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U.S. Postal News



You may have noticed that a First Class stamp is putting you back 49 cents since last Sunday (January 22nd). Most other postal products have also gone up in price. Price increases are never really a big surprise, but the reason for this one is somewhat historical. There was something called an “exigent surcharge” implemented a few years back to help the postal service recoup losses from the so-called “Great Recession” of the late 2000s, brought on by the financial crisis of 2007-8 and the subprime mortgage crisis of 2007-9. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) determined in 2013 that the postal service lost approximately \$3.2 billion in revenue due to this recession and granted an emergency rate increase (“exigent surcharge”) not based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 4.3%, to remain in effect until the losses were recovered. The mailing industry, of course, opposed this increase, while the postal industry lobbied to make it permanent—but to no avail. But although the Surcharge has expired, the PRC did approve this latest price increase back in November. Special Services prices are not affected by this latest increase.

Good news for many Massachusetts natives, though. The JFK Forever Stamp (pictured above) is being introduced on February 20th!

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

OMG, the Never Trump Crowd Can't Accept Defeat

On Friday the 13th, I heard that U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-GA, stated out loud for all to hear that Donald Trump will be an “illegitimate president” starting on January 20th when he is sworn into office. Over on “MsLEFTbc,” I listened to U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA, on the *Chris Hayes Show* call Lewis a civil rights icon. I have another name for him not so positive. As for her, she's on the same team as him and others like U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-MD. I think they are nothing more than Larry, Moe and Curly Democrats.

The Never-Trump-ers just can't wave the white flag. They lost. The Russians didn't elect Trump, the American people did. Yes, the Russians may have hacked into the DNC and Podesta emails, which only brought to light what the Democrats as a whole think of us peons.

The election wasn't hacked. The Russians look like the guilty party, but it is still only speculation and not hard fact. Now the liberals are trying to accuse Trump of colluding with the Russians before Election Day. They keep throwing mud out there based on biased opinions from those that abhor Trump.

Trump is not the Manchurian Candidate placed into office by Putin to take over America. He is not anyone's political puppet. This whole conspiracy thing is worse than all that garbage the Birthers were throwing out there in 2008 about President Obama.

Get over it. Move on. When folks like Lewis call Trump illegitimate and folks like Waters back him up, what they are doing is calling into question our whole electoral system and our democratic republic. Get over it.

What Makes You Born Again?

As a Catholic, I am aware that many of those Born Again TV preachers think Catholics are fake Christians because we don't use the *Bible* enough. That's their opinion. Usually, if you watch them enough, you can see their anti-Catholic bias reach the surface.

I believe being Born Again is a good thing. But like the Rapture, it isn't really that accurate. As a Catholic and a Christian, I believe each one of us is Born Again every day we wake up again. Each day is a new day and we are reborn to make today a better day than yesterday was. We can't worry about yesterday or tomorrow, we have no control over them. We only have today to be a better person. I don't memorize the *Bible* chapter and verse,

(Continued on Page 8)

MAYOR WALSH FILES 2017-2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mayor Martin J. Walsh unveiled his priorities for the 2017-2018 Massachusetts State Legislative Session. Comprised of 64 bills, the legislative agenda highlights the Mayor's commitment to ensuring the City of Boston is healthy, thriving and innovative, and provides pathways to educational achievement and economic mobility for all.

“Boston is fortunate to have strong partners in state government who want to ensure our capital City's continued growth and success. I am proud to put forth a legislative agenda that builds upon the work we are doing every day at the City level to provide improved educational opportunities, safer communities, access to affordable housing and economic mobility for all of Boston's residents,” said Mayor Walsh. “I look forward to working with the Massachusetts Legislature over the next two years to bring these proposals to fruition. In particular, I would like to thank Boston's State Delegation for their continued partnership during the legislative process to improve all aspects of life in our City.”

Investing in Public Education, Eliminating the Opportunity Gap

“I believe deeply in public education and I will continue to fight for more resources for our students and our schools,” said Mayor Walsh. “We are working every day to close opportunity and achievement gaps, meet the individual needs of every student and make our district schools top choices for every family in every neighborhood. I am committed to working with our partners on Beacon Hill to fix education funding formulas, and get every student on a pathway to success from pre-kindergarten through college and career. I want to thank our legislative partners for their willingness to sponsor and support these reforms.”

The bills in the Mayor's legislative agenda on education will:

- Make the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) responsible for charter school facilities charges and make charter schools eligible for MSBA funding for school construction and renovation.
- Reform charter school financing by reducing the state's overall liability while returning to a true partnership between the Commonwealth and its cities and towns.
- Adjust the charter school per-pupil tuition calculation to recognize the full transition costs for students leaving BPS to attend charter schools, rather than just the amount funded through the transition funding formula.
- Increase Circuit Breaker reimbursement for the highest need and highest cost students.
- Find efficiencies in school transportation by allowing district and charter schools to split transportation costs equally if transportation schedule agreements cannot be reached, and by prohibiting charters from passing costs of third party transportation to districts.
- Fix the Chapter 70 Education Aid Formula for communities that spend beyond state guidelines and serve high cost populations, but do not receive significant education aid increases.
- Close the “quality gap” in pre-kindergarten seats in Boston by Fiscal Year 2025 by creating hundreds more quality pre-kindergarten seats, which would be funded by redirecting surplus

revenue raised in Boston from the Convention Center Fund to the City of Boston.

Bringing Opportunity to the Entire City

“Our residents are the backbone of this great city, so it's critical that we do what we can to make it easier for them to stay and succeed in Boston,” said Mayor Walsh. “Whether through tax credits, financial empowerment initiatives, or job opportunities, the City will continue to provide support to help residents thrive.”

The bills in the Mayor's legislative agenda designed to provide economic mobility will:

- Ensure that Children's Savings Accounts (CSA) reach their maximum benefits by not counting against asset limits for the state's various cash assistance programs.
- Hold general contractors accountable for any wage theft carried out by subcontractors on their projects.
- Increase the amount of the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 50% of the federal tax credit in order to help low-income residents of Massachusetts maintain their standard of living in our high-cost state.
- Provide local licensing boards with another disciplinary tool by allowing monetary fines to be levied when appropriate.
- Authorize the Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department to implement a residency preference of three years prior to the date of civil service examination for individuals seeking appointment in the respective departments.

Alleviating Residential Displacement

“Even as Boston sees historic levels of housing being built, we must make sure no one is left behind,” said Mayor Walsh. “To preserve, enhance and grow neighborhoods, we must protect our neighbors from displacement.”

The Mayor submitted proposals that will:

- Make legal representation in eviction proceedings a right, rather than an option. If a tenant cannot afford his or her own attorney, one will be appointed by the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services.
- Authorize the City to amend its zoning code to require inclusionary zoning for affordable housing.
- Codify conditions under which landlords can evict a tenant or former homeowner living in their foreclosed unit and requiring landlords to notify the City in case of eviction.
- Allow tenants and non-profits a right of first refusal to purchase properties subject to foreclosure or short sale at fair market value.
- Provide landlords who are keeping their rents below market rent with a \$1,500 state income tax credit.

Promoting the Health and Safety of Bostonians

“A city can only thrive and grow when its people are healthy,” said Mayor Walsh. “From implementing new safety measures to continuing our focus on substance abuse recovery and prevention, the City of Boston will do its part in aiding residents to lead healthy lives.”

Mayor Walsh's health bills will:

- Require that side guards and blind spot mirrors be installed on large vehicles operating in Massachusetts.


(Continued on Page 11)

THE POST-GAZETTE SATELLITE OFFICE
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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.



ENTER OCTAVIUS

Gaius Octavius, later named Augustus, was born on September 23, 63 B.C., into a family of wealth and repute, in his grandfather's house near Velitrae, a town about 21 miles southeast of Rome. His mother was Atia, the niece of Julius Caesar. He was born in a suburb of Rome, and was destined to become the first emperor of the Roman Empire. At the age of four, he suffered the loss of his father and at the age of twelve, he delivered a funeral eulogy for his grandmother.

He endeared himself to Julius Caesar on numerous occasions because of his strong character, and was deeply involved in his studies at Apollonia when news reached him of his uncle's murder. (Apollonia was an educational center for patrician Roman youths located in Albania.) He immediately returned to Italy where he was enthusiastically greeted. He received the name of Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus and then defeated Mark Antony (Marcus Antonius) when the latter refused to surrender Caesar's property and failed to pay the legacy promised the people in Caesar's will. Octavianus (or Octavius) paid the amount from his own resources and won popular favor. Although the forces of Octavian defeated those of Mark Anto-



A reconstructed statue of Augustus as a younger Octavian, dated ca. 30 BC.

ny, a later reconciliation with Antony and association with the Roman General Lepidus resulted in the formation of the Second Triumvirate in 43 B.C.

This Second Triumvirate was sealed by a proscription (publishing the names of persons condemned to death) in which each member permitted the execution of any friend who might be named by either of the other two members. By this method, at least 2,000 of the middle-class (equestrian order) and 300 senators were executed and their property confiscated. Cicero was probably the most prominent on the list of victims.

The armed forces of the Triumvirate were also responsible for defeating the forces of two of Caesar's murderers, Brutus and Cassius. Both of these conspirators later committed suicide.

A later division of the Roman world gave Octavius the western portion, Antony the eastern portion, and Lepidus took parts of Africa. Antony married Octavia, the sister of Octavian, but while in Egypt he became so involved with Cleopatra that he repudiated his wife, neglected all of his public duties, and alienated Rome. The Roman Senate declared war on Cleopatra and it was Octavius who championed the Roman cause and defeated Antony at Actium in 31 B.C.

After his victory at Actium, Octavius sailed to Egypt, laid siege to Alexandria where Antony and Cleopatra had taken refuge, and captured the city. Antony tried to make terms when the end was near, but was forced to commit suicide. An attempt was made to keep Cleopatra alive, but the venom from the asp bite took its toll. Antony and Cleopatra were buried in the same tomb, and the mausoleum which they had begun was completed after their death. Egypt was reduced to the status of a Roman Province and, at the age of 34, Octavius became the undisputed master of the Roman World.

NEXT WEEK:

Octavius Becomes Augustus

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

Docket No. MI16P6557EA

Estate of
ELBA ORTIZ DELGADO
Also Known As
ELVA ORTIZ DELGADO

Date of Death December 20, 2013

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Yazmin Rijos of Los Angeles, CA.

Yazmin Rijos of Los Angeles, CA 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: 1/27/17

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

Saint Catherine of Bologna,
Patron Saint of Artists

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Catherine was born on September 8, 1415. She was born into an aristocratic Bolognese family, the daughter of Giovanni Vigri, an ambassador to Niccolò III d'Este, Marquis of Ferrara, and Benvenuta Mammolini of Bologna. From the age of nine, she was raised at the court of the Duke of Ferrara as a lady-in-waiting to his daughter Margherita d'Este. During this time, she received excellent training in reading, writing, music, singing, drawing and illuminating.

