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POST-GAZETTE

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116th Annual La Madonna del Soccorso di Sciacca Fisherman's Festival



La Madonna del Soccorso 2026 Society Members assemble in front of the chapel on Lewis Street in the North End of Boston (Photo by Gerri Palladino)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Texas Parents Seek to Remove Ten Commandments from the Classroom

The state has defended these displays as elemental to instruction about U.S. history and not religion.

Whether these three parents would prevail in state court remains an open question. Most challenges to the display of the Ten Commandments have focused on the First Amendment's Establishment Clause which prohibits the government from establishing religion.

Heard This Quote Before Somewhere

"This is the last chance ... before decapitation."

— President Trump's latest threat to Iran

More News from Texas

Governor Greg Abbott has directed a review of state grants to entities operating two Texas airports after Dallas Fort Worth Airport said it would no longer go forward with a proposed installation of an Islamic foot washing station. Abbott said the state will review grants to entities operating DFW and George Bush Airport in Houston.

Nix on Federal Voter List

A federal judge just ruled against President Trump's executive order that sought to create a federal voter list and directly involve the U.S. Postal Service in election operations in a way that would limit mail-in voting. U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani had already halted the order Trump signed in March. His second order would have set national election rules.

NH Man Grabs Unemployment Checks While in Prison

A New Hampshire man admitted to committing fraud by withholding the fact that he was incarcerated while receiving his unemployment checks.

(Continued on Page 11)

Some traditions are meant to be protected and maintained, at all costs, which is precisely what the members of the North End's longest running religious festival ensure. Based on a 16th century tradition, originating in Sciacca, Sicily, this annual festival began in Boston, Massachusetts in 1920 in honor of the patron saint of Sciacca, La Madonna Del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help). The feast is devoted to immigrant Italian fishermen, who arrived on America shores in the early 1900s with nothing more than their faith, customs and traditions.

Today, the feast is almost exactly as it was 116 years ago, with many of the founding members ancestors continuing to uphold the past. Beginning on Thursday evening, the statue of the Madonna is carried from the Fisherman Club on the corner of Lewis and North Streets to Christopher Columbus Park on Commercial Street for a traditional blessing of the waters.

Following a 4-day festival of entertainment, food, games, free giveaways and a nine-hour procession through the streets of the North End, the festival

highlight took place on Sunday evening as the angel took her flight and recited the ancient Sicilian prayer over the statue of the Madonna. A true sight to behold!

The officers and members of the Madonna del Soccorso Society would like to offer their sincere appreciation and thanks to all their family, friends, devotees, neighbors and sponsors for the continued support in keeping these sacred traditions alive for future generations.

(Additional Photos on Page 7)

Boston's Safety Concerns are Growing

by Patti Sartori

Boston residents, commuters, workers and visitors have every right to expect that the city's busiest public spaces are safe. Recent violence at both South Station and North Station has once again raised serious questions about public safety in the heart of Boston. On August 12, a man was fatally stabbed during an altercation on an escalator inside South Station during the evening rush. The following day, Boston Police responded to a stabbing near North Station in which a woman was seriously injured and a man suffered life-threatening self-inflicted wounds. Police believe it was a domestic-related incident.

These incidents come after a troubling series of violent events in and around Boston Common, Downtown Crossing

and the Theater District. A man was killed near Boylston and Tremont Streets in July, while another recent fight near the Park Street MBTA station resulted in a stabbing. Residents and business owners have also raised concerns about robberies, shoplifting, drug activity, and disorder around Boston Common and Downtown Crossing.

Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox said it is an anomaly and not an uptick in violence. He stated, "Crime is on par where we were last year, if not lower in many categories." Which only proves that crime statistics and the public's perception of safety can tell two different stories. For the people who use Boston's streets and transit system every day, the

concern is very real. South Station, North Station, Boston Common and Downtown are not isolated neighborhoods, they are places where thousands of people travel, work, shop, and visit every day.

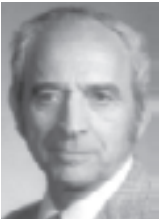
Boston needs to continue increasing police visibility, addressing disorder before it escalates, and working with residents, businesses and transit officials to make these areas feel, and be safe!. People should not have to wonder whether they are putting themselves at risk simply by taking the train, walking through the Common or spending an evening in Downtown.

Boston is a great city. Protecting the safety and confidence of the people who love, work, and visit here must remain a top priority.

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



CATHEDRAL

Delving into word origins can be quite fascinating, but combining those origins with historical fact can really open up new worlds of understanding. In the last two issues we examined the word “basilica,” learned of its Greek origin, and followed it through the development of the Roman Catholic basilica as we know it.

Our word for today is “cathedral,” and its loose definition is “A large imposing church.” More definitive would be, “The main church of a diocese and the seat of the bishop.” Once again, delving into the word “bishop,” we come up with its Greek root “episkopos,” meaning overseer, and we also find that in some historical sketches the overseers were not only called bishops, but presbyters as well. It follows then, that from the word bishop we went to overseer, episkopos (or Episcopal), and presbyter (or Presbyterian). Now, going full circle, we find that the seat of the bishop is properly called “cathedra.”

Any Latin-English dictionary tells us that cathedra is a chair, cushioned seat, litter, sedan, or professional chair. History tells us that the word cathedra applied particularly to the seat that had a backrest but with no well-defined arms and often made of wickerwork. This kind of seat was in common use during pre-Christian times. The back of the chair usually had a deep recession, which curved around and sloped downward at the sides, forming a kind of arm support.

The ancients also used a “cathedra Longa” which was a luxurious easy chair, and a “cathedra supine” which looked



Throne of Maximian
Material: Wood and ivory
Size: 150 x 65 cm
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like our modern steamer or deck chair. These last two cathedra were mostly used by women or boys, and it was considered to be quite effeminate for men to stretch out on them. There are records of some cathedra being used at the dining tables, but the “triclinia” (dining couches) seemed to be preferred, as their use was considered to be a mark of greater distinction.

The seats of the cathedra were not padded, but comfortable cushions and back pads were often used. Another style of cathedra was what we know as a sedan chair (enclosed on all sides and provided with doors). This kind of conveyance was equipped with long poles for the porters.

NEXT WEEK:
The Early Christian Church

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Massachusetts Hires \$90K Heat Reliance Officer

Massachusetts taxpayers now own bragging rights as the second state in the nation to establish a heat resilience officer, charged with coordinating government response and protecting public health from extreme heat. Governor Maura Healey announced Katie Schlick, as the state’s first ever state wide Heat Resilience Officer, with an annual salary of \$90,000.

Schlick will lead Massachusetts coordination across state government and work with communities to prepare for rising temperatures, protect public health and reduce the impacts of extreme heat. According to the Governor’s office, the \$90K salary will be fully funded by the Boston Foundation, a non-profit organization serving the Greater Boston area. “Extreme heat is becoming more common, more intense and more dangerous in Massachusetts. We need to be ready for what that means for our families and communities. This new role will lead our work to prepare for



Heat Resilience Officer
Katie Schlick

extreme heating make sure we’re doing everything we can to keep Massachusetts and our residents safe,” said Healey.

Schlick will report directly to the State’s first ever Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer, along with Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, and work closely with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and other state agencies. “Amidst another record-breaking year of heat and smoke, Massachusetts is taking bold, coordinated action to protect and uplift our communities. I am grateful to Governor Healey and the Boston Foundation for establishing our Commonwealth’s first Heat Resilience Officer position and kick-starting a government-wide, community-centered partnership to tackle extreme heat everywhere from schools and summer camps to health centers, workplaces, and our electric grid,” offered Schlick.

Trans Gender Athletes Not Very Popular

If a recent *New York Post* poll is to be believed, the vast majority of Americans do not want trans athletes on sports teams that don’t match their birth sex. Close to three-quarters of Americans do not want trans women competing against female athletes in sporting events, with Democrats and Republicans united on the issue, according to a new poll.

Analysis from Pew Research Center showed that 73% of U.S. adults surveyed were uncomfortable with “transgender athletes competing on sports teams that don’t match their sex at birth.” Only 13% of adults reported being very comfortable with trans athletes competing against those who align with their gender identity, while 14% said they were somewhat comfortable.

Republicans and Democrats share similar feelings, although conservatives expressed stronger discomfort; 91% of conservatives and 55% of progressives admit they are uncomfortable with the issue. The majority of



WNBA Indiana Fever Guard
Sophie Cunningham

men and women admitted they were not comfortable with it; 77% of men and 69% of women were against the idea of trans athletes competing against those born a different sex. Even various racial groups surveyed shared similar results; 75% of white people, 67% of Hispanics, 68% of black people and 68% of Asian people stated their discomfort about trans athletes.

It was not surprising when older people, aged 65 and older, polled at 80% discomfort but

what may be surprising to some was the 60% of those aged 18-29 also stated they did not want trans athletes on teams of a different birth sex.

