

# Eleven Charged After Joint Investigation Results in Takedown of Major Fentanyl Trafficking Operation in Seven Merrimack Valley Locations

Joint Investigation Led by Attorney General’s Office and Massachusetts State Police; Law Enforcement Seized More Than 18 Kilograms of Fentanyl, Unlawfully-Possessed Semi-Automatic Firearms

A joint operation undertaken last Thursday by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office (AGO), Massachusetts State Police, several local police departments, and federal law enforcement agents resulted in the execution of search warrants at seven locations in Lawrence, Lynn and Methuen and the arrests of several suspected Fentanyl traffickers. During the searches, Troopers, Officers, and Agents seized more than 18 kilograms of Fentanyl, two unlawfully possessed semi-automatic pistols, and a portable hydraulic compartment used to hide narcotics.

“Operation Philly Special” was the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by the State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction and Enforcement Team (CINRET), Troopers assigned

to the Attorney General’s Office, federal Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Salem, New Hampshire Police, under the direction of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell’s Office.

The investigation, which began in November 2022 based on information provided by the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department, focused on a Lawrence-based drug trafficking organization that was supplying Fentanyl throughout the Merrimack Valley. Investigators utilized various investigative techniques including traditional and electronic surveillance, data analysis, and court-authorized electronic intercepts of target cell phones. As a result of information developed through these methods, investigators obtained search warrants for five locations in Lawrence and one each in Lynn and Methuen.

On the morning of Thursday, September 7, the investigative team comprised of Troopers from CINRET and the Attorney General’s Office, HSI agents, Salem, New Hampshire Police detectives – accompanied by the State Police Special Tactical



Operations (STOP) Team, Troop A Community Action Team, and multiple other investigative units, an HSI tactical team, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration EA agents, and Lynn, Haverhill, Lawrence, and Methuen Police Officers — executed the warrants.

At one target location in Lawrence, as State Police STOP Team members were making entry, a female tried to rush a child with a backpack out of the residence. Investigators stopped the woman and child

and located a 9mm semi-automatic pistol and ammunition inside the backpack. The woman was charged with child endangerment.

At another target location, a residence at 46 Whitman St., Lawrence, the entry team discovered an active Fentanyl processing plant on the third floor and observed unidentified powders and an overwhelming odor of ammonia. Team members exited the building and secured it from the outside and requested that the multi-agency

Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team (CLET) from the state Department of Fire Services respond to the scene with specialized apparatus and testing equipment.

Wearing full-body Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), CLET operators entered the apartment and collected multiple samples of exposed substances that tested positive for Fentanyl. CLET operators and CINRET Troopers, also wearing

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## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### 9/11 Memorial Exhibit Coming to Quincy September 19-23

The 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, operated by the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation will be arriving in Downtown Quincy at the McConville Hannon Parking Lot

**Opening Ceremony: Tuesday, September 19, 2023** at 3:30 PM — All are welcomed at this community ceremony as we honor the legacy of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001

**September 20 – 23, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM** — The exhibit features artifacts from the World Trade Center and guided tours from FDNY Firefighters who responded to Ground Zero on September 11th.

**U.S. and Vietnam Strike Trade Deal**

Over the weekend, Joe Biden secured deals with Vietnam on semiconductors and minerals, and Vietnam lifted Washington to its highest diplomatic status along with China and Russia. As Biden arrived in Hanoi for the historic ceremony, little children were holding U.S. flags in his honor.

As a Vietnam War era U.S.A.F. veteran, I think this is what 58,000 Americans died for? However, sometimes you just have to put the past behind you whether you want to or not.

**They Don’t Just Speak Spanish Anymore**

Over 6,100 people from 76 nations were caught illegally crossing into the U.S. along its northeastern border over the past 11 months — more than in the previous 10 years combined, say U.S. Border Patrol.

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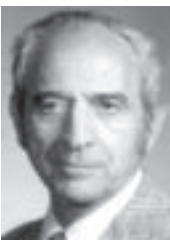




# Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



GETTING CLIPPED IN OLD ROME



A barber may be defined as a person who engages in the occupation of cutting and dressing hair, and shaving or trimming beards. The name barber is derived from the Latin “barba,” meaning beard. The occupation goes back in antiquity to at least 600 B.C. The Old Testament mentions Ezekiel, who used a razor to cut off his hair and scatter it to the winds. It was not the cutting of the hair, but the use of a razor that indicated a form of barbering that possibly existed.

Our barbers of today are often referred to as tonsorial artists. The Latin words “tonsor” or “ton-

soris” refer to barber or shearer. “Tonstrix” is a female barber or hairdresser and “tonstrina” is the barbershop. Barbering was first practiced in Rome about 300 to 250 B.C. The Roman tonsor cut and dressed the hair, trimmed beards, cut fingernails, and tweezed unwanted hair that wasn’t cut or was in places that couldn’t be cut.

The real Roman dandy actually entrusted the trimming of the beard and style of the hair to his tonsor. There was a period in Roman history when the barber was almost a tyrant. The hair was cut and styled his way or not at all. The wealthy

families were able to afford the services of a tonsor as part of their household staff and were attended once or twice in the course of a day. The majority, who were not able to afford the luxury of a private barber, were forced to patronize one of the many tonstrina in the city.

There were also those barbers for the poorer classes, who placed their barber chairs or stools out on the sidewalk each morning and did their clipping in the open. From its very beginning the tonstrina became a club, information center, gossip shop, and a rendezvous for a job interviews by employers. The popularity of the barbershop was a barometer of their income, and most barbers became very wealthy.

The usual tonstrina had benches for the waiting customers and mirrors on the walls. The victim of the moment sat on a stool in the center of the shop. His clothing was protected by one of many kinds of coverings, like a towel or “sudarium,” or a front cover “involucrum” made of linen or fine cotton. His majesty, the tonsor, would perform the actual grooming or shaving while one or two of his

(Continued on Page 7)



Start spreading the Word ...

# GIRL FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END

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Please note: Only tables of ten (10) may be reserved.

*We look forward to seeing all the “girl” friends of the North End once again on September 30th.*

The Committee:

Francine Capodilupo Gannon, Chair - 617-742-6912  
Carol Langone Catanzaro - 617-283-1925  
Diane Passero Pesaturo - 781-443-3624  
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### OPENING CEREMONY

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023 | 3:30 p.m.**  
**McConville/Hannon Parking Lot**  
All are welcome at this community ceremony as we honor the legacy of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



### MOBILE EXHIBIT

**September 20-23, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**McConville/Hannon Parking Lot**  
The exhibit features artifacts from the World Trade Center and guided tours from FDNY Firefighters who responded to Ground Zero on September 11th.



City of Quincy  
Massachusetts



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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.*

*In Loving Memory of a Devoted Husband,  
Father, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather*

## Frank Bartucca



September 21, 1995 - 2023

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Delia

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Ann Marie, Mary Ellen and Christopher

Grandchildren

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Alexander, Benjamin, Jennifer, Shaun, Jacqueline,  
Joseph, Christopher, Wesley, Bradley,  
Delia and Brendan

Great-Grandchildren

Charlotte, Ayden, Logan and Alexandra

### LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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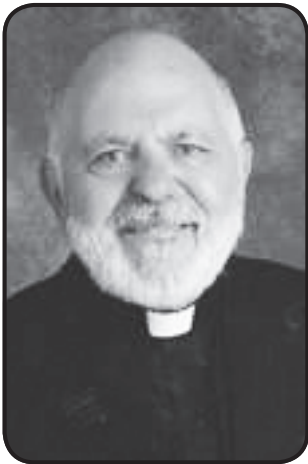
## Rev. Fr. Gregory Mercurio

Rev. Fr. Gregory Mercurio succumbed to a courageous battle with Corticobasal Degeneration on September 6, 2023. He was born on March 26, 1949 in Montauro, Provincial di Catanzaro, Calabria Italy to the late Giuseppe and Angelina Mercurio.

At the age of 6, he arrived in the United States with his family and settled in the North End of Boston and later became a citizen of the United States. He attended Christopher Columbus High school and graduated from St. Francis Seraphic Seminary in Andover to begin formal studies for the priesthood. He took time off to work at the federal reserve bank of Boston to subsidize his education.

He received his BA in philosophy and Master of divinity degrees studying at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Troy New York and St. John's Seminary in Brighton. In 1979, he became a member of the Franciscan Friars and on November 8, 1980, he was ordained to the priesthood.

His first assignment was at St. Leonard's Church in the North End. He was transferred to St. Ann's parish, where at the age of 34, he became pastor. He incardinated into the Archdiocese of Boston as a diocesan priest and served the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Winthrop, Mass. He became pastor of Holy Family parish in Lynn



and while serving as pastor, he became administrator of St. Pius the V in Lynn. He was granted senior priest status in 2017 and served the parishioners of Immaculate Conception in Marlboro until his medical leave.