The court, with all its splendor, was not of interest to Catherine. When Catherine was 17 years old, she obtained the consent of her mother — her father having already died — to join a pious company of young women in Ferrara who led a religious life but had not yet adopted a definite rule. In 1432, together with other young women of Ferrara, she founded a Monastery of the Order of Poor Clares. Catherine was charged with the duties of the bakery.

After a time, she was entrusted with the duties of mistress of novices. Catherine tried to be excused, explaining that she was entirely incapable of this task; but she was compelled by obedience to accept it. Catherine spent 24 years in the convent at Ferrara and had trained many sisters in the way of sanctity when, at the request of the city of Bologna, she was sent with 15 sisters to establish a similar convent



in her native town. She was appointed abbess, and governed her community with wisdom and motherly love. She was particularly attentive to the sick sisters. In dispensing to them spiritual consolation, she said, "My dear sisters, you are now the true brides of the Divine Savior, who chose pain and sufferings as His portion."

She died on March 9, 1463, at the age of 49, and was buried. After eighteen days of alleged graveside miracles, her incorrupt body was exhumed and relocated to the chapel of the Poor Clares in Bologna (Cappella della Santa), next to the church of Corpus Domini, where it remains on display. Catherine is the author of *Treatise on the 7 Spiritual Weapons Necessary for Spiritual Warfare*. She was canonized by Pope Clement XI in the year 1712. The Feast of Saint Catherine of Bologna is celebrated on March 9th.

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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

Old North Church's
Donation Pew Box is Open



The Old North Church's donation pew box is open again! The recipients of your generous donations will be the homeless guests of the Boston Warm Day Center at Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street. The Day Center is open Mondays and Fridays from 8:00 am-1:00 pm and offers a safe and secure area for the homeless to rest and get warm, a caring staff, and nourishment for all.

We can only accept these listed items:

Adult sized gently used or new coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves

New socks

Personal health products: like hand wipes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving cream and razors, mini bottles of shampoo, and soap.

Items can be dropped off in our donation pew box in the back of the church. The church is open from 10:00 am-4:00 pm everyday.

The Old North Church is located at 193 Salem Street, North End, Boston. For more information, please call 617-858-8231, or visit www.oldnorth.com

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

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Friday, January 27, 2017

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.

Wishing the Champ, Tony DeMarco a Happy 85th Birthday



(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

Vy Raspa's 104th Birthday

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



On Sunday, January 15th, friends of Vincenza Raspa (known as Vy to most of us) gathered at her apartment to celebrate her 104th Birthday. Festivities began with a Mass celebrated by Father Antonio Nardoian OFM, Pastor of Saint Leonard Parish, in Vy's living room, followed by cake and coffee.

Vy, a lifelong resident of the North End, has occupied the same apartment her entire life. Devoted to Sacred Heart Church, now part of Saint Leonard Parish, Vy was President of the Saint Rita Society, a member of the Rosary Group and Altar committee, and a recipient of the Cardinal's Cheverus Award, given annually around the Feast of Christ the King for a lifetime of faithful devotion and service to the Church. We wish Vy God's blessings, happiness, and good health in the coming year.

Fort Hood Soldiers Teach Flag Etiquette at Elementary School

Story and photos by Michael M. Novogradac, U.S. Army Operational Test Command Public Affairs



Sgt. 1st Class Benito Santos, a research development test and evaluation non-commissioned officer in Operational Test Command's Maneuver Test Directorate, trains fifth-graders how to unfold the flag at Florence Elementary School, Florence Texas, on January 20, 2017.

Five Army soldiers made a difference in how students at Florence Elementary School here hoist the American flag in the morning and lower it at day's end.

As part of Fort Hood, Texas' "Adopt-A-School" program, the U.S. Army Operational Test Command (OTC) provided flag etiquette training to fourth- and fifth-graders.

"The soldiers did an absolute[ly] fantastic job talking about the responsibility of soldiers, the meaning behind the flag, and why we honor the flag," said Kay Bradford, school principal.

"Our kiddos were listening intently. They all don't know flag etiquette," she continued. "I know they will remember how to do that because they were listening and they just fell on every single word those soldiers were saying, out of respect."

Bradford said she used two students to handle flag duties, but after the training, she decided to have four.

"They were not folding the flag properly, but they were doing their very best understanding of how to do that, so I know that's

going to be a huge change," she said.

"The students were managing, but — you know what? To do the due honor that it deserves? We're ready for it now. It's a wonderful partnership to have with these soldiers."

One volunteer soldier talked about his crack at volunteering, and the upshot that came with.

"I was told last week, 'Hey be sure you're clear Friday because we got to go over to the school and show these kids the flag,'" said Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Neal, a research development test and evaluation non-commissioned officer with OTC's Maneuver Test Directorate.

"Sometimes, you get tasked. You don't get asked. You get tasked," he said with a laugh. "That's what we say in the Army. And, you know what? I know every one of us would come back next week if they let us."

"I didn't know it would be near as fun as it was."

Neal said the experience also gave him reason to talk to others about volunteering.

"Everybody's got the same 24 hours in their day," he said. "It

just depends on how you want to spend it. Do you want to spend it on yourself, or do you want to spend it on someone else?"

"If you wait around to get tasked, you may never get an opportunity," he said. "If you look around and you ask, then you probably have the opportunity. I'd bet there's not a grade school or community organization that wouldn't take a volunteer to come down and speak to the young folks. Without a doubt."

As the Army's only independent operational tester, OTC tests and assesses Army, joint, and multi-service war fighting systems in realistic operational environments, using typical soldiers to determine whether the systems are effective, suitable, and survivable. OTC is required by public law to test major systems before they are fielded to its ultimate customer — the American soldier.

For more information contact: U.S. Army OTC at 254-288-9110, 678-767-7849 or go to: michael.m.novogradac.civ@mail.mil

IACO February Meeting Notice

The Italian-American Cultural Organization (IACO), will be hosting its Annual Italian Movie Night on **Monday, February 6th**, at 7:00 pm. This year's movie will be **Big Night**, a 1996 drama/romance. Directors Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci, Writers Stanley Tucci and Joseph Tropiano.

The story is set in the U.S.A., in late 1950, and is about a failing Italian restaurant run by two Italian brothers who gamble on a special night to try to save their business. It is a move which looks like it's about Italian food but it's actually about

the search for the American dream, struggles, and conflict of the Italian immigrant.

"This is a warm-hearted movie with great deal of humor that rates an A+."

— Robert D. Ruplenas of IMDb

IACO is located at Grove Manor, 160 Grove Street, rear building, Braintree MA. Refreshments will be served.

(IACO) Italian-American Cultural Organization of the South Shore; An Italian culture group that fosters a greater awareness about the Italian culture based on the South Shore of Massachusetts.

Pirandello Lyceum Film

Frank Ciano, president of the Pirandello Lyceum, has announced the presentation of *Terraferma*, (*Dry Land*) an Italian film with English subtitles. It will be shown on Saturday morning, February 4th, at Boston's North End library, 25 Parmenter Street. Caffè e biscotti will be served at 10:15am; the film will begin at 10:30 am (SHARP). The film is free. Seating is limited.

Dr. Anna Rocca, Pirandello board member, will present the film, which takes place on the Sicilian Island where fishermen are punished for saving illegal immigrants from the ocean because the government believes such actions

encourage illegal immigration. An old fisherman cannot watch as the immigrants drown and he rescues a mother, who is expecting a child, and her young son. This causes problems in the old man's family who are fearful of being arrested. The old man's grandson, Filippo, later out to sea with a tourist friend, comes across another group of drowning immigrants and is faced with a great dilemma of what action to take which is depicted in the dramatic end of the film.

WEATHER ADVISORY — If the library is open, the film will be shown. The library telephone number is 617-227-8135. Pirandello and film information call 781-640-3637.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Lighting the Way to Spring

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

January has gone by quicker than a windswept snowdrift. It seems that just a short while ago, I was cheering the start of a New Year and packing away the last Christmas decorations. This past month has been an unusual mixture of bitter cold spells followed by mild weather, of furiously falling snowflakes and pleasant days filled with the scent of newly-turned soil. I can sense the dueling seasons of winter and spring dancing around me, struggling to maintain their individual grip over these transitional, changeable months. However, February will soon arrive with its bevy of festivals that decidedly welcome the spring. St. Valentine's Day cuts through the snowy monotony in bursts of red and pink, ushering in the season of rebirth through images of hearts and flowers and Cupids. The revelry of Mardi Gras, replete with mysterious masks and colorful beads, promises to chase the ghosts of winter away. I look forward to the joy and gaiety of these holidays. February starts, though, with a less recognized feast that introduces the month, and the season of spring as a whole, with powerful symbolism. This ancient, rustic holiday is known as Candlemas, and its worldwide traditions evoke the spring with anticipation and light.

Candlemas, which occurs on February 2nd, commemorates the date on which the Virgin Mary presented Jesus at the temple, forty days after His birth. The name of the feast derives from the widespread usage of candles during the religious services marking this holiday, which symbolize the light that Jesus metaphorically brings to the world. However, many of Candlemas's folk customs predate Christianity. The Celts celebrated February 1st as Imbolc, a festival heralding the first day of spring. Imbolc, which some scholars theorize translates to "in the belly," honors the lactation of sheep and the beginning of the birthing season for lambs. This ancient Celtic holiday survives as St. Brigid's Day in modern Ireland, where people light candles, make Crosses out of vegetation, and visit holy wells. Indeed, since it serves as a welcome precursor to spring,



Candlemas bursts with quaint customs and superstitions everywhere. European folklore states that a warm and sunny Candlemas portends harsh wintry weather, while a cold and blustery Candlemas promises an early spring. Immigrants from Europe brought these traditions over to America, where they melded into the festival of Groundhog Day. Like Candlemas, Groundhog Day is also celebrated on February 2nd, and it further pays homage to the end of the hibernation period for many animals. An Italian dictum repeats this well-known superstition, proclaiming "*Candelora con sole, tarde primavera*," or "sunny Candlemas, late spring." These practices speak to the universal desire for spring and rebirth, whether it manifests in newborn lambs or candles flickering in the windowsills.

In addition to functioning as a turning point between winter and spring, Candlemas also provides people with an opportunity for celebrations and feasting. Pancakes are the traditional dinner of choice in France, possibly because their round shape and golden color resemble the spring sun, which is now remaining for a longer time in the sky. Superstition claims that a cook who can flip a pancake with one hand while turning a coin in the other will be blessed with luck. In Mexico, people eat tamales on Candlemas, provided by the person who found the hidden bean in their Epiphany King Cake. Italians honor Candlemas, or *Candelora*, with local festivities and regional customs. Though Candlemas

traditions vary across Italy, each honors the arrival of spring and the theme of light breaking through the darkness. In the Sicilian city of Catania, *Candelora* festivals segue into parades held in honor of the town's patron saint, St. Agatha, where people make offerings of large candles that illuminate the dark late winter sky. The people of Montevergine, a village located in the southern region of Campagna, organize candlelit processions which honor gay rights and pray for increased tolerance. Meanwhile, Neapolitans celebrate *Candelora* with large street parties boasting torches and fireworks displays.