Of late, the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) has been the focal point of this issue, ignited when Indian Fever star Sophie Cunningham stated during an ESPN profile that she supported restricting transgender women from participating in women’s sports. In response, Cunningham has faced boos and protests from some opposing fans and even bullying and attacks during WNBA games from coaches and players. The WNBA has yet to take a firm stand on the issue, instead issuing a statement condemning “bad faith efforts to use these topics to demean or marginalize others,” The league has not explicitly outlined a detailed public policy or definition regarding transgender athletes, but emphasized it will approach the complex topic thoughtfully and in line with league values.

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Rules in Support of White Stadium Rebuild

by Patti Sartori

They have rendered a decision, pretty much ending any spark of hope that Franklin Park neighbors and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy believed would halt the ongoing White Stadium re-build. The state Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) opted last week to take additional time before issuing a ruling on the lawsuit filed by the Conservancy and a group of neighbors against the city and pro-women’s soccer team earlier this spring, but the final decision handed Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Legacy FC a solid win.

Many are wondering what was stated in the appeal that could prompted the court to delay a decision. “It would be a political disaster. This would be the biggest loss of Wu’s time as mayor. Like, political disaster isn’t a big enough phrase, because it’s just so much time and money and effort has been spent on this,” said Gregory Maynard, executive director of the Boston Policy Institute.

Regardless of the delay, The SJC ultimately upheld a ruling by the Suffolk Superior Court finding that the proposed use of the stadium by a professional women’s soccer team would not illegally privatize public parkland.

Today’s clear and unanimous decision from the state’s highest court confirms that Boston’s student athletes, park lovers, and community will fully benefit from this landmark investment in our future, without further delay. Renovations at White Stadium in Franklin Park are well underway to deliver a state-of-the-art facility that will be available in every season, open every day of the year, and create opportunities for unprecedented public benefit. This is a great victory for our city, and for all who believe that Boston can and should take big swings to get things done for our community,” Wu said in a statement released by her office.

Jennifer Epstein, controlling owner of Boston legacy,

rejoiced in the ruling, calling it “a tremendous victory for Boston Public School students, the Franklin Park community, and the future of professional women’s soccer in Boston

“We’re disappointed by this outcome, which means that a new professional for profit sports stadium and entertainment complex in Franklin Park will not be subject to the high level of scrutiny, formal review of alternatives, and required approvals that our state’s constitutional public recreation land protection laws require. We do not think the current proposal is the right one for the park or the communities that surround it,” said Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek in a statement.

Regardless of the court ruling, the questions and concerns surrounding the overall price tag, \$325 million, of this project will continue to linger, especially as taxpayers are on the hook for half of the city’s cost.

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Friday, August 21, 2026

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37TH ANNUAL EASTIE PRIDE DAY



Boston Mayor Michell Wu (center) joins the 2026 Eastie Pride Day Celebration with other elected officials and event organizers.

East Boston will take any excuse to gather as a community. Thankfully, Eastie Pride Day provides that opportunity each year. Come mid-august, long-time, former, and new residents come together to celebrate traditions and community spirit. And there is no better setting than the picturesque Piers Park, located on the East Boston waterfront.

Elected Officials, community activists, friends and neighbors of all ages enjoy live entertainment, activities, food and games, all free of charge, thanks to the continued generosity of sponsors and dedicated volunteers!



A musical group entertains the crowd at the 2026 Eastie Pride Day.



Eastie Pride Day serves as a multi-cultural event with enjoyment for all participants.



State Representative Adrian Madaro digs deep into the slush cart to serve youngsters during Eastie Pride Day.

(Photos courtesy of the City of Boston)

Street Magic
Lights Up the East Boston Greenway

One of the highlights of the East Boston Greenway’s 2026 summer concert series occurred last Wednesday evening as the popular, local Acappella group “Street Magic” performed some of their classic renditions. The group may no longer gather on a North End street corner to belt out their tunes, but they still continue to showcase classic street-style that bring music and friends together.

Street Magic Acapella singing group performs on the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway on Bremen Street in East Boston



“That’s Amore” on the Greenway in East Boston

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Watching as Seasons Unfurl

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by bearfotos on Magnific)

The photos begin to inundate social media around this time of year: coffee shops advertising their wares with well-lit shots of cardboard cups stacked high with a frothy cloud of whipped cream and sprinkled with the reddish glitter of cinnamon, surrounded by the seasonal trappings of orange gourds. After all, the end of August means a plethora of announcements concerning the release dates of pumpkin spice lattes, the *ne plus ultra* of spicy fall drinks for java lovers. Pumpkin season is still fairly far-off, but these ads serve as yet another reminder that autumn, my favorite season, is quickly approaching. Indeed, I have lately been paying attention to the signs of the changing season all around me, from the prevalence of apples in the supermarket to the ever-so-slight hues of red and orange appearing on some leaves. When the days get too humid and sticky — which I am fine with at the beginning of summer but find unbearable when crafting lesson plans or setting up my classroom for the next school year — I think of the harvest decorations I continually see in stores, and shiver with excitement over the crisp days of fall. Observing the signs of the changing seasons not only helps me live in the moment by concentrating on the natural phenomena currently unfolding around me, but it links me in a powerful way to the actions and lives of my ancestors.

Tracking the seasons has been a passion of mine long before I started this column. While clearing out a drawer in my old room, my mother found an old notebook of mine in which I had been charting the natural signs of the changing seasons. For the shift from summer to autumn, I wrote about witnessing my uncle and

grandmother planting the bulbs of a daisy, called a *margherita* in Italian, which would bloom in late September. I mentioned a gnarled tree whose leaves always turned a kaleidoscope of yellow and red a month early and floated to the ground well before the calendar turned to autumn. Baking an apple desert, cool mornings, the color of the early twilight — all of these observations made it into that little notebook. Doing so helped me become a better observer of nature and of the excitement of life around me, and I hope to resume this sort of project again soon. Noticing and recording the shifting tide of the seasons actually has a scientific name. It is known as phenology, and naturalists often encourage people to sketch or write down their observations and then submit them in order to help scientists track climate data. Therefore, this hobby is both romantic and functional!

This pastime is apparently quite timeless as well. Our ancestors have been discerning the seasonal changes since time immemorial — not because they were eager for pumpkin spice lattes or photographing falling leaves, but rather because they operated in a primarily agricultural society where determining the right time to plant or harvest crops was invaluable to the survival of the community. In Italy, August functions as the month of the grain and hay harvest, and tightly rolled bundles of hay baking under the sun serve as one of the surest signs that autumn will soon descend upon the lovely Italian countryside. Italian farmers also examine their grapes during this month, ensuring they are getting the right amount of sunshine, water and shade to make them perfect for the *vendemmia*, or harvest, in September. After all,

grapes stand as an important cultural symbol in Italy, for the grapes gathered in September will be processed into wine in November, ready to serve as the steadfast staple of Italian hospitality during the holidays and beyond. Finally, Italian farmers of yore frequently used saints’ days as milestones for seasonal changes, a trait which is reflected in the proverbs still ubiquitous in Italian society to this day. August 24th is St. Bartholomew’s Day, and the Italians repeat a proverb which declares: “*A San Bartolomeo montagna mia bella ti abbandono.*” Translated, this dictum says that one should abandon the beautiful mountains after the Feast of St. Bartholomew, perhaps a reference to the cooler weather and the end of the vacation period. When we notice even the simplest transitions from one season to another, therefore, we are actually repeating the actions our forebears performed in order to carve out a living from the Earth.

As the bright days of summer give way to the cool nights of fall, I encourage everyone to keep track of the unfolding seasonal changes. These transitions do not have to be major, as even the tiniest details like a sip of apple cider or a yellow school bus can signal the start of an exciting new season. Let us become seasonal detectives, paying close attention to the evidence of nature’s eternal cycle. By doing this, we become closely attuned to Mother Earth which has nourished us and our ancestors for so long, and we learn to live in the moment by understanding the natural beauty of the here and now. If we welcome every season with optimism and a healthy dose of respect, then the bounty of the Earth will love us in kind, no matter which latte we drink!

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

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THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



As Boston Slides Toward Autumn We are Still Waiting for More Than Talking Points on Public Safety

When it comes to the Summer of ’26, Boston has seen a brutal period of ongoing violence. It all seemed to kick off on the Fourth of July. Two were killed out of 13 shot that day. Mayor Wu called it a “long and difficult” July 4th night. As we see, violent crime continues to surge to the point that Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn wonders aloud whether Boston might need the presence of the National Guard inside the city. Also, City Councilor Erin Murphy believes the city needs a comprehensive public safety plan and states “Public safety is not about politics or talking points. It is about protecting people in every neighborhood.”

Recently, the *Boston Herald* newspaper reported on a secret meeting inside the Mayor’s Office with 40 people in attendance. We seem to know more about who wasn’t invited to this conclave than who actually were inside with the mayor and police commissioner. That seems to be a problem. Apparently once the summer’s violence started creeping into Downtown Boston it got the attention of all.

