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**A Very Merry Christmas
to our Readers and Advertisers
from the staff of the Post-Gazette**



Santa Arrives by Helicopter at Christopher Columbus Park in the North End

by Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com

Santa Claus arrived Sunday afternoon, December 8th, by helicopter on the Christopher Columbus Park in the North End, Boston to the cheers of hundreds who gathered. This is the first (and only?) year the Santa landing was at Christopher Columbus Park because Langone Park and Puopolo Fields are under renovation.

The event is dedicated in memory of James “Jimmy” Pallotta and sponsored by Taste of the North End, North End Athletic Association, Nazzaro Center, North End Against Drugs and Mayor’s Office of Tourism and Special Events. Buon Natale!



(Photo by Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com)

(Additional photos next week)

Annual North End Christmas Fund Luncheon

by Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com



North End Christmas Fund Luncheon Committee: Steven Siciliano, Jim Luisi, Mary Wright, Zach Goodale, Barbara Maldaro, Ted Tomasone, Maria Bova, Paul Cuciantti, Patricia Romano, John Romano, and Dino Manca
(Photo by Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com)

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, it was a full house at the 2019 Annual North End Christmas Fund Luncheon in the North End as hundreds came together for the annual charity event.

Receiving honors this year:

Toni Gilardi: Uncle Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award
John Fiumara: Private Ernest J. Natale Community Service Award

The committee also honored two longtime supporters who have been very generous in supporting the Christmas Fund luncheon over the years.

Filippo Frattaroli: Christmas Fund Luncheon Appreciation Award

Sandra Pascucci: Christmas Fund Luncheon Appreciation Award

The tradition raises thousands of dollars enabling the group to send out over 200 checks to North End seniors, low-income residents, and families in need during this Christmas season. State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and City Councilor Lydia Edwards joined with the committee to celebrate and honor those who serve the community.

The Christmas Fund Committee is led by Robert “Ted” Tomasone, John Romano of the North End Athletic Association, and James Luisi of North End Waterfront Health.

The committee includes members from local non-profit agencies: North End Athletic Association, North End Against Drugs, Nazzaro Community Center, North End Waterfront Health, North End Seniors, ABCD Head Start Program, and North End/West End ABCD Service Center.

For the last several years the luncheon has been held at Filippo’s Ristorante and the committee would like to thank the Frattaroli Family for all of their help and support in making the luncheon a huge success.

(Additional photos on Page 9)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Words of Wisdom

“Worry a little bit every day and in a lifetime you will lose a couple of years. If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry. Worry never fixes anything.”

— Mary Welsh Hemingway

NSA Phone Spying Falls Out of Favor on Capitol Hill

A couple of weeks back, both senior Republicans and Democrats have said they support ending the NSA’s surveillance tool that collects information about U.S. calls and text messages. Something the Trump Administration wants to keep.

Four years ago, lawmakers voted by wide margins to renew this once secret program. Capitol Hill seems much wiser today and I’m thankful for that.

FAA Had its Own MAX Warning But ...

Families of victims killed in two Boeing 737 MAX jetliner crashes in the past 14 months found out a House Transportation Committee hearing last week that the FAA allowed planes to keep flying, despite a 2018 analysis that determined a high likelihood of future crashes.


Kudos to House Committee Chair U.S. Rep. Peter
(Continued on Page 14)

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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.



SATURNUS



Temple of Saturn, in the Forum Romanum, Rome

Saturnus is the proper Latin name for the Roman god, Saturn, who was the subject of this column last week. He was considered to be a mythical king of Italy, who introduced agriculture and civilization into that country. The Romans identified Saturn with the Greek god Cronus. They also made Saturn the father of Jupiter (thunder and lightning), Neptune (sea), Pluto (lower world), and Juno (wife of Jupiter). The reign of this mythical king is said to have been a golden age for Italy, and especially for the aborigines (earliest known inhabitants of that country).