Fr. Gregory served as Chaplin for the Knights of Columbus in Marlboro and Lynn. He was involved in the Order Sons of Italy, where he founded a lodge at Holy Family, served as Chaplin for

the Marlboro lodge, and was State Chaplin in Massachusetts. Fr. Gregory was an avid gardener, cook and photographer. He will be remembered for acts of kindness and compassion.

He is survived by his sisters Liberata Scimemi and her late husband Mario of Revere and Rose Oliveri and her husband Carl of Saugus and many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 in Holy Family Church, 26 Bessom St., Lynn, MA.

A Funeral Mass was Celebrated in the Church on Monday, September 11th. Burial followed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to PSPCBD Foundation, 7961 Falling Creek Road, Bedford, Virginia 24523 [pspcbdfoundation.org](http://pspcbdfoundation.org)

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# L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

## Fall's Fruitful Bounty

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



It is no secret that I love to bake. The bookshelf adjacent to my kitchen brims with dog-eared cookbooks whose chocolate-stained, worn pages tell the stories of delicious treats past. I especially enjoy baking when the calendar turns to the months of autumn, when chilly dark nights propel me into the warmth of a cozy kitchen. Fall is also an optimal time for baking because of the abundance of fruits and vegetables harvested around this time of year. As surely as the colorful leaves swirl gracefully in the September wind, I know that crisp apples, juicy pears, and creamy pumpkins will form an essential part of my fall baking repertoire. However, baking is not the only way to enjoy the generosity of Earth's harvest. Autumnal produce makes a wonderful addition to salads, pastas and drinks, and of course, nothing can quite compare to a fresh, seasonal fruit eaten in its plain natural state. One can develop an even deeper appreciation of fall's bounty when one examines the manner in which these fruits have shaped not only culinary creations but the very culture and traditions of societies around the world. So as the autumn unravels around us in all its rustic and comforting glory, let us take a look at the folklore, superstitions, and recipes of four of our favorite seasonal treats.

• **Apples:** Apples are synonymous with the fall for me. They conjure memories of collecting bags of bright jewel-toned fruit at a sunny apple orchard, of the tingle of tart apple cider dancing on my tongue, and of fresh-baked breads and streusel-topped crisps cooling on the kitchen counter. I have a difficult time thinking of an apple recipe I did not enjoy, and apples eaten straight from the trees are equally delicious with their

burst of juicy, bittersweet pulp. As one of the quintessential fruits of the season, with a fairly long harvesting period, apples also figure heavily in European myths and legends. The Greek demigod Heracles (or Hercules to the Romans) had to obtain golden apples as one of his arduous twelve labors, and the Celtic King Arthur recovered from his wounds in a mythical land called Avalon, or "isle of apples." Apples symbolized wisdom and immortality to the ancient Norse, while in the Germanic fairy tale Snow White, an apple causes the titular princess to fall into an enchanted slumber from which only a true love's kiss could save her. Popular tradition equates the apple with the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden, though it was never actually identified as such in the Bible. Apples also formed the crux of many Halloween divination rituals, as unmarried girls would interpret the shape of an apple peel or eat an apple in front of a candlelit mirror to reveal her future spouse on this spooky night. In Italy, apples are known as *mele* and are often baked into tarts or dumplings. Northern Italians are particularly fond of making German-inspired apple *strudels*.

• **Pumpkins:** Ah, the pumpkin! This rotund, sunny fruit — and yes, pumpkin is a fruit! — carries the connotation of cozy, communal festivities. After all, pumpkins are one of the most recognizable symbols of Halloween worldwide, and pumpkin pie has become a mainstay at autumnal harvest celebrations like Thanksgiving. Autumn means pumpkin to me, and whether I am making pumpkin-chocolate chip bread, pumpkin butter cake, or pumpkin scones, the aroma of this fall favorite wafts through

my kitchen on the darkened evenings of the season. Like apples, pumpkins also hold an important cultural history. Native Americans used pumpkins, including pumpkin seeds, for culinary and medicinal purposes long before the Europeans arrived on the continent. After pumpkins were introduced to Europe, the orange fruit found its way into several familiar fairy tales and tidbits of lore. In the French folktale Cinderella, a fairy godmother turns a pumpkin into a horse-drawn carriage, which then takes Cinderella to a much-anticipated royal ball. Strange superstitions became attached to pumpkins, including the fruit's alleged ability to cure snakebites and banish freckles! Nowadays, pumpkins are instantly recognizable as carved and illuminated jack-o-lanterns at Halloween, a holdover from an old Irish custom of hollowing out turnips and placing a candle in them in order to frighten the evil spirits perambulating the world on this night. Italians love to cook with pumpkin—known as *zucca* in Italy—in savory dishes, such as pumpkin ravioli and pumpkin gnocchi, often accompanied by buttery sauces with sage. Yum!

• **Pears:** My mother loves pears, and eagerly awaits the arrival of these green-yellow fruits at the supermarket every autumn. Pears drizzled with caramel sauce or yogurt are simply sublime, as the sweetness of the topping brings out the subtle, slightly nutty taste of the fruit. I like to bake pears in cakes or breads, and they taste especially good when mixed with tart apples in a pie or crisp. Pears do not occupy as big of a space in folklore as some other fruits, but nevertheless several fascinating bits of folklore abound. In China, it is bad luck to split and share a pear with a close friend or loved one. That is because the Chinese term for "sharing a pear" sounds like the word for "separate," and thus holds an ominous connotation. In Europe, it was bad luck for a pear tree to bloom out of season, and such an unusual event portended calamitous consequences. Italians know pears as *pere* and use them in many inventive dishes. Pears can form the main component of tarts or cakes, or can be enjoyed in savory dishes like salads. Italians like to serve pears poached in wine or drizzled with balsamic syrup for a simple yet decadent finale to an autumnal meal.

• **Chestnuts:** Finally, I am compelled to add chestnuts to this list because of nostalgic purposes. Every fall, my father would bring home a bag filled with chestnuts, gleaming like polished wood, straight from the supermarket or, even better, a small Italian grocery store. He would then cut an opening at the top of each chestnut to release the stream and roast them in the oven. The warmth of the oven and the creamy aroma of the roasting chestnuts enveloped the whole house like a bear hug, and to this day chestnuts remind me of cloudy, drizzly fall days spent in the joyful company of friends and family. Superstition dictates that carrying a chestnut protects a person

(Continued on Page 10)

# THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



## East Boston's Annual September 11 Memorial Service



### Presentation of the Wreath

Boston ceremony. A small band of community members started this event to remember this day. On the first anniversary of 9/11, a small ceremony was held at Piers Park and that remembrance grows stronger each year that passes.

I still remember waking up that long-ago sunny Tuesday morning. Who would have thought with just a few hours' time the whole nation turned dark like the smoke that engulfed lower Manhattan?

There's a saying over here on this side of the tunnels "Eastie Strong," and we are. It doesn't take lots of people, sometimes just a few like Fran Rowan who gathered others together, and created a simple tribute to those who died on that day and a tribute to those who went inside those burning towers as others were fleeing out to safety.

Every year Devon Sherman reads a poem by Cheryl Sawyer entitled *One*. I remember the immediate aftermath of 9/11 when our nation came together as one, strong and unified. Today, we all seem so divided. But back in September 2001, America, we were one but sadly that time now seems to have been too brief. Today, we are filled with division, too much hatred, and too much hopelessness. We are better than this. It shouldn't take a horrible tragedy to get us to see the world through the same eyes.

As Cheryl Sawyer wrote in her poem, in the soot and dirt that rained down on New York City, we became one color, one class, one faith, one generation, one language, one soul, and one person.

In many ways, 9/11 began in Boston, which is why meeting at Piers Park has so much meaning in our hearts. Prayers and thoughts are extended always to the families of the victims of 9/11.

God willing may we all gather together once again across America next year to never forget a day that woke us up to our commonality. May we stay stronger together and not apart.

Fran Rowan may have passed but she still lives inside all who knew her. I was one of those lucky people.

Once again, folks gathered at Piers Park in East Boston to remember those who perished and to honor our first responders. This year on Sunday, September 11th, it rained, but that didn't stop those who remember and who will always remember those who died in the attacks on America 22 years ago. We will remember the heroes of that day; our police, our firefighters and those first responders who sacrificed their lives in saving the lives of so many on that tragic day. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Since moving to East Boston back in 2010, I have always attended this East



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The YMCA Senior Singers

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# Italian American Alliance and Elvis

## Bringing Us Together Again

by Domenic Amara, Ph.D.



President Jim DiStefano, Tom Damigella, Rita Damigella, Jeannine Camarda, Dan Fontaine (Elvis), Virginia Gardner, Florence Guidara, Dom Amara, Marisa DiPietro, George Gardner, Kathy DiStefano



Dan Fontaine ELVIS

Over three hundred people from the Boston area gathered together Friday, September 8th, in support of the Italian American Alliance’s efforts to maintain and share Italian Heritage. The event was representative of a resurgence of Italian American identity and recognition of the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans to America.