Over the course of the summer, community leaders across the city gathered to find solutions to the uptick in violent crime across many of the city’s neighborhoods. Those gatherings were not held behind closed doors.

Mayor Michelle Wu can keep sprouting the party line that Boston is the safest city in America by throwing out stats that seem to prove her point but once the bullets start flying or the stabbings keep happening, the citizens of Boston simply want to feel comfortable living in this city and want action not talking points.

I am not ready to say we need the National Guard deployed inside this city but I do think the Boston Police Department looks pretty understaffed and more officers on the streets of our city could only help the current situation. Compared to other major cities across the nation, we still are better than most but it is foolish for anyone to say we are the safest city in America when we are not.

Talking political nonsense is not the answer. Boston needs to be proactive when it comes to public safety. Our neighborhood folk need to know they are safe because that is our number one quality of life issue. If we need more police, then start hiring more. What we don’t need is more bickering at City Hall. The Mayor’s Office and the City Council are supposed to be working together. Afterall, aren’t we all in this together?

Boston Enjoys Economic Boost Thanks to the Booze



Boston was the recipient of 86% year-over-year increase in downtown bar spending during the World Cup Soccer earlier this summer, peaking at 179% on Scotland’s final match day. Newly released data from Mayor Michelle Wu’s office estimates the World Cup was a massive shot straight into the city coffer, generating an estimated \$83 million in spending between June 12 to June 30, and adding \$1.5 million in tax revenue for the city.

Restaurant spending in-creased by 2% city-wide and 15% in greater downtown, with the largest jump stemming from the flow of booze. Spending increased during this time period by approximately 27% city-wide and 86% downtown in comparison to June of 2025.

The Wu administration believes there is a correlation between the increase alcohol consumption with the less stringent alcohol restrictions that were temporarily allowed during the World Cup matches, with a goal of urging lawmakers on Beacon Hill to make the extended bar hours and public drinking zones permanent in Boston. “We are going to continue to gather the specific numbers and evidence in both quantitative and qualitative data from our businesses so we can prove how much it’s helped Boston and other cities. We would like for this to be permanent,” Wu stated on her desire to expand last call hours at Boston bars.

Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association (BPPA), the city’s largest police union, has made it known that they are fiercely against the attempt to extend the closing hours of city bars from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. “Extending last call is a bad idea that invites and encourages bad behavior and the elected officials pushing the measure should think long and hard about the undeniable negative consequences associated with excessive alcohol consumption,” stated Larry Calderone, BPPA President.

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What happens when centuries of philosophy, civilization and Italian artistic tradition come together with one man’s extraordinary life, find their way onto a canvas and then become part of the cultural landscape of Boston’s North End?

To simply call Giovanni DeCunto an artist just isn’t enough. Behind the canvases and mixed-media building wraps is a brilliant mind, shaped by history, philosophy and a lifetime spent understanding not only how art is created, but why.

His work is undeniably beautiful, but its power goes far beyond what we see. It stirs emotion, awakens memory and touches something within us that we may not always have the words to explain. **That may be the true power of Giovanni’s art, before we even begin to understand it, we feel it.**

And perhaps that is because, for Giovanni, art was never simply a career.

“Early on, it was a way to communicate,” he told me.

Maybe Giovanni’s understanding of art as communication began somewhere far more personal. Due to an illness, his father was unable to speak during the visits Giovanni recalls from his teenage years, yet Giovanni never remembers them as being without communication.

“We didn’t talk. He just looked at me,” he told me, describing their connection as “telepathic.”

“Language is not the only way to communicate,” Giovanni said.

Perhaps he understood that earlier than most. Long before he communicated through paint, he learned through his father that some of the most meaningful things between two people never need to be spoken.

The little boy who once found meaning in his father’s eyes would one day place those same unspoken emotions onto a canvas or wrapped around a building, for the rest of us to feel.

From the age of five, Giovanni knew he wanted to be an artist. At 13, a nun recognized his extraordinary ability and entered the eighth grader in an art competition intended for high school seniors. He won a four-year scholarship, beginning an educational journey that would eventually lead him to Boston University, where he earned his Fine Arts degree in just three years.

When offered fellowships at both Oxford and the University of Padua, his choice was immediate.

He chose Italy, a country already deeply connected to him through his father, who came from Naples.

At Padua, Giovanni studied far more than painting. The great masters, philosophy, sculpture, music, literature, art history and civilization all became part of his education. To Giovanni, they are interconnected and perhaps that explains what I see in his work today.

Layer upon layer of history, philosophy, music, literature and civilization come together on the canvas, reflecting the extraordinary way I came to understand Giovanni’s mind works.

Giovanni’s connection to the North End of Boston



began before his studies in Italy. From the first time he discovered the neighborhood, something about it felt deeply familiar, like home.

“The first time I went there, it felt spiritual to me,” he told me. *“It reminded me of where I grew up.”* Even Modern Pastry brought him back to the Italian bakery of his childhood, memories he describes as some of his happiest.

After completing his graduate studies in Italy, Giovanni returned to the Boston’s North End, carrying with him everything he had learned.

“Did you always paint this way?” I asked.

“No,” he said. *“I created this style after I came back from Italy.”*

What emerged was distinctly Giovanni, his own technique, his own expression, his own visual language.

So much of what generations carried from Italy to the North End was never formally taught or written down. It was simply lived. Recipes were learned beside a Nonna in the kitchen. Faith through churches, processions and feasts. Family and tradition were part of everyday life. Italy was carried forward through food, language, music, stories and memories.

Giovanni carried another part of that inheritance, Italy’s artistic and intellectual traditions.

He went to Italy to understand what came before him, carried centuries of Italian art and civilization back to Boston, and transformed what he had learned to create what came next.

Today, Giovanni’s work has become part of the North End itself. The neighborhood gave something to the artist, and in return, his art became part of the place.

As a psychologist, I understand how deeply a place can become connected to memory and identity. Giovanni’s paintings do more than decorate the restaurants in which they appear. They become part of how we experience them.

Giovanni and I discussed there are countless restaurants throughout the world. What makes us remember one? What makes us want to return?

For Giovanni, it goes far beyond what is served on the plate.

“I think the art creates the experience,” he told me. *“They feel like they’re part of the painting. The bigger the creation, the more it comes alive.”*

And maybe that is what makes his work in the North End so powerful. We may not recognize the history, philosophy or pieces of Italy buried within its layers. We may simply feel something familiar; a memory of Italy, a church, a family home, a Nonna or a piece of our childhood we cannot quite name.

Sometimes what we feel is more powerful than what we can explain.

Some things cross an ocean without ever being packed in a suitcase. Some things pass from one generation to the next without ever being spoken.

Perhaps Giovanni understood that long before he became an artist.

“Some of the most powerful things we communicate are never spoken at all.”

And perhaps that is what his art gives the North End, **a visual language for the pieces of Italy we still carry within us.**

At 77, Giovanni has no intention of slowing down.

“I’m more agitated than when I was 30,” he told me.

There is still so much he wants to accomplish, to create and leave behind. And among all the places his work has taken him, his heart seems to bring him back to Boston’s North End.

Around the Table: THE LEGACY CONTINUES

GIOVANNI DECUNTO

Italian Margarita

1½ to 2 ounces Don Armando Tequila
1 ounce amaretto liqueur
1 ounce freshly squeezed lime juice
1 ounce freshly squeezed orange juice
½ ounce simple syrup or agave nectar
Coarse salt or sugar, for the rim
Lime wheel or wedge, for garnish

Rub a lime wedge around the rim of a rocks glass, then dip the rim into coarse salt or sugar. Fill the glass with fresh ice.

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice and add the tequila, amaretto, fresh lime juice, orange juice and simple syrup or agave. Shake well for 10–15 seconds, until nicely chilled.

Strain into the prepared glass over fresh ice. Garnish with a lime wheel or wedge and serve immediately.



“I want to wrap a few more buildings in the North End,” he told me as our conversation ended.

I would love nothing more than to see him do exactly that.

My mind immediately went to Carmelina’s and the feeling I have each time I walk down Hanover Street and look up at Giovanni’s Medusa glistening in the daylight as it envelops the building, while the Italian American flag bearing his signature blows above the street. Through the windows are the vibrant walls, Carmelina’s portrait, the sunflowers and Medusa; Giovanni’s art and designs woven throughout the restaurant. For me, it evokes an emotional connection to my own Sicilian heritage that is difficult to put into words.

And maybe we are not meant to explain it, only to feel it.

There are pieces of Italy alive within every layer of Giovanni’s work. Some we recognize immediately. Others we may never consciously recognize at all, yet somehow, we feel them, sometimes even evoking a sense of safety and belonging. They touch our childhood, our memories, our families and our upbringing; pieces of who we are and where we came from.

