

Stirpe
Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



FLAMEN



Flamines, distinguished by their pointed headdress, as part of a procession on the Augustan Altar of Peace.

During the past weeks, we have been examining some of the ancient customs and beliefs and have noted many striking similarities with Christian procedures and doctrines. We discussed ancient books, manuscripts, the early Egyptian and Greek attitudes toward cosmic gods, the nether worlds, the origin of the basilica, cathedral and the eternal flame. Before we leave the worship of Vesta and the sacred fire, it might be of interest to examine “flama,” the Latin word for flame. Flama translates to fire, blaze, or torch. “Flamare” means to set fire, to inflame, or to burn.

During ancient times, the term “flamen” was used to describe “one who kindles the sacrificial fire.” The term was also used to identify a special kind of priest in the worship of a special Roman deity. We must bear in mind that this kind of worship occurred in pagan Rome many years before Christianity was practiced. There were fifteen “flamines” (male priests), of which three were high priests and were known as “flamines maiores.” One high priest was called the “flamen Dialis” or the high priest of Jupiter, their chief Roman god. The second high priest was called “flamen Martialis” or the high priest of Mars, the god of war and father of Romulus and Remus. The third high priest was called “flamen Quirinus,” the Savine equivalent of Mars, who was worshipped as the founder of the old Roman capital.

The remaining twelve were known as “flamines minores” or priests who were identified with less important deities like Vulcanus, the god of fire, Flora, the goddess of flowers, Pomona, the goddess of the fruit of trees, and Carmenta, the ancient goddess of prophecy, who protected women in childbirth, to name a few. All of the priests held their office for life and could not be removed except under extraordinary circumstances.

The emblem of their office was a white cone-shaped hat, which was made from the hide of an animal that had previously been sacrificed. The hat also had an olive branch and a woolen thread at the top (a symbol of good health). The flamen were required to wear the hat at all times when they were out of doors. They were exempt from all civic duties and excluded from participating in politics.

The flamen Dialis was superior to all priests, but he was not permitted to spend a night away from home. He was granted a seat in the Senate, the services of a constant attendant, and his family, along with their houses, were all dedicated to Jupiter. He lived in dissoluble marriage, and if his wife died, he resigned his office. For him, every day was a holy day, and he never appeared in public without the insignia of his office. These insignia included his conical hat, a woolen toga that was woven by his wife, a sacrificial knife, and a rod to keep the people away.

When a flamen walked through the city, he was preceded by heralds who directed people to stop their work, as a flamen was not permitted to look upon any labor, or upon any person under arms, or in chains. He was not allowed to touch a horse, corpses, grave, a goat, dog, raw meat, or anything considered to be unclean. His garments were required to be free from knots, but clasps were permitted. If he was ever found guilty of any carelessness in his sacrifices, or if his hat fell from his head, he was forced to resign. His wife was bound by similar rules of conduct and dress, except that her head was covered by a kerchief, and on certain days, she was forbidden to comb her hair.

NEXT WEEK:
Cruz

LEGAL NOTICE

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Councilors Flynn and Murphy Demand Answers Following Holiday Weekend Violence

by Patti Sartori



Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Erin Murphy

It was anything but a quiet and peaceful holiday weekend in some Boston neighborhoods. Sadly, two individuals were killed and eleven others injured in five shooting incidents occurring last Saturday night, July 4 in the Roxbury and Dorchester sections of the city, spurring two councilors to call on Mayor Wu to hold a “public safety summit.”

Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy said in a statement that it was, a “heartbreaking, unacceptable, and a stark reminder that the status quo is not working.” Murphy urged Wu to provide a briefing to the full city council on an updated Summer Safety Plan and to convene a citywide “Public Safety Summit” including all elected officials, neighborhood organizations, violence prevention advocates, first responders, residents, as well as state and federal partners.

“Boston residents deserve action, not talking points. They deserve fully staffed police shifts, safer neighborhoods, and leaders willing to put their differences aside before more lives are lost,” stated Murphy. District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn also sent a letter to Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox requesting a summit to address violence and crime in Boston. “It’s clear we need a new, comprehensive public safety plan that includes hiring

hundreds of police officers every year.”

Both councilors noted a violent assault on a police officer last week while attempting to apprehend an individual as well as a recent triple shooting. “I hate to be the person who told them so, but each week the city is becoming more violent,” added Boston Police Patrolman’s Association President Larry Calderone, and suggested a return to a community policing approach may be what is needed, “The same officer, on the same beat, in the same neighborhood.”

During a recent press conference regarding the July 4 violence, Commissioner Cox denounced the criticism that there are not enough police officers on the streets. “Contrary to the word out there, since FIFA, we’ve got many, many officers working, far more than any other time period. That being said, there were a lot of parties, and that kind of volume we’re probably not used to.”

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

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consoling presence brought us great
comfort during a difficult time.*

The Spagnuolo - Iandoli Family

Massachusetts State Budget Awaits Governor Healey's Approval

by Patti Sartori



Massachusetts Governor
Maura Healey

The Massachusetts State Legislature has completed their part of the budget process, sending Governor Healey a \$63.4 billion dollar budget last week. Healey now has 10 days to review and act on it. This year's budget, FY27, moved through the State House with relative ease, with an increase of \$2.47 billion or 3.9% over last year's budget and approximately \$54.3 million larger than the original budget prosed by Healey this past January.

The budget does not include any tax or fee increases but projects to add about \$50 million into the state's primary savings account by the end of this new budget cycle. The budget also includes \$2.7 billion in spending supported by revenue from the state surtax on household income above \$1.1 million, with 64% set aside for education and 36% for transportation.

Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation President Doug Howgate said the budget was "remarkably aligned" with Healey's January budget proposal and closes a \$3.5 billion gap between projected revenues and spending. Howgate before adding that the new budget "grows spending at a healthy clip." House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz said, "It's always hard to predict what's going to happen in the future, particularly around revenues and things of that nature, but I think the budgets that we've done over the last number of years here have been pretty sustainable. And I think this budget is another step in that direction, and we'll continue to keep that momentum going."

Until the budget is officially signed by Governor Healey, the state is operating under an interim budget that the Governor signed June 30, 2026.

Boston Seniors to Receive Property Tax Relief

by Patti Sartori

Thanks to legislation introduced by Boston City Councilor At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, passed by the city council and signed by Mayor Michelle Wu, an ordinance became law which will increase income eligibility for seniors offering property tax relief each year as a method to keep pace with inflation. This legislation will make sure that income and assets limits currently used to determine eligibility for Boston's senior property tax exemption will automatically adjust annually based on inflation.

The goal is to prevent seniors from losing eligibility when their social security benefits, retirement income and savings increase due to cost of living jumps. "Moving forward, the city will account for changing economic conditions and automatically adjust the income eligibility every



City Councilor At-Large
Ruthzee Louijeune

year for the property tax exemption," Mayor Wu said at a recent press conference.

Homeowners must be 65 years or older as of July 1 to qualify for that fiscal year's elderly tax exemption, which offers \$1,000 in tax relief, along with an additional \$1,000 in city tax relief provided that it does not reduce the annual tax bill below the previous year's bill, and reduce the taxable value of the eligible homeowners property below 10% of the assessed value.

Councilor Louijeune noted that Boston has now joined other cities and towns that have already adopted the automatic senior tax exemption adjustment, including Belmont, Braintree, Cambridge, Concord, Milton and Plymouth. "We have to keep pushing as well because the affordability crisis won't be solved by any single policy," stated Wu.

Is TAXACHUSETTS a Fitting Name for the Bay State?

by Patti Sartori

It's a pretty forgone conclusion that the recent ballot question lowering Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% would have passed according to likely voters, however the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) struck it down stripping the voters of an opportunity to be heard. The Pioneer Institute pointed to a recent study found that Massachusetts taxes are a much larger share of income from "typical families" than other states, instead offering residents credits instead of real tax relief.

The study, known as "Universal or Targeted? Is Massachusetts an Outlier in how it delivers tax relief to lower and middle income Households?" had concluded that the deep differences in Massachusetts Tax policy "may have implications for competitiveness, fairness, transparency, and migration." Aiden Enright Co-Author of the study found, "States like North Carolina shield nearly three times as much income from taxation as Massachusetts does. Massachusetts prides itself in supporting lower income populations, but many states provide considerably more broad-based tax relief to lower and middle income families."

The Pioneer Institute study says Massachusetts personal exemption is steady at just \$4,400 for single filers and \$8,800 for married couples filing jointly, noting these amounts have not changed since 2008, adding that if the state's rates had been adjusted for inflation, Massachusetts taxpayers would have saved an additional \$861 million in 2025.