“The Italian American Alliance, like many other Italian American organizations in the area, is all about sharing the lessons of the Italian and Italian American experience,” said Virginia Gardner, the National President of the Alliance. “We owe to the generations to come.

We, the Italians, are an integral part of America’s beginning and its success.”

The crowd was entertained by Dan Fontaine, one of the premier Elvis Presley impersonators, singing many of the songs that Elvis made famous, such as “Suspicious Minds,” “Kentucky Rain,” “I Can Dream,” and “I Can’t Help Falling in Love.”

“Elvis (Dan Fontaine) energized the crowd and brought us together in a fraternal spirit,” said IAA President Jim DiStefano. “Although Elvis and his music is quintessentially American, we have become one with America and America has become one with us.”

The event, which was held at



Florence Guidara, Donna Cottons, Marisa DiPietro, and Virginia Gardner

the Sons and Daughters of Italy Hall in Watertown, honored Lt. Alfred Pezella of Nonantum, Newton. Lt. Pezella was killed in action over Romania in WWII when his bomber was shot down over enemy territory. His remains will be reinterred in the U.S. National Cemetery, in Bourne, MA with full honors.

“Lt. Pezella represents the virtues of Italian culture and the love Italian Americans have for this country,” said Dr. Domenic Amara, Chairman of the IAA and President of the Pirandello Lyceum.



ELVIS Dan Fontaine, and Al Cecchinelli

He said, “lately, Italian Americans, — their culture, their icons, and their faith — have been assaulted. Italian Americans are again being made targets by those with a political agenda. This is why it’s important for Italian Americans to come together in any way they can, to reaffirm their relationship with each other and with this great country.”

Organizers of the gala included: Florence Guidara, Marisa DiPietro, Attorney Al Cecchinelli, Janine Camarda, Beth D’Amato, Virginia Gardner, George Gardner, Jim DiStefano, and Kathy DiStefano.

Among the many sponsors of the event were: Virginia Gardner, Tommy Damigella, Kevin McNamara, Pirandello Lyceum, Village Bank, Honda Village, Kevin Max, John Benedetto, LPL Financial, and Ken’s Steak House.

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## Singer Jimmy Geany

### Backstage with the Legendary Wayne Newton!



Noted Boston Singer Jimmy Bono Geany (L) “hanging out” with “Mr. Las Vegas” himself, Wayne Newton! Mr. Newton was in town performing at the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Feast of Saints Cosmas & Damian in East Cambridge. The two singers chatted a bit about today’s music industry & the City of Las Vegas itself and how it has changed so much over the years. Geany says of Newton: “Wayne still has the best show on the Las Vegas Strip! Even at 81 years young! Mr. Newton’s Vegas show entitled “Up Close & Personal” is nostalgic, witty & of course melodic with having sold over 30 million records! A must see when in Vegas!

Meanwhile, Boston’s own Jimmy Bono Geany is headed to New York’s Little Italy to perform at the 97<sup>th</sup> Grand Annual Feast of San Gennaro! The largest Italian Feast in the United States! Jimmy will be belting out all those beautiful Neapolitan classic tunes on stage in front of the famous Ferrara’s Café (Since 1892) located at the corner of Mulberry & Grand Streets. Jimmy will be performing on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. Shows start at 2pm & 6pm. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

Buona Festa!



# Fisherman’s Feast Society Members Visit Pennsylvania



(L-R): Jimmy Bono Geany (former Feast Chairman), Center Monsignor John Marine, Pastor of Saint Bede’s Parish in Holland, Pennsylvania & Raymond Bono Geany (Former President of the Madonna del Soccorso di Sciacca Society of Boston

Brothers Jimmy & Raymond Bono Geany recently visited Norristown, Pennsylvania for the Feast of Madonna del Soccorso di Sciacca. The Norristown feast was celebrated on Saturday August 12th & Sunday August 13th.

The Geany Brothers were able to spend some time with their longtime friends and paisani who share their same Sicilian ancestry from the town of Sciacca, most especially, Monsignor Marine who has also spent many visits to Sciacca (along with Ray and Jimmy) for the original Madonna’s Feast which dates back to the year 1503!

A delegation from the Madonna’s Norristown Society in return, came up to Boston to celebrate the recent Fisherman’s Feast in honor of the Madonna Del Soccorso di Sciacca. A wonderful bond of friendship has been formed between the Boston and Norristown (and Brooklyn, New York) Societies over the years!

Viva La Madonna! Viva Maria!

# With Love, to Father Claude

The book about  
Father Claude will  
hopefully be published  
by Christmas!



- 1: The book will include pictures and stories by his Scrima and Pasto family.
- 2: My incredible honor will be to transcribe Father Claude’s personal stories and remembrances.
- 3: North Enders’ (present and past) personal stories and remembrances.

*\*I need to collect YOUR stories, etc., to begin work!*

I will be available after Masses on Sundays starting September 17th. You can write your contributions at the table that will be set up!

Proceeds from Father Claude’s Book will go to Charity.

Thank you,  
Peggy Fucillo: [airola1893@aol.com](mailto:airola1893@aol.com)

# Mayor Wu Announces 2023 “Boston Blooms with Daffodils” Bulb Giveaway



Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will distribute over 15,000 daffodil bulbs for planting on public ways citywide through the “Boston Blooms with Daffodils” beautification initiative started in 2011.

Individuals, civic associations, church groups, sports leagues, scout troops, open space advocates, and parks friends are encouraged to sign up to participate. Last year, nearly a hundred community groups planted bulbs in neighborhoods across the City.



Brighton Common as planted by Brighton Main Streets

Those interested in participating may fill out a form online at [boston.gov/boston-blooms](https://boston.gov/boston-blooms). The online application form will remain open until late September on a rolling basis. Due to limited supply, groups are not guaranteed bulbs, but the Parks Department will strive to accommodate all requests. The application deadline is September 29 (or sooner if demand exceeds supply).

The plantings are anticipated to take place in approved locations on the weekends of October 21 and October 28. The Parks Department will contact interested groups and provide bulb pick-up instructions and dates. Groups and individuals are asked to use their own tools.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department encourages volunteers to take photos of their groups on planting days and share them via social media using the hashtag #BostonBlooms.



Brophy Park in East Boston as planted by the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association

For more information on “Boston Blooms with Daffodils,” call 617-961-3004 or email [parks@boston.gov](mailto:parks@boston.gov). To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, sign up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](https://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails), and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## • Fentanyl Trafficking (Continued from Page 1)

PPE, also collected additional suspected Fentanyl packaged in bags and multiple presses used to compact and shape the drug prior to packaging and distribution. CLET members decontaminated multiple items to minimize the threat of Fentanyl exposure to officers. Members of the Lawrence Inspectional Services and Health Departments responded to the scene to investigate code violations at the house and condemned the third-floor apartment.

As a result of the search warrants, investigators seized approximately 18.25 kilograms of Fentanyl, two semi-automatic pistols, approximately \$10,000 suspected to be drug trafficking proceeds, a Mercedes Benz vehicle, and a portable hydraulic compartment suspected of having been used to secrete drugs and money.

Over the several-month long course of the investigation, Troopers, Officers, and Agents seized an additional kilogram-plus of Fentanyl and another firearm.

The seized Fentanyl, once cut up and sold on the street, would have an estimated value of nearly \$1 million.

The following individuals have been arraigned for the following charges in Lawrence District Court:

**Rafael Saldana Dias, age 26, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A

substance, over 36 grams (4 counts)  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Conspiracy (1 count)  
Bail set for \$250,000  
**Yosmeiry Martinez Ramon, age 21, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Conspiracy (1 count)  
Bail set for \$2,500  
**Freddy Alexander Suazo Tejada, age 36, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Conspiracy (1 count)  
Bail set for \$100,000  
**Rafelin Lugo Tejada, age 32, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Conspiracy (1 count)  
Bail set for \$100,000  
**Yahannys Anziani, age 34, of Lawrence, MA**  
Unlawful Possession of Firearm (1 count)  
Unlawful Possession of Ammunition (1 count)  
Child Endangerment (1 count)  
Bail set for \$2,500  
**Augusto Moscat, age 39, of Lawrence, MA**  
Unlawful Possession of Firearm (1 count)  
Unlawful Possession of Ammunition (1 count)  
Child Endangerment (1 count)

Bail set for \$2,500  
**Henderson Martinez, age 34, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 36 grams (1 count)  
Bail set for \$100,000  
**Wilkin Antonio Perez, age 26, of Lawrence, MA**  
Trafficking a Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Bail set for \$10,000  
**Marcos Santos, age 37, of Lawrence, MA**  
Conspiracy (1 count)  
Released on personal recognizance.  
The following individual was arraigned on the following charges in Lynn District Court:  
**Miguel Medrano, age 55, of Lynn, MA**  
Trafficking of Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
Bail set for \$250,000  
The following individual will be arraigned in Lynn District Court at a later date:  
**Henderson Martin, age 34, of Lawrence MA**  
Trafficking of Class A substance, over 200 grams (1 count)  
All of these charges are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Division Chief Christina Ronan and Assistant Attorney General Gretchen Brodigan of the AG’s Enterprise & Major Crimes Division.