The North End has kept those pieces of Italy alive for generations through its food, faith, families and traditions. Giovanni gives us another way to experience them, through art.

And I can’t think of a better place for Giovanni DeCunto’s art to live than in Boston’s North End; a neighborhood where pieces of Italy are not simply preserved, but lived, felt and carried forward from one generation to the next.

Dr. Marianna Bisignano is a licensed psychologist and author whose doctoral research focused on expanding psychological services in Italy’s public schools.

• 116th Annual La Madonna del Soccorso (Continued from Page 1)



The three 2026 Angels front and center with past Angels



Janet Gilardi and Maria Bova are all smiles at the 116th annual Fisherman Feast



All kids know throwing confetti is the funnest



No one shucks cherry stones like the Captain



(L-R): Madonna del Soccorso President John Damico, Angelo Coviello, Retiring Eliot School Principal Traci Walker Griffith, Domenico Susi, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, State Representative Paul Donato, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Danny Puccio, Michael Strazzullo and State Representative Aaron Michlewitz



Adding a ribbon to the Madonna del Soccorso Statue



La Madonna perfectly situated under her crown.



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn with life-long North End resident Bobby DelloRusso, Sr.



The Flying Angel 2026 Michaela Solimine
(Photo by Charles Rachal)



(L-R): Jimmy Moscufo, Graffeo brothers Johnny, Louie and Michael; with Joe Blazo



The 2026 Madonna del Soccorso Children's Procession



(L-R): Side Angel Lucy Strazzullo, Flying Angel Michaela Solimine and Side Angel Lucianna Bramante

Photos courtesy of the City of Boston and Gerri Palladino)



ENEMY AT THE GATES
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray – Limited Edition Steelbook)
Paramount Pictures

An all-star cast lights up the screen in this riveting epic *Enemy At The Gates*, celebrating its 25th Anniversary! The year is 1942 and the Nazis are cutting a deadly swath through Russia. Under the leadership of Nikita Khrushchev, the citizens of Stalingrad are mounting a brave resistance, spurred by the exploits of their local hero, Vasili Zaitsev. An expert sniper, Vasili’s deeds have become legendary — thanks to propaganda produced by Vasili’s best friend, a political officer named Danilov (Joseph Fiennes). To stop Vasili, the Germans dispatch their best sniper, Major Konig, to Stalingrad. When Vasili and Danilov both fall in love with a beautiful soldier, Tania Chernova, Danilov deserts his friend, leaving Vasili to face his German counterpart alone. As the city burns, Vasili and Konig begin a cunning game of cat and mouse, waging a private war for courage, honor and country.

THE SAINT
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray – Limited Edition Steelbook)
Paramount Pictures

Want someone to infiltrate a stop-secret organization or steal a scientific formula that could change the world? For the right price *The Saint* is your man. Val Kilmer plays suave espionage hero Simon Templar — a/k/a *The Saint* — in this action-thriller, and Elizabeth Shue co-stars in this atmospheric mix of bold adventure and grand romance. An array of sophisticated gadgetry is at Templar’s command as he plunges into a cloak-and-dagger netherworld of move and countermove. Cool, too is Templar’s knack for coming up with the right disguise at the right time. Now you see him. Now you don’t ... or do you? Each close-call escape is a breathless miracle — and no one knows miracles better than a saint.

Y: MARSHALS – SEASON ONE
(Blu-ray)
Paramount Pictures

Y: Marshals expands the Yellowstone universe with a gritty neo-Western procedural set in modern-day Montana. Following the explosive conclusion of *Yellowstone*, Kayce Dutton leaves ranch life behind to join an elite unit of U.S. Marshals. Combining his skills as a cowboy and former Navy SEAL, Kayce becomes part of a specialized team tasked with bringing “range justice” to a region plagued by escalating violence, organized crime, and deep-rooted corruption. The series explores Kayce’s struggle to balance family obligations with the psychological toll of law enforcement. As he adapts to his new role, Kayce faces threats from gangs, cartels, and extremist groups, all while navigating the moral gray areas of frontier justice. His team includes seasoned operatives and ambitious newcomers, each with their own secrets and motivations. Together, they confront high-stakes cases that

test their loyalty, resilience, and sense of duty. Season 1 unfolds across 13 episodes, blending intense action sequences with character-driven drama. From tense standoffs in remote ranchlands to undercover operations in small towns, the show captures the rugged beauty and peril of Big Sky Country. Returning *Yellowstone* characters like Thomas Rainwater, Mo, and Tate Dutton deepen the narrative ties, while new faces add fresh dynamics to the ensemble. Created by Taylor Sheridan, Spencer Hudnut, and David C. Glasser, *Y: Marshals* combines the authenticity of Sheridan’s storytelling with the procedural intensity Hudnut honed on *SEAL Team*. Executive producer Sheridan, ensures the series maintains the cinematic scope and emotional depth fans expect from the *Yellowstone* franchise. At its core, *Y: Marshals* is about identity, sacrifice, and the cost of justice in a land where the line between law and survival is razor-thin. It’s a gripping new chapter that honors *Yellowstone*’s legacy while carving its own path through the untamed American West.

REACHER - SEASON THREE
(Blu-ray)
Paramount Pictures

Season 3 of *Reacher* plunges Jack Reacher into one of his most dangerous missions yet. The season opens in coastal Maine, where Reacher thwarts a kidnapping attempt on college student Richard Beck. What seems like a random act of heroism quickly spirals into a covert operation involving the DEA, a ruthless smuggling ring, and a personal vendetta that drags Reacher back into the shadows of his military past. Reacher agrees to go undercover for DEA agent Susan Duffy, posing as the bodyguard for Richard Beck to infiltrate the criminal empire of Zachary Beck — a businessman with ties to narcotics trafficking. The stakes rise when Reacher learns that Lieutenant Colonel Francis Xavier Quinn, a nemesis from his Army days, is connected to Beck’s operation. Reacher’s mission is two-fold: rescue a missing DEA agent, Teresa Daniels, and settle unfinished business with Quinn, all while maintaining his cover in a world of deception and violence. Reacher navigates a treacherous landscape where every ally could be a traitor. Alongside returning favorite Frances Neagley, Reacher faces moral dilemmas that test his code of justice: how far will he go for revenge without compromising his mission? Visually gritty and narratively taut, Season 3 expands the scope of the series with new locations and layered storytelling. Alan Ritchson’s commanding performance anchors the drama, supported by Sonya Cassidy as the determined DEA agent, Anthony Michael Hall as the enigmatic Zachary Beck, and Brian Tee as a soldier with secrets of his own. *Reacher Season 3* is a gripping ride that explores loyalty, vengeance, and the cost of living by your own rules.

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

THIS WOMAN HAD BETTER LUCK THAN THAT GUY BACK IN FEBRUARY

It almost happened again over at the Davis Square MBTA Station’s escalator. A few weeks back a woman fell backwards while riding the escalator. She became trapped at the bottom for over one minute before the escalator stopped moving. On this Friday morning at the station, a passenger in a black hoodie notices her predicament and hits the emergency button at the bottom and the escalator stops.

MBTA personnel and Somerville firefighters arrived quickly and the woman was rescued with hand injuries. The MBTA thanked all the riders who helped during this incident. The same thing happened on this very same escalator back in February, a 40-year-old man later died from his injuries when no one came to his rescue. Sometimes people do rise to the occasion. She is very lucky to be alive today.

THE SIMPSONS 40 AND DONE

The Simpsons could have an end date in sight. It appears Nancy Cartwrihhgt, the voice of Bart Simpson since 1987 recently said the series will end after Season 40. The show which first aired as a stand-alone in 1989 after debuting on *The Tracey Ullman Show* two years earlier.