Indeed, all throughout Italy, a visitor will find homes, churches and town squares illuminated by candles or bonfires on *Candelora*, the flames both providing warmth against the cold February air and reminding people of the light of the coming spring. Candlemas always makes me think of the long walks I would take on my old college campus at the start of the spring semester, propelled by the wind as I took note of the new buds adorning the otherwise bare tree branches. Nowadays, I bake orange cheesecakes on Candlemas, a seasonal recipe whose color and shape resembles mini sunbursts. How exciting it is to greet spring in all its myriad forms.

As winter slowly melts into spring, we should all take a lesson from Candlemas and search for the beacons of light in our own lives. What are the symbolic candles that illuminate our way out of our personal darkness? Which elements of our lives remind us that rebirth and hope are always near, even in the midst of a literal and metaphorical winter? To me, these "candles" include spending time with loved ones, the smell of baked goods wafting through my kitchen, hearty belly laughs, and warm sunsets. These signs remind me that the world holds so much beauty and promise, even when all appears bleak. Candlemas teaches us to look for these signals in nature as well: a frost-encrusted snowdrop flower, the flash of a robin in flight, a night lit with candles. When we hold on to the hope of spring and appreciate the moments our natural world has to offer, we will always hold the beauty of each season inside us — and that knowledge of Mother Earth's endurance will comfort us always.

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a Graduate Student in History at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

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What is Happening to America Today?

Quote to Note

"There are no Democrats and no Republicans, just Americans."
— Will Rodgers

I recently watched *C-Span* as it rebroadcasted two presidential farewell addresses. The first was a grainy black and white President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a WWII war hero and a president who reigned over America in peacetime between the Korean and Vietnam Wars. I was 12 years old when I saw it live at the kitchen table with my dad back when I lived on East Springfield Street in Boston's South End. The other address that followed was by President Ronald Reagan in January 1989, as he prepared to leave office. This one in full Technicolor as they say. I was 40 years old when I watched this one by myself.

When both ended, I thought of myself today as an ever-aging baby boomer. In Eisenhower's address, he talked about the world that our grandchildren would inherit and I was one of those grandchildren mentioned in his speech.

Today I see a world that would have been unrecognizable to both Ike and my parents. Eight years ago, incoming President Obama promised a transformation of America, and sadly I think it has happened. We are not the America we were in 1960 or 1989, and certainly not even that of 2008.

Our Constitution is endangered, our democratic republic under assault. Our Bill of Rights is being revised by those who oppose open debate and demand speech not to their liking be labeled as hate speech. Our founding fathers must be rolling over in their graves. We have always been a nation different from all others because here power is not at the top of the heap but down with the people. Or at least that's what it is supposed to be.

President Donald Trump is now our president, a president of all the people. Yet many Democrats boycotted Washington on January 20th for his swearing in because they don't like him.

Days before the event, U.S. Rep. John Lewis called Trump an "illegitimate president." That rhetoric was followed up by other such rhetoric from the likes of U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA and U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Winthrop. It is one thing to boycott a presidential State of the Union address, but another to boycott the peaceful transfer of power

that happens on Inauguration Day. All those who boycotted truly don't understand what it means to be an American.

Today on college campuses, students are blocking their ears from speech with which they disagree. They want safe spaces from all the micro-aggression out there criticizing them. The politically correct crowd are calling Trump and his supporters all kinds of bad names like fascists, when in actuality they are the true fascists roaming the streets of America.

Finally, much of the news media has slid over to the far left of the political spectrum. During the campaign, much of this crowd seemed to be an extension of the Clinton for President media advisory group. There was little attempt to even hide their bias. It was there front and center.

Tuesday, November 8th, the United States of America was on the brink, but the people came through and the foregone conclusion by the Democrats and their media allies went down the tubes and Donald Trump did the unthinkable. He won the presidency.

Now is the time for no recriminations against those who refuse to accept Trump as their president. He is. Now is the time to find a way to reach across America and bring people together again and make America one again. We are not the Divided States of America, we are the United States of America.

America constantly gets transformed. It happened again on Election Day this past year. We can survive anything that comes at us.

The Russians didn't elect Trump, the American people did, and now it is time to move forward and do all that we can to make America better than it already is. Trump isn't Obama, but he isn't Eisenhower or Reagan either. Trump is our 45th president and we all must pray that he succeeds in making America a better place than he found it on January 20th. End of story. On to the future with hope.

An old departed friend always told me to "Keep Punching" when he said good bye and I always responded, "Keep on keepin' on." That is exactly what we have to do as Americans, "Keep punching and never give up!"

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Mrs. Murphy . . . As I See It

Congratulations New England Patriots!!! The Patriots won by an impressive score Sunday night, beating the Pittsburgh Steelers easily. New England fans are excited and will be rooting for the Patriots come Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th ... Rumors are Suffolk Downs has been sold. No more live racing! ... The Cucchiello Bakery building in Day Square has been sold, and the new owner has asked the bakery to leave within three months to make way for a Dunkin' Donuts. That's a bad idea! WHAT ABOUT PARKING??? There isn't enough parking now, imagine if a Dunkin' Donuts franchise opens. WOW!!! Besides, there's a coffee shop next door to Cucchiello's Bakery. Elite Donut has been there for over 30 years. So why would putting a Dunkin' Donuts on the block be beneficial??? Enough already, we're overly saturated with Dunkin' Donuts. They are not the best this country has to offer. Dunkin' needs to improve their weak coffee and run-of-the-mill donuts before they consider opening any more franchises ... Times are changing rapidly. The Hilltop Restaurant on Route One went out of business, and now another landmark restaurant bites the dust. The Ship Restaurant on Route One in Lynnfield is in the process of being torn down ... Any Mayor that allows their city to become a Sanctuary City needs his/her head examined. Residents in Newton are fighting to keep their city from becoming a Sanctuary City, and have started a movement to march on City Hall in protest! The

fear is that if a city becomes a Sanctuary City, crime will rise, property values will plummet, and the city's economy will suffer. Newcomers that are here legally are disgusted with these liberals that try and push their will onto the public! ... Gossip around Revere is that Mayor Brian Arrigo, only in office a year, is mulling thoughts of making Revere a Sanctuary City. If that happens, this mayor will never serve another term. Since this man has become mayor, people are complaining he's operating under a cloud of secrecy. No improvements have been made to the city, not even a pothole has been filled in! Yet, Arrigo had no problem raising homeowner taxes. He also sent a letter to Revere's Chief of Police, Joseph Caffarelli, replacing him. He didn't even have the class to tell Caffarelli to his face. This has made many people angry. Some citizens of Revere wonder what Arrigo's real agenda for the city is. He is unlike former mayor Dan Rizzo, who may have been a bit flamboyant, but at least residents saw improvements being made to their city. Rizzo was willing to spend money to move Revere ahead, and make it an attractive city in which to live. According to those in the know, Arrigo hides under a cloak of secrecy, and listens only to his Chief Administrative Officer Omar Boukili, whom many people suspect runs the city... The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, performing for 146 years, will give their last performance in May. How Sad! Circus performers gave such awesome and wonderful performances throughout the years ... *Till next time!*

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for MPA Contract No. AP1718-C1, FY18 AUTHORITY- WIDE TERM INTERIOR BUILDING REPAIRS, BOSTON, BEDFORD, AND WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 209S, Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128-2909, until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**, immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 10:00AM LOCAL TIME ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

The work includes **PROVISION OF ALL EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, LABOR, AND SUPERVISION NECESSARY FOR GENERAL CARPENTRY TO PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES AS REMOVE AND/OR INSTALL INTERIOR PARTITIONS, HUNG CEILINGS AND CABINETS AT LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WORCESTER REGIONAL AIRPORT, AND HANSCOM CIVIL AIRFIELD ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS OVER A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD.**

Bid documents will be made available beginning **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017.**

Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

The estimated contract cost is **ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$145,000).**

Bidding procedures and award of the contract and sub-contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid; when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and /or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of **\$1,000,000.00**. Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

No filed sub-bids will be required for this contract.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in the Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action article of Division I, General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective sub-contractors of the requirement for such certification where the sub-contract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.

**MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Run date: 1/27/17



On the Aisle THEATRE NOTES

BY BOBBY FRANKLIN

There are No Errors in this Comedy

The Comedy of Errors through February 12th

The Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford, CT www.hartfordstage.org

Directed by Darko Tresnjak



Louis Tucci, Paula Leggatt Chase, and Alexander Sovrosky.

Returning home after viewing the Saturday matinee performance of the Hartford Stage production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, I wanted to immediately sit down and write my review. There was one problem however; I could not stop laughing long enough to focus on my keyboard.

Director Darko Tresnjak has taken one of the Bard's earliest plays and set it in 1965 Greece while adding music and dance to it. From the opening curtain, when Paula Leggett Chase steps out and sings a sexy and sultry "Never on a Sunday" in the best tradition of Melina Mercouri, I knew this was going to be something very special.

The set, which was designed by Darko, is breathtaking. Save your money on a ticket to Greece, you are there when you step into the theater. The colors are vibrant, with boats docked at the foot of the stage, the Phoenix and the Priory rising behind it. The Greek countryside as a backdrop is something to behold. It is the Greece of *Topkapi* and *Zorba*.

But what would Greece be without music and dance? Drawing on original songs from the period and using on-stage musicians playing on a bouzouki and an accordion for much of it (some of the music is piped in and also great), the audience becomes a part of the experience. Throw in some moussaka and baklava for good measure.

Now top this off with Shakespeare's madcap story about two sets of twins and the mix ups that ensue, along with an outstanding cast, and you have one of the best plays on stage so far this season. Sprinkle some Marx Brothers-flavored comedy on top and the laughter never stops. How often do you get to see a Shakespeare play with scuba divers, surfboards, beach balls, rubber chickens, and a human battering ram? All this, while retaining the original language and story. And, all taking place within a 24 hour period!

Trying to choose a particular moment or actor to praise is too difficult with such a fine production. Everyone is just wonderful and spot on. Seeing so many actors staying in synch while so many different and crazy things are occurring is marvelous. This play is

the depth of his later work. However, after seeing this production, I can recommend it without any reservations. Whether you have stayed away from Shakespeare because you thought he wrote in another language, or you are a lifetime Bardologist, you owe it to yourself to make the trip to the Hartford Stage. If I lived closer, I would see it again and probably again.

Darko Tresnjak and the Hartford Stage have never disappointed me with their Shakespeare productions. There are many excellent companies in New England performing these works, but The Hartford Stage ranks at the top. After attending a performance, I guarantee you will leave the theater with tears of laughter streaming down your face, the smell of the Mediterranean in your nose, a hunger for some moussaka, and an urge to cry out, "Zorba, teach me to dance!"