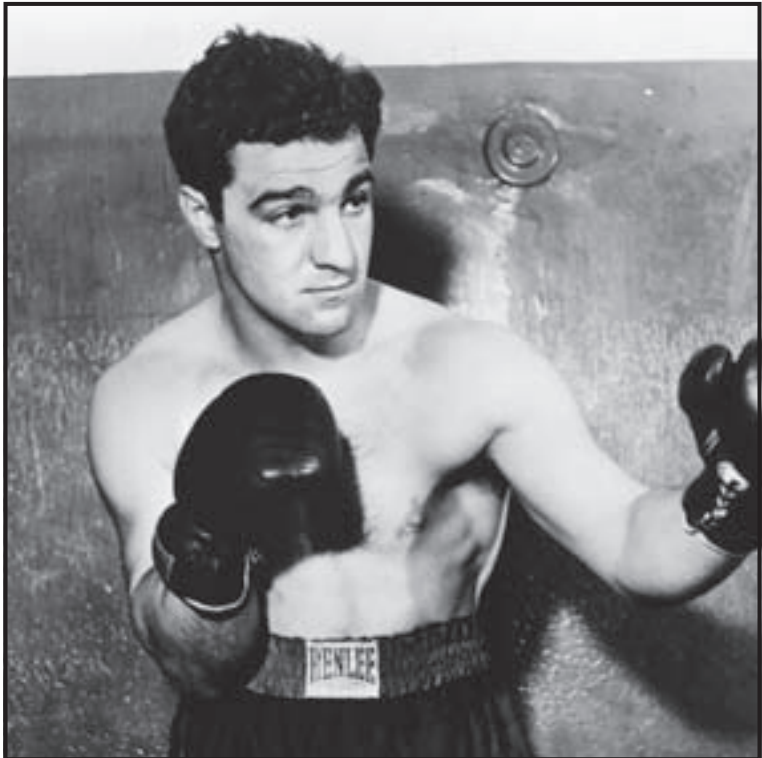
# Ieri e Oggi

## Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

### Rocky Marciano



Boxing champ Rocky Marciano — also known as the Brockton Blockbuster, was born in Brockton, Massachusetts (as Rocco Francis Marchegiano) on September 1, 1923.

First interested in a professional baseball career, Marciano began to box while in the U.S. Army during World War II. He had his first professional fight on March 17, 1947. Knockouts of Rex Layne, Joe Louis, Lee Savold, and Harry (Kid) Matthews earned him a chance to win the championship.

Marciano was world heavyweight boxing champion from September 23, 1952, when he knocked out champion Jersey Joe Walcott in 13 rounds in Philadelphia, to April 27, 1956, when he retired from the ring. Marciano was undefeated in 49 professional fights, scoring 43 knockouts. Among those, he defeated were two former heavyweight champions other than Walcott: Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles.

At age 32, Marciano retired after defending the championship six times. An unscientific but hard-punching and exceptionally durable fighter, he completely dominated the heavyweight division. On August 31, 1969, near Newton, Iowa, Marciano was killed in an airplane crash. He was 46 years old.

• **Stripe Nostra** (Continued from Page 2)

assistants would stand around and pass the various “tools of the trade.”

National attitudes toward hairdressing were much the same as today. There were those who preferred to mass their hair artistically like Nero, or those who never permitted more than a few brief moments to hair grooming like Augustus. Haircuts were performed with

iron scissors that never knew a common pivot and, of course, this made steps inevitable and a comb very desirable. Curling and dyeing the hair was also common practice during those times. Thank goodness that the men of today do not indulge themselves in such vanity.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
*The Close Shave in Old Rome*

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# Saint Philip Benizi de Damiani

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Philip Benizi was born on August 15, 1233 in the Florentine district of Oltrarno, of the noble family of Benizi. Little is known of his childhood. He was educated in Paris and Padua where he earned a doctorate in medicine and philosophy. He practiced medicine for some time, but in 1253, he joined the Servite Order in Florence. He served as a lay brother until 1259, when his superiors directed him to be ordained a priest.

Philip soon became known as one of the foremost preachers of his era, becoming master of novices at Siena in 1262 and then superior of several friaries and prior general of the Servites against his own wishes. in 1267.

Reforming the order with patience, he was named as a



possible candidate to become pope by the influential Cardinal Ottobuoni just before the election to choose a successor to Pope Clement IV. This possibility was so distressing to Philip

that he fled and hid in a cave until the election was finally over.

He attended the Council of Lyons which worked to bring peace between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines. The Guelphs supported the Papacy, the Ghibellines supported the imperial authority of Germany in Italy. In 1279, he assisted St. Juliana in founding the third order of the Servites, and in 1284, dispatched the first Servite missionaries to the Far East. He retired to a small Servite house in Todi, where he passed away on August 22nd, 1285. He was canonized in 1671. The Feast day of Saint Philip Benizi is August 23rd. He is buried in the church of San Filippo Benizi.

## Tomato Troubles

by Melinda Myers



**Blossom end rot on tomatoes is due to a calcium deficiency often caused by fluctuations in soil moisture.**  
*(Photo by [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com))*

off the plant. Water early in the day and if possible, apply the water directly to the soil with a soaker hose, drip irrigation, or a watering wand to reduce the risk of disease.

Properly space and stake or tower your tomato plants to promote healthier growth and reduce the risk of disease. Remove any volunteer tomatoes that sprout and crowd out the current season's planting.

Remove weeds as they appear. Many serve as hosts for insect pests and diseases and compete with tomato plants for water and nutrients. Removing them before they flower and set seed eliminates hundreds of weeds you would need to pull next year.

Always clean up and dispose of disease-infected plant material in the fall. Cultural practices and growing the most disease-resistant varieties available are often enough to keep these diseases under control.

If you choose to use a fungicide, select one labeled for food crops and apply it at the first sign of the disease. Repeat applications are usually needed. Be sure to read and follow all label directions carefully whether using organic, natural, or synthetic fungicides.

Enjoy this year's harvest and continue to make any needed changes now and in the future to boost your gardening success. And as a gardener you know there is always next year.

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

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**SMILING FRIENDS:  
SEASON 1 (Blu-ray)**  
**Warner Bros. Discovery  
Home Ent.**

Turn that frown upside down! Join creators Zach Hadel and Michael Cusack, go on a journey across a bizarre and colorful world with *Smiling Friends: Season 1*. You'll be grinning ear to ear while you binge on all eight episodes, alongside a bonus special and audio commentary. Who are the Smiling Friends? They're Pim, Charlie, Allan, and Glep, and their goal is to make you smile. Watch eight wonderful adventures into this fantastic, odd, beautiful, sometimes scary, but always amazing world. Plus, they go to Brazil in a special bonus episode. Get yours and start smiling today! The nine 11-minute episodes are: Desmond's Big Day Out, Mr. Frog, Shrimp's Odyssey, A Silly Halloween Special, Who Violently Murdered Simon S. Salty,? Enchanted Forest, Frowning Friends, Charlie Dies and Doesn't Come Back, and the previously mentioned special bonus episode, The Smiling Friends Go To Brazil!.

**THE MERGER (Blu-ray)**  
**IndiePix**

A retired footballer becomes the coach of his hometown's struggling Australian Rules Football team in *The Merger*, a hilarious, heartfelt comedy from Down Under, starring Damian Callinan, one of Australia's most popular comedians. The town of Bodgy Creek has seen better days. Jobs are scarce and their beloved footy club, The Roosters, looks like it will have to merge with another team or fold. Living a hermit-like existence on his farm, former AFL star player Troy Carrington (Callinan) hatches a plan to save The Roosters after striking up an unlikely friendship with Neil (Rafferty Grierson), a 10-year-old aspiring filmmaker who recently lost his father. Joining forces with Neil's mother, Angie (Kate Mulvany), who runs a nearby refugee support center, Troy rebuilds the rag-tag team and leads the community on a journey of change and redemption to create a hilarious and heart-felt comedy.

**THE CISCO KID:  
13-FILM WESTERN  
COLLECTION (5-DVD)**  
**VCI Ent.**

Of all the heroes of the Old West, few are as well loved or as easily recognized as the Cisco Kid, based on O'Henry's famous character. Together with his bumbling, but loveable amigo, Pancho, Cisco has entertained millions of children and adults for many years. This rough 'n' tumble 5-disc collection, including 13 movies, combine the talents of both Gilbert Roland and Duncan Renaldo starring in the role of Cisco Kid. The movies in this collection include: The Gay Amigo (1949), The Cisco Kid in Old Mexico (1945), The Cisco Kid Returns (1945), Satan's Cradle (1949), South of the Rio Grande (1945), King of the Bandits (1947), Robin Hood of Monterey (1947), Riding the California Trail (1947), South of Monterey (1949), Beauty and the Bandit (1946), The Girl from

San Lorenzo (1950), The Daring Caballero (1949), and The Gay Cavalier (1946).