34TH ANNIVERSARY VIGIL FOR SUSAN “SU” TARASKIEWICZ ON SEPTEMBER 13

Family and friends of Susan Taraskiewicz will be gathering at Constitution a.k.a. Shay’s Beach in East Boston on Sunday,

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 **August 29, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

- 2011 KIA SORENTO, GRAY**
Vin # 5XYKTC17BG009784
- 2007 FORD FOCUS, RED**
Vin # 1FAFP34N17W256996
- 2008 FORD CROWN VICTORIA, WHITE**
Vin # 2FAFP71V88X110709
- 2017 JEEP COMPASS, BLACK**
Vin # 1C4NJDEB9HD110862
- 2007 FORD FUSION, BLACK**
Vin # 3FAHP08ZX7R280575
- 2016 ACURA MDX, SILVER**
Vin # 5FRYD4H40GB016926
- 2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA, BLACK**
Vin # 2G1WC5EMXB1100729
- 2013 NISSAN SENTRA, BLACK**
Vin # 3N1AB7AP6DL622794
- 2013 FORD ESCAPE, BLACK**
Vin # 1FMCU0H98DUB17503
- 2009 BMW 535i, BLUE**
Vin # WBANV93579C132734
- 2007 TOYOTA CAMRY, SILVER**
Vin # 4T1BE46K97U619799
- 2012 FORD FOCUS, WHITE**
Vin # 1FAHP3J21CL2229165
- 2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, BLUE**
Vin # 2C4RDGBG1DR601749
- 2012 SUZUKI SX4, BLACK**
Vin # JS2YB5A36C6307571
- 2008 HUMMER H3, BLUE**
Vin # 5GTEN13E688125742
- 2023 JIAJUE JJ150T-16A, BLUE**
Vin # LLPTGKBF0P1060216
- 2021 ZNEN ZN50QT/ ZN150T, BLACK**
Vin # L5YACBPZ5M1115732
- 2022 QIPAI KPmini, BLACK**
Vin # LXAPKRP60NX000003

Run dates: 08/14, 08/21, 08/28/2026

September 12 at 12 noon to let the world know she is not forgotten and that her life mattered. She was a young 27-year-old Baggage Supervisor for Northwest Airlines who was apparently last seen alive on September 13 leaving Logan Airport on a sandwich run for the night crew, according to the police. She was found a day later at an automotive shop in Revere badly beaten to death. Police concluded this was not a random act of violence. No one has ever been brought to justice for her murder. I will be there to remember her life and to support her family and friends. Her life meant something to those she surrounded herself with. She still lives on in their memories.

DIANN BAYLIS RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL

Seems everywhere I go, I bump into Diann Baylis on the campaign trail running for Governor’s Council in the 6th District which includes East Boston, parts of Boston, most of Cambridge and 17 other cities and towns from Swampscott to Lynn, from Somerville to Winthrop. I met her twice recently. Once at the Taste of Eastie event at the Tall Ship and again more recently at the Haynes Street Block Party. She is getting out and is serious about taking on a long-time incumbent. New face. New energy. New ideas. Remember her name on September 1 at the Democratic primary.

406 MPH? O’H’ YEAH!!!

The JCB Hydromax driven by ex-fighter pilot Andy Green at the controls just crushed the speed record for hydrogen-powered cars at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah two weeks ago.

I don’t know about you, but I see sports cars racing up Summer Street in Jeffries Point, maybe even travelling faster than 406 miles on a nightly basis.

LATIN MUSIC DANCE FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 13

The 5th Annual East Boston Latin Music & Dance festival takes place on Sunday, September 13 from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Stadium by Logan Airport. Get there, it’s a freebie, don’t miss it. You can dance away the whole day and as I said the cost is Free 99/100. Best price ever.

MOVIE NITE DOWN AT THE STADIUM

This coming Tuesday, August 25 is movie night down at the East Boston Stadium. Come on down, bring the kids and enjoy a night under the stars. Presenting Disney-Pixar ELIO. Free popcorn while supplies last. Starts at DUSK.

EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Don’t forget the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen’s 10th Anniversary Gala coming up on September 19 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

For more information, go to EBCSK.INFO@GMAIL.COM

25th Anniversary



East Boston’s Annual SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 13, 2026,
1:00 p.m.
Piers Park
Marginal Street, East Boston

Join us to remember those that perished and honor our First Responders

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

Easter was approaching. It fell on April 6th. Oh, by the way, it was Easter of 1958.

Uncle Nick, my mother’s middle brother and my Godfather and his wife, Aunt Dorothy, were planning to spend a few days in Havana, Cuba. Quite often when they traveled, I was invited along. They never had children and I was like the surrogate son. Actually, I was Uncle Nick’s favorite nephew and was close to them.

I was in college at that point in time and had a lot on my plate. I attended classes five days per week, worked at the Seville Theater a few nights per week, and had just turned professional as a musician and was beginning to work with dance bands on the weekends ... as I said, a lot on my plate.

Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothy flew to Miami on the Wednesday the 2nd and checked into the Hotel Nacional, the best location in Havana. They called home and spoke to Babbononno who turned the phone over to me with just two words, “Zio Nicola.” (Uncle Nick)

The essence of the conversation was an invite to Cuba for the Easter weekend. I told my Godfather to hold on and yelled out, “Ma, it’s Uncle Nick. He’s inviting me to Cuba for Easter.” She yelled out, “Go.” So, I said OK.

Uncle Nick made the arrangements. The next day, Dad drove me to Logan and made sure I had my passport, some money and two suitcases filled with dress clothes for at night and a couple of bathing suits for the daytime. I flew from Logan to Miami and boarded a shuttle to Havana. Uncle Nick was waiting for me and we headed for the hotel. En route, he and the driver pointed out many places of interest, and what impressed me the most was the architecture, beautiful Spanish colonial buildings, wide streets with lots of American cars and trucks of the ’50s, and the hustle and bustle of a thriving culture. The people were among the friendliest I ever encountered traveling the world, something I did a few years later.

Why am I mentioning all of this? Well, there is a motive. Loretta and I visited Cuba when Obama was president. We sailed from Miami to Havana on a 4-day tour. I was looking for the captain and Gilligan, but they were nowhere to be found. Seriously, we were briefed on what to do and what not to do in Cuba, and when we docked, I bought some Cuban money and we headed ashore.

There were many ’50s American convertibles for hire,

but the temperature was over 90 degrees, so we chickened out and I hired a modern cab that was air conditioned. Fortunately for Loretta, the driver spoke English. He showed us many parts of the city, but to my dismay, everything was decayed and the buildings were crumbling. Since the revolution (1959), the state has controlled everything including ownership of all structures. Evidently, there is little money to keep the outsides from falling down. The insides are owned by the tenants and you might have 3 or 4 generations living in 2 rooms with no indoor plumbing, maybe electricity and definitely no air conditioning.

The cabdriver then mentioned that salaries are controlled by the government, and as an example, a doctor makes \$50.00 per month! He added that street vendors who sell things to the tourists make more money than people in the medical profession. We stopped at a couple of vacant lots where vendors had set up shop selling everything from food to clothing. The prices weren’t bad, but I noticed one thing that even Loretta mentioned, “Nobody smiles.” This didn’t seem like business to me, it seemed like survival, and nothing more.

The next day we booked a bus tour from the ship to a rum factory and a cigar factory. The rum factory turned out to be a liquor store that sold only Cuban rum and the cigar factory turned out to be a cigar store that tried to sell high-end cigars to the tourists. I was not happy. Remembering what Babbononno said many years ago, “Cuban rum is the best in the world. You can sip it like the best French cognac.” So, I bought a bottle. The problem for me was an attempt to purchase the Cuban cigars I like. I was told that the factory was closed, or they weren’t Cuban, or they were cheap cigars and were machine made, not handcrafted, and on and on. Finally, one store sold them to me. It seems that the brand I like, Jose La Piedras, is sold only to the locals. The rest of the brands that are known internationally sell for from \$5.00 to \$50.00 each, giving the sellers a good profit. Mine cost \$1.20 each and taste as good as their more expensive cousins. The profit isn’t as good, so they push the more famous brands.

We did take a historic tour again the 3rd day and the director was an older man who had fought next to Castro during the revolution. He was proud of his country and played down the fact that the people are all poor and that everything is in shambles.

He told us about the glorious revolution and how it benefited those who stayed. Fortunately, many millions didn’t stay and came to the United States. The first generation that came here actually made Miami a world-class city from its traditional southern origins.

The one thing I couldn’t get over was the percentage of 1950s American cars. The most numerous were 1954 and 1956 Chevy models. But, I saw Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Cadillacs, Fords, Mercurys, Plymouths, Dodges, DeSotos, Chryslers and a few that were combinations of many brands all put together. Some had the original engines, but most had engines taken from the Russian cars that were sent there from the USSR. Most of those cars rusted away within a couple of years, but the owners saved or resurrected the engines. The cars were probably the most promising aspect of life that we saw. They were entities from the past carried into the future, not only as automobiles, but as possibilities of what the future might hold for them.

It was a bitter sweet experience, but it was a gift from me to Loretta and from Loretta to me. Will we ever do it again??? I don’t know. The one giant plus for the Cubans, is that the authorities have zero tolerance for drugs and sex crimes. As a result, the country is safe and there is no problem walking the streets of Havana at night. I like that. You don’t find this in too many parts of the world today.

Babbononno was right, Cuban rum has a great taste. I had to sample it 2 or 3 times to make sure he was right and the liquid is even better tasting when accompanied by a Cuban cigar. After visiting Cuba, I can close with a more emphatic 3-word statement than ever before ...
GOD BLESS AMERICA

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LEGAL NOTICE

Watertown
Housing Authority

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROJECT NAME
WHA-OCPS-2026

WHERE TO FIND
BID PACKAGE
Email Request
CCHOUA@WATERTOWNHA.ORG

ESTIMATED JOB COST
\$70,000.00

BID DATES
Bids Available
Monday, August 24, 2026
at 9:00 AM

SITE WALK-THRU
By appointment only

BIDS DUE
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
by 12:00 PM

Run date: 08/21/2026

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

The Parthenon



The Parthenon is a former Ancient Greek temple on the Athenian Acropolis. Built between 447 and 432 BC under the statesman Pericles during the height of the Athenian Empire. Dedicated to the goddess Athena, it is a lasting symbol of classical architecture, democracy, and Western civilization.