When someone asks me to pick a Shakespeare play for their first time experience, I don't suggest *The Comedy of Errors*. It is funny, but not with



Cast

(Photos by T. Charles Erickson)

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A Man for All Pigeons

by Jeanne Brady

If you have ever seen an elderly gentleman feeding pigeons in the neighborhood, you may have seen Sidney Fleischer. In fact, if you live in the North End, you probably know Sidney Fleischer! I did not have the pleasure myself until recently; when some of his Modern Pastry coffee pals were upset that the City did not honor him on Veteran's Day and contacted the *Post-Gazette* about doing a story. I agreed and was assured I would be delighted to meet him. They were right.

Several months ago, Sidney unfortunately fell and broke his hip. When his children decided to clean his apartment while he was recuperating at the North End Nursing Home, they came across his WWII Army Air Corps discharge papers noting eight Battle Star medals ... EIGHT. As Sidney's son-in-law, Jim Mullen, explained to me, Battle Stars were awarded to troops who participated in a full-blown battle with significant action and casualties. Apparently the saying goes, if you get a 5th, it is pinned on your coffin. Getting eight is unheard of. So, when his friends saw other deserving veterans getting honored on Veteran's Day, they asked, why not Sidney?

pitching, but spent most of his time playing first base. In those days, a lot of the good local players could be found at Franklin Field, and the local teams at the time were always looking for talent. But Sidney was told, with a last name like Fleischer, forget the Red Sox. Yawkey was anti-Semitic and they wouldn't even look at you! "I used to play baseball down at Franklin Field for years and years, and every ballplayer was down there, everybody was trying out for every team ... you couldn't pick the Red Sox, because they were anti-Semitic, oh! Really! So you had no chance at all. That's what killed it. I mean, a lot of those guys I played ball with, all pretty good ballplayers, maybe could have gone someplace ... but the Red Sox, if you were Jewish [chuckling], you wouldn't even think about it." Meanwhile, the Braves were moving out of town, so the Jewish players had nowhere to go. Sidney claimed he just wasn't that good, but you have to wonder what might have happened if Yawkey didn't own the Sox.

Sidney also played a lot of ball in the Holy Name Society league with all the Irish kids. So how did a nice Jewish boy



"Flyboy" Sidney Fleischer in the Army Air Corps.

how to shoot a gun? No? Well, let's see how you do, you can become a gunner." Next thing he knew, he was a gunner on a B-17 bomber flying air support for General Patton in Italy and North Africa. When I asked Sidney about Patton, he reacted strongly:



Sidney deep in thought ...

"He was a *soldier* [smiling broadly] ... no question about it, he ... was ... a ... SOLDIER. Oh, god [chuckling]. Yeah, we just went with him! ... We were younger in those days, we GO! The war was on and we were gonna get 'em!"

So until the end of the war, Sidney followed Patton all over Italy and North Africa, including



Sidney holding court at Modern Pastry.



Sidney greeting a young neighbor. There's that cap again!

Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Rome, Sicily, and the Po Valley, earning those EIGHT Battle Stars. It was obviously a rough time, but he remembered, "... we were happy shooting down, trying to kill as many as we could, because they were Germans. It was Germans we were fighting..." But they were also hungry. And this is where the pigeons come in: "We hadn't had food; it wasn't catching up to us. Someplace, I think it was in [Italy], a couple guys said here, let's go to church. So we all went into church and the place was loaded with pigeons. We ate good for two days [laughing] ... We climbed up in the rafters and [grabbed them] ... and they ate good!" So now, Sidney always carries bread with him when he walks, feeding all the pigeons he can in gratitude for their Italian brethren's sacrifice so many years ago. Again he says, laughing, "They ate good!"

If you know Sidney, you know he is clearly blessed. But he was also actually blessed during the war. As Sidney described it, "We left Africa and went into Italy ... and we started marching through Rome. And the Pope came out ... [laughing uncontrollably], made a martyr out of us! There's the Pope coming by, blessing everybody!" So, as Mullen put it, "the Jewish boy got some Holy Water ... from the POPE!" When I suggested that the Pope's blessing might have helped him get those eight Battle Stars, he said, "Yeah, we had help from him."

After the war, Sidney returned home and went into the wholesale shoe business, selling shoes to shoe stores for the Maxwell

Shoe Company. (Remember "Mootsie's Tootsies?" Founder Maxwell Blum's nickname was "Mutzie" and when his daughter created a new line of women's shoes, they were named for him.) He married in 1955, and had four children — Daralynn, Andrew, Marc, and David. (And now he has nine grandchildren, all near and dear to his heart.) Sidney had his own shoe manufacturing business for a while as well. He sold shoes all over the world, but particularly in the Caribbean (apparently Santo Domingo had the prettiest girls!) He also worked in Boston, selling shoes to retailers in the Leather District, where all the shoe stores used to be. He lamented that they have all closed now; he retired in 2005. (But only from the shoe business — he has kept busy!)

Of course, Sidney wasn't all about work. He loves music, especially the Big Bands, and dancing — I'm told he was a fantastic jitterbugger! When asked what he did between coming home from the war in '45 and marrying in '55, he had to think. When his daughter prompted, "Well, you liked to dance!" He laughed heartily and said, "Yeah, music, dancing, plenty of that!" When I suggested that he must have been very popular with the girls (check out his photo in uniform!), he demurred, admitting only to going out a lot. He also joined the Masons, eventually becoming a 32nd degree Mason. (Look that up, it's impressive!) Daralynn remembers her father studying his little blue book all

(Continued on Page 10)



Sidney dancing with his daughter Daralynn at her wedding. Somehow she got him to ditch the cap ...

I met Sidney at the Nursing Home a few weeks ago with his only daughter, Daralynn Fleischer, and her husband Jim. I immediately saw why he is so beloved. A quiet, unassuming GENTLEMAN, with a twinkle in his eye and a soft smile playing around his lips. He was shy at first, but showed some spirit when I brought out a blueberry turnover from Modern (I got the skinny on his favorite from his waitress pal Maria). As I tucked into my raspberry turnover, I felt like we had established a common interest ...

I decided to get a little background first. Although Sidney has become a fixture in the North End/Waterfront Community, he's only been here the last quarter or so of his life. And I had heard about a variety of activities and roles this man had before he moved to the North End 27 years ago. I wanted to get a sense of the man's journey to our community, as well as the role he assumed in it.

Sidney was born in Revere, but grew up in Dorchester, where he apparently had a great time. He went to Dorchester High and loved playing baseball at Franklin Field near Codman Square. A southpaw, he tried

get in? Ever hear of Sidney O'Fleischer?? "I remember as kids, religion didn't mean anything. OK, you can play this base ... you want to come in, you try out for us, whatever name you want to come in, you could change your name. My name was O'Fleischer [chuckling] ... " A lot of kids just changed their names in those days. They didn't care who you were as long as you could play. (Smarter than Yawkey it would seem). Daralynn told me how her grandfather was named Oscar and was listed as "O. Fleischer" in the phone book. Apparently, they got a lot of calls from Catholic charities looking for money!

After high school, Sidney attended BU for a couple of years until the war broke out. He and his buddies couldn't wait to enlist ("I was thinking of what was going on with the Germans; they were killing every Jew they could get their hands on! For any reason. That's when I enlisted; I said, 'to hell with them!'"), and Sidney chose the Army Air Corps (now the Air Force), because he wanted to fly. Unfortunately, they didn't need pilots, so Sidney was sent to airplane mechanic school. But then they asked him if he could shoot. "Do you know



The "Modern family" gathered for Sidney's 95th birthday. Sitting, L-R: Clifford Myrttil, Carole Lucas, Karen Gould, Sidney Fleischer (in Flyboy cap!), and Bik-Fung Ng. Standing L-R: Joe Swankowski and Maria Luberto of Modern Pastry. (Cake generously donated by Modern Pastry owner John Picariello.)

NEAA & NEAD Family Members Skate at Fenway



Over 50 members of North End Against Drugs and North End Athletic Association were treated to an awesome time skating at Frozen Fenway. Thanks to both Mayor Martin Walsh and the Boston Red Sox Foundation, children of both groups and their parents were able to skate at four different sessions on Sunday, January 15th, or Monday, January 16th. Some of the tickets were provided to NEAD through the Mayor, and others were provided to players in the NEAA through the Boston Red Sox Foundation and their Rookie Ball Program. The kids had an awesome time, the weather was fantastic, and FROZEN FENWAY was magical! There were lots of accomplished skaters dancing to pop hits that the kids loved, and they met the skaters after for pictures and autographs.

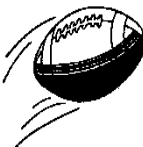


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THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS (DVD)
Lionsgate Home Ent.

A feisty foster kid’s outrageous scheme to be reunited with her birth mother has unintended consequences in *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, an entertaining film for the entire family. Gilly Hopkins (Sophie Nelisse) has seen more than her share of foster homes and has outwitted every family she has lived with. In an effort to escape her new foster mother Maime Trotter’s (Kathy Bates) endless loving care, Gilly concocts a plan that she believes will bring her mother running to her rescue. But when the ploy blows up in Gilly’s face, it threatens to ruin the only chance she’s ever had to be part of a real family.

AMERICAN HONEY (Blu-ray)
Lionsgate Home Ent.

An astonishing portrait of youth on the American fringe, *American Honey* is told through the eyes of a vivacious teenage rebel who joins a group of fellow misfits hustling and partying their way across the country. Bursting with electric, primal energy, *American Honey* is an immersive, exhilarating odyssey of heartbreaking beauty — a generation-defining film that celebrates the defiant resilience of youth in pursuit of the American Dream. Starring Sasha Lane, Riley Keough, and Shia LaBeouf.

THE ULTIMATE LEGACY (DVD)
Cinedigm

From the film franchise based on acclaimed author and motivational speaker Jim Stovall’s best-selling *Ultimate Gift* book series, comes *The Ultimate Legacy*. Jason Stevens (Logan Bartholomew), an entitled young man with wanderlust, must prove himself worthy of a new stipulation in his grandmother’s will after her passing ... he must provide guidance to a self-absorbed young man, Joey Anderson (Myko Olivier), who is forced to run his family’s bed and breakfast for a year. The question before the law firm responsible for its execution is, which will come first: the demise of the estate, or the realization of the heir that dealing with the past is the only path to true freedom? The cast also includes Brian Dennehy and Raquel Welch.

JACKIE CHAN PRESENTS AMNESIA (DVD)
Lionsgate Home Ent.

Martial-arts legend Jackie Chan presents this pulse-pounding update to his own classic thriller. Finding himself at a murder scene, bike courier Li Ziwei tries to escape, but the culprits force him off a bridge. The amnesia from his head injuries means he can’t recognize the faces of his enemies, who have framed him for the crime. Now, carrying the parcel that’s his only clue, and with the help of sassy hitchhiker Tong Xin, Li Ziwei must outrun killers and cops while racing to clear his name of the mysterious murder.

THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JOHNNY CARSON: JOHNNY AND FRIENDS FEATURING JERRY SEINFELD (DVD)
Time Life

The original “King of Late Night” is back with *The Tonight*

Show Starring Johnny Carson: Johnny and Friends Featuring Jerry Seinfeld. Three complete episodes star the inimitable comedian before his eponymous sitcom re-wrote television history. These very best episodes are from the ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s, with some of the best-loved guests from *The Tonight Show*. Jerry Seinfeld was a frequent guest on the show; this *Johnny and Friends* release features three classic shows featuring Seinfeld. *Show 1*: June 27, 1985 — This show features Seinfeld early in his career and includes one of Johnny’s famous sketches by The Mighty Carson Art Players ... *Mr. Rambo’s Neighborhood*. *Show 2*: February 21, 1986 — This historic show has Seinfeld joined by drag racer Shirley Muldowney, as the future “Queen of all Media” meets the “King of Late Night” during the first appearance of Oprah Winfrey on *The Tonight Show*. *Show 3*: June 9, 1988 — A star-studded evening closes this DVD as Johnny’s guests include Seinfeld, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and 18-year-old tennis sensation, Andre Agassi.

OPERATION AVALANCHE (DVD)
Lionsgate Home Ent.

In 1967, during the height of the Cold War, two young CIA agents go undercover at NASA to investigate a possible Russian mole. In disguise as documentary filmmakers, they tap phones and break into offices while purporting to learn more about the Apollo project. But when they end up uncovering a shocking NASA secret — and a major government cover-up — they decide to embark on a new mission that puts their own lives at risk.

SWAMP PEOPLE: SEASON 7 (3-DVD)
Lionsgate Home Ent.

Swamp People: Season 7 is Troy Landry’s toughest season yet as nature seems determined to keep him from tagging out. He’ll face off with friends and foes alike, even risk it all to catch the biggest ‘gator, while fighting to provide for his family and preserve his Cajun way of life. Fan favorite Bruce Mitchell is back, and newcomers Frenchy Crochet and Gee Singleton are on hand to up the ante. Thirteen episodes on three discs.

DEEPWATER HORIZON (Blu-ray)
Summit Ent.

Mark Wahlberg leads an all-star cast in this unforgettably powerful film inspired by a thrilling story of real-life heroes. For the 126 people aboard the *Deepwater Horizon* offshore oil rig, April 20, 2010, began like any normal day. Before day’s end, the world would bear witness to one of the greatest man-made disasters in U.S. history. *Deepwater Horizon* reveals the brave acts of the men and women who rose to the challenge — and risked everything to lead others to safety. *The Deepwater Horizon* release has over two hours of special features, including an hour-long, five-part series, *Beyond the Horizon*, in which Mark Wahlberg and the cast meet the real-life heroes from *Deepwater Horizon*.

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

HIGH COST OF FAKE NEWS?

As you know by now, the *Boston Globe* has raised the price of both the daily and Sunday editions. Weekdays are now \$2.00 and the Sunday edition is all the way up to \$4.50. All this for the best fake news in New England according to many former readers.

No wonder subscriptions are down. Have you seen the *Globe* lately? You can get a paper cut just by holding it in your hands. As for Sundays, most of the paper is advertisements and now they want more money for it.

When most people are getting their fake news online, why buy the print copy at the store when according to most, its best use is for a kitty litter box. Hey, and the *Herald* is at least smart enough to keep its current price for now. When the contents go down and the price goes up, is the end near for printed newspapers?

ALMOST CARNIVALE TIME AGAIN

Boy, does time fly by. It seems like only three weeks ago it was Christmas, and now we are preparing for Lent real soon. Which means? Time for the Sacred Heart Carnivale. It will be held at Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Saturday, February 25th. The event starts at 5:00 pm, with dinner by Meridian Market

served at 6:00 pm. For tickets, stop by the rectory after Mass.

BOSTON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

International Women’s Day is just around the corner, too. The 10th anniversary celebration takes place at Spinelli’s Function Facility on Sunday, March 5th, at 1:00 pm. For more information, call Francesca Di Benedetto at 781-654-5975 by February 26th.

NO MORE BIG APPLE CIRCUS FOR BOSTON

The Big Apple Circus is leaving town. The story came out of the *NY Post* where, after 39 seasons of delighting New Yorkers, the circus held a bankruptcy auction and everything was up for grabs. The one ring circus is in Chapter 11, but hopes to return later this year. Maybe they will, maybe they won’t. They want to perform under the big tent, they said, for years to come.

Does this mean the end for the Big Apple Circus this year for City Hal Plaza? Does the circus still owe money to the City of Boston or not? Bankruptcy doesn’t sound good for money owed, does it?

SPEAKING OF THE CIRCUS

It appears that Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will close forever in May. “The Greatest Show on Earth” wasn’t that great over the past year

after all the elephants were retired under pressure from the politically correct animal rights activists who were constantly protesting alleged abuse of these elephants.

Attendance went down quickly, among other things. That has forced this 146-year American institution to say good bye to all.

The final circus in our area will be in Providence, Rhode Island on May 7th.

MORE OPTING OUT OF MASS LABOR FORCE

While many here in the Commonwealth and down in Washington keep saying how the economy is gaining strength and the unemployment rate has dropped, the news in Massachusetts doesn’t seem to project that strength. A large number of potential Bay State workers are no longer looking for work anymore according to federal stats, even as the state’s unemployment rate drops under 3 percent.

Fully 35.3 percent of those in workforce ages are no longer looking for work. When that \$15 an hour wage gets implemented, you can bet that 35.3 number will increase as many employers will cut back on staff or automate.

Remember that old saying? “Liars can figure and figures can lie.”

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

but I know what it says and I try and follow its principles as best I can.

All these TV ministers of the word too often come across like salesmen making pitches for your cash by either making folks feel guilty or making them feel special.

Sometimes I watch these programs and get something good out of them, but sometimes I feel like I am watching the *Comedy Channel*, too.

Hate Crimes Create the Mind Police

As a (retired) police officer, I have never felt comfortable with the concept of hate crimes. Do so-called hate crimes deserve extra punishment?

Under our rule of law, we punish people for what they do, not what is inside their heads. As a letter-writer in the *Wall Street Journal* recently opined, “IT’S ONLY A SMALL STEP FROM PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR WHAT THEY THINK TO WHAT THEY MIGHT SAY ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK.”

Good point made.

Trump is in the White House

As I watched the Marine 1 helicopter take off from Capitol Mall, taking both former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama away from Washington, DC, I felt emancipated — I survived eight years of Obama.

Hopefully, with President Trump now our Commander-in-Chief, America will again move forward with confidence. His Inaugural Address was brief and to the point. It was not as partisan Republican as some in the media were reporting. Listening to his words, he didn’t even sound that conservative, either. He spoke in bold terms

about an America in which everyone now feels part of the government again rather than feeling like victims of government overreach.

Calm Down, Jeff We Won

As I listened to Jeff Kuhner live on my car radio, he was flying high as a kite, enjoying the whole moment of Trump’s Inauguration. However, he got a bit carried away when he spoke of giving Obama the finger in the air as Marine 1 left the area. There was no reason for Jeff to give one final Blank You our former leader. Kuhner needs to show more class here. Kuhner Country carried the country.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

Docket No. MI16P6600EA

Estate of
LOLA MARIE FREEMAN
Date of Death November 6, 2016

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Phyllis J. Nissen of Wakefield, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Phyllis J. Nissen of Wakefield, 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: 1/27/17

That is a big deal. It is a new day and life goes on.

End Quote

“The truly blessed are not those who can work miracles or see angels, the truly blessed are those who can see their own sins.”

— St. Anthony of the Desert

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

Docket No. MI13P4176EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Estate of
AMAR GOPAL BOSE
Also Known As
AMAR G. BOSE

Date of Death July 12, 2013

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by **Daniel A. Grady of Westwood, MA** requesting that an Order of Complete Settlement of the estate issue including to approve an accounting, compel or approve a distribution, adjudicate a final settlement and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 February 27, 2017.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR., First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 18, 2017
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 1/27/17

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For more information,
call 617-227-8929.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI17P0158EA
Estate of
FRANCESCA H. HILL
Date of Death September 10, 2016
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will** with **Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Edward W. Hill of Chelmsford, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Edward W. Hill of Chelmsford, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **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 February 9, 2017.
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. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR., First Justice of this Court.**
Date: January 12, 2017
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 1/27/17

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI17P0262EA
Estate of
VYRL MAE ROBINSON
Also Known As
VYRL M. ROBINSON
Date of Death December 3, 2016
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 **William M. Robinson of Woburn, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **William M. Robinson of Woburn, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **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 February 17, 2017.
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. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR., First Justice of this Court.**
Date: January 20, 2017
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 1/27/2017

THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

The Death of a Director



William Desmond Taylor

While the death of Virginia Rappe ended the career of Fatty Arbuckle at a time when the comedian was at the height of his fame, the murder of director William Desmond Taylor in 1922 was a rain cloud over the head of Arbuckle's Keystone colleague Mabel Normand, just as her career was beginning to end. Although Normand was never a suspect in Taylor's murder, it did bring the more unsavory aspects of her life to light.

Taylor had a relatively exciting life before he even arrived in Hollywood, having done gold prospecting and military service during WWI. After the war, he took to directing and was one of the pioneering hands behind the rising movie medium.

That all came to an end on February 2, 1922, when Taylor's body was found in his bungalow in the Westlake district of Los Angeles. After a crowd gathered at the sight, an unidentified man emerged claiming to be a doctor. He was allowed to make a cursory examination of the body and declared that Taylor had died of a stomach hemorrhage. This casual autopsy was quickly dismissed when Taylor's body was turned over to authorities and it was discovered that the 49-year-old director had been shot in the back by a small caliber pistol. The gun was never found and the man claiming to be a doctor was never identified.

The initial challenge was not just determining the killer, but also the motive. A large sum of money (how much exactly was never determined) that Taylor told his accountant about the day before was missing, but Taylor's jewelry, his watch, and \$78 in his wallet were not taken, making robbery, although a possibility, inconclusive as a motive.

Still trying to ward off the grimy reputation accumulated during the Fatty Arbuckle trial of the previous year, Hollywood executives were quick to keep the eager media under control. Even the Los Angeles Undersheriff warned a *Chicago Tribune* reporter that, "The industry has been hurt. Stars have been ruined. Stockholders have lost millions of dollars. A lot of people are out of jobs, and incensed enough to take a shot at you."

However, the authorities themselves found that the pressure turned on them. Famed director King Vidor recalled in 1968, "Last year I interviewed a Los Angeles police detective, now retired, who had been assigned to the case immediately after the murder. He told me, 'We were doing all right and then, before a week was out, we got the word to lay off.'"