The legend of Saturn tells us that he came to Italy during the reign of the god Janus and was hospitably received. Saturn formed a settlement on the Capitoline Hill (one of the famous Seven Hills of Rome), which at that time was called

the Saturnian Hill. He taught his people agriculture, suppressed their savage mode of life, and introduced civilization and morality. He and his reign became so popular that the whole country was called Saturnia, or “The Land of Plenty.”

Saturn was suddenly taken from this mortal world and ascended to the abode of the gods. Because of this incident, we are told that the part of Italy which is now called Latium (Tivoli, Frascati, Subiaco, Anagni, Viterbo, Caprarola, Toscanella, Fossanova, and Ostia), received its name from “Lateo,” which means, “To live a retired life.”

The remains of the Temple of Saturn still overlook the rostrum in the Forum Romanum. There are now only eight Ionic columns standing on a huge concrete base. It was originally built in 497 B.C., rebuilt about

284 A.D., and is one of the oldest sanctuaries surrounding that Forum. Here, under the protection of Saturn, they kept the standards, or flags of their legions, and a very formal ceremony was required whenever those standards were removed or returned to their vault. A secret chamber below the temple held the public treasury, a store of gold and silver to be used only in case of extreme need. This temple was also used as the archives for the bronze tablets containing the engraved decrees of the Roman Senate.

The statue of Saturn which stood in his temple was hollow and filled with oil. Some historians say that this represented the abundance of olives in Latium. Also, the feet of Saturn’s statue were wrapped in a ribbon made of wool. This reference to oil and wool recalls to my mind the last part of the proper ancient Roman wedding ceremony. Before entering her new home, the Roman bride tied some wool around the doorposts and then anointed it with oil to signify health and plenty.

NEXT WEEK:

Uranus, god of the heavens

Res Publica

by David Trumbull



As you passed through the towns and cities of the Commonwealth this December, I’m sure you noticed how many, in this secular land, found some place to display a crèche, a public display acknowledging the majority Christian faith of our people. Usually, nearby, stood the menorah, a civic statement of the importance of Jews and of the Jewish faith in our common life. This is as it should be.

It was not always so. In Puritan Boston, Christmas was not generally celebrated at all until the middle of the 19th century. In the mid-17th century, when Puritans held political power, the celebration of Christmas was banned. The Puritans, you see, did not subscribe to our secular doctrine of separation of church and state. They did not consider Christmas permissible in their sect and had no qualms about using the power of the state to deny the joys of Christmas to anyone else, be it Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran or even the non-believers who simply enjoyed a bit of merriment during the shortest days of the year. Imagine what Puritan preacher Cotton Mather would have said from his pulpit in North Square if he knew that a menorah would be part of public displays 200 years later! He would have probably condemned as witches any Jews he could find in the Bay Colony. A state-run church, especially one organized around very narrow beliefs, is not likely to deal gently with other faiths or persons of no faith.

Now we have freedom! Under our 1787 Federal Constitution the United States may not establish a state church. The Fourteenth Amendment, in 1868, extended that prohibition to the States. Recognition of the universal right of freedom to practice religion is part of the fundamental charter of our nation. Sadly, some today are attempting to change that fundamental understanding of the place of religion in our secular republic. From some liberal politicians we are increasingly hearing the phrase “freedom of worship” in place of the traditional American doctrine of “freedom of religion.” “Freedom of worship” merely guarantees the right to gather in church, synagogue, or other place of worship for the liturgies or services of our denominations. Freedom to practice one’s religion goes beyond that, and recognizes the civic aspects of faith. That includes the public display of nativity scenes and menoroth (yes, that is the correct plural of menorah; my two years of Hebrew in college finally comes in handy). Those public displays of faith are important reminders that not only do we have no state religion but that the state itself is not our religion. It is also not our metaphysic nor our science. We pledge allegiance to the flag of our Republic, but we also, each of us, has other allegiances — to God, to humanistic philosophy, to the rules of physics and so forth. On Christmas we celebrate the birth of the King of Kings. We do so in a secular state that, so far, has recognized the right of every person to practice, or not practice, religion, as her or his conscience dictates. Let us pray and work for an America where freedom of religion is never infringed.