Meanwhile North Carolina offers \$12,750 to single filers and \$25,000 for married couples



filing jointly. Maine offers single filers a \$20,150 deduction and Rhode Island \$16,000. In comparison, the federal standard deduction protects single filers with a \$15,750 deduction and couples with a \$31,500 deduction.

"Massachusetts politicians speak the language of progressivism, but our tax code tells a different story. Massachusetts offers relief by largely relying on collections of targeted tax credits and deductions, which include deductions for renters, seniors, children, commuters, student-loan borrowers, and more. But the Pioneer Institute cautions that because these tax credits are not universal, it makes the eligibility process extremely complex. The Institute is also calling for a review of the state's tax deduction and credit system.

Since 2020, Massachusetts has faced a net domestic out migration of 182,000 residents, especially between the ages of 26 and 34. This trend piggy backs on the continued decline Massachusetts is experiencing in job growth, joining only a few other states that have continued to lose jobs since the COVID pandemic ended.

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L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Sweating Out and Staying Cool

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by freepic.diller on Magnific)

Summer brings many pleasures, which is why so many people consider it their favorite season. It means vacations and refreshing dips in the pool, bright sunshine and warm weather, licks of an ice cream cone and golden twilight hours that last long into the night. However, summer also introduces days of great humidity, when the air feels like a thick and damp blanket enveloping the earth, when you sit in front of any fan you can find in hopes of some relief. I actually like humid days, for they remind me that summer is really and truly here and differentiate the season from all others. Nevertheless, too much stifling weather can really wreak havoc! During periods of high humidity, I like to stay in an air-conditioned space and enjoy ice-cold glasses of water or lemonade, basking in summer relaxation. While I, like many others, take the humidity in stride as part of the season, in olden days the hot days of summer were considered downright dangerous. In Italy and other places across Europe and the world, a host of superstitions have attached themselves to the dog days of summer. These fascinating bits of folklore remind us that days spent under a scorching sun have both vexed and intrigued our ancestors for generations.

I was reminded of the dog days on a morning when every dog in my neighborhood suddenly got the urge to bark and howl simultaneously. Besides the fact that dogs and other animals feel the summer heat as much as humans do (which is why you should take precautions to keep your pet cool and comfortable during the summer), why the canine association with the hottest days of the year? The term “dog days” derives from the fact that in ancient times, during the

summer, the star Sirius rose about the same time as the sun. Since Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, which means “large dog,” the Romans represented the star as a canine — something any Harry Potter fan can tell you! For the ancient Egyptians, the rise of Sirius was viewed as a sign of relief, since it heralded the flooding of the Nile River and thus the growth of crops and vegetation. The Romans, however, perceived Sirius as a malicious and dangerous star. They believed that its brightness combined with that of the sun, causing the heat to rise in the summer! Many superstitions have since attached themselves to the dog days, or *dies caniculares* as the Romans called them. Supposedly, illnesses run rampant and snakes are more likely to bite during the dog days. Thanks to modern science, we know this is not true, but it is easy to see why these days acquired such a nefarious reputation. In modern times, we can turn on the air conditioner or jump in a pool when it is too hot. In ancient times, people had no such luxuries, and indeed spent the summer haying under the hot sun. That must not have been a pleasant experience!

The dog days supposedly last from July 3rd to August 11th. When I visited Italy years ago, it was during the height of the dog days, and I received a big culture shock. Here in the United States, I was used to popping inside an air-conditioned store or restaurant when walking outside in the sweltering heat was too much to handle. In Italy, air conditioning was practically non-existent. In fact, it was so rare, that whenever a store did have an air conditioner or fan blasting inside, they advertised it outside on colorful posters hung from their

windows. Perhaps this reluctance to use air conditioning is due to the Italian fear of *il colpo d’aria*, or “hit of air”: the belief that a blast of air to your neck or throat can cause a wide number of maladies. I also found out that many Italians dislike putting ice in their drinks for fear of indigestion. These cautions, by the way, are not unique to Italy, but prevalent in other European countries as well. Though the lack of air conditioning and ice took some getting used to, I eventually found out that Italians have other great ways of cooling off in the summer. Nearly every time I visited a family member, they had a fresh *melone*, or melon, waiting on their table. Juicy and refreshing cantaloupes, watermelons, and honeydews form a staple of Italian summer eating, the perfect finale to a muggy day. Italians also enjoy strolling outside in the fresh air during the evening, when the heat of the day has lessened. These walks are called *passeggiate*, and they provide Italians with the opportunity to chat with family and friends while enjoying a gelato and exploring the city or town. This is a wonderful tradition that America should adopt, especially in the summer, when we could all use some relaxation and time outdoors!

I believe that the dog days serve as a wake-up call to relax. The humid, stagnant air and high heat is nature’s way of telling us that we can use time to recharge and take it easy. Too often, our busy schedules and hectic modern lives keep us from taking time for ourselves, even in the midst of summer. Whether we set aside a few minutes to enjoy a cool glass of lemonade (with ice, of course!) or take a cue from the Italians and spend summer evenings basking in the fresh air and company of family, these small indulgences will rejuvenate our energy and our enjoyment of the season. When it is too humid to go outside — and we should all be mindful of risks like heat stroke and heart problems during especially hot days — relax inside, take a bite out of a juicy melon and watch your favorite movie. For summer is too beautiful a time of the year to ignore, no matter how muggy the dog days get!

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

THINKING OUT LOUD



by Sal Giarratani

America is a Country That Never Stands Still

Reflecting on America’s journey, I am reminded of John Adams’ 1776 vision of parades and bonfires. While our current climate differs from the 1976 Bicentennial, I fondly recall celebrating the 200th anniversaries of the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the 1975 parades in Lexington and Bunker Hill.

Though we remain a work in progress, our Constitution endures. I often think back to President Gerald Ford’s 1975 Bicentennial kickoff speech at the Old North Church, where he acknowledged our nation’s internal turmoil while reaffirming our resilience. From the pulpit of Old North Church on April 19, 1975 (200th anniversary of Paul Revere’s Ride), President Ford stated, “We

had suffered great turmoil and torment in recent years (Watergate). Nevertheless, in all of the explosive changes of this and past generations, the American people have demonstrated a rich reserve of reason and of hope.” His message made it easy for us to focus forward to what is to come. Rather than bemoan our past sins as many are doing today, his message was to keep on doing that which makes us a great nation. Ford understood, the next chapter of America is ours to write together.

Happy Birthday to all Americans. This is our country and our day, and it is up to us today and those who follow us to keep the promises made back at our nation’s birth. And God Bless the USA too.



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Mayor Wu Declares Boston is a Safe City!

by Patti Sartori

Mayor Michelle Wu will not back down from her assertion that Boston is the “safest major city” in America,” plain & simple, cut & dried, regardless of what others may say, especially the president of the city’s largest police union. Wu’s spokesperson, Marcela Dwork, issued a statement stating the mayor is proud to shout out Boston’s reputation as the safest major city, adding “Boston’s public safety data shows that the number of shootings, homicides, and other kinds of serious crimes have continued to drop and remain at historically low levels. These numbers reinforce the strong progress we’ve made over the past several years, but our work is far from done.”

The statement from Wu’s office is in response to criticism from the Boston Police Patrolman’s Association (BPPA), following recent attacks on officers. “Safest city in America? Not so much. The increase levels of violence and attacks on police should have everyone concerned. And if a triple shooting in Boston’s Theatre District doesn’s grab your attention, you my want to check for a pulse,” the BPPA posted on Facebook. The unions post followed a triple shooting in the Theatre District and a viral video of a Boston Police officer who was attempting to arrest a man in Dorchester, but instead had drinks and objects thrown at him causing the suspect to flee.

BPPA President Larry Calderone has called out the Wu administration for not hiring an adequate number of police officers, with the



Boston Police Patrolman’s Association President Larry Calderone speaks at a press conference endorsing Mayor Michelle Wu during her 2025 re-election campaign.

department at a 600 officer deficit, which he feels is adding to the increase in violence. “The lack of manpower, exacerbated by some city councilors’ calls to cut police overtime in the city budget, is a recipe for disaster.” He noted that violence is up in Boston, with street takeovers, larcenies, and other crimes happening every weekend. “That’s what turns once-great cities into garbage cities, like Chicago and Baltimore, and we don’t want to see our great city turn into a garbage city that’s ridden with violence.”

Wu’s administration says data from the BPD, comparing the first six months of 2025 and 2026, shows clear progress in reducing serious crime. In 2026, victims of shootings fell from 58 to 50, homicides dropped from

21 to 10, domestic aggravated assaults were fairly steady and non-domestic aggravated assaults rose slightly. “We’re at the midway point of the year, and we’re doing pretty well with the city as far as overall crime. We’ve had, certainly, an uptick in street takeovers, things of that nature, so we want to remind the public, if they see something, say something,” said BPD Commissioner Michael Cox.