**THE ONLY WAY (Blu-ray)**  
**VCI Ent.**

An elderly Dane becomes a hero helping Jewish neighbors escape from the Nazis in his land. In April 1940, the armies of Nazi Germany invaded Denmark. The Danish government promised peaceful cooperation on the condition that Denmark's Jews remain free. The Nazi's agreed in October, 1943, the agreement was broken ... This is the true and magnificent saga of Denmark's various actions to save Danish Jews from Nazi extermination at peril of death? For the Danes, the was *The Only Way*.

**JACK ARMSTRONG (Blu-ray)**  
**VCI Ent.**

This classic Columbia film serial based on the radio adventure series, *Jack Armstrong*, the All-American Boy. A brilliant scientist working on atom-powered motors is kidnapped and is taken to a mysterious island where the master's villain, in usual cliffhanger for, hopes to conquer the world and gives our hero a hell of a time! *Jack Armstrong*, of course, thwarts these evil plans in the nick of time. Good, clean fun, filled with exciting chases, fights and thrills through 15 chapters. For those old enough to remember, you can almost hear the announcer on the old radio show saying in a hushed voice ... "Well boys and girls, You'll remember that yesterday when we left Jack, Uncle Jim, Billy and Betty, they were just ready to...!"

**TAXI HUNTER (Blu-ray)**  
**88 Films**

After his pregnant wife perishes through the actions of a careless (and callous) cab driver, mild-mannered Ah Kin (Anthony 'King of the Cat III's' Wong) declares war on the entire profession — and you don't need 'The Knowledge' to know he won't be leaving a tip. Considered to be one of the most infamous movies rated Hong Kong's Category III, *Taxi Driver* bravely tackles the under-explored scourge of bad taxi drivers.

**CADEJO BLANCO (DVD)**  
**Film Movement**

After a late night out in Guatemala City, Sarita (Karen Martinez) begins to panic the next morning when she realizes that her sister Bea (Pamela Martinez) never made it home. Convinced that Bea's disappearance must have something to do with her dangerous ex Andrés (Rudy Rodriguez). Realizing she must take matters into her own hands, Sarita devises a plan to befriend Andrés and infiltrate his gang mired in the crime-laden underbelly of Guatemala. With an unwavering determination to uncover the truth, Sarita becomes increasingly involved with Andrés his ruthless, violent world. Narrowly avoiding death at every turn, and with an unwavering determination in the face of the men who underestimate her, she searches for answers about what happened to her sister, and realizes that the truth is a lot more complicated than she could image.

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

**HAYNES STREET ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY**

On August 19th, over on Haynes Street in East Boston, it was time for the annual Block Party. As usual, there was a big crowd with food, laughter and plenty of music, too! They even had someone drawing caricatures. That line was longer than the food line.



The crowd on Haynes Street was amazingly large as you can see



Caricatures were the rage of the day. I ended up with a caricature drawing of myself by artist Jerry Shippee 401-451-2984. Check it out, see what you think.



On stage singing were two friends of mine, Rose Arruda and Brian Gannon. The music sounded like soft pop and sounded quite soothing to the assembled crowd

**WOKEISM ISN'T LIBERALISM**

"The woke believe race is first and foremost; the thing you should always see everywhere, which I find interesting because that used to be the position of the KKK," Bill Maher pointed out on a recent *Joe Rogan Experience* show.

"That the goal is to not see race at all, anywhere for any reason," Maher continued. "That's what liberals always believed all the way through Obama, going back [to] Kennedy, everybody, Martin Luther King. That's not what the woke believe."

**TRUMP FEDERAL ELECTION TRIAL SET FOR MARCH 4TH**

A federal judge overseeing the federal criminal case against former President Donald Trump's so-called efforts to challenge the 2020 election results has set the trial date for March 4, 2024, which ironically was the date of Inaugural Day before it was moved to January 20th. By the way, for anybody interested, the Republican Super Tuesday Primaries are set for March 5th.

**KIDS LEFT IN BOILING CAR**

When I read a recent new story concerning a mother in New York City who was charged with leaving her two kids in a car unattended outside a mall as temperatures soared to 95

degrees, I wondered what would possess a mom to leave her 1-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter inside the unlocked vehicle with the engine running? The mother was a 25-year-old nurse and she left them in the car for about 45 minutes. What is the punishment for being so reckless? And remember this mother is a nurse. Good luck to these two little kids growing up with her!

**HEY YOU, WAKE UP**

A MBTA spokesperson recently stated that it is "absolutely forbidden for any MBTA employee to be sleeping or giving the appearance of sleeping while on duty." I know what sleeping means, but what is the definition of giving the appearance of sleeping?

**A GOOD FRIEND, PASSES**

A longtime friend of mine, Tommy Roche from Quincy recently passed away on August 23rd. We often seem to arrive for breakfast at O'B's Diner in

North Quincy. Everyone there was devastated by the news. He always seemed so full of life. Lived his life fully. He always seems to wear a smile on his face and is so upbeat. He will be missed by all whose path he crossed.

**BUFFETT FANS  
TOAST MEMORY**

It was 5 o'clock somewhere as Jimmy Buffet fans recently celebrated at the Times Square's Margaritaville outpost around noon on Sunday, September 3rd for lunch to honor the late beach bum singer.

His fans think he's finally found his shaker of salt he had been so desperately searching for. Up in that heavenly paradise drinking endless margaritas in a very responsible way. After all, he's in heaven, right?

**END QUOTE**

"Here's how I'm going to beat you. I'm going to outwork you. that's it. That's all there is to it."

— Coach Pat Summitt

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# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



I grew up in a family with a depression mentality. I believe the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929, and until World War II began, the generations in my family were deathly afraid of losing everything. I don't think they were alone, as millions of people in the U.S. felt the same way. Looking back in retrospect, my family was fortunate. Babbononno and Grandpa Christoforo owned their own houses in East Boston. Babbononno had a day job and played music at night. Babbononno's oldest sons were musicians and always worked. My father became a musician and always worked. In spite of their circumstances, they all feared the unknown aspects of the depression.

One summer day when I was in my teens, Dad and I were sitting in Adirondack chairs sunning ourselves at the water's edge behind our summer cottage in Winthrop, Maine.

The conversation gravitated to the 1930s when times were tough for so many millions of Americans. He said that my mother's family was better off than many, but confided that it wasn't as easy for his folks. Grandpa Christoforo was a day laborer and sometimes couldn't find work. The culmination of his problems meant that the family was often two steps ahead of the bill collectors. Dad didn't make excuses or apologies but concluded with, "That's just the way it was."

The cottage was one of the major investments Dad and Mom would make. The other came a few years later with the purchase of their only home when the decision was made to move out of East Boston. Dad admitted that growing up during tough times makes a person conservative where money is concerned.

Fortunately, I came along just at the tail end of the depression and never experienced the tough times of the '30s. My good memory allows me to remember the shortages and restrictions that accompanied home life during WWII, but I also understood that it was all for a good cause. Dad's early years taught him to be conservative and never indulge in an extravagance. Even later in life, when he could indulge himself or the family, he was reluctant to spend money carelessly. Throughout his adult life, Dad owned cars.

They were Plymouths, Fords, or Chevys, three brands that were called the "low priced three." The first one I remember was a '37 Plymouth which he bought used and kept until 1949. It was in such bad shape by '49 that the young man that bought it was purchasing it to enter in a demolition derby and destroy it. Dad bought a new '49 Chevy to replace it. It was the first time in his life that he bought a new car. A '54 Chevy came next and the trend with the low priced three wasn't broken until 1958 when he and Uncle Nick bought twin Pontiacs. The one exception to this conservative thinking came in the mid-1960s when I convinced Dad to buy a Cadillac. When it was stolen two years later, he told Mom that it was God telling him he had been too extravagant.

I on the other hand, decided to take chances in search of a better life. I did receive a work ethic from both sides of the family and went to work washing and waxing cars at age 10. At age 13, accepting a job as an usher at the Seville Theater in East Boston. I lied about my age and told the manager I was 16. At age 18, I became a professional musician but still kept the job at the Seville. I juggled these two jobs with going to school and indulging in my passion, baseball. When little investment possibilities came my way, I tried my hand at being an entrepreneur. Sometimes I made money and sometimes, I fell flat on my face. Each time I got involved in a business transaction, Babbononno and Dad would warn me about the things that could go wrong. With their depression mentalities, they would never venture into what they always considered a gamble. Unfortunately, when I made money, I didn't know what to do with it. I didn't know about investments, the stock market, real estate, so seeing I came from "inner city," the only way I could show my worth was being well dressed with an expensive car parked in front of the house.