Happy Holidays and Best of Luck in the New Year



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



May you all have a heartwarming holiday season ahead! From my family to yours.
- Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards

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Vincenza Raspa

November 15, 1913 - December 15, 2019

Vincenza Raspa “Vi”, age 106, of Boston’s North End passed away on December 15, 2019.

Vincenza Raspa was born on November 15, 1913, to Clementina (Celia) and Antonio Raspa, in the North End home on Garden Court that she has never left. Loving sister of the late Nicholas Raspa and Anna Arcaro and her husband Paschel. Also survived by loving godchildren, cousins and friends.

Some attribute her long life to those four stories she climbed up and down from the time she could walk. But when her cousins asked how she has lived so long and well, she answered, “Patience, patience, and more patience!” Fourth cousin Samantha Gullens told me how this saying has been adopted by Vincenza’s extended family, intoned again and again through difficult times.

Vincenza worked at more than just climbing stairs. After attending St. John’s Elementary School and Girls’ High School, she worked for thirty years in a canning factory in Boston, then another twenty years in Sales at Macy’s. But her most enduring job has been volunteering at her beloved church, Sacred Heart, around the corner in North Square. She has attended mass daily and her contributions to St. Leonard Parish (including Sacred Heart, St. Leonard, and St. Stephen’s churches) were recognized in 2011 when Father Antonio nominated her for the Archdiocese of Boston’s Cheverus Award. As described in *The Pilot* (November 11, 2011):

Established in 2008, in conjunction with the archdiocese’s bicentennial celebration, the Cheverus Award is named after the first Bishop of Boston, Jean-Louis Lefebvre de Cheverus. Bishop Cheverus led the diocese from 1808 until his return to his native France in 1824. The award is given to lay people, deacons and religious in parishes and other archdiocesan ministries for their service to the Church and the people of God. Recipients are nominated by pastors, regional bishops and the central ministries of the archdiocese. Cardinal O’Malley also chooses some of the recipients personally.

Excerpts written by Jeanne Brady for Vincenza’s 105th birthday



“It’s the Catholic version of the unsung hero award,” said Scot Landry, secretary for Catholic Media in the archdiocese. These folks have all served the parish and the community of faith in the archdiocese extraordinarily well over a period of many years.” Cardinal O’Malley agreed, saying, “The archdiocese would come to a screeching halt without the army of volunteer staff that carries out, day by day, our faith and activities.”

On Vincenza’s 105th birthday, her cake featured a photo of her receiving this prestigious award from Cardinal O’Malley with Fr. Antonio proudly looking on. And, of course, Fr. Antonio was at her party, proudly looking on as Vincenza was interviewed by several news organizations. One reporter asked if he was her son and someone in the crowd replied, “No, that’s her Father!” Indeed.

In addition to all the Press attention, Vincenza received Certificates of Recognition from City Councilor Lydia Edwards, on behalf of the City Council; State Rep. Aaron Michlewicz, on behalf of the State House. Mayor Walsh also sent a representative to bestow a Certificate on behalf of the City of Boston. State Sen. Joe Boncore also attended.

As Matt Conti noted in his *northendwaterfront.com* column, Vincenza has lived through many historical events: the Great Molasses Flood (1919), the construction of Boston’s airport (1923), the Brink’s Robbery (1950), the building of the central artery (1959) and the subsequent Big Dig to put it underground (1991-2007), and the entire Curse of the Bambino (1918 – 2004)! Well, that last one may be the greatest example of her “patience, patience, and more patience!” May we all take those words to heart!

Visitation on Thursday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston, with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 10:00 a.m.

Services will conclude with interment in St. Michael Cemetery, Roslindale.

Donations in Vi’s memory may be made to: St. Leonard Church.