Calderone said “Boston is still one of the safest cities in the country,” before cautioning “We’re just a few extra shootings away from becoming like Chicago and that’s what we’re worried about. If we wait too long and become like Chicago or Baltimore, then we’ve already lost the battle.”

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2026

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Let us keep Him in prayer in his new assignment.



Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

“I’ll never stop helping people. That’s what I do!” If you know Boston, especially its politics from the ’80s and ’90s, you could probably guess with whom I recently spent a delightful hour and a half. Meet attorney, civic leader and author, Lawrence DiCara, who still bears the distinction of having been the youngest person ever elected to the Boston City Council at just 22 years old.

Larry, as everyone knows him, was born and raised in Boston and still lives here. “I was raised in Dorchester on the border between the Irish and Jewish neighborhoods. I had both Irish and Jewish friends. As one of very few Italian families there, we were an anomaly.” His father was born in Catania, Sicily, and when his grandparents immigrated to Boston they lived in a tough section of the South End. They saved up to buy their own 3-decker in Dorchester. “Even though they had humble beginnings, my dad was encouraged to go to college, the first in the family! He graduated from Northeastern with a business degree. My mother’s family was from Messina, Sicily, and she also went to college here and became a teacher. A good education was very important to my parents. I went to Harvard, then Suffolk Law, my brother went to Bowdoin in Maine where he also got his graduate degree, and my sister went to Simmons. We fulfilled their dream.”

I mentioned I’d read an article about him in which a Harvard classmate described Larry as a “born politician.” He laughed. “That could be! I was elected Senior Class President at the end of my junior year at Boston Latin in 1966. I realized then that you have a built-in infrastructure to run for public office in Boston once you’ve run successfully at Latin! Those on my school campaign committee included friends who were Irish, Jewish, Italian, Black, Chinese. Many of those school friends are still friends to this day. And many of my Harvard friends helped me in my first campaign for public office, and also are friends to this day.

I care about people, and I believe good people working together can affect positive change. I remember once



Lawrence DiCara

when I was at Fallon Field in Roslindale. A man was angry because we were on opposite sides of a political issue, but then he suddenly stopped and said that because I had helped out his son on some matter, he wanted to put one of my campaign signs in front of his house! I’m incredulous some pols today actually say ‘We don’t do constituent services. You’ll have to dial 311!’ But that’s what you were elected to do!”

What were some things he was proudest of working on? “Honestly, Mayor White and I didn’t agree on a lot, but he was bold, and he knew despite Boston’s amazing history it was in financial trouble and wasn’t really a world-class city. I proudly led the floor fight to upgrade Quincy Marketplace, Copley Place, Lafayette Place, the Charlestown Navy Yard, Post Office Square Park. I chaired the Citizens Committee on the surface park project when we took down the Central Artery.”

I asked him about losing the mayor’s race. “In retrospect, it wasn’t surprising that I lost. In a city in which 20th century mayors had been married Irish men with large families, here I was, of Italian descent and single. The day after the election, newspaper headlines were all about my loss, but instead of disappearing as losing candidates often do, I was on public transportation, making the rounds, showing fellow Bostonians that I was still here

after 10 years in local politics, ready to pitch-in in local civic projects.”

As a lawyer, Mr. DiCara has worked on some of the biggest real estate deals in Boston. He once pointed to a building he had worked on and his triplets asked, “Dad, do you have a story about every building in this city?” He laughed but added, “I feel like I do! I’ve worked on the headquarters for Liberty Mutual; for the Tea Party Ship & Museum which needed every permit you could think of; probably 1,000 zoning cases; and the list goes on.”

In addition to his legal and consulting work, he has also written two books: *Turmoil and Transition in Boston: A Political Memoir from the Busing Era* (1977), and just last year, his first novel! *Frothingham: A Novella About Boston*. It’s about a Boston Brahmin politician who tells his life story to his grandson. And surprise — the Brahmin had an Italian grandmother! He also writes a weekly essay he posts on LinkedIn and Facebook. He says some are personal stories, some are political, but all encourage the best outcome for our fellow citizens. He sits on a number of boards including as Chair of Boston’s Audit Committee. He also mentors young lawyers as they navigate the world following college. “I remember the old politicians like Joe Moakley who were so kind to me. I want to give back, too.”

I asked what he learned from his Italian heritage? “Family. Education. Faith.” He also stressed “being genuine. When I was serving as Acting Mayor in January of ’78 my Nonna had a heart attack during a snowstorm. I made my way to Carney Hospital where she told me she didn’t think she had long to live. ‘You’re the oldest: take care of your mother. It’s about time you settle down! And turn down the thermostat in my apartment. No point in wasting oil while I’m in the hospital!’”

Now 77, I asked if he had plans to retire? “I sometimes have slow days and think maybe it’s time. And then I get a phone call, like yesterday, about a Boston real estate deal for a woman in China. We’ll speak Monday through an interpreter. I still get excited about what I do!”

your blood sugar from a see saw effect which can crash your energy. Spinach serves as a solid source of magnesium, an important mineral that helps your body turn food into fuel. Without magnesium your metabolism can become sluggish, leading to lower energy levels.

Eating a well-balanced quality breakfast is just one way to support your metabolism. Don’t forget quality sleep, 7-9 hours each night, practice stress management and be sure to incorporate and engage in regular physical activity to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Saint Angela of the Cross

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Angela Guerrero Gonzalez was Born in Seville on January 30, 1846, Her father was Francisco Guerrero, Her mother, Josefa González, was one of 14 children, of whom only six reached adulthood.

Both of Angela’s parents worked in a priory of the Trinitarian friars in Seville, her father as a cook and her mother as a laundress and seamstress. Her schooling was limited, as was typical of young girls of her social class at the time. She received her first communion when she was eight years old and confirmation when she was nine. At 12 years of age she went to work in a shoe repair shop to help the family income, and remained there almost continuously until she was 29.

Guerrero’s supervisor at the shoe repair shop was Antonia Maldonado, a devout lady who encouraged her employees to pray together, recite the rosary, and read about the lives of saints. Through Maldonado, when Guerrero was 16 years old, she was introduced to José Torres y Padilla, a priest from the Canary Islands who was Maldonado’s spiritual director. He became Guerrero’s spiritual guide and confessor.

In 1865, at age 19, Guerrero applied to enter the convent of the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Seville as a lay sister. Her application, however, was denied because the state of her health. She was then advised by Father Torres to start work among the sick, particularly those suffering from cholera, which was rife at that time. Three years later, in 1868, she applied again to enter consecrated life, this time to the Daughters of Charity in Seville and, although still not well, she was accepted. The sisters attempted to nurse her to full health, sending her to Valencia to recover, but Guerrero finally had to leave the convent during her novitiate and returned to work in the shoe factory.

On August 2, 1875, Guerrero (now 29 years old) left the shoe shop and was joined by three other women, Josefa



de la Peña, who was wealthy, and Juana María Castro and Juana Magadán, both from poor families like Guerrero’s, who established themselves as a religious community. Father Torres assumed the position of director of the new institute and appointed Guerrero as the sister superior of the community. They rented a small room with access to a kitchen and from there they organized a day and night support service for the local poor and sick, they began to wear a religious habit and Guerrero took the religious name of Mother Angela of the Cross.

The community received official approval on April 5, 1876 from Luis de la Lastra y Cuesta, the cardinal archbishop of Seville. In 1877, a second community was founded in Utrera, in the Province of Seville, and later another was founded in Ayamonte. Torres died in the same year and his place as director of the institute was taken by his protegee, José María Alvarez y Delgado. That same year, Guerrero took her perpetual religious vows under him. Twenty three communities of the new institute came to be founded, mostly around Andalusia and southern Extremadura.

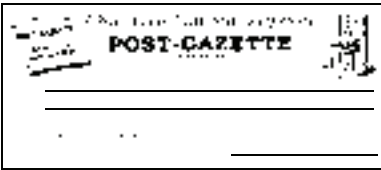
Guerrero passed away in Seville on March 2, 1932 from natural causes, aged 86, and was entombed in the Sisters of the Cross Convent. She was Canonized on May 4, 2003. The feast day of Saint Angela of the Cross is March 2.



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The #1 Breakfast Choice

Your metabolism fuels and supports your daily activities and bodily functions including regular physical activity, adequate hydration, and eating foods rich in essential nutrients while allowing your body to convert the food into energy. When it comes to starting your day on the right track, a healthy breakfast option is key.