This further complicated a case that was already proving exceptionally frustrating. Suspicion immediately turned to Taylor's valet, Edward Sands, who had a record of embezzlement, forgery, and military desertion. Indeed, he had robbed Taylor's bungalow the previous year. Tellingly, when the murder was discovered, Sands skipped town and was never



Mabel Normand

was among the most popular stars of the early days of motion pictures. Taylor was known to have been deeply in love with Normand and was trying hard to help cure her cocaine addiction. When his efforts proved ineffective, Taylor started asking for help from authorities to prosecute Normand's drug suppliers. One of the most prevalent theories to this day is that one of the drug dealers put a hit out for Taylor.

Normand, however, had the misfortune of being the last person to see Taylor alive. She was seen by a neighbor leaving Taylor's bungalow in what was described as a "happy mood." She left his residence around 7:45 pm, and witnesses saw Taylor see her out to the cab. Not surprisingly, Normand was a chief person of interest and the police put her through a grueling interrogation. However, they soon determined that she was not guilty and released her. Much like Arbuckle, however, Normand's career took a final blow. As comedic styles were changing by the early '20s, her ditzzy doll persona was beginning

to fade. Once her drug addiction became public, her career's path accelerated downward. She died in 1930 of tuberculosis and, by all accounts, the murder of her lover tormented her until the end.

Still, what the case did to the reputation of teen idol Mary Miles Minter was far uglier. There is little doubt that the 19-year-old Minter had become infatuated with the director more than twice her age. What remains in dispute is if Taylor shared those feelings. Be that as it may, Taylor kept a number of love letters from Minter, which were found when investigators scoured his home. The publication of these letters came as a shock to the public, who had grown accustomed to seeing Minter as an innocent child star. Realizing the public would never accept her as the innocent girl they had molded her image into, Paramount executives refused to renew her contract after four more films.

Although Minter was never suspected of the murder, her mother, Charlotte Shelby, always remained a shady figure. Police described her statements regarding her daughter's relationship with the director as evasive and unforthcoming. It soon came out that Shelby owned a .38 caliber pistol with bullets matching those that killed Taylor, though this gun was never found. However, Shelby's other daughter, Margaret, openly accused her mother of the murder, attributing her motivations as both maternal protection of Mary and jealousy, claiming her mother was herself enamored with the director. Police were never able to convict her, as all evidence was circumstantial and hearsay.

Few other suspects emerged, but none caused quite the same stir as the confession of Margaret Gibson many years later after the case had been all but forgotten by the public. Gibson had worked with Taylor in a few pictures, but her career halted when she was convicted in 1917 of prostitution and drug use. Nonetheless, after changing her professional name, Gibson returned to acting. Shortly after Taylor's murder, she made a few films for Famous Players-Lasky, the same studio that employed the slain director. Gibson was never thought a suspect at the time and spent the rest of her life travelling throughout Asia, where she met her husband, who was stationed on a U.S. oil rig in Malaysia. Her husband was killed in 1942 when Japan attacked the oil rig and Gibson lived quietly off his pension. However, in 1964, on her deathbed, Gibson confessed to a witness that she was the one who had "shot and killed William Desmond Taylor." The murder of William Desmond Taylor, however, remains unsolved as no concrete evidence ever came to the surface. What we can be sure of is that it put studio heads further on edge and solidified the position of the morality code. Careers were tarnished and things got ugly, and this is one more mystery hidden in the alleys of Tinsel Town.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for **MPA Contract No. M508-C1, BLACK FALCON CRUISEPORT SWITCHBOARD AND PANELBOARD REPLACEMENTS, SOUTH BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 209S, Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128-2909, until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017** immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 1:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017.

The work includes replacement of select switchboards and panelboards within Black Falcon Cruiseport. ELECTRICAL work.

Bid documents will be made available beginning **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017.**

Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

In order to be eligible and responsible to bid on this contract General Bidders must submit with their bid a current Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and an Update Statement. The General Bidder must be certified in the category of **ELECTRICAL**.

The estimated contract cost is **ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$175,000.00).**

Bidding procedures and award of the contract and sub-contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid; when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and/or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of **\$1,000,000**. Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

No filed sub-bids will be required for this contract.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in the Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action article of Division I, General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective sub-contractors of the requirement for such certification where the sub-contract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.


MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Run date: 1/27/17

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Last week, I was talking about my family's way of life ... the things I remembered from my childhood. My grandparents (Nanna and Babbononno), my parents, and my uncles all survived the Great Depression of the 1930s. Fortunately, they didn't suffer because they had jobs that, in spite of the economy, didn't disappear. Babbononno was a carpenter/furniture maker by day and a musician by night. Uncle Paul had learned the printing trade in high school and worked through The Depression. Oh, by the way, he was a musician, too. Uncle Nick became a musician like his older brother and father, and worked through the worst of times. Uncle Gino, the youngest, went to work at the Chelsea Navy Yard after graduating high school and played music at night like his father and brothers. My father graduated from East Boston High School's machine shop program in 1929, and went to work for an iron works company. He too, was a musician at night.

Speaking of the iron works, I passed the new Seville Building on Meridian Street a few weeks ago, and remembered that Dad helped put up the super structure of the Seville Theater when it was being constructed in the late 1920s. Here's a funny one ... There is a synagogue on Beacon Street in Brookline that once had a six point star, called the Star of David, on the top of its dome. Dad, at his job with the same iron works, had no fear of heights, and climbed atop the dome of that building and fastened the star at the highest point. It was a hot summer's day and the star burned his hands. This event kept him on the sidelines for a couple of weeks. But years later, his Jewish musician friends called that religious marker, "Johnny Christie's Star of David." Not long after he recuperated, Dad left the iron works to concentrate strictly on music.

As I said, the men in my family did well during the Depression,

but were super cautious about spending just in case. Dad and Uncle Nick went on the road with the big bands, the swing bands of the 1930s, while Babbononno, Uncle Paul, and Uncle Gino stayed home and worked at their day jobs and played music at night. Those were the days before DJs, and all social functions had live music.

Years later, when I observed the members of my family conducting their daily routines, I discovered that they still had what was called a "Depression mentality." As an example, one day when I was about ten, Babbononno sat on a chair with another chair facing him. On the chair was a sheet of wood that was his mini-table. On it, my grandfather was cutting up a rectangular chunk of compressed tobacco. It was called a plug and Babbononno, once he cut up the plug into small pieces, intended to smoke them in his pipe. The tobacco was named Edgeworth and could be purchased in plug form or ground up for immediate use in a pipe. When I asked Babbononno why he was chopping up the tobacco rather than buying the ready cut pouch of Edgeworth, he replied that the plug was cheaper, and he saved money.

Nanna and my mother also hunted for bargains, a carry-over from the dark days of the 1930s. There was a kosher slaughterhouse on Lewis Street near Maverick Station. Even though East Boston's Jewish population had all but disappeared, the establishment still survived. Jewish grandmothers and mothers who wanted their chickens slaughtered kosher-style still came back to Eastie. Italian women had discovered the place, too. Remembering fresh killed chickens in the old country, they came and picked out their chickens, argued price, and then had them slaughtered. Nanna was one of these Italian women who frequented the Lewis Street slaughterhouse.

With me by her side, she

entered the establishment, picked her chickens, argued the price with the salesperson, and then had the birds prepared for her to take home. I now know that she argued the price in Italian, and the salesperson argued in Yiddish. I don't know how they understood each other, but I guess they did. Nanna always got her price, an amount that fit into her budget. My grandmother couldn't read and write in either Italian or English, but she knew her numbers better than most, and could figure her spending right to the penny.

Whether it was food, clothing, anything for the house, there were never a lot of extras, but what they had was always of good quality. Babbononno used to say that good quality lasted longer and, as a result, things were cheaper in the long run. I would discover, years later, that my grandfather was right again.

One day during WWII, I watched Nanna as she sat at her Singer sewing machine, pumping the foot plate that made the mechanism operate. She was reversing the collar and cuffs of one of Babbononno's white dress shirts. They had become frayed and reversing them would give the shirt new life for a period of time ... money saved.

Being the first-born male in an Italian family, I grew up as a young prince, and loved it. At thirteen, I went to work at the Seville Theater, a job I would keep from 1952 through 1962. When I first started, I lied about my age, but they kept me on (a story for another time), but Dad was afraid that my young age and immaturity would cause me to spend every dollar I made. I wanted a new one-button roll collar "zoot suit" that was the style of the day. I also needed a new raincoat. I was going to buy the two garments with the money I saved from my salary at the Seville. Dad, with his Depression mentality, made sure I bought the raincoat first and the suit later. To him, this was the sensible way of doing things.

My grandparents and parents never splurged. Dad needed a car because he was a musician, but always bought something sensible and slightly used. He often said that he was in the low-priced three categories. This meant that he would only buy a Chevy, Ford, or Plymouth a couple of years old, and that is what he did most of his early life. Only later, when disposable income was in abundance, did my father ever buy a new car. I once talked him into buying a used Cadillac. A year later, it was stolen and he told me that it was God's will that it disappear due to his trying to show off.

Those days seem so long ago, and they are part of the distant past. We've never come close to those troubled times of the '30s that molded the mentality of so many Americans. I don't know if this is good or bad, but some of us old folks can remember the way our parents and grandparents thought things out to survive. They must have been right, because we survived, thank God.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

• **A Man for All Pigeons** (Continued from Page 6)

the time, learning the lessons required for each degree. Again, Sidney was humble. "As you're in the organization, you just keep moving along." He lived in Boston, Brookline, Wayland, and Randolph before moving to the North End, where he lived on Commercial Street before breaking his hip last summer. (Fortunately, he has been able to recuperate in the North End Nursing Home, where his North End friends can easily visit.)

Speaking of Sidney's North End friends, there are too many to mention in one article. But I did chat with a few from his Modern Pastry coffee klatch. In fact, I met with Karen Gould and Bik-Fung Ng over a cuppa in the very spot. Ng met Sidney at the Haymarket one weekend, where he plied one of his "retirement jobs." Gould told me how he would take a large magic marker and go down to the market early Fridays to help the vendors make signs for selling their produce. Many of the vendors are immigrants and have a bit of difficulty with English. But Sidney to the rescue! (In fact, he not only made the signs, he would jump behind a counter and help sell the veggies and fruit, too!) Apparently, Sidney knows a few words of Chinese and greeted Ng in her native language one day. Later, when she dropped into Modern and spied him, she said, "Hi Grandpa, you the one at the Haymarket!" After that, she would frequently stop by Modern to have coffee with him on her way to work at City Hall. When she was running late, she'd poke her head in and say, "Grandpa, I'm late," and continue on to work. But no worries. By this time, Sidney had a circle of regulars meeting him for coffee. Ng observed, "We just talk and talk, and our group just grow and grow. This (Modern) become our meeting place every morning. So we like family every morning."