Constructed almost entirely from white Pentelic marble, (a fine grained pure white stone quarried from Mount Pentelicus near Athens, Greece) the Parthenon is a masterpiece of proportion: Designed by the sculptor Phidias and architects Ictinus and Callicrates to honor Athena they purposefully built into its design optical illusions featuring no truly straight lines; the stylobate (the stylobate is the floor of the temple) curves upward and columns swell and lean inward to correct visual perspective distortions so that the human eye perceives it as mathematically perfect. The Parthenon is considered by many architects as the most harmonious achievement in classical design.

The Parthenon replaced an older temple destroyed by the Persians and served as both a religious sanctuary and the Delian League (an alliance of Ancient Greek city-states led by Athens) treasury.

The Parthenon was used over centuries as a Byzantine church, an Ottoman mosque, and damaged severely by a Venetian explosion in 1687 during a siege against the Ottoman Empire.

The Parthenon located on the Athenian Acropolis (an ancient citadel on a rocky outcrop above Athens) is a lasting symbol of Ancient Greek civilization and Athenian power.

2026 NORTH END
FESTIVAL DIRECTORY

AUGUST

SAN GENNARO

August 21, 22, 23

Outdoor Mass Sunday, August 23,

at the Prado

12 pm

SANTA LUCIA

August 27

Thursday, Feast & Procession

Thacher & Endicott Sts.

5 pm

ST. ANTHONY’S FEAST

August 28, 29, 30

Endicott & Thacher, N. Margin Sts.

Sunday Procession

12 pm

SEPTEMBER

ST. ROSALIA di PALERMO

September 12

Procession Only - North Square

1 pm

ADDITIONAL
ITALIAN FESTIVALS

Lawrence, MA

FEAST of the THREE SAINTS *New Dates*

Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino

Sunday Procession

Common & Union Streets, Lawrence

Sept. 4-6

3 pm

Hingham, MA

MADONNA S.S. DELLA LUCE FEAST

Procession

Ourdoor Mass

Live Band 3-7 pm

Cash Bar. Bring your own food & beverages

42 Oak Street, Hingham, MA

Rain Date Sept. 7

Sept. 6

11 am

11:30 am

Cambridge Festival

SS COSMAS AND DAMIAN

Sunday Procession

Warren and Cambridge St., Cambridge

Sept. 11,12,13

1 pm

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Broken Blossoms

by Daniel A. DiCenso

1919, 87mins. Director: D.W. Griffith

Cast: Lillian Gish (Lucy), Richard Barthelmess (Cheng Huan), Donald Crisp (Battling Burrows), Ed Peil Sr. (Evil Eye)

D.W. Griffith was somewhat past relevancy when he released *Broken Blossoms* in 1919. By the time he would make his *Abraham Lincoln* talkie in 1930 his name above the title was practically an anachronism. Even more so than Chaplin and, to a lesser extent only because he began later, Keaton, two contemporaries who would surpass him in popularity, Griffith spent much of the final war years catching his breath.

Intolerance had put him over budget in 1916 and so he laid low in 1917 and re-emerged as a filmmaker in 1918 only to make some shorter features and shorts for the war. By February of the following year, however, he was one of the founders of the newly established United Artists Corporation and turned to features once more.

Nonetheless, *Broken Blossoms* would be a much more modest endeavor both in scale and length, running just under an hour and a half. At \$115,000, the production would cost slightly more than *Birth of a Nation*, the inflation predictable almost five years later, but remained well under the whopping \$1,600,000 of *Intolerance*. Apart from the opening shots set in an unnamed Chinese port-city capturing some of the grandeur of the Babylonian set pieces in *Intolerance* with Griffith's striking close-ups of the locals, *Broken Blossoms* is a stagier and, comparatively, minimalist work though by no means devoid of atmosphere.

Intentionally or not, however, this scaling back provides a serene return to basics for Griffith, harking back to the slight but effective use of sets and location in his early Biograph shorts. The foggy London docks, for instance, where Battling Burrows (Donald Crisp), the brutish prizefighter keeps his battered adoptive daughter Lucy (Lillian Gish) more or less captive, recall how expertly Griffith created desolation and despair in the slums in such shorts such as *The Musketeers of Pig Alley* with the least bit of old wood and a few establishing shots of decaying buildings.

As Martin Williams recounted in *Griffith: First Artist of the Movies*, "Griffith decided that such a tale needed a special telling. To gain absolute atmospheric control over every frame of his film, he built his sets entirely indoors and used with care only artificial light. Much of the photography is in a soft focus, and it is the work not only of Bitzer, but also — for close-ups and "special effects" — of Hendrick Sartov. A former portrait photographer whose work Lillian Gish had admired greatly, he had been used for some of her added close-ups in *Hearts of the World*. Griffith also used carefully tinted film, differently colored from scene to scene, even from shot to shot. Further, he hand-tinted some scenes with additional colors. *Broken Blossoms*, in its studio-controlled atmosphere, in its scaling down of emotion, and in its theme, marked a distinct stage in American movies. In his use of atmospheric studio sets,



Broken Blossoms Lillian Gish and Richard Barthelmess

where design, proportion, and lighting could be strictly controlled from shot to shot, Griffith may have been influenced from certain Danish productions of the time. In any case, his film had a sizeable influence on production methods in Germany as well as at home. Ironically, he had originally hoped to shoot *Broken Blossoms* in London in its actual locales."

Griffith's early work, after all, struck chords because his focus was always on the tight narrative, carried by a handful of actors. As much as one can be awestruck by the spectacle of, say, *Intolerance*, the closer-knit cast of characters allowed for a deeper connection. In *Broken Blossoms* this resulted in a more moving film, gentler and more humane than anything Griffith had attempted since his Biograph days.

How much Lillian Gish can be credited for this impact cannot be overstated. She had been making films with Griffith for seven years but, here, as the abused young woman, a unique talent emerges. Crisp is in fine form mugging his way as the animalistic father, but Gish foregoes theatrics and for all its slightness, her performance gives her much more complexity than her previous work. Lucy is both the soul of the film and an enigma.

Being forced to smile through the daily drudgery, Gish's Lucy has learned by forced to hide her truest emotions for fear of retribution. Take for instance, the scene in which she pleads with her father to stop the beating, warning him that if he kills her, he will be hanged. Is she simply protecting herself with this warning or is she also trying to save a man she inexplicably cares about? So effective is Gish's portrayal of this girl who has learned to hide what she is feeling that the very ambiguity, because we recognize it is a defense mechanism, elicits both pity and horror at the realization.

"The terror in her final scenes provides one of the great examples of pure pantomime in American silent films. If a soundtrack of her screams had been included, the effect would have become bathetic and

ludicrous; when the inner ear of the viewer provides her screams for what he sees, the effect is harrowing," wrote Williams.

She lets her guard down but once. After a particularly brutal beating, she escapes her entrapment and, exhausted, falls on the doorstep of Cheng Huan (Richard Barthelmess), the compassionate shopkeeper who fled China for London to preach the teachings of Buddhism. As she is nursed back to health in the tiny flat above Cheng Huan's shop, her smile feels genuine for the first time.

Cheng Huan is something of a mystery himself. Keeping to himself after his arrival in London, his stoic expression inspires speculation. What are his thoughts on the world he sees before him? Is the Anglo world ready for the teachings of Buddha, as he had thought? In the short story by Thomas Burke on which the movie is based, Cheng Huan himself is swayed by the allure of the opium dens in London's Limehouse District. In the film he doesn't quite dodge their pull but remains aware enough to note the irony of local missionaries telling him they are travelling to his homeland to "convert the heathen."

Why does he care for Lucy as much as he does? Is it lust or sheer pity for the broken girl? Perhaps it's because beneath her bruised and closed exterior he sees another beautiful soul dimmed by an unforgiving world. A moment early in the film, before the fateful day he takes her in, is particularly revealing. While shopping in town, Lucy is harassed by a local vendor known around the slums as Evil Eye (Edward Peil). Cheng Huan comes to her defense but then refuses to approach her himself, happy only to see her continue safely on her way.

He will, eventually, provide her with the only kindness she ever sees, an act that will ultimately cost him more than his life. For Cheng Huan the tragedy is not in his own death but in being forced to betray his principles. When the jealously enraged and, by then, murderous, Burrows turns his

aggression on him Cheng Huan resorts to the very violence he hoped to eradicate. His final act expresses not only his grievance for Lucy, the only blossoming heart he saw, but that his own soul was consumed by the darkness of the world.