Of course, there are many breakfast options available to support a healthy metabolism, but one stands out according to registered dietitians. A spinach and egg scramble, a simple

satisfying meal that features ingredients shown to be beneficial for metabolic health, and adding fresh raspberries on the side, provides key nutrients for metabolism, including protein, fiber, magnesium, and healthy fats. Even culinary novices can handle this dish.

Eggs are a vital source of protein which is essential for building and repairing muscle, boosts metabolism and helps you feel full. The addition of fresh raspberries, whole grain bread and spinach adds a large amount of fiber which is important for digestive health, and prevents



by
**Marianna
Bisignano**

At the Head of the Table: BUONA FESTA DEL PAPÀ



Today, when most people visit Boston’s North End, they see Italian restaurants, pastry shops, cafés, and salumerias. The streets are bustling with tourists and visitors from around the world. For many, it is simply a destination. But for those who have called the North End home for more than eight and a half decades, it is something much deeper. It is home, a place built by families who arrived with very little and transformed a neighborhood into a lasting piece of Italy.

This week takes us to *La Famiglia Spagnuolo*, where I had the pleasure of sitting ‘At the Head of the Table’ with Claudia (Clotilde) Spagnuolo, the family matriarch, who has spent nearly 88 years living and working in Boston’s North End..

“Did your family’s story begin here, in this restaurant?” I asked.

“No, no... *we were pastry people.*”

The Spagnuolo family’s story began in the early 1900s, when Claudia’s grandfather, Francesco Spagnuolo, immigrated from Avellino through Ellis Island. After finding that the states he first visited didn’t feel like home, he settled in Boston, where he soon opened one of the North End’s first Italian Pasticceria’s (bakeries).

“*My grandfather was ahead of his time,*” Claudia recalled. “*When he first came here, he worked in funeral homes, but that wasn’t his trade. He sent for his brothers and sisters, and soon after opened C. Spagnuolo’s Pasticceria. It was where Dolce is today. Mike worked for my grandfather before opening his own place.*”

“You mean Mike’s Pastry?” I asked.

“Yes,” she replied. “*And Eddie from Modern Pastry worked for my grandfather too, before joining his partners.*”

Claudia smiled as she spoke about her family’s bakeries, adding that her great-uncle Vincenzo also owned a Pasticceria “*next to where CVS is today,*” while his daughter and her husband owned another on Cross Street. “*And my grandfather’s cousins, Jerry and Louie, owned Burden’s Pharmacy... all Spagnuolos,*” she said proudly, a testament to the deep roots her family established in the neighborhood she has called home her entire life.

I asked Claudia how the family’s pastry shop became the restaurant it is today, and she explained that after her father passed away at just 45 years old, it was she and her two brothers. She began to see the business changing. “*People weren’t ordering the cakes they used*

to” she said. So, when the opportunity came to open a bar, she took it. Working until four and five o’clock every morning, she served the afterhours crowd, many coming from Mr. Maiocco’s ‘European Restaurant’, along with the sailors arriving through the nearby port. She began cooking for her customers, and they liked her cooking. Before long, she expanded part of the bar into the restaurant it is today.

Over the course of our conversation, one theme kept resurfacing. Claudia has spent her entire life watching the North End change. She has seen families move away, homes and longtime businesses disappear, and the neighborhood she has always called home become something very different. Time and again, she returned to the same thought. “*They want to change this, change that... all these meetings and ideas they have. Sometimes change isn’t for the better of the people or country, it’s for the worse. Sometimes things are better the way they were.*”

Listening to Claudia, it was impossible not to feel how deeply those changes had affected her. Like the Italian immigrants who crossed the ocean and never stopped longing for the homeland they left behind, Claudia longs for the North End she once knew.

“Tell me about the North End that you miss,” I said. “What was it like?”

Her eyes lit up, and smiling she said, “*Oh, it was beautiful, it was beautiful. There were all Italian families and their children living on these streets... so many children playing and laughing. It was more of a community, family oriented. People spoke Italian in the streets. Everyone knew each other. Everyone was there for each other. Neighbors were family. We were all so close.*”

Then her smile faded.

“*I miss hearing paisani and commare. You don’t hear those words anymore. There are no more neighbors. They’re all strangers.*”

“We still have beautiful churches, and you belong to St. Leonard’s,” I said.

“*That’s still the same, except the faces. There are many strangers. They come and go. What’s left of us, we try to keep it that way. It is beautiful, very beautiful. Sacred Heart, they did a beautiful job. The tourists go to see all the saints and they didn’t leave any out, they’re all there. We had many more societies... St. Rita, St. Theresa. They just brought St. Theresa back and ... St. Rita... there’s nobody left. I’m the only one left. They’re all gone.*”

Claudia looked up at me, her eyes filling with emotion.

“*I was in my drawer and found my St. Rita Society book.*”

“So many customs are still here,” I said.

“*They had the Avellino Club... my father and Caesar. Years ago, it was so different. They used to have parties for the paisanis. We still have the St. Anthony and the Madonna della Cava... these were a couple of the societies that kept the feasts alive.*”

Before we said goodbye, Claudia returned to the one thought she wanted me to write about.

“We still try to keep the old customs,” she said. “They even changed the holidays. They don’t like the old people. They chopped the heads off. They don’t like the military. They don’t like who discovered America... Everything you learn in a book is not the same. They want to change everything... that’s what you should write about.”

Those words stayed with me.

When Claudia said, “Everything you learn in a book is not the same,” I understood exactly what she meant. She wasn’t dismissing knowledge. She was talking about the difference between making decisions about a community based on what you’ve learned in books and making decisions as someone who has actually lived there, raised a family there, shared in its traditions, and been part of its culture. To Claudia, that kind of understanding cannot be taught. It is earned through experience, sacrifice, and a lifetime of calling a place home.

Claudia’s wisdom, like that of so many older Italians, wasn’t learned from a book. It was earned through the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, the struggles they endured, and the changes they were forced to adapt to. They understood that what makes a neighborhood isn’t its streets or its buildings. It’s the people who call it home. Before deciding what should change, we should first ask ourselves what the cost of that change will be, who will bear it, and what is worth preserving. Some things, once lost, can never be replaced.

Perhaps that is why preserving the North End is so



Spagnuolo’s Christmas Biscotti

Courtesy of
Claudia (Clotilde) Spagnuolo
La Famiglia Spagnuolo
Italian Restaurant

1 cup granulated sugar

1 stick (½ cup) butter, softened

2 large eggs

1½ to 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

Zest of 1 orange or 1 lemon

2½ cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 cup chopped nuts (pecans, almonds, walnuts, filberts/hazelnuts, or a combination) and

1 teaspoon chopped filberts

1 cup chopped dried fruit or citron

Egg Wash

1 large egg

1 to 2 tablespoons water

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, beat the softened butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in the vanilla extract and citrus zest.

Sift together the flour and baking powder, then gradually add to the butter mixture until a soft dough forms. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently until smooth. Shape into a log.

Using your hand, make a lengthwise indentation down the center of the dough. Fill the indentation with the chopped nuts and dried fruit or citron, then fold the dough over and seal well, reshaping it into a log.

Place the log on the prepared baking sheet. Whisk together the egg and water, then brush the top of the dough with the egg wash. Bake at 350°F until golden brown.

Allow the biscotti to cool completely, then slice diagonally. Leave them plain or decorate with icing, if desired. Store in an airtight container.

important. Not simply to preserve its establishments, but to preserve the faith, traditions, values, culture, and way of life that Italian immigrants carried across the ocean. Those are the things that gave the North End its soul. They are the legacy of those who built this neighborhood, and they are the stories, traditions, and values I hope to preserve... one table at a time.

As our visit came to an end, Claudia shared one final gift with me, a Spagnuolo Christmas Biscotti recipe she and her father made together for many years. Every recipe tells a story, but the most treasured recipes are those that keep a family’s story alive. Claudia, thank you for entrusting me with both.