Gould was not sure when she became a member of Sidney's "Modern family," but she is a neighbor of Sidney's in the North End—so it was not possible not to run into him walking at some point. They struck up a friendship, and she started accompanying him to Modern for coffee some mornings. After she mentioned his Haymarket gig, she spoke about his other "job," that of personal shopper. Like those squeegee-wielding window washers that ambush your car in NYC, he didn't ask people whether they wanted something. But unlike them, he never asked for payment, either. "He was always in retail," Gould remarked, and "he would go to T.J. Maxx and buy blouses that women might wear, anybody he saw ..." Here Ng piped up and said he bought clothes for her sometimes. "He had good judgment, too. He looks at you and knows what size you wear!" A thoughtful and generous man, he was "forever using his credit card and sending gifts to people" according to Gould.

Another benefit of Sidney's friendship is his sincere concern for your health. He has his routines, which he recommends to others, like doing 100 leg lifts in bed in the morning if you wake up with a sore back. And he has his "remedy." This would be a blender concoction of fresh tomatoes and garlic, which he mixes up and pours into small containers to hand out to every-

body he runs into. Just take one tablespoon every morning and you will never catch a cold! If he is any example, it must work; the man never gets sick. Gould says he sometimes adds parsley to counter the garlic odor. Ng didn't realize she was only supposed to take a tablespoon and drank the whole thing!

Of course, the pigeon story cropped up again. "You can never look at a pigeon the same way," joked Gould. She mentioned that whenever you went to dinner with Sidney, he would ask for the extra bread to feed the pigeons. "He had bread for the pigeons and dog biscuits for the dogs." Added Ng, "He would have the treats in his pocket and when he sees the dog, he gives one; so the dogs love him!" And not to forget his human friends, he would carry lollipops, too. If you had a sore throat, he would hand you one and say, "Suck the lollipop!"

Another "Modern family" member, Cliff Myrtill first met Sidney five or six years ago when he opened the door for him coming into the shop one morning. Sidney thanked him and they struck up a conversation. "We just clicked," said Myrtill. And he enjoyed hearing Sidney's war stories and what he appreciates about life, his kids, and grandkids. Like everyone I spoke to, Myrtill brought up the pigeon story. I think not just because it's amusing, but also because it says a lot about the man and his values. Myrtill also mentioned visiting Sidney at the nursing home on Veterans' Day to pay his respects. He appreciates the man's service and his modesty. "Real heroes don't show off," he said.

Although very modest when asked about his service, Sidney was nevertheless very proud to be a "WWII Flyboy." You will notice his cap in almost every photo and any time you see him — he never goes out without it. (He may even wear it to bed.) When he told Myrtill that he had been trying to find another cap to no avail, Myrtill went searching. He finally succeeded and present Sidney with a new cap on his birthday one year. "He was so happy!" said Ng.

There were several other friends of Sidney's I was told I simply *had* to talk to, but there just wasn't time. He was a regular at the Sail Loft and Anthony's as well as Modern Pastry and the Haymarket, and even the delivery truck drivers would call out to him as he walked the neighborhood streets. If I put out a call, there would probably be a line at the *Post-Gazette* door stretching all the way down to City Hall! When she contacted me about doing this article, Karen Gould said, "You have quite a gem to write about — I guarantee he will have a profound impact upon you." He did. And clearly on many, many others as well.

Sidney turned 99 years young on November 30th. When son-in-law Jim asked him if was going to stick around for 100, he started listing all the things he had to look forward to this year, especially his grandson Zachary's wedding in June. So, yes, that's the plan! As Ng told me right up front, "He's a fighter, Ever since I know him!" And the many who love this man look forward to having him around another year — including the pigeons!

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI16P5893EA

Estate of
CHERYL M. ZARELLA
Date of Death August 9, 2016
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Bonita A. Posnak of Tyngsboro, MA.** **Bonita A. Posnak of Tyngsboro, 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: 1/27/17

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
The Probate and Family Court
Department
Middlesex Division
Docket No. MI15P3266PO

NOTICE

To **Annie T. Mikutel**, an absentee whose last known address was Natick, Massachusetts having property in the County of Middlesex, to the Treasurer and Receiver General of said Commonwealth, to all persons claiming an interest in the property hereinafter described and to all whom it may concern.

A petition has been presented in the above-captioned matter praying that **William John Mikutel Jr.** of Bourne in the County of Barnstable or some other suitable person, be appointed receiver of the following described property of said absentee, and a warrant to take possession thereof has issued to an officer who has taken and now holds the same, as follows: a personal property of **Annie T. Mikutel** formerly located at 26 Walnut Street, Natick, MA.

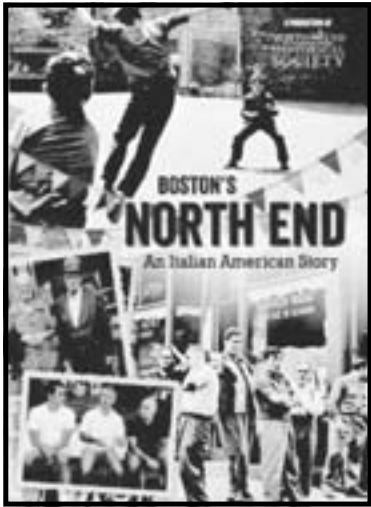
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at Middlesex Probate and Family Trial Court, 208 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02141, on or before Ten O'clock in the forenoon (10:00am) on **March 3, 2017**.

WITNESS, Hon. Edward F. Donnelly, Jr., Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Cambridge Massachusetts, this **6th** day of **January** in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 1/20, 1/27 & 2/3/17

Free Movie Showing of



Boston's
North End:
An Italian
American Story

Saturday, January 28th
at 10:00 am

Boston Public Library
North End Branch
Parmenter Street
*Limited Seating
First come first served*

Presented by the Friends of the North End Branch Library
in conjunction with the North End Historical Society
www.northendboston.org

MIRACLE
PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen.
Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.
N.L.J.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer 9 times a day and by the 8th day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered.
N.L.J.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for MPA Contract No. **L1240-C4, TERMINAL C CRAWL SPACE PHASE IV MECHANICAL, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 209S - Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128-2909, until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017** immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.
Sealed filed sub-bids for the same contract will be received at the same office until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**, immediately after which, in a designated room, the filed sub-bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 10:00 AM LOCAL TIME ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017.

The work includes **REPLACEMENT OF SUMP PUMPS, INTERFACE WITH BUILDING CONTROL SYSTEM, CONNECTIONS TO PLUMBING PIPING, INSTALLATION OF STEAM PIPE, REMOVAL OF PIPING AND EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE TERMINAL C CRAWL SPACE.**

Bid documents will be made available beginning **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017**.
Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

In order to be eligible and responsible to bid on this contract General Bidders must submit with their bid a current Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Assessment Management and an Update Statement. The General Bidder must be certified in the category of **MECHANICAL SYSTEMS**.

The estimated contract cost is **TWO MILLION, NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,900,000.00)**.

In order to be eligible and responsible to bid on this contract, filed Sub-bidders must submit with their bid a current Sub-bidder Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and a Sub-bidder Update Statement. The filed Sub-bidder must be certified in the sub-bid category of work for which the Sub-bidder is submitting a bid proposal.

Bidding procedures and award of the contract and sub-contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44A through 44H inclusive, Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid; when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and/or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of **TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000.00)**. Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

Filed sub-bids will be required and taken on the following classes of work:

PLUMBING	Engineer's Estimate	\$1,025,000.00
ELECTRICAL	Engineer's Estimate	\$ 570,000.00

The Authority reserves the right to reject any sub-bid of any sub-trade where permitted by Section 44E of the above referenced General Laws. The right is also reserved to waive any informality in or to reject any or all proposals and General Bids.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in the Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action article of Division I, General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective sub-contractors of the requirement for such certification where the sub-contract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.

**MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Run date: 1/27/17



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



Hot Stove Cool Music
in April

The Annual Hot Stove Cool Music Concert benefiting the Paul & Theo Epstein Foundation is arriving a bit late this year. It will be held on April 29th, when Theo's World Champion Cubs are in town to play the Red Sox. Hot Stove organizers are now holding Chicago's version of Hot Stove Cool Music, too.

East Boston Pop Warner
Banquet January 12th

On January 12th, East Bos-

• Mayor Walsh

(Continued from Page 1)

• Amend state law to define "lead poisoning" for the purposes of triggering lead abatement, emergency case management and civil liability to 10 micrograms per deciliter, lowering the level from 25.

• Expand access to appropriate in-patient substance abuse treatment by ensuring that 30-day treatment programs are covered by health insurance.

• Entitle individuals facing first and second drug offenses to be examined to determine if they are drug dependent and would benefit from treatment.

• Require chain pharmacies to have drug collection kiosks.

Responsible Government

"From giving Bostonians more access to the ballot box, to providing potential candidates for office a better opportunity to engage with the public, and ensuring a more transparent decision-making process, these proposed legislative measures aim to make City Hall and government more inclusive and give citizens more opportunities to participate, learn about what we do, and get their voices heard," said Mayor Walsh.

Mayor Walsh's bills will:

• Allow eligible citizens, with proper identification, who missed the registration deadline to register to vote and then cast their ballot on Election Day at designated sites throughout the City.

• Eliminate the requirement that an inactive voter must make written affirmation of his or her current and continuous residency.

• Allow voters to sign nomination papers for as many candidates as they choose, providing the opportunity for more candidates to get on the ballot and lead to a more equitable process for candidates.

• Establish an additional polling location in several large City precincts with over 3,000 registered voters.

• Reform municipal lobbying to allow greater access to information concerning efforts by third parties seeking to influence discretionary decision making at all levels of municipal government.

For more information on these bills, go to: www.boston.gov/legislativeagenda.

ton Pop Warner held their annual banquet at the Beachmont VFW Post. It was a good time for all. Plenty of dancing, great music, and a great buffet. Then, of course, all the trophies were handed out to team members. The whole crowd celebrated F Team's Championship victory over Mattapan this season.

Frozen Fenway
with Temps in the 60s

I was sitting in the press box at Fenway Park on January 12th, watching the Frozen Fenway Classic with UMass Boston taking on Babson College in a great hockey match-up. It was pouring rain, but I was protected in the press box. I wondered how great the press box view must be for a baseball game when you are hovering high above home plate with a fantastic view of the whole field. Like a dream come true for this old Red Sox fan.

Manny Being Manny in Japan

Since I don't see Manny Ramirez getting into the Hall of Fame without buying his admission ticket, he might as well keep on being Manny a bit longer. The former Red Sox slugger hit 555 homers in 19 seasons and has now signed on with the Kochi Fighting Dogs where he probably will bash a few more homers to pad his stats.

The 44-year-old Ramirez last

played in MLB with the Rays back in 2011 before suddenly retiring and avoiding a 100-game suspension for testing, ready for this, *positive* on PEDs for the second time in his career.