I was never the rebellious type but did rebel against the conservative thinking of the family by spending money on the luxuries of life including traveling and going first class when I headed to exotic locations. Dad just saved for a rainy day fearing the return of the depression that plagued the '30s. The '30s

never returned and when Dad passed away in 1991, there was a bank account left for Mom. By this point in time, I was married with two kids and talked Mom into enjoying what Dad had left behind. She insisted that the money was for me to inherit. I told her that I didn't need it and every time we were to travel or vacation, she was to come along and enjoy herself. She listened to me and her later years were filled with travel, good restaurants, an abundance of designer clothes, and a lot of happiness.

Mom passed away in 2007. By then, the cottage in Maine was long gone, but I inherited the house in Belmont. I rented it from then on. I hated being a landlord but couldn't part with the property out of sentimentality. It was the first family home after East Boston and I subconsciously felt that I owed it to Mom and Dad to keep it. When the last of my tenants moved out, I decided to put the house on the market. It lasted one day and was sold. Loretta and I talked it over and decided to buy a retreat in Florida. We both love the warm weather and I thought it was time to maybe step back and smell the roses.

We purchases a house in an over 55 community that I was familiar with in the city of Delray Beach. Both of us like the location due to the fact that, in retirement, Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothy lived in Delray Beach. Maybe we will become snowbirds and head to the new place between New Year's and Easter. I'm not sure if I could ever live there permanently. The kids are in the north, John in Boston and Mike in New York, and my best friends and my involvements in all things Italian are here locally.

If Babbononno was alive, he would inspect the new place and say in fractured English, "You craza, havin' two houza, bigga waste a you money, stupido." Dad might think the same thing if he were alive, but not express it to me, but again, depression mentalities ran in my family.

Anyway, I look forward to spending winters in a warm climate. I hang around in a pair of shorts, a T-shirt that says something and a pair of dock siders on my feet. If I wear sox at any time, it means I'm formally dressed. But, that's Florida for you.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Perfection Towing, 483 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **September 30, 2023** beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

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**2021 TOYOTA COROLLA**  
VIN # JTDEPMAE6MJ143134

*Vehicles are being stored at Perfection Towing and may be viewed by appointment only.*

Signed  
Kirk Hacsunda, Manager  
Run dates: 09/15, 09/22, 09/29/2023



by  
**Marianna Bisignano**



In Italy, eggplant, or "melanzane," holds a cherished place in the heart of Italian cuisine. Its versatility, rich flavor, and unique texture are celebrated in various regional dishes. From the luscious layers of *Parmigiana di Melanzane*, where thinly sliced eggplant is fried to golden perfection and layered with tomato sauce and cheese, to the silky smoothness of *Caponata*, a sweet and sour eggplant relish, or even the heartiness of *Pasta alla Norma*, eggplant takes center stage in almost all Italian kitchens!

In my family, it comes as no surprise that "*Parmigiana di Melanzane*" which hails from Sicily, was the most favored eggplant dish of all. My Nonna usually served this dish as a side with pasta and always made extra. She would put some aside and use them to make grilled Eggplant Parmesan Panini's or even Eggplant Parmesan Sandwiches for the next day's afternoon meal. For something just a bit different, Nonna would make what she referred to as "Eggplant Patties." She'd serve these with a marinara sauce for dipping, or bake them in the oven, as directed below, in a parmigiana style. I hope you enjoy them as much as we always did!

EGGPLANT PATTIES PARMESAN  
*Parmigiana di Melanzane*



2 medium large eggplants,  
peeled and cut into cubes  
1 cup olive oil (more if needed)  
2 cups seasoned breadcrumbs  
1 ½ cups freshly grated  
Parmigiano Reggiano or  
Parmesan cheese


¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped  
2 eggs  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
2 cups marinara sauce  
8 ounces of fresh mozzarella  
cheese

In a large sauté pan, add about ½ cup of the oil and the eggplant. Cook until softened and remove from heat. Let cool and then add to a large mixing bowl along with the eggplant, breadcrumbs, grated cheese, and parsley. Add the eggs and mix together well. The mixture should be the consistency of a meatball and easy to shape into a patty. If it doesn't hold together, add more breadcrumb, a small amount at a time, so they do not become too dry. Using a large cookie scoop, take equal amounts of the mixture and make into patties.

In a large sauté pan, over medium heat, add about ¼ to ½ cup olive oil. Add the patties and cook for about 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Remove and place on a paper towel lined plate.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Spread a thin layer of marinara sauce on the bottom of a 9 x 13 baking dish. Place the eggplant patties on top of the sauce and then top each with additional sauce and a piece of fresh mozzarella cheese. Bake uncovered for about 20 to 30 minutes and enjoy!

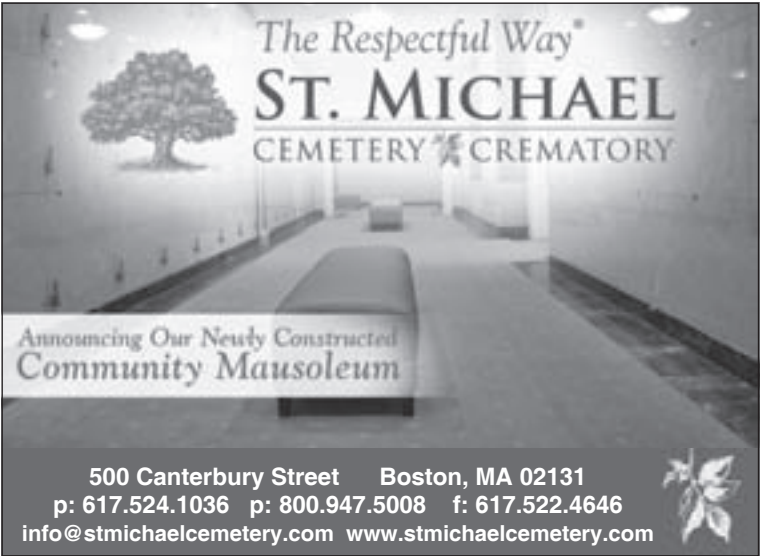
Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at [nonnasrecipebox@gmail.com](mailto:nonnasrecipebox@gmail.com)



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# 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](mailto:postgazette@aol.com) call (617) 227-8929, or mail notice to:

**POST-GAZETTE**  
P.O. BOX 130135, BOSTON, MA 02113  
Attn: Legal Notices



# North End Athletic Association (N.E.A.A.) Annual Golf Tournament



On a perfect summer day, over 150 golfers participated in the North End Athletic Association's Annual Golf Tournament to raise money to continue the many programs that are offered by the North End Athletic Association. The N.E.A.A. is a 63-year-old organization.

The Tournament was held at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover, MA on Monday, August 14th. After golf, the players enjoyed a great lunch in the dining room at the club. A good time was had by all the attendees.



• **L'Anno Bello** (Continued from Page 4)

from a whole bevy of ills, and I am pleased that this veritable little nut has such a positive association in folklore. Italians harvest chestnuts, or *castagne*, every fall, dropping them from the trees like a cascade of glossy marbles. The chestnuts may then be enjoyed roasted, as my father liked, their pulp soft and pillowy. They may also be ground into flour to make cakes or piecrusts. No matter how they are cooked, chestnuts remain one of Italy's best fall flavors.

The fruits and produce of autumn team with the very sensations of the season. They are reminders of communal gatherings that honor the bounty of the Earth, of the rhythmic dance of the harvest, of family recipes that have withstood the

flow of time and inspired each future generation. By exploring the folklore surrounding some of these fruits, we are recognizing the importance of agriculture and sustenance for our ancestors. By delighting in their tastes, we have become part of living history, participating in the joys of each passing season. So go ahead and enjoy your apples, pumpkins, pears and chestnuts, and remember that these delicious treats belong to the tapestry of human culture and storytelling and holidays. Share them with others, especially those who have trouble putting food on the table. Let us carry the pleasures of autumn and the harvest wherever we go, and delight in the blessings of the season that surrounds us.

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

## 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. MI23P4354EA  
Estate of  
ASHWIN S. THAKKER  
Date of Death: November 24, 2022  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Vana A. Thakker of Wilmington, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Vana A. Thakker of Wilmington, 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: 09/15/2023

## 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. SU23P1638GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment of  
Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
SCARLETT ROSE AMADIZ  
of Boston, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES  
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 08/01/2023 by **Aura Mejia** of Boston, MA will be held 12/01/2023 9:00 AM Review Hearing  
Located **Suffolk Probate & Family Court, 24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114**  
2. **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.  
3. **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.  
4. **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. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.  
5. **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.  
Date: September 01, 2023  
Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate  
Run date: 09/15/2023

## 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. MI23P3918EA  
Estate of  
PATRICK J. CUMMISKEY  
Date of Death: March 02, 2023  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christiann Cummiskey of Billerica, MA**, **Christiann Cummiskey of Billerica, 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: 09/15/2023

## 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. MI22P1247EA  
Estate of  
KATHRYN ELIZABETH LYNDE  
Date of Death: February 09, 2022  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR ORDER OF  
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT  
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **David Lynde of Belmont, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.  
**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 October 10, 2023.  
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.  
Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 12, 2023  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 09/15/2023



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **O'Shea's Towing Service, 7 Riverview Road, Brighton, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of MA G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle on or after **September 30, 2023 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicle is being stored at O'Shea's Towing Service.

