.Y. (the home of the New York Islanders) has been canceled in favor of holding an Olympics kickoff "event" at the venue instead.

So, a somewhat different February is on the horizon for this coming winter. But it seems to have the potential to be more exciting as well.