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L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore
A Very Merry Christmas

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



The magical season known as midwinter is upon us! The shortest day of the year, also known as the winter solstice, descends upon the world this Saturday, the 21st of December. On the days surrounding the solstice, I can sense the darkness enveloping me like a thick velvet cloak, veiling the world in a perpetual state of dusk. However, I do not mind the darkness, as I view it as a necessary and intriguing spoke on

the wheel of the year. These are the nights when stars appear sharp and bright against the inky black sky, their light sending diamond-like spangles flitting across the frost below. The darkness also imbues the winter solstice with a profound significance: now that the date has passed, we know that the sun will remain for longer periods in the sky, bringing its much-awaited warmth and its sweet, luminous blaze. For this

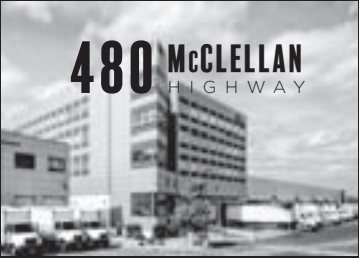


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reason, Christmas — with its focus on candles and crackling yule logs and electric light displays — occurs during the darkest time of the year. Religiously, Christmas represents the light arriving to the world in the form of Jesus's Nativity, while metaphorically the radiant decorations of Christmas signify the return of the sun after the solstice. Due to the complex symbolism comprising this holiday and its traditions, I revel in Christmas customs which emphasize the literal and figurative lights of my life. Whether enjoying age-old recipes or exchanging gifts with loved ones, I most appreciate Christmas when the glow of family and tradition encircle me.

Many of my family's much-loved holiday customs revolve around food. Food forms an ancient and essential part of the Italian Christmas Eve feast known as la Vigilia di Natale, which my family celebrates every year. La Vigilia di Natale, or "Christmas vigil," is traditionally a meatless meal in Italy, a vestige from the era in which Christmas Eve was considered a fast day in preparation for Jesus's birth on the following day. Therefore, many Italian families trim their tables with seafood dishes for la Vigilia. I am always excited to plan fish recipes with my mother for la Vigilia; in the past, we served sole bursting with a buttery shrimp stuffing and a delectable smoked salmon quiche. This year, my mother will prepare a creamy seafood lasagna laden with shrimp and scallops. However, my favorite component of Christmas cooking involves the plethora of desserts that fill my family's kitchens. A great number of traditional Italian desserts have become inextricably linked with Christmas and remain an indispensable part of my holiday celebrations. My father would always bring home a cylindrical cardboard box of panettone home right before Christmas. Panettone, whose name means "great bread," is a sweet bread studded with dried fruit and candied peel. I am not a huge fan of the taste of panettone, but I appreciate its time-honored symbolism in the Italian Christmas festivities. I hold the nostalgic struffoli, a dessert my grandmother has been making since I was little, in high esteem. Struffoli are deep-fried spheres of dough soaked in honey, then arranged into the shape of a tree or wreath and sprinkled with colorful nonpareils. Struffoli are a fun, whimsical way to celebrate the childlike wonder of the holiday season. I also make a lemon tart every year to cap off our la Vigilia meal and honor the citrus fruits seasonal during the winter. Collectively, these desserts stand in the exquisite tapestry of love and family that characterize my Christmas memories.

Indeed, I believe that family forms the crux of Christmas joy. The true meaning of Christmas derives from the sensation of comfort and peace that envelopes a person when surrounded by loved ones. I can-

(Continued on Page 14)

THINKING
OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani

It Seems We've Never Been So Divided as a Nation

It seems we all have been riding an out of control train and its GPS is putting us in line for a terrible train wreck. It all began the night or early morning after Election Day 2016, immediately after the vote confirmed that Donald Trump had surprised the Hillary Crowd by winning the Presidency.