"Miss Gish's performance is all curves, it has been said, and Richard Barthelmess's, as Cheng, is its compliment, all angles," wrote Williams. "Miss Gish perceived this for herself, and Barthelmess shows us the fear under Cheng's self-effacing calm. Donald Crisp's is all effective cruelty and brutality, but it may strike us as overdone, because he did not grasp, or did not let us glimpse, the hidden fear that a brute such as Burrows masks with arrogance and violence."

It is no secret that Barthelmess was not Chinese. Yellow-facing, however, was an abomination too widespread to fairly condemn Griffith's use of it here as an isolated incident. Still, after *Birth of a Nation* it became impossible not to consider racial dynamics in his works. Perhaps without the tarnish to his name, it would have been easier to not associate the otherwise tender scenes with Cheng Huan and Lucy with the troubling racial hierarchy of *His Trust* and *His Trust Fulfilled* where the worthiness of a Black man is measured by his care of his wife enslavers. Griffith never felt the need to retract his past but, with consideration of this, it must be said that *Broken Blossoms* is the closest he ever came to addressing the storm. If nothing else, it is a more direct condemnation of racism and xenophobia than anything he did since or would subsequently do.

Bigotry is given the invariably ugly and scarred face of Battling Burrows. When his xenophobia is revealed, though, there was already so much stacked against the character up to that point that it comes as one more tiny nail in the coffin. More interesting is the contrast between Cheng Huan and the world that has him in dismay. Memories of why making *Broken Blossoms* was such a courageous undertaking are becoming lost to history, but the

Chinese Exclusion Act would not be repealed for more than twenty years after its release and large swaths of the world believed in the virtues of missionaries travelling to foreign lands to bring salvation. Some, like Mark Twain in the brilliant essay "To the Person Sitting in Darkness," saw inherent egotism at play.

Griffith took the bold step of reversing the mirror. What if our ways seemed just as barbarous from the outside looking in, he asks. Contrast, for instance, the serenity of the scenes in the Chinese village with the grimy docks of East London. Peace is disrupted in China only when rowdy American sailors begin brawling and light enters in Limehouse upon the arrival of Cheng Huan. Accordingly, the only time we see optimism in Cheng Huan's face is early in the film before he leaves his homeland and never again once the world disappoints him.

Finally, it is Cheng Huan who is converted in a way the missionaries who travel to his country could not have foreseen. The reality of their world changes him irrevocably.

"But for Griffith himself," observed Williams, "the range between *Intolerance* and *Broken Blossoms* is the range of a major artist."

Indeed, Griffith now had the confidence of a new studio to back his picture when Adolph Zukor, head of Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, the studio that originally funded the film expressed disgust at the film's somber tone. Griffith repaid Zukor the \$250,000 for the rights to his film and launched the newly founded United Artists (which he founded along with Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford) with this as its opening film when it premiered at the George M. Cohan Theater in May.

Broken Blossoms proved to be both a commercial and critical success. A review in *Current Opinion* said, "Once again has David Wark Griffith delved into his seemingly inexhaustible bag of tricks and brought out another novelty in the way of a film to intrigue the public and amaze his rivals. This time it is a film version of one of Thomas Burke's sophomoric [sic] tales of London's Limehouse district. It is called *Broken Blossoms* and is that might be termed a bit of intensive cultivation of film possibilities.

The picture itself inaugurates what one might term the fully elaborated short story of the screen. It consumes about eighty minutes. It abounds in pictorial and so-called "artistic" effects of photography — artistic in the sense of that dimming and blurring and unfocussing of the negative so that a photograph may look like anything but a photograph. Perhaps Mr. Griffith will soon catch up with the real photographers who are not ashamed of being photographic. However that may be, there can be no doubt that Mr. Griffith possesses the power of making critics and public take his work seriously."

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

Prosecutors say the guy submitted unemployment claims to the State Department of Employment and Security while in prison in which he “falsely represented that an offer of employment was rescinded through no fault of his own.”

In the past two months of that period “he also represented that he had completed work searches and/or was available and able to work, omitting that he was incarcerated.”

This guy will have to pay back those unemployment checks with a 20 percent penalty and be banned from getting new unemployment benefits for one year. He thought crime paid and he was wrong.

**Bare and Rare
Steakhouse Dining**

Did someone order strip steak? Down in a Florida restaurant, you can now reportedly have a complete meal naked. The place is called CLASS Soiree Steakhouse in Hollywood will be offering the au naturel

experience the first Monday of every month. Chef Ali told the USA Today Network that he got the idea for a stripped-down meal after a nudist group rented out the restaurant and ate their meal in the buff. Chef Ali told USA Today, “It’s been very popular. What we’re doing is special.”

End Quote

“I don’t turn over private, identifying information of citizens of New Jersey.”

— NJ Gov. Mikie Sherrill

The above was her response to the feds seeking data on 6,600 non-citizens who registered to vote and the 400 who did vote. She vows never to comply and calls them all “citizens.”

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 **September 14, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2013 VOLVO TRUCK VNL
Vin #4V4NC9TG8DN562395

2025 ZHILONG ST
Vin #HZ2TBCNF0S1013609

2025 YIBEN YB50QT
Vin #LYDYATKH1S1500057

2013 BMW 328i
Vin #WBA3B5G57DNS01647

1998 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #1HGEJ8143WL047812

2011 TOYOTA PRIUS
Vin #JTDKN3DU0B1385565

2012 FORD E250
Vin #1FTNE2EW7CDB18267

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Vin #5NPD84LF0LH586952

2015 DODGE CHALLENGER
Vin #2C3CDZAG0FH850561

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

Run dates: 08/21, 08/28, 09/04/2026

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Hall of Fame Garden Award



(L-R): Terry Pittaro, Lew Gaffin, Patricia Ableson, FOCCP Horticultural Co-Chairs Terese O’Connell and Robyn Reed accepted the 2026 Boston Mayor’s Garden Contest Hall of Fame Award.

The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) officially inducted into the Boston Mayor’s Garden Contest Hall

of Fame on Monday, August 17, 2026. FOCCP qualified for this prestigious honor by placing in the top two spots of the

“Storefront, Organization or Main Street District” category three separate times, securing 1st place twice and 2nd place once.

The induction took place during the ceremony for the garden contest, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and features 10 distinct competitive categories. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu presented FOCCP Horticulture Co-Chairs, Terese O’Connell and Robyn Reed, as well as volunteers Patricia Abelson, Lew Gaffin, and Terry Pittaro, with the physical award: a wooden plaque adorned with a golden shovel. This Hall of Fame designation grants FOCCP to participate as judges for future contest applicants, but also means that FOCCP is not allowed to enter the competition again.



A prestigious Hall of Fame Garden Plaque was awarded to the FOCCP.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Ramsay’s Towing 152 Prospect Street, Waltham, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **August 22, 2026 beginning at 10:00 PM** by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Ramsay’s Towing.

SARAH KIZZA, NSIGAYE
2005 FORD ESCAPE
VIN # 1FMCU9GD6JUB65782

MURA MUZI, PRUDENCE
2007 MB C CLASS
VIN # WDBRF52H27F925777

PAUL M. DELERME
2005 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
VIN # JTEEP21A950097383

Run dates: 08/07, 8/14, 08/21/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

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

Docket No. SU26P1552EA

Estate of
MARIA NIJSSEN

Date of Death: January 24, 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 **Shaun G. Nijssen of Boston, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Shaun G. Nijssen of Boston, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 September 17, 2026.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. JANINE D. RIVERS,
First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 17, 2026

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate
08/21/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Massachusetts Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

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

Docket No. MI26P4229GD

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor

In the interests of
ARIELLA E. SANDOVAL
of Lowell, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

- Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 08/12/2026 by **Alicia Burgess** of Lowell, MA will be held **09/09/2026 10:00 AM** Motion Located **Lowell Justice Center Courtroom 13 370 Jackson Street Lowell, MA 01852**
- Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
 - File the original with the Court; and
 - Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
- Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
- Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
- Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form (MPC 263). Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

Date: August 12, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 08/21/2026

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 **September 07, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2012 INFINITI G37
Vin #JN1CV6EL2CM470700

2010 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCP2F81AA095134

2007 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGC5M568X7A058960

2013 HYUNDAI SONATA
Vin #5NPEB4AC0DH800936

2010 TOYOTA PRIUS
Vin #JTDKN3DU1A0056037

2024 ZHILONG Q-MAX
Vin #HZ2TBCNN7R1001362

2017 NISSAN ALTIMA
Vin #1N4AL3AP8HN357911

2010 FORD EDGE
Vin #2FMDK3GC7ABB61275

2012 NISSAN VERSA
Vin #3N1CN7AP4CL889916

2014 AUDI Q5
Vin #WA1CMAFP2EA060840

2012 VOLKSWAGEN CC
Vin #WVWMN7AN0CE537349

2008 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
Vin #2CNDL63F386317636

2014 HONDA CRV
Vin #2HKRM4H39EH693615

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

Run dates: 08/14, 08/21, 08/28/2026

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. MI26A0375AD

CITATION
G. L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of
NICHOLAS WILLIAM CHAMNESS

To **Nicholas Charles Chamness** 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 **Sheryl Ann Taylor of Malden, MA**, requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Nico William Chamness**.