**2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE**  
VIN # 1GNKVFD8CJ214524

Signed  
Brendan O'Shea, Owner  
Run dates: 09/15, 09/22, 09/29/2023

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. MI23P4255EA**

**Estate of  
KATHARINE C. WEEKS**  
**Date of Death: June 01, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **John W. Weeks, Jr. of Marblehead, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**John W. Weeks, Jr. of Marblehead, 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: 09/15/2023

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. MI23P4730EA**

**Estate of  
JOSEPH DANTE CERUTI**  
Also Known As  
**JOSEPH D. CERUTI**  
**Date of Death: April 27, 2023**

**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 **Richard D. Ceruti of Northbridge, 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 **Richard D. Ceruti of Northbridge, 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 October 10, 2023.

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. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.**

Date: September 11, 2023

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 09/15/2023

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. MI23D1744DR**

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY  
PUBLICATION AND MAILING  
NAMAKULA J. KIKOYO  
vs.  
VINCENT S. KIKOYO**

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Namakula J. Kikoyo, 15 Dalton Street, Lowell, MA 01850** your answer, if any, on or before **October 09, 2023**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.**

Date: August 28, 2023

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 09/15/2023

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. MI23P4138EA**

**Estate of  
ROBERT W. JONES**  
**Date of Death: May 13, 2023**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Linda M. Jones of Newton, MA**.

**Linda M. Jones of Newton, 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: 09/15/2023

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. MI23P4683EA**

**Estate of  
WILLIAM GUERRY EATON**  
Also Known As  
**WILLIAM G. EATON**

**Date of Death: January 02, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **William C. Eaton of Westford, MA**, Petitioner **Susan E. Eaton of Newton, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**William C. Eaton of Westford, MA, Susan E. Eaton of Newton, MA** have been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives 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: 09/15/2023



# EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



## Best Catch Ever By Willie Mays

Baseball history has seen many great catches and the most legendary of all happened on September 29, 1954 — Game 1 of the World Series — when Cleveland slugger Vic Wertz came to the plate with the score tied in the 8 inning at the Polo Grounds. Runners were at first and second, Wertz worked the count to 2-1 against the Giants' southpaw reliever Don Liddle, then blasted a deep shot to center field. A very young 23-years-old named Willie Mays starts sprinting backwards while glancing over his shoulder. The ball had travelled over 420-feet before making that over-the-shoulder catch, spun around and threw it into the infield. No runners advanced. The Giants won the game in extra innings. Then swept the 111-win Indians.

It was the NY Giants first World Series title in 21 years, and Mays was awarded the World Series MVP.

### Did You Know???

There are 280 players who have hit at least 500 career homers and the only ones not in the Hall of Fame are those players tied to PEDs. You know who they all are. Right now, they have a better chance of getting into IHOP over the HOF. Soon Miguel Cabrera and Albert Pujols will be on the HOF ballot and when they do, both should have little trouble opening the door at Cooperstown shrine.

### The Red Sox are Once Again in the Hunt for Red October

Manager Alex Cora still feels hopeful that his Sox can still make a run at a playoff spot in the postseason. His is a voice crying in the wilderness. All of a sudden the Red Sox are giving the Yankees hope to escape the

AL East cellar. As I write this, there's only a two game difference separating the two worst division teams.

Over this past weekend's games, the Sox looked pathetic. First, they lost to the Orioles, 11-2 getting a mere 4 hits. Starter Tanner Houck pitched 5.1 innings giving up 5 earned runs. He now sports a 5.38 ERA.

Then, the next day, Chris Sale starts on the mound after a previous good pitched game. In this game, the Sox scored 12 runs and 23 hits. No one thought we could lose this one but, alas, we did. Sox fans are still waiting to see the REAL Chris Sale show up on the mound.

Just like Willie Mays had to keep his eyes looking back over his shoulder to see the ball coming up behind him, the Sox are doing the exact same thing as they keep getting closer to the Yankees in the standings.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **September 16, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

**1999 FORD MUSTANG**  
VIN #1FAFP4041XF230899  
**2009 HYUNDAI ACCENT**  
VIN #KMHCHN46C49U286783  
**2009 NISSAN ALTIMA**  
VIN #1N4AL21E19C168992  
**2006 HONDA CIVIC**  
VIN #2HGFG11806H549624  
**2010 TOYOTA RAV4**  
VIN #2T3DF4DV7AW081055  
**2012 NISSAN ROGUE**  
VIN #JN8AS5MV4CW385182

Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed  
Todisco Services, Inc.

Run dates: 09/01, 09/08, 9/15, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE

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

**Middlesex, SS. Division**

**Docket No. MI21P1601PM**

**SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
CONSERVATORSHIP - MAINTENANCE  
SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the estate of a protected person, **Margaret Kennedy of Medford** in the County of **Middlesex**, a petition has been presented by the conservator, **Carolyn Ankenbauer** in the above captioned matter praying for license to sell at - private sale - certain real estate situated in **Medford, MA** for her maintenance.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Woburn before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **29th day of September 2023**. The return date of this citation.

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of said Court,  
this 1st day of September, 2023**

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run Date: 09/15/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Waltham Auto Tow, Inc., of 279 Crescent St., Waltham, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **September 30, 2023 beginning at 10:00 am** by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Waltham Auto Tow.

**2004 DODGE RAM 2500**  
VIN # 3D7KU28D54G124465  
**2015 HONDA CR-V**  
VIN # 5J6RM4H34FL062522  
**2014 SCION tC**  
VIN # JTKJF5C73E3077906  
**2010 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
VIN # 4T1BK3EK9AU601122  
**2011 CHEVROLET SILVERADO**  
VIN # 3GCPKSE33BG100745  
**2012 NISSAN QUEST**  
VIN # JN8AE2KP6C9051101

Signed  
Gregory Leblanc  
Owner, Waltham Auto Tow  
Run dates: 09/15, 09/22, 09/29/2023



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*Pamela Donnaruma*  
Pamela Donnaruma, Publisher





Dempsey vs. Firpo

A Fight that has Gained Mythic Proportions  
Was it Really that Great?



Dempsey stands over Firpo

Jack Dempsey won the Heavyweight Championship of the World in 1919 from Jess Willard in a fight that is remembered for the brutality of Jack's attack on the much bigger champion. The images from the first round are what are etched in most people's minds when they think of the fight. Jess was dropped seven times in the opening stanza and was saved by the bell.

What is often overlooked is the fact that the champion wasn't floored again during the two more rounds the fight lasted. In fact, while still taking some awful blows Jess fought back gamely. His seconds called the fight off before the bell rang for the third round. At that point, Willard's face was pretty busted up, but he was still very conscious and walked across the ring unaided to offer his congratulations to the new champion.

Dempsey took on an aura of invincibility as the public got to see film of the fight and read the newspaper accounts. Unfortunately, the new champion was also dogged by allegations that he had dodged the draft to avoid fighting in WWI. This created an environment where people were drawn to seeing Dempsey for the excitement he generated in the ring while at the same time a great many wanted to see him defeated.

Jack would wait a year before defending the title. His first opponent was Billy Miske who had given him two tough fights before Dempsey was champion. Jack kayoed Billy this time. (It has been documented that Miske was suffering from Bright's disease and was just a shadow of the fighter who fought Dempsey years earlier.)

Next up was another former opponent, Bill Brennan. Dempsey had knocked out Brennan in 1918 and stopped him again, this time in the 12th round at Madison Square Garden. The fight drew 13,000 fans and promoter Tex Rickard lost money on the promotion. The Miske fight had down just over 11,000 people. Dempsey wasn't exactly setting the world on fire.

Promoter Rickard came up with a way to successfully market a Dempsey title fight. Since Jack was seen by many as the bad guy because of the scandal around his draft avoidance, Tex decided to match him with the French war hero Georges Carpentier. Though it turned out Georges was no match for the vicious punching champion, the fight drew over 90,000 fans and a gate of \$1,789,000. It was a huge success and suddenly

Dempsey was a major attraction.

Jack would not fight again for two years. Unfortunately, instead of following up with another fight in a major city, Dempsey's manager made a deal for a fight against Tommy Gibbons to take place in Shelby, Montana. The town would finance the fight, which turned out to be a huge flop. Dempsey received his purse of \$300,000 but Gibbons, who dropped a fifteen round decision, went unpaid and the town went broke.