Democrats, progressives, and liberals all went into major panic. How could TRUMP WIN? Something is wrong, right? Hillary won the popular vote. The system twisted up the election results. Hillary is the rightful president. The election was stolen. Who stole it? Of course it was Trump working with Putin over in Russia. Democrats started contracting something some have called Trump Derangement Disorder. Trump opponents started right off the bat to somehow get him out of office and have never given up that goal.

First it was the Russians and now it's dropped down to a quid pro quo with Ukraine. We all knew the road the Democrats chose was Impeachment Boulevard and they continue to ride it even though this road has been filled with so many potholes for them.

The House Democrats and their Fake News Media have never stopped pushing that Trump is and always has been illegitimate. I have watched Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairman Jerry Nadler, and Chairman Adam Schiff of the Judiciary and Intelligence House Committees push their agenda even when they sounded silly. They had hoped Mueller would do him in, but not so.

In the first week of December, Nadler convened the House Judiciary Committee and before one witness testified, Speaker Pelosi announced to America that the House would draw up Articles of Impeachment.

When the Democrat House tried to impeach President Nixon in 1974, they drew up real specific impeachable crimes he had committed. Fast forward to the '90s when the Republican House impeached Clinton, they too had real impeachable crimes listed on him.

Today, it seems the House Democrats are inventing fake crimes against Trump because the only real crime he seemingly committed was getting elected to the Oval Office. That's it. President Trump will not be removed from office. Republican members of the U.S. Senate will not let that happen.

Everything going on is just for show. The House Democrats do not seem to realize what they are selling is not being bought by most Americans, especially Republicans and, more importantly, Independents. Nadler and Schiff are acting like a bunch of Soviet Politburo; members from the old days in Mother Russia. My prediction, Trump wins re-election because most Americans know a scam when they see it. The Democrats are hoping to wreck Trump's re-election with constant bad press, but it isn't working and probably never will.

If the Democrats think they are so good, maybe they could show it by their actions up on Capitol Hill but they seem too interested in one thing and one thing alone. They seem so close to the intersection of dreaming and doing but just keep dreaming which might end up a nightmare for them and good news for everyone else.

Maybe someday we will get united again, but things seem pretty hopeless right now. I say what I've always said, "MAKE AMERICA ONE AGAIN" and the sooner the better.

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Sacred Heart Parish Bazaar

by Sal Giarratani



Santa arrived for all the little kids.

Sacred Heart Parish in East Boston held another successful Church Bazaar. Plenty of stuff to rummage through as my mother would have said, also plenty to eat at a meager price. Lots of fun! Nothing bizarre for sale! People hung out there for hours. Place was packed. Folks can't wait for next year.



Marcia Petrosino of Paparazzi with Richard Bostrom in his festive hat.

Kudos to Father Guy and all the parish volunteers who helped make everything work so well. People raved about Father Guy's meatball sauce or gravy which ever word you prefer.



Cathy Hughes, Christine Bossi with John Rebiero in the background at the pancake table.



Folks lined up for their dinner and everyone loved it.

Happy Holidays

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Happy 100th Birthday Greetings Go Out To Janet Re of Dedham

by Sal Giarratani



Entire extended Re Family poses with Janet who was of course the center of attention on her big day.

I recently had the pleasure of being invited to the 100th birthday party of World War II veteran Janet Re (the shortest Italian name I ever saw) which was held at the Dedham American Post.

I was invited by long time friend Steve Ashcraft, who was part of the group who held Vigil at Mt. Carmel after it was shuttered back in 2004.

Trying out her birthday cake and being helped by her great-niece Brittany Maloof.



Janet Re during WWII when she served in the U.S. Coast Guard.



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Il Consolato Generale d'Italia in Boston bandisce un concorso per l'assunzione di un impiegato a contratto da adibire al Servizio di collaboratore amministrativo nel settore consolare.