Rockies Sign Arenado

The Colorado Rockies and third baseman Nolan Arenado avoided arbitration by agreeing to a \$29.5-million, two year deal. Arenado tied the NL lead with 41 homers last season and he drove in a Major League-best 133 RBIs.

Nationals Sign
Harper for '17

Bryce Harper and the Nationals have agreed to a \$13.6-million deal for 2017, two years away from free agency. Harper, 24, was plagued by injuries this past season, hitting .243 with 24 homers and 86 RBIs. In 2014, he hit 42 homers, with 99 RBIs and a .330 batting average.

Negro Leagues Honors Two
Red Sox for '16 Work

Red Sox pitcher Rick Porcello and right fielder Mookie Betts won the 2016 Legacy Awards from the Negro League's Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO. The awards most likely will be delivered to both players in June when the Red Sox visit Kansas City to play a series with the Royals.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for MPA Contract No. **L1240-C5, TERMINAL C CRAWL SPACE LIGHTING, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 209S, Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128-2909, until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017** immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 9:00 AM LOCAL TIME ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017.

The work includes **INSTALLATION OF NEW LED LIGHTING, CONDUIT AND SWITCHES IN THE TERMINAL C CRAWL SPACE AND DEMOLITION OF EXISTING LIGHTS.**

Bid documents will be made available beginning **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017**.

Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

In order to be eligible and responsible to bid on this contract General Bidders must submit with their bid a current Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and an Update Statement. The General Bidder must be certified in the category of **ELECTRICAL**.

The estimated contract cost is **ONE MILLION, NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,980,000.00)**.

Bidding procedures and award of the contract and sub-contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44A through 44H inclusive, Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid; when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and/or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance, Auto Liability Insurance, and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of **TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00)**. Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

No filed sub-bids will be required for this contract.

This contract is subject to a Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise participation provision requiring that not less than **ONE AND THREE TENTHS PERCENT (1.3%)** of the Contract be performed by minority and women owned business enterprise contractors. With respect to this provision, bidders are urged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Bidding Documents. Strict compliance with the pertinent procedures will be required for a bidder to be deemed responsive and eligible.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in Article 84 of the General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective sub-contractors of the requirement for such certification where the sub-contract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.

**MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Run date: 1/27/17

Small Ads
Get Big Results

For more information,
call 617-227-8929.



JOHNNY RISKO The Cleveland Rubber Man

New Biography Gives Rugged Contender the Recognition He Deserves

The 1920s and 1930s were truly boxing's Golden Age. Just the sheer number of participants in the sport guaranteed it. Boxing historian Mike Silver points out in his book, *The Arc of Boxing*, that there were between 8,000 and 10,000 fighters licensed during this period. In 1927, New York and California had 2,000 licensed boxers each. That is way above the total number of fighters participating today. Because there were so many fighters, there were also a huge number of fight venues. During these years, and even during the Depression, a boxer could make a decent living fighting every couple of weeks. Add to this the fact that there were gyms all over the place filled with excellent trainers, and a boxer never lacked for sparring partners, and you can see why the fighters from that period were so good.

While places like New York were certainly Meccas for boxing, the rest of the country did not lack in fight clubs. In these pre-television days, boxing was one of the most popular forms of entertainment. Cleveland, Ohio, had a very vibrant fight scene, and we are fortunate that boxing historian Jerry Fitch is working hard to keep the history of boxing in that area alive. Jerry is the author of a terrific biography of the great heavyweight Jimmy Bivins as well as *Cleveland's Greatest Fighters of All Time*, and a memoir, *50 Years of Fights, Fighters, and Friendships*.

In his latest work, Jerry takes his keen historian's eye and focuses it on one of the toughest and most prolific fighters to emerge from Cleveland, heavyweight contender Johnny Risko. Risko was known as "The Rubber Man" because of his ability to take punches and still keep coming forward. This is not to say Risko just stood there and absorbed punches. No, he was also a skilled boxer. But it was next to impossible to knock him down or out. In fact, in approximately 140 fights (the exact number is not known), Risko was only stopped three times, once by the great Max Schmeling. He was only counted out one time, and that was in his last bout when he was 38 years old.

Reading Jerry Fitch's book on Risko is a boxing history lesson in itself as it goes beyond the career of Johnny Risko. Just reading through the Cleveland contender's record is amazing. The names that appear there, the people he fought, are a who's who of boxing from that glorious period. It is staggering to see who the Rubber Man went up against. Jack Sharkey, Gene Tunney, Mickey Walker, Tom Heeney, Max Baer, Tony Galento,



Tommy Loughran, Ernie Schaaf, to name just a few. And Risko was no "opponent," he beat many of these men. He split a



Johnny Risko



Schmeling and Risko

pair of decisions with Baer and beat Loughran two out of four times. No, Risko was far from just an opponent; he is more remembered as a "spoiler" as he ruined many a contender's chance at getting a title shot.

While just looking at the Risko record can be enough to

excite any fight fan, it is in reading Fitch's lively account of his life and battles that is really a treat. Mr. Fitch has done tireless research in digging up accounts, many of them first-hand round-by-round reports, of these great fights. You are there when Johnny beats George Godfrey, you have a seat at the Risko v Schmeling bout, you can see the smile of frustration on Max Baer's face as he is unable to hurt the Rubber Man. This is living history.

Along the way, Fitch also treats his readers to short, but detailed, biographies of many of Risko's opponents. His treatment of Max Schmeling is very interesting. In just a few pages, he gives a concise account of the German's career and fighting style.

Johnny Risko's life is also covered in great detail. He was a smart businessman who walked away from boxing with money in his pocket and an appreciation for life. As I moved along in this book, I felt I was really getting to know this interesting character from Cleveland's past. He sounds like a guy who was quick with a smile and a happy remark. I doubt anyone would have felt uncomfortable in Risko's company.

So why didn't Johnny Risko ever get a shot at the title? Well, he came close many times, but the timing was never quite right. Back then, fighters didn't score a victory over a top fighter and then wait around for the big fight. No, they kept fighting and sometimes would lose and get set back a bit. In the days of Johnny Risko, being a top contender really meant something. As is pointed out in this fine biography, Johnny was a top notch fighter. He was a true contender. Take a second to look at his record and I know you will want to learn more about him. Fortunately, thanks to Jerry Fitch, you have that opportunity. His book will bring the Cleveland Rubber Man to life for you.

I would like to point out that if it weren't for dedicated boxing historians like Jerry Fitch who devote untold hours researching these greats of the past, they would be forgotten. Fitch, and others like him, deserves the eternal gratitude of all boxing fans who care about the legacy of this once great sport. It is important to support the work they do.

Thank you Jerry Fitch for the work you do. Johnny Risko and the others are looking down from above and smiling at you.

Information about and signed copies of *Johnny Risko: The Cleveland Rubber Man* by Jerry Fitch can be obtained by emailing Jerry at JerryFitch1946@gmail.com.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



WAIT AND SEE — As this was being written, there was a lot of speculation swirling around the Bruins. What is the immediate future of the franchise? And, more specifically, what is the immediate future of head coach Claude Julien?

The answer to the second question may have been answered by the time you read this. Bruins management may have pulled the trigger and installed one of the assistant coaches in the lead position for the balance of the season.

But if one takes a longer view and goes back a little bit in the history of the Bs, there might be a lesson or two from the somewhat recent past that could provide guidance in the current situation.

It was the spring of 2010 and the Bruins were meeting the Philadelphia Flyers in the second round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The Flyers had already pulled off one miracle. On the last day of the regular season, they had defeated the New York Rangers in a shootout to claim the final Eastern Conference playoff berth. Talk about getting in just under the wire.

Now, having polished off New Jersey, the Flyers were going up against the Bruins. And it sure did look like the fortunes of the Philadelphia team were about to stop right there. The Bruins won the first three games and things were really looking up on Causeway Street. How could the Bs blow a 3-0 lead in games?

If this had been tennis, it would have been triple match point. Just win one of the next three games and the Bs would move on. But the Bruins stalled out. It was the Flyers who won the next three games, evening the best of seven series at 3-3.

Even then, the Bruins looked like they were a team on the rebound. They came out of that locker room and proceeded to take a 3-0 lead in game 7. But it wasn't to be. When all was said and done, Philadelphia came roaring back and won game seven and the series and eventually went not just to the Eastern Conference title series, but all the way to the Stanley Cup Final.

If ever there was a time for a coaching change — and perhaps a goalie change — this was the moment, right? Rabid fans took to the airwaves and lit up the lines on local sports talk show radio, demanding the removal of Julien and, to a certain extent, the removal of that substitute goalie (what was his name? Rask, that was it) who was filling in for Tim Thomas because the all-star netminder had sustained an injury back in March.

But then Bruins General Manager Peter Chiarelli refused to yield to the emotions of the moment. A few days later, in the final press conference of the year, there was Chiarelli on the stage with Julien seated right next to him. It took a lot of fortitude to say no to the mob of irate fans when saying yes would have been so much easier.

Fast forward to a year later and it's the spring of 2011. The Bruins have won their first Stanley Cup since 1972, with the recovered Tim Thomas in net and the now much respected Claude Julien still behind the bench.

The point is that emotions of the moment are once again coming to the fore. Yes, the Bruins have been going through a recent dark stretch. But as of January 25th, they were in third place by a whisker in the Atlantic Division, the final guaranteed spot for teams in that division.

We've said before that the Bruins are a playoff picture team, meaning that they are a good team with enough talent to contend for a possible playoff berth through the end of the regular season. Back in early January, Bruins President Cam Neely essentially agreed with that assessment in a *Boston Herald* interview.

A change now would certainly not change much. Remember, an assistant elevated to head coach is still a coach who has been with the team for the entire season, not someone brought in from outside. The players would probably respond to that person the same way they have responded to him since September.

In addition, any assistant would undoubtedly share many of the coaching philosophies of the departed head coach. After all, who had the biggest say in the hiring of his assistants? Claude Julien, of course. And the number one qualification for all assistant coaches in any sport is that they will be on the same page with the head coach from day one.

A much more immediate concern for the franchise should be the condition of goalie Tuukka Rask. There appears to be quite a drop off in talent between Rask and any of the backups that have played this year. If Rask were ever to miss a long stretch of consecutive games, it would probably be a much more decisive factor in determining whether the Bruins made the playoffs.

About a month from now, a date that may very well prove to be an important one for this bunch of Bs will arrive. It is Tuesday, February 28th — the trading deadline in the NHL this year. Almost a year ago, back on Leap Year Day, everyone remained in place as the deadline passed.

There most likely won't be a repeat of that scenario this time around. So, there will probably be a roster change or two. But in our opinion, the one at the helm — the head coach — should remain in place. He has the knowledge and experience to effectively deal with the current situation, one that will pass into memory — just like that 2010 series with Philadelphia. Someone once said that darkness comes before the light. So, there is indeed something to look forward to on Causeway Street.