**SUPERTRAMP –
BROTHER WHERE YOU
BOUND + FREE AS A BIRD
(Vinyl – Half-Speed)
A&M/UMe**

Supertramp continue to celebrate their 50th anniversary with the third batch of vinyl reissues from their epic catalogue - *Brother Where You Bound and Free as a Bird*. As per the previous releases, both have been remastered at half-speed. Previous releases have been met with great gusto. *Brother Where You Bound* was the band's first release without Roger Hodgson and reached number 20 on the UK Albums Chart and number 21 on The Billboard 200. Released in May 1985 the album spawned the single "Cannonball" that became a hit, but it is the sixteen-and-a-half-minute title track — which the band deemed too densely prog rock for the preceding album ... *Famous Last Words...* — for which it is remembe red. The star-studded track features Thin Lizzy's Scott Gorham on rhythm guitar, Pink Floyd's David Gilmour on the guitar solos, and readings from George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. *Free as a Bird*, their ninth studio album, was originally released in October 1987. The album was a change in direction for the band. Pivoting from their traditional band set up during recording, they turned to more experimental modern music making techniques using synth for dance beats and rhythms. It naturally saw the band move away from a more prog pop sound in which they had become known. This Supertramp half-speed remaster reissue series gives this catalogue a greater depth of sound that allows reappraisal of some of the most enduring songs of all time. Their albums are some of the most ground breaking in British rock history. Track lists: **Brother Where You Bound** - Side A: "Cannonball," "Still In Love," "No Inbetween," "Better Days." Side B: "Brother Where You Bound," "Ever Open Door.": **Free As A Bird** - Side A: "It's Alright," "Not The Moment," "It Doesn't Matter," "Where I Stand," "Free As A Bird." Side B: "I'm Beggin' You," "You Never Can Tell With Friends," "Thing For You," "An Awful Thing To Waste."

**NEW ENGLAND
JAZZ COLLABORATIVE -
TRIBUTARIES (CD)
ACP Records**

Tributaries, the debut album from the New England Jazz Collaborative, vividly showcases the panoramic spectrum of approaches to composition represented by its diverse membership, from classic New Orleans swing and elegant balladry to Third Stream fusion and West African highlife. The album features six wide-ranging new piece by four of the collaborative's member composers: Jeremy Cohen, Darryl Harper, Matan Rubinstein and Sam Spear. *Tributaries* is bookended by two of Cohen's contributions.

"Another Brighter Day" opens the proceedings with a dawning of birdsong and lush harmonies. The piece's intriguing blend of intricate, kaleidoscopic hues and infectious hooks is reminiscent of influences from Steely Dan to Weather Report. Guitarist Mitch Selib responds with a silken run, leading into an eloquent soprano turn by Temidayo Balogun, adding's talking drum and other percussion to the spirited "Green Turtle Strut." Rubinstein's rollicking "Ol' Liminal" is driven by the emphatic staccato groove of drummer Lumanyano Mzi and bassist Bob Nieske, parrying with darting horn declarations. The Jerusalem-born composer brings a staggering range of genres to bear in his work; "Ol' Liminal" bridges the collective improvisation of jazz's origins in New Orleans — with modernistic flourishes from rock, hip hop and electronic music, specifically citing elements of the Velvet Underground, Aphex Twin and Squarepusher in this piece. *Tributaries* includes a pair of Harper's compositions: the tender ballad "Kiss Me Again," highlighted by a breathtakingly delicate solo by pianist Emily Pruneau, and the odd-meter funk of "The Secret," with a round robin of short solo statements in lively conversation. Spear's striking "Gee, Em..." reverberates with the classical-jazz hybridism of Gunther Schuller and Duke Ellington.

**MICK GOODRICK –
IN PA(S)SING (Vinyl)
ECM Records**

In Pas(s)ing was the guitarist Mick Goodrick's recording debut as leader, after some years with Gary Burton and before that, a spell with Woody Herman. This album was re-issued (July 2026) as part of ECM's *Luminessence* series. In the 70s, Goodrick was joined by an A-list group of accompanists with John Surman, mainly heard on baritone saxophone here, along with a bit on soprano saxophone and bass clarinet, bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer-legend Jack DeJohnette. Joining in airy, lyrical harmony, the four improvisers deliver a quietly eruptive session, full of discrete interplay and secretly memorable melody. Never very tigerish about self-promotion, Goodrick spent most of his life teaching in Boston: Jazz Times has called him "perhaps the most influential mentor in the history of jazz guitar." This 1978 production emphasizes what a creative player he is in his own right, inspired by the great team of players assembled for the session. Track list includes: "Feebles, Fables and Ferns," "In the Tavern of Ruin," "Summer Band Camp," "Pedalpusher," and the album title cut "In Passing." Goodrick lifetime (1945-2022) has given his fans years of memorable listening and pleasure. The playful album title, by the way, alludes to ECM's first office address, which was, yes, in Pasing.

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

**SUPREME COURT
DOES RIGHT BY
FEMALE ATHLETES**

The Supreme Court has just handed down a big win for biological truth and common sense. In a 6-3 decision, the court upheld the right of states to ban biological men from playing in real women's sports and ruled against challenges in West Virginia and Idaho.

This ruling just means that states banning biological men from playing in women's sports isn't unconstitutional. Today, 27 states get it but there are still 23 states who find no problem allowing biological boys to play against biological girls. We have come a long way in this country in the last 50 years. Where are the Women Libbers today? Have they all forgotten Helen Reddy's roar? Like I've been saying, we have strayed from the values of the Bicentennial. *If we don't start fixing things soon, our Tercentenary might be a nightmare. God Bless the USA.*

**7TH ANNUAL
VETERANS' MUSIC FESTIVAL,
VA BENEFITS &
CAREER EXPO**

Once again, thousands of veterans, first responders and families will gather at Pageant Field in Quincy. This year it will all take place on Saturday, July 18 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Health screenings

DISCO NIGHT ON THE MARY ELLEN WELCH GREENWAY



It was Disco Night on the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway over in East Boston back on June 24 and folks came to either relax to the disco sound or put their roller skates on. Whether you came with your skates or dancing shoes on or not, it was a great night of entertainment featuring the Swervacious Rollergirls, the Floor Lords Break Dancers and DJ FlyLife Creative. Sal G apparently had a great night reliving his days as the Disco Kid. Josh Kraft also showed up and was greeted by the Disco Kid himself.
(Photos by Lisa Cappuccio)

sponsored by VA Boston health-care. Live music, free food, job fair, housing and special guests. Sponsored by the Veterans Voice Network (*veteransvoicenetwork.com*) and for more information, you can reach Greg Brasso at 781-985-1551 or *greggbrasso@aol.com*.

**SUMMER COOKOUT
TIME AGAIN**

East Boston's Sacred Heart Parish annual Summer Cookout

will be held Sunday, August 23 following the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the church's parking lot from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or, better still, starting July 15, you can purchase them after each Mass.

END QUOTE

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."
— James Baldwin

BURGER KING MEET-UP FOR THE GUYS



Once again, like clockwork, the gang from up at Burger King met up to have breakfast and drink up those 95 cent senior coffees with free refills and analyze the major stories making the news. Here we see Stephen Scapicchio taking a selfie with the gang. Crew from left to right: Stephen, Frankie, Peter, Sal, Bob, Joe, and Joe

**NEW Health Board Members Honored by
Mass. League of Community Health Centers**

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers recently hosted its Annual Awards Gala with the theme, "The Courage to Care." Among those awarded were two **long-time NEW Health board members and North End residents**. The Joseph M. Smith Board Member award recognizes board members who demonstrate leadership and a commitment to supporting access to care in their communities. Denise Clancy and Marilyn Stempler were honored for their dedication and support to NEW Health over many years. Clancy and Stempler are the two longest-serving NEW Health board members. **NEW Health has sites in both the North End and Charlestown.**



NEW Health board members Denise Clancy and Marilyn Stempler were presented with the Joseph M. Smith Board Member award by Michael Curry and Sue Levine during the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Courage to Care Gala.
(Photo by Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers)

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



A week ago Thursday, was our 49th wedding anniversary. The entire family came to our house to celebrate and that kept a smile on my face all day. How we met our respective others through the generations is a matter of happenstance, beginning with Babbononno, who arrived in Boston in 1896.

My grandfather met Antonio Ceruolo at a café in the North End, and they became fast friends and roommates. Zi’Antonio was a plasterer who did fancy scroll work in his creations and did rather well financially. As a result, he was bringing his siblings to America, one by one, from the oldest to the youngest. When it was time for his youngest sister to immigrate, he showed her picture to his paesano, Mike Contini (Babbononno). My grandfather liked the looks of the woman in the picture and asked if he could accompany his friend to New York, as his sister, Giovannina, was arriving through Ellis Island.

Back in Boston, they began dating under the supervision of her older sisters who were already here. Right after the turn of the 20th century, they were married at the Mt. Carmel Church in East Boston. They lived happily ever after until Nanna contracted breast cancer and passed away at Christmastime in 1958. It was a sad holiday season for all of us, but it ended Nanna’s suffering.

Dad met my mother due to her brothers, Uncles Paul and Nick bringing him home for dinner one day. They were all in the same band, my uncles comprising the sax section and Dad the bass player. They had a double header with a couple of hours off between the two performances and John DeCristoforo met Angelina Contini at dinner.

Dad was on the road working with the swing bands of the 1930s back then and he and Mom dated for 3 years, until she gave him an ultimatum, possibly due to pressure from Babbononno. They were married at the Sacred Heart in East Boston on October 25, 1936. Two years later, on October 21, I showed up.