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Saint Gerald of Aurillac

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Gerald was born into the Gallo-Roman nobility, counting Cesarius of Arles among his ancestors. to whose estates he succeeded, in later life. He was destined to inherit vast estates entitled him through birth. The details of his life known today come primarily from *The Life of St. Gerald of Aurillac* written by Odo of Cluny. Writing twenty years after the event, Abbot Odo of Cluny described how William, duke of Aquitaine, had asked Gerald to abandon his loyalty to the king and pay homage to himself, "for the sake of love". Gerald resisted, having recently assumed his inherited title and doubtless preferring to remain loyal to the more distant Sovereign, the king at Paris.

According to Odo, Gerald suffered an illness as a child, sufficient in duration to advance his reading, and he may have been disfigured by severe acne. In later life he was to suffer blindness. He seriously considered joining a religious order, but was persuaded against it by his friend Geusbert, Bishop of Rodez, on the grounds that with his social position he could do more good by remaining in the world as a layman. Nevertheless, he tonsured himself, shaving his hair at the top of his scalp, as a sign of religious devotion or humility. He consecrated his life in service to God, gave away his possessions, took a personal vow of chastity and prayed the breviary each day.

Eventually, Gerald was able to make a pilgrimage to Rome and donate some of his lands to the Church. He also founded a church and a monastery on his lands, which he deliberately established in such a way as to make the monastery independent of all control except Rome's. It was there he was buried after dying at Cenezac, on Friday October 13, probably in 909.

Gerald was a model noble, bridging the gap between religious virtue and secular authority. He showed others that it is possible to wield power and wealth while living a pious and righteous life.

The Feast Day of Saint Gerald of Aurillac is October 13th.

He is the patron saint of bachelors, counts, as well as the Upper Auvergne region of France where he lived. He is also the patron saint of the disabled handicapped, and physically challenged.

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Pet News
from the Gazette

by Marie Simboli

Make Time for Friends this Christmas

This article is totally different from the articles I have written. I first wrote this back in December of 2008, and for some I continue to write the same article during this special time of the year Christmas.

It's the Christmas season. What do we think about at this time of the year? A big tree, all the lights, the tradition of giving gifts to our loved ones, making our favorite cookies, and of course, the Christmas dinner that will fill the dining room table with many dishes to share with our family and friends to enjoy. How often do we think of sharing time with a friend that we haven't seen in a while? Or, sending a card to someone we've thought about but hadn't the time to do so? Or, taking some time to visit a senior or home-bound neighbor?

Speaking of friends, do we ever take out the time to say, "Thank you," to someone who has taken out the time for us, who may care about us, or has been concerned about our well-being?

At this time of year especially, we should acknowledge the thoughtfulness or the special attention they gave us by just being there when we needed a shoulder to lean on. We take life for granted at times, as we do friends. Caring, consider-



ation, compassion, and kindness — all are a gift that we so often take for granted. We never realize how important that friend was until they aren't here. Before that happens, take a minute and reflect on that friend — the one who made the time when you needed it. For Christmas, "friends" are a gift you can't buy, especially, if that friend is genuine. Telling that person, Thank you for being my friend," is a perfect gift for Christmas. Helping a senior by offering to do an errand or brightening their day with a gift of cookies is another way to celebrate the season.

To my genuine friends, a "thank you" and a "Merry Christmas" is all the gift they need.

"DOG LETTERS TO SANTA"

Dear Santa:

Will I grow to be a big dog when I get older? So far, I am 6 and I am very small. Please hurry.

Love, Princess

P.S. I'm also always cold, even when it's hot out. Do you think I'm not growing because I'm shivering?

Dear Santa:

What time do you get up in the morning?

I have to get up at 5:00 a.m. so the boss in the house can walk me before he goes to work. I wish he would get another job. I need my sleep.

Love, Sam

Dear Santa Claus:

I am writing for all the dogs in the neighborhood. We would like a computer so we can e-mail messages to each other instead of just barking.

Thank you, Willow

I thought they were good for a laugh. I know the article is not about dogs. It will cheer someone up that reads Pet News.

From Pet News, I wish you and your families a healthy, safe and happy holiday, and one full of friends and good cheer.