Dempsey now returned to New York and signed to fight Luis Angel Firpo who was known as the Wild Bull of the Pampas. Firpo, from Argentina had earned a shot by kayoing Jess Willard who had been on the comeback trail hoping for a rematch with Dempsey. Firpo ended that quest when he dropped Jess for the count in the eighth round.

The Dempsey vs. Firpo fight was scheduled to take place at the Polo Grounds in New York on September 14, 1923. It is a fight that has gone down in boxing history as one of the most exciting heavyweight title bouts ever to take place. But how great a fight was it?

Firpo weighed in at 216 pounds to Dempsey's 192. The Argentine at 6' 2½" was also taller than the champion. While not nearly as big as Jess Willard, Luis would be the biggest man Jack had faced since the day he won the title.

The fight drew a crowd of 80,000 and a gate of \$1.25 million. Fans expected fireworks and that is what they got from the opening bell as Dempsey came out looking to end things early. The overeager champion stormed across the ring and was all over the challenger. In his zeal to score a quick knockout, the champ was caught with a right hand that briefly dropped him to one knee. That did not slow him down and he came right back and floored Firpo. Luis arose and went right back at Dempsey only to be decked again. Firpo went down a third time and then a fourth time where he just beat the count. Jack dropped him again and amazingly, Firpo got up again. The challenger was shaky but still managed to hit the champion hard enough that Jack's glove touched the canvas for what could be counted as a knockdown.

While Firpo was wild and solely focused on trying to land his right hand, Dempsey was being methodical and landing very short but hard body punches which were already taking a toll on the challenger. Firpo was down two more times for a total of seven trips to the canvas and the first round still wasn't over.

It was then that something happened that would turn this one sided bout into an event that would go down in the history books. Firpo, completely desperate was almost exclusively throwing right hands in the hope of getting one in and pulling out



Firpo knocks Dempsey out of the ring

the win. He was lunging and as Dempsey was backed up against the ropes Firpo landed a right hand on Jack's cheek. The punch was hard but also more of a push. As it connected, Firpo followed through with his body weight and Dempsey went flying out of the ring. He landed on a sportswriter's typewriter.

The crowd was stunned. Jack made it back into the ring though there was some question of whether or not he did so under his own power or was helped by those at ringside. If he was aided, he could have been disqualified. The fight continued and the two men traded punches as the round came to an end.

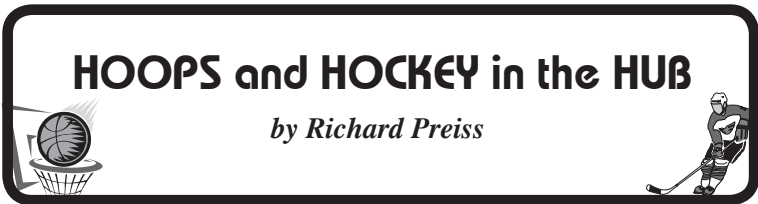
In the second round, it was all Dempsey. The champion battered Firpo, dropping him twice, the second time for the full count. The fight was officially over at just 57 seconds of the second round. The entire bout had not even gone four minutes but the crowd was not disappointed.

Was it a great fight? Yes and no. It was actually quite the one sided affair with Dempsey dominating for all but a short time. Firpo was wild and unorthodox and not nearly as skilled as the champion. However, in boxing anything can happen and did. While the punch that landed on Jack was not a particularly hard one or even that accurate, the force of Firm's weight behind it and Jack's proximity to the ropes caused it to send him flying out of the ring. That was the dramatic moment that would never be forgotten.

It was clear Dempsey wasn't hurt by the blow, and he quickly regained control of the fight, but seeing the champion go sailing through the air seemed surreal to people.

I would not call it a great fight. I *would* call it a great event. It was surely unforgettable and very dramatic. It's has been talked about for decades. It even became the subject of a famous painting by the artist George Bellows. Luis Firpo became a national hero in his native Argentina, and his name has forever been linked with Dempsey's.

Would this have happened if Dempsey had not been knocked through the ropes? No. If the fight had gone on as it was going without that happening it would have gone down as a one sided victory for Jack. But that one moment when it appeared the underdog had pulled it out, and in very dramatic fashion, made it into a classic. And, I would add, deservedly so.



**HOUDA STAYS WITH ISLANDERS** — Former Bruins assistant coach Doug Houda, who was on the staff when the B's won a Cup and came close to another, is coming back to the New York Islanders for a second season.

The Alberta native, who had a 17-year journeyman's career playing in both the NHL and in the minors, was behind the bench when the Bruins captured the Stanley Cup in 2011 in Vancouver and was also on the staff when they lost to Chicago in the Garden back in 2013.

In all, Houda was an assistant with the B's for 10 seasons, during which time the B's went 428-264-98 in regular season games (a seventh best standing in the NHL during that decade) and also piled up 57 playoff victories — fourth highest during that same span.

Houda had a lengthy playing career, seeing action with six NHL clubs — Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, Buffalo, the New York Islanders and Anaheim. Those travels included playing in 561 NHL games between 1986 and 2003 while amassing 19 goals and 63 assists for a total of 82 points while patrolling the back end.

During his time in the minors he found the range for 238 points by way of 55 goals and 183 assists. He also won another cup — the Calder Cup—with the Rochester Americans of the AHL to cap the 1995-1996 season.

After leaving the Bruins at the end of the 2015-2016 campaign, Houda was an assistant with Detroit for six seasons before joining the Islanders for the start of the 2022-2023 season.

Last year his main duty was to oversee the penalty killing unit of the Islanders. That squad finished the regular season with an 82.2 kill percentage, good enough for ninth in the NHL.

The Bruins will play the Islanders at home in the Garden only once this season — on November 9. The two teams will also face each other in New York on December 15 and March 2.

**PURSuing A PATH TO PARADISE** — Now that the NFL season has kicked off, one might think that it will culminate on February 11, 2024 with the playing of the Super Bowl in Las Vegas.

After all, that is what all the marketing proudly proclaims backed up by the official logo for the event.

Except that it is not entirely accurate.

You see, Allegiant Stadium, where the game will be played, is not actually in Las Vegas. It is located in nearby Paradise, Nevada. The town was created in the early 1950's and had just over 191,000 residents in 2020, according to the U.S. census.

So, when the final two teams in the NFL playoffs advance to the Super Bowl they will be going to Paradise. You just can't make this stuff up, can you?

**THE NUMBERS GAME** — As the start of the NHL season draws ever closer, there are a number of players and coaches linked to the region who are within a reasonable reach of surpassing milestone marks in their respective careers. All of the following are according to official NHL statistics.

The one that informally leads this list is former Bruins player Phil Kessel. As of September 12, he was still an unrestricted free agent, meaning he can sign with any team. The current owner of the NHL's regular season ironman streak, Kessel apparently wants to play so much this season that he has told teams that he is willing to sit out some games here and there as a healthy scratch, thus breaking the streak that stands at 1,064 consecutive games.

He indicated that he wanted to make his intentions known in case some clubs might be apprehensive about signing him and then having to take the blame from fans and media if he sat out as a healthy scratch.

However, that has already occurred. It came in Game 5 of the first round of the playoffs last spring against Winnipeg when Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy held him out. That was the first game (regular season or playoffs) Kessel had missed since October 31, 2009. He was also held out of additional playoff games. However, his NHL iron man streak in unaffected since it applies only to regular season games.

If no team signs him, he will go out as a champion, having won the Stanley Cup with the Vegas Golden Knights last spring. He has two others — both with Pittsburgh. The trio came under former Bruins coaches — Cassidy in Vegas and Mike Sullivan in Pittsburgh.

If he is signed, every game he plays will increase the consecutive game streak until he sits. In addition, he needs to play in just 14 contests to reach the 1,300 games plateau, needs just eight points to reach the 1,000 mark and 21 assists to reach 600 helpers.

Current veteran Bruins player Brad Marchand needs to play in 53 games this season to reach the 1,000 mark and can reach the 400 career goals scored plateau if he finds the range for 28 tallies during the B's centennial season. But first up will be helping on 10 scores to reach 500 assists.

Milan Lucic, who returned to the B's this summer after a number of years away, will hit the 1,200 career games played mark this season when he takes the ice in his 28th game for the Black and Gold.

In addition, there are a couple of coaches with local ties who are in line for milestones. Peter Laviolette, who was in the B's coaching family for a number of years, will reach the 800 wins mark if he gets 48 victories during the upcoming season as the head coach of the New York Rangers. Laviolette, a native of Franklin who went to Westfield State, will also mark his 1,500th game as an NHL head coach when he climbs behind the bench to direct his 70th contest of the 2023-2024 campaign.

Likewise, John Tortorella, who went to Concord Carlisle High School and then moved on to play at the University of Maine, is also in line to coach his 1,500th game. Currently the head coach of Philadelphia, he will reach that mark when he coaches his 35th game during the upcoming season.