Uncle Paul was the first of the Contini’s to marry. Eleanor was his sweetheart from their East Boston neighborhood. They would have two daughters, Paula and Ellie who, today, both live in Florida.

Uncle Nick, my Godfather, was next. He married Mom’s best friend Ada Georgione. They would stay together until the last months of WWII, and then

go separate ways, divorcing as the war came to an end. In 1950, my Godfather would marry his lady friend, Dorothea Hanscom Bolduc. She would be the first non-Italian to come into the family and had to put up with the resentment coming at her from some of our relatives.

Even though Ada was no longer part of the family, she stayed close to my mother due to a friendship that went back to their childhood and the fact that she was my Godmother. The relationship would come to an end when she discovered that Nick and Dorothea were welcome in my folks home. She gave Mom an ultimatum, “Them or me.”

Mom told her she wouldn’t play that game and Ada removed herself from the scene until I was in my 20s, I came home one day and found her having tea with Mom. Again, it wouldn’t last and she was out of the picture for good after she gave my mother the same ultimatum and it was shot down. Loretta and I would stay close to Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothea until they passed away in their 90s.

The last one in that generation to marry was Uncle Gino, the youngest of my mother’s brothers. During WWII, he came home on leave from the Army Air Corps and decided to stop in New York before returning to Boston. He stopped by the Copacabana one night to catch the show and was smitten with the Flamenco dancer who was on stage.

Approaching the stage, he was stopped by a group of people sitting at a front table and questioned as to what he wanted. They turned out to be the dancer’s sister and brothers. After listening to Gino explain his actions, they invited him to sit with them, and once their sister, Ninna, was off stage introduced the two of them. They dated when Gino had future leaves and were married once the war was over. Settling in Boston, Uncle Gino went into the liquor business, and in 1950, they would become the proud parents of a set of twins, my cousins, Richard and Donna. After 1950, I would have 4 cousins, the other 2 being Paula and Ellie, Uncle Paul and Aunt Eleanor’s girls. Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothea never produced any children, and as a result, I would become their surrogate son and my sons, their surrogate grandchildren.

Paula, would go through several husbands and produce one son. Richard and Donna would marry and divorce for whatever reasons and Ellie

would remain single all of her life, and, then there’s me!

I met Loretta while working on my doctorate in the Department of Humanistic and Behavioral Sciences at Boston University. She was working on her doctorate in another area and decided to take an out-of-department course for whatever reason, and I was in that course. We met and she hated me. (Looking back, I can’t blame her.) I was doing well as an actor, musician, teacher, businessman, and man about town. I could be arrogant at times. After she saw through the façade, we started dating and were married at St. Leonard’s in the North End on July 2, 1977. As I said earlier, a week ago Thursday, we celebrated our 49th.

Loretta and I would produce 2 sons, John and Michael, who became jocks at early ages. We would put a lot of things on back burners as they progressed and became well-known in youth basketball and on Little League Baseball teams. After college, they both went separate ways, John in finance and Michael in pro baseball, then Hollywood, then personal training.

John met his future wife at the wedding of his old college roommate in Washington, D.C., and brought her back to Zurich, Switzerland where he was living and working.

Once they moved back to the U.S., they would have two kids, Lina (named after my mother) and Nathan, named for someone in my daughter-in-law, Beth’s, family.

Michael, while working in New York City, met Kathy Ho, and a year later they would marry. They would eventually buy an estate in up-state New York and present us with 2 sons, Dante and Daniel, who face time us almost every morning. We had them all down to our place in Florida this spring and I loved it. But, when they left, I said to Loretta, “I’m getting too old for this.” And, there you have it, the 4 generations of my family ... how many of you can identify in some way, being Italian on the inside and American on the outside??? Let me know.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Remember Your Loved Ones



The Post-Gazette accepts memorials throughout the year.

Please call 617-227-8929

2026 NORTH END FESTIVAL DIRECTORY

JULY

MADONNA DEL GRAZIE	July 12
Mass St. Leonard Church	10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.	2 pm
SAN ROCCO	July 19
Italian Mass St. Leonard Church	10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.	1 pm
ST. JOSEPH	July 24, 25, 26
Mass Sunday, July 26	12 pm
Sunday Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts.	1 pm

AUGUST

ST. AGRIPPINA	July 30, 31, August 1, 2
Hanover & Battery Sts.	Opens 7 pm on Thursday
Sunday Procession	12 noon
MADONNA DELLA CAVA	August 7, 8, 9
Hanover & Battery Sts.	Opens 7 pm on Friday
Sunday Procession	1 pm
MADONNA del SOCCORSO	August 13,14, 15, 16
North, Fleet & Lewis Sts. (Fisherman’s)	
Sunday Procession	1 pm - Flight of the Angel 8 pm
SAN GENNARO	August 21, 22, 23
Mass Sunday, August 23,	12 pm
SANTA LUCIA	August 27
Thursday, Feast & Procession	5 pm
Thacher & Endicott Sts.	
ST. ANTHONY’S FEAST	August 28, 29, 30
Endicott & Thacher, N. Margin Sts.	
Sunday Procession	12 pm

SEPTEMBER

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

ADDITIONAL ITALIAN FESTIVALS

Newton, MA	
ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL	July 15-19
St. Mary of Carmen Society	
The Lake - Nonantum at Pelligrini Park	
Malden, MA	
SAINT ROCCO FESTIVAL	August 7, 8, 9
Pearl Street, Malden, MA	
Sunday Procession	1 pm
Lawrence, MA	
FEAST of the THREE SAINTS	New Dates Sept. 4-6
Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino	
Sunday Procession	3 pm
Common & Union Streets, Lawrence	
Cambridge Festival	
SS COSMAS AND DAMIAN	Sept. 10,11,12,13
Sunday Procession	1 pm
Warren and Cambridge St., Cambridge	

— FOR YOU WHO APPRECIATE THE FINEST —

THE

Johnny Christy Orchestra

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Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

The Stone of Scone



The Stone of Scone, also known as the Stone of Destiny, is an ancient block of red sandstone used for centuries in the inauguration of Scottish monarchs. Currently housed at the Perth Museum in Scotland, it remains a powerful symbol of Scottish nationhood and sovereignty.

Celtic legend claims the stone was the pillow the biblical patriarch Jacob rested on at Bethel, later traveling through Egypt, Spain, and Ireland.

Historical records confirm the stone’s use at Scone Abbey for the coronation of early Scottish kings, beginning definitively with Alexander III in 1249.

England’s King Edward I seized the stone as a spoil of war and took it to London in 1296. He housed it under the seat of the Coronation Chair at Westminster Abbey, symbolizing England’s dominion over Scotland.

On Christmas Day in 1950, four Scottish nationalist students stole the stone from Westminster Abbey. It broke during the removal but was later recovered, repaired, and returned to the Abbey.

On St. Andrew’s Day, 1996 the British government officially returned the stone to Scotland, where it was displayed alongside the Honors of Scotland at Edinburgh Castle.

The Stone was temporarily transported back to London in May 2023 for the coronation of King Charles III, returning to Scotland shortly after.

In 2024, the Stone was moved from Edinburgh Castle to the newly refurbished Perth Museum in Perthshire, located just miles from its original historic home at Scone Abbey. It remains on display in a specially designed, climate-controlled environment.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

the park system and could increase the risk of crashes or injury. This includes certain F-150s, Lincoln Aviator, Ford Explorer and Ford Expedition vehicles made between 2018 and 2021. Vehicle owners may contact Ford customer service at 1-866-436-7332.

End Quote

“I keep my views to myself. I’m just an entertainer.”
— Elvis Presley

Rent Control is an Appealing Idea

But It Won’t Solve the Massachusetts or Boston’s Housing Crisis

Massachusetts housing affordability crisis is real, In major urban cities like Boston, rents have climbed faster than wages for many residents, homeownership has become increasingly unattainable, and longtime communities and neighborhoods worry about displacement. Faced with these challenges, rent control often emerges as an attractive solution because it promises immediate relief for tenants struggling with rising housing costs.

However, while rent control may help some current tenants in the short term, it risks making Boston’s broader housing shortage worse over time.

The central problem facing Boston and much of Massachusetts is simple: there are not enough homes or apartments to meet demand. The region’s strong economy, world-class universities, and thriving medical and technology sectors continue to attract new residents, while restrictive zoning, lengthy permitting processes, and high construction costs have limited new housing production. When supply remains constrained, limiting rents does not create additional apartments, it only changes who occupies existing ones.