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran’s benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **WOBURN** ON OR BEFORE **TEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2026**.

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

Date: July 31, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run dates: 08/07, 08/14, 08/21/2026

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



EXTRA Innings



by Sal Giaratani

John, But Not Forgotten

Last week in this column I talked about Tommy John and of his recent video goodbye (August 8) during the recent Old-Timers Game at Yankee Stadium. Now, I speak of him again. He passed away over this past weekend at the age of 83 at home in hospice of bladder cancer.

Last week after the goodbye video, I heard a comment from the legendary Sandy Koufax who was forced into retirement after winning 27 games in the 1966 season. Sandy was only 33 when his shoulder issues got too painful for him to continue on the mound. He said that if he had Tommy John surgery before Tommy John’s surgery was invented, today they’d be calling it “Koufax surgery.” Nah, Sandy, today they’d be calling it “Sandy’s Shoulder.” Rhymes better.

Red Sox Had the Best Turnaround Ever

Well, we are now on the other side of the turnaround. We win, we lose, we beat good teams, we get beaten up by bad teams. Same old story. Thank God the New York Yankees keep finding their own ways of losing. We seem to be cemented into third place. Thank God again that more Yankees are hurting than Red Sox players.

I just assume now that the Rays will hold on to winning the AL East. As the battle between the Red Sox and Yankees continues on, nothing changes except the injuries. I read the sports pages this past Tuesday morning, bad news from Yankee Stadium, Max Fried is going back on the injured list. The first injury cost him two months. There’s no telling if or when he’ll be back. I say thank God for Sonny Gray. At 37 years old, he is our pot of gold heading toward the playoffs. Still *%\$# he was ignored for the All-Star team. His revenge would be taking us into the playoffs and maybe into the World Series too.

When it Comes to Women Sports I Know Where I Stand

Women’s sports was always a no-brainer until DEI fanatics stuck in their noses screwing up the works. Who gets to play in women’s sports? I say female athletes. When I see WNBA, what does the W stand for? I say it stands for “Women” and who are women nowadays? The Woke DEI crowd thinks anybody who sees themselves as women is a woman. I say that’s is so pazzo, it isn’t even funny. Nobody is laughing now. You know what’s even worse, women out there, lots of them,

think it’s okay for a guy to call himself a woman and compete against women.

People have a right to call themselves whatever they want. However, when you are destroying a level playing field that is where I draw the line. You know we already have a US Supreme Court Justice who doesn’t know how to define a woman because I think she is afraid to do so in public. We also have someone running for U.S. Senate who has sprouted in the past that there are six genders. Imagine being at the airport looking for the proper bathroom and you can’t find it? They’d have to put all the bathrooms into its own terminal.

I simply can’t believe all the nonsense out there today. Remember back when we were sane. The question was simple. Are you a boy or are you a girl? We had Superman and Supergirl. We had Batman and Robin. Noooo. That’s not where I want to go at the moment.

However, I felt a bit better knowing that almost three-quarters of Americans according to Pew Research don’t want trans women competing against female athletes in sporting events with both Democrats and Republicans united on this issue. Maybe there is hope after all.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB



by Richard Preiss

Although the regular season of the NBA does not start until late October, there is a home game on the Celtics preseason schedule that has the potential to command outsized importance.

That’s because on October 10 the Celtics will play the Philadelphia 76ers at the Garden in a contest that possibly will feature three all-star players — with two making their debuts with their new teams.

In addition, it will be the first time the Celtics will play at the Garden since losing game seven of the first round of the 2026 NBA playoffs to Philadelphia back on May 2.

It is possible that LeBron James, Celtics star Jason Tatum and former Celtics star and 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown could all be on the court at the same time. Brown played for the Celtics for 10 seasons until he was traded to Philadelphia in July.

We say that it is only possible because this will be a preseason game and as veterans one or more of these players may choose not to play. Or the coaches may elect to go in a different direction.

After all, one of the main objectives of the preseason is to determine the roster for the regular season. The major way to accomplish that is to see players in the lower ranks of the preseason roster in action.

How potential bench players perform in the preseason often goes a long way in determining if they will be awarded with a spot on the regular season roster.

But we feel that there is a very good chance that all three veteran players will choose to take the court, making for a very interesting game—regardless of the score. You have the potential to see James — who moved from the Los Angeles Lakers to the 76ers over the summer. And, of course, for Celtics fans there is the possibility of seeing Tatum and Brown facing each other as opponents for the first time — on the very court where Brown performed so well over the years.

Again, because it is a preseason game one or more of these veteran players may choose not to play. But if all three do it will make for one of the most interesting contests of the year—even though the final result will not count in the regular season standings.

Six nights later — on October 16 — the teams will meet for the second time in Philadelphia—making for another interesting meeting as the Celtics close out the preseason.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND — Older fans may remember the obstructed view seats in the original Boston Garden that closed in 1995.

As time went on in the 20th century they were often the subject of light hearted stories — particularly after other viewing options — such as television — became dominant.

But one must remember that the original Garden opened in the 1920s, a time when the only way to see a game was to actually buy a ticket and attend.

Yes, there were obstructed view seats in the original Garden but in an era when the only option for seeing a game was

to buy a ticket and attend that didn’t stop people from purchasing them.

Later, with the coming of television, they became the subject of jokes and light hearted conversation. With the opening of the present Garden, they passed into history.

But they are back. Not here, of course, but in Buffalo where the Bills opened their brand new \$2.2 billion Hallmark Stadium with a preseason game against the Carolina Panthers recently.

These memories from the past would be obstructed view seats which many older fans can recall from the days of the original Boston Garden.

One still photo of the Buffalo stadium features a seat with a blocked view of one endzone while other photos show staircases that block part of the field and endzones.

All this for people who pay large amounts of money to attend these games in person.

Many in Massachusetts do not realize that there is an additional fee that can be applied to purchasing seating in some states including New York.

It is called a personal seat license. We don’t have that here thankfully but where they do it means that fans have to buy a so-called “personal seat license” in order to buy a season ticket. That’s right. First, one buys the license and then that gives the person the right to buy a season ticket.

If you think this might stop a lot of fans it has not. The Bills have sold over 54,000 season tickets so far. The licenses range from around \$1,000 for upper deck seats to \$2,500 for end zone location to tens of thousands for premium club and lower bowl areas

That is per seat so obviously there is a large financial outlay required for a family or group. In the case of the Bills, it gives the license holder the right to purchase a season ticket for that specific seat for 30 years. The season ticket purchase for that specific seat is required each year over the 30-year life of the license.

We had a neighbor once who had an answer to all the high-ticket prices for NFL games. He cleared out his garage and brought in a large screen television. He then invited friends over to watch the games. On nice days, it was open air since the garage door was open. At other times it could be closed. Invited friends brought food and beverages, parked in the driveway or on the street.

They enjoyed the games on television as a group — no lines driving to the games, no sitting outside in bad weather, plenty of food and beverages plus no long lines leaving the parking lots after the game was over. And clean restrooms with no waiting lines in the house.

Plus, expert TV commentators and more replays than would be available on a jumbotron at the game.

And best of all, no high-ticket prices and no far away seating such as the end zone.

For those that have the space on their property it all makes a good deal of sense. Think about his option for the coming season.

Donne 2000 Celebrates Ferragosto

by Doreen Giammarco



Donne 2000, family and friends at Newick’s Lobster House

Ferragosto is an Italian holiday celebrated on August 15th. It is the summer vacation period which may be a long weekend or most of August where people go to the seaside or to the mountains. Feriae Augusti, Festivals (holidays) of the Emperor Augustus were introduced in 18 BC to provide a longer period of rest which was felt necessary after the end of the harvest and the long intense agricultural labor of the previous weeks.

Each year, Donne 2000 chooses a location to commemorate and celebrate Ferragosto as many of their paesani do in their hometown of Italy. This year on August 16th Donne 2000 members along with their families and friends went to the enchanting and charming city of Portland, Maine. It was a beautiful day to walk in the Old Port District along the brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets lined with local bookstores, craft shops,



Maria DiCenso and Louise Cardillo

art galleries, and restaurants. Next, we enjoyed a scenic ferry ride on Casco Bay and the various islands along the way. Finally, everyone enjoyed a delicious lobster, haddock or steak dinner and homemade ice cream for dessert at Newick’s Lobster House in Dover, New Hampshire. It was a memorable day. Everyone went home with smiles and memories of another fun- filled Ferragosto trip.

Donne 2000 is an organization that keeps traditions alive from generation to generation through ethnic and cultural events. For more information, please follow us on our Donne 2000 Facebook page.



Donne 2000 family and friends on the ferry