Economists have long argued that strict rent control can discourage investment in housing. Property owners facing limits on rental income Many postpone maintenance, convert apartments into condominiums, or decide against building new rental housing altogether. Developers considering large

residential projects may choose to invest elsewhere if they believe future returns will be constrained by regulation. Over time these incentives can reduce both the quantity and quality of available housing.

Rent control can also create unintended inequities, because if eligibility is tied to occupying a regulated unit rather than financial need, higher income households may benefit from below-market rents simply because they secured an apartment at the right time. Meanwhile, newcomers, young professionals, recent graduates, immigrants, and families relocating for work may face even tighter competition for the shrinking number of market-rate units, often paying substantially higher rents.

Another concern is reduced mobility. When tenants occupy apartments with rents well below market value they may remain in units that no longer for their needs because moving would mean losing a significant financial benefit. This can leave large apartments occupied by smaller households while growing families struggle to find suitable housing, making the overall housing market less efficient.

Massachusetts has already dealt with debate over rent control. Until 1994, several municipalities, including Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline, maintained rent control systems before voters approved a statewide ballot measure ending the practice. Although debate continues surrounding

the long-term effects of those policies, the history demonstrates that rent control regulation has remained one of the state’s most contested housing issues, and has nearly gone before the voter once again in the upcoming November, 2026 election, where it was almost a certainty to pass muster with the voters.

This does not mean government should do nothing. Policy makers should absolutely focus on expanding housing supply through zoning reform, faster permitting, high density development near transit, conversion of underused commercial buildings into housing, and incentives for affordable housing construction. Direct assistance, such as housing vouchers for low-income households, may also provide relief without reducing incentives to build.

Protecting vulnerable tenants is an important public goal, but any policy should balance relief with long-term housing availability. Boston’s affordability crisis stems primarily from scarcity, not only from high prices. Addressing that scarcity requires building significantly more homes across Greater Boston and Massachusetts.

Rent control offers a politically appealing promise of lower rents, but promises alone cannot overcome basic supply-and-demand dynamics. Lasting affordability will come not from regulating scarcity, but from reducing it.

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. MI26P3401EA
Estate of
JAMES S. MANN
Date of Death: January 20, 2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kelly Mann of Watertown, 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: Kelly Mann of Watertown, 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 07/29/2026.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 01, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 07/10/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after July 27, 2026 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2010 NISSAN VERSA
Vin #3N1BC1CP8AL445799
2007 FORD F150
Vin #1FTVX14537KD02250
2008 MAZDA MAZDA6
Vin #1YVHP80C985M44249
2008 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA
Vin #3VWRZ71K68M167264
2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
Vin #1GCEC14X93Z271293
1998 TOYOTA 4RUNNER
Vin #JT3HN86R1W0151242

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 7/03, 07/10, 07/17/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI26C0416CA
In the matter of:
ASIM NWABUDIKE KIETA
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Asim Nwabudike Kieta of Shirley, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Starezraeye Savage Ra-Dominus.

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 August 03, 2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 24, 2026
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 07/10/2026

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

The POST-GAZETTE newspaper is a paper of general circulation. We are qualified to accept legal notices from any court in each town that we serve.

LEGAL NOTICES

For information on placing a Legal Notice in the POST-GAZETTE please email postgazette@aol.com call (617) 227-8929, or mail notice to: POST-GAZETTE P.O. BOX 130135, BOSTON, MA 02113 Attn: Legal Notices

Cool off this Summer with Free Pool Transportation Services!

Wednesdays & Saturdays

Pick ups: 11am & 12pm
From New Health North End on 332 Hanover St. to Clougherty Pool in Charlestown

Returning Rides: 3pm & 4pm
from Charlestown Pool

Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult

Aaron Michlewitz NE W HEALTH

Pick up from the North End at New Health and drop off at the Charlestown Clougherty Pool

Must be a Boston Resident and Register with BCYF (registration is available at the pool)

Starts July 8th!

Jaylen Brown Traded to Philly

by Luke Martorano



The Boston Celtics shocked Shamrock Nation on July 1st by trading star player Jaylen Brown to the Philadelphia

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26A0156AD
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of
JULIUS ROBERT HOOVER
To: Emma Elizabeth Hoover, any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by: **Erin E. Williams of Southbridge, MA, Scott R. Williams of Southbridge, MA** requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Jack Robert Williams**.
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **WORCESTER** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **AUGUST 18, 2026**.
Witness, **HON. KATHRYN M. BAILEY, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: **May 14, 2026**
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
Run dates: 06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2026

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. MI26P2125EA
Estate of
DEBORAH C. KIVEL
Also Known As:
DEBORAH KIVEL, DEBBIE KIVEL
Date of Death: **November 30, 2025**
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **George T. Kivel of Natick, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
George T. Kivel of Natick, 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: 07/10/2026

76ers. After a number of rumors circulating of the Celtics plan to trade Brown, with a failed attempt made to trade him to the Milwaukee Bucks in hopes of receiving 6' 11" Giannis Antetokounmpo, they eventually traded him to the 76ers for 36-year-old Paul George, two first round picks in 2028 and 2031, and two second round picks in 2028 and 2030. The feedback from fans has been very critical of the Celtics. They are particularly stunned by the fact that the Celtics would trade a 29-year-old who is currently in his prime, coming off his best statistical season for a player like Paul George, who has suffered from frequent injuries as of late. The fact that George costs so much money is also a big problem for the team, giving them no financial rest.
Brown played ten seasons on Causeway Street departing as the tenth leading scorer in franchise history. His number 7 will almost certainly hang high above the parquet floor, whenever he officially retires from the NBA.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **August 03, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2024 ZHILONG ST
Vin #HZ2TBCNF9R1010752
2011 AUDI Q5
Vin #WA1LFAFP0BA069705
2012 FORD EDGE
Vin #2FMDK4GC2CBA83335
2005 HONDA CRV
Vin #SHSRD78985U329036
2009 FORD FUSION
Vin #3FAHP07179R134679
2011 NISSAN MURANO
Vin #JN8AZ1MW8BW164373
2010 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
Vin #1GCUGAD5A1121337
2021 KIA SORENTO
Vin #5XYRLDLC1MG053320
2011 HONDA CRV
Vin #5J36RE4H77BL006035
2006 HONDA ODYSSEY
Vin #5FNRL38296B120377
2013 TOYOTA VENZA
Vin #4T3ZA3BB4DU067173
2013 BMW 528XI
Vin #WBAKH5C58DW11949
2011 DODGE CHALLENGER
Vin #2B3CJ4DG5BH535138
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 07/10, 07/17, 07/24/2026

Friends of DeFilippo Playground Hold 3rd Annual Pickleball Tournament



President of Friends of DeFilippo Playground Robyn Reed, 2nd Place Co-Winner Brandon Bocianski holding baby Jack, Director of Facilities Al Skinner, 2nd Place Co-Winner Joe LaRuffa, and Co-Champions Christopher Tsai and Max Brown of “The Brotherhood” Team.

The Friends of DeFilippo Playground (FODPG), the Gassy as locals refer to it, hosted a spring pickleball tournament on Saturday, June 27, 2026. It was a great day and another successful event. There were 18 teams competing for the



(L to R) Sheila Moretti and Darlene D'Elia volunteer to check in players during the Friends of DeFilippo Playground (Gassy) Pickleball 3rd Annual Tournament.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CATAWBA
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
25SP001493-170
NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY
PUBLICATION
HENRY S. MORPHIS, Public Administrator of the Estate of KAREN JULIE EGAN, Catawba File No. 25E000908-170, Petitioner
vs.
JUDITH McEVOY a/k/a JUDITH McAVOY, CHARLES McEVOY, Estate of RICHARD McEVOY and COLLEEN LeMAY Respondents
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you in the above-entitled in Superior Court of Catawba County bearing file number 25SP001493-170. The nature of the relief being sought by the Petitioner is as follows:
On December 15, 2025, the Petitioner filed with the Clerk a petition for Possession, Custody, and Control and Sale of Real Property located at 1977 8th Street SE, Hickory, NC 28602. The Petitioner is seeking to be granted an Order by the Catawba County Clerk of Superior Court through a hearing to grant Possession, Custody and Control and Sale of Real Property located at 1977 8th Street SE, Hickory, NC 28602, so that claims, debts and administration cost of the estate can be paid and any remaining proceeds be distributed to the Decedent's heirs.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days from June 26, 2026, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 23rd day of June, 2026
Henry S. Morphis, Public Administrator
Estate of Karen Julie Egan
MORPHIS LAW & MEDIATION
Post Office Box 3149
Hickory, North Carolina 28603
(828) 328-5297
Run dates: 06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2026



The youngest players to enter the Gassy's Pickleball tournament gave the other teams a good run. Look for this duo to win it all in the future.

championship and bragging rights, and this year the tournament saw its youngest players ever join in the fun.
President of the FODPG Robyn Reed and Director of Facilities Al Skinner presented a certificate of appreciation in honor of Michele Terrella, one of the “patio girls” who helped raise funds to start the friends group. Darlene D'Elia and Matty Bamonte accepted the certificate. The winning teams were “The Brotherhood” consisting of Christopher Tsai and Max

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. MI26P3149EA
Estate of
FREEMAN D. SHEPHERD, JR.
Also Known As:
DR. FREEMAN D. SHEPHERD, JR.
Date of Death: **March 15, 2026**
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mark T. Shepherd of Reading, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Mark T. Shepherd of Reading, 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: 07/10/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **July 20, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2017 NISSAN ALTIMA
Vin #1N4AL3AP6HC140708
2014 CHEVROLET MALIBU
Vin #1G1B1B5SLEF118268
2013 FORD F150
Vin #1FTFX1EF9DFC75538
2002 TOYOTA COROLLA
Vin #2T1BR12EX2C529347
2008 TOYOTA COROLLA
Vin #JTMBD33V686088180
2007 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT
Vin #SALSK25457A992613
2005 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #1HGEM12975L017632
2025 ZHILONG ST
Vin #HZ2TBCNF5S1014268
2010 CHRYSLER 300
Vin #2C3CK5CV4AH101037
2007 HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE
Vin #KNDMC233576027843
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2026



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarattani



Most Interesting Year for Red Sox

Watching the hometown team this year, it is difficult to wonder if we are just as bad as we have been playing or simply caught up in a news curse preventing us from breaking out of last place. We are playing much better on the road again lately. At home, we stink to high heaven. I thank God every day that the team took a chance with Sonny Gray who is 10-1 at the moment. His pitching pretty good, giving us plenty of innings pitched. With a little luck, he should be 12-1 by now. He's 37 but pitching like he's 27.

Before you know it, the All-Star game will be upon us. If we didn't start playing like a team hungry to win, the season would have been lost. The only good thing; the AL East no longer looks like a strong division, does it? The Yankees of late have started to resemble the NY Mets.

The World Cup has been sucking all the air out of baseball. Walk around Boston or just walk around Jeffries Point right across the harbor and there you will see what baseball used to be like right here. Back in the midst of the Bicentennial, everyone was talking baseball. Who can forget all the excitement during the Summer of 1975? Baseball was king.

Either baseball changes its brand or it will fight with bowlers on Saturday afternoons. Oh, wait a minute, they're not even bowling on Saturday afternoons anymore. Is the end near? I think not. However, it is time to stop watering down the game making stats meaningless today. Are there really any baseball heroes anymore? They all seemingly are in the game solely for the money.

Thank God that little kids still want to play Little League baseball but, once the season is over, do you see any of these kids still playing baseball anymore? When I was a kid back in Roxbury, we played pick-up all summer long over at the "Prairie" playground not far from Old Mr. Boston on Mass Avenue.

I never felt baseball was boring back in the day but it certainly feels boring today. Anyone out there able to figure out why? Let me know at sal.giarattani@gmail.com

It was “Fiesta” Time at Fenway Park in Honor of Italian Heritage Night!

The Red, White and Green were on full display last week as the Boston Red Sox hosted Italian Heritage Night. Each fan was given a complimentary Italian celebration scarf and soccer jersey as part of the World Cup FIFA theme. North End cares offered the discounted game tickets as a part of a fundraising effort for the organization. This North End based non-profit organization is dedicated to serving the community, providing scholarship opportunities, crazy fun bingo events, Holiday parties and coordinating the neighborhood annual National Night Out.

North End Cares is made up of a dedicated and generous group of volunteers who strive every day to make the community a better place for all residents, friends and neighbors.



Luciano celebrated Italian Heritage Night at Fenway Park 2026 by attending his first Red Sox game.

The Roberto and Padovani entourage celebrated Italian Heritage Night at Fenway Park proudly displaying their Red, White and Green Red Sox jerseys and scarves.



The North End Marching Band is all smiles during Red Sox Italian Heritage Night at Fenway Park.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



THOSE PROUD PENS — Sometimes it's a long and winding road to reach a highly desired goal. That's what happened to at least two members of the Pittsburgh Penguins franchise with ties to Boston.

For that's what Pens' head coach Mike Sullivan and player Phil Kessel experienced in their lives as they gradually moved toward the fulfillment of their ultimate dream — winning the Stanley Cup.

It was back in the cold dark days of winter — December 12, 2015, to be exact — that Sullivan, then the head coach at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, the Pens' American Hockey League affiliate, got the call to replace Mike Johnston as the head coach in Pittsburgh. Six months to the day later — on June 12, 2016 — in a storybook ending, those Pens who had once floundered in the dark wound up clutching the Stanley Cup after a Game 6 victory over the San Jose Sharks in California.

"I don't know if there's a team in the league that, from the start of training camp, has been through more adversity," stated Sullivan in an ESPN article. "They went through a coaching change, there was a lot of noise and a number of critics out there suggesting these guys didn't have what it takes. I couldn't be happier for them right now because they proved everybody wrong."

It was a long time in coming for Sullivan, who grew up in Marshfield, went to Boston College High School, and was captain of the team at Boston University. He went on to play for several NHL franchises, including the Bruins, before ending his playing days and embarking on a coaching career.

He took to the switch in positions — from being on the bench as a player on the roster, to directing strategy from standing behind it — right away, leading the 2002-2003 Providence Bruins to 41-17-9-4 mark in his rookie coaching season.

That was good enough for the Bruins GM Mike O'Connell to promote him to the parent club. Up on Causeway Street, the B's flourished under Mike, going 41-19-15-7, accumulating 104 points, and finishing first in the Northeast Division. But things went right downhill in the playoffs as the Bruins were eliminated in the first round by the eighth-seeded Montreal Canadiens.

The lost season of the lockout followed and the Bruins just were not the same after that. A 29-37-16 record in the 2005-2006 season, coupled with a last place finish in the Northeast Division, meant Mike was gone when new GM Peter Chiarelli took the reins.

Then came the wandering years — assistant coaching positions with Tampa Bay, the New York Rangers, the Vancouver Canucks and finally a slot as a development coach with the Chicago Blackhawks. Which brought Mike to June 18, 2015, when he accepted the head coaching job at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Six months later, he was back in the NHL, as the head coach of an underachieving team that seemed headed for oblivion. Fast forward an additional six months and there was Mike Sullivan cherishing the Stanley Cup, the culmination of a life-long dream that began nearly five decades ago in Marshfield and reached its pinnacle in an arena some 3,000 miles away on a warm June evening in San Jose.

And what of Phil Kessel, a man who, according to ESPN, was booed out of two towns (Boston and Toronto) before finally finding appreciation in Pittsburgh?

Well, at least with the Toronto fans, Phil got back at them in a way that only a player with an \$8 million annual salary could: he took out a full page ad in the Toronto Star and thanked them.

Here's what he stated in the ad: "Thank you. A year ago I was facing the very real prospect of playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs through the 2021-2022 season, possibly to the end of my professional hockey career.

"Being stuck with a franchise without any understanding on how to build a winner or what to do with star players was crushing to my hopes and dreams. TODAY I AM A STANLEY CUP CHAMPION.

"And not just a champion, but the leading playoff goal scorer on the Cup-winning team. What happened?

"Well, you forced me out of town. No matter what I did on the ice, no matter how poorly constructed the roster was during my six years in town, you blamed me. I used to hate it, but now I know I never would have made it to Pittsburgh without you. Thank you. I will never forget you. I will never stop smiling."

But Phil did remember one Toronto fan in a very generous way. It seems there was a hot dog vendor in Toronto's downtown area that he used to visit. That person is somewhat wealthier now, thanks to receiving a \$50,000 anonymous gift that came with a note: "From a big fan and Stanley Cup champion."

"I don't know who else it could be from," the vendor was quoted as saying. "Obviously there are no Stanley Cup champions here in Toronto. Phil may have a bigger waistline than most hockey players, but he has an even bigger heart. I'm happy for him. I miss seeing his face every day — sometimes twice a day."

Kessel led the Pens in playoff scoring with 10 goals and 12 assists for a total of 22 points. "I'm not surprised, he's a special player," said Pens GM Jim Rutherford to ESPN. "Phil really was an impact player for us. I'm so happy for him because his years in the league haven't been easy. Now he's got his name on the Cup."

Both Sullivan and Kessel each had their own personal journeys in the NHL. Much like the classical tale of old, each experienced an odyssey that encompassed a good number of years. But in the end, it was all worth it. As Shakespeare once wrote: "All's Well That Ends Well."

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