Happy Holidays

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Introducing a new book by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari,
lifelong residents of the North End, entitled:

Four Women "Quattro Donne"

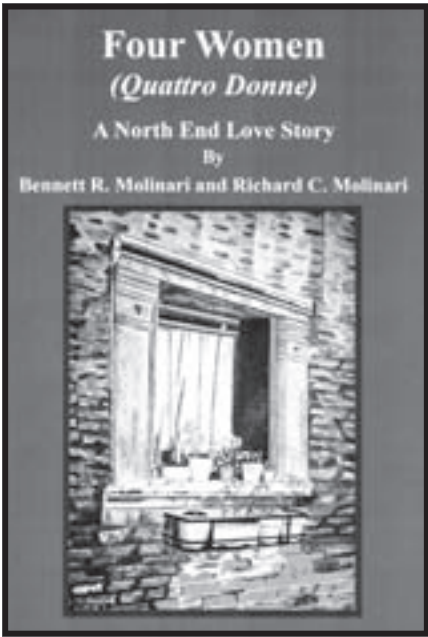
subtitle, A North End Love Story

In the next few weeks this column will feature excerpts from this book.

The Riccis were fishermen and close friends of our family. Egidio, Carla's father, was carrying on a family tradition hundreds of years old. Carla's five older brothers made up Egidio's entire crew. The Riccis lived in a three-story brick building occupied entirely by their family. Egidio Ricci lived on the first floor with Carla and his son Lorenzo. Frank, who was married, occupied the second floor with his wife, Anna. On the third floor, Egidio's other sons, Alberto, Mario, and Roberto lived. It was unusual in the North End for one family to occupy an entire building, but the Riccis were successful fishermen and could afford to do so. There was once a bakery in the basement, but it was long gone, and the Riccis used the space to store their fishing equipment, old nets, fishing lines, buoys and all kinds of apparel for life at sea.

Carla's mother died giving birth to her, making Carla the woman of the house, while at the same time, imposing on her a sense of guilt she could not escape. As if to punish herself, she worked tirelessly around the house trying to be a mother, a sister and a daughter, seeming to forget herself and her needs, while constantly attending to the needs of her father and brothers. It was always assumed she would become a nun, given her religious fervor. Carla never commented on the speculation, content to express her religious calling through her devotion to Saint Theresa.

The men of Carla's family were hard working, rough, handsome, unattached, except for Frank, and thoroughly spoiled by Carla. One other thing, they were highly protective of their kid sister and daughter, so much so, guys were afraid to approach her for a date. The entire neighborhood knew what happened to Jerry Lombardo who grabbed her in her doorway. Carla screamed, the brothers stormed down their stairs and beat the crap out of him. Old man Ricci finished the job by waving a large fish hook in front of Jerry's face, promising



tleties of the North End and the way it was settled. It was regionally populated, a microcosm of their native Italy. During the years in which the North End was almost entirely Italian, a period extending into the 1970's, it was a neighborhood divided into sub neighborhoods, determined by the region of Italy you came from. Genoese lived on upper Salem Street and Hull Street near the Old North Church. Business like and somewhat dower, they were known to be "tight with a buck." Neapolitans lived in the center of the North End along Hanover Street and the streets that ran from it.

Gregarious, fun-loving and musical, they filled the streets of their neighborhood with laughter and noise. The Sicilians, who were mostly fishermen, lived by the sea, particularly on North and Fleet Streets. Their husbands and sons were often lost at sea, resulting in their neighborhood suffering a disproportionate amount of sadness. They possessed fierce family loyalty and a strong connection to their ancestral roots in Sicily. Salem and Endicott streets housed the Calabrese. Together, these groups made up the bulk of the North End's inhabitants

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Announces Casting for 2019 Tour

Coming to the Boch Center Wang Theatre

Starring: David Elder, Kerry Conte, Jeremy Benton, and Kelly Sheehan

Featuring: Conrad John Schuck As The General,
and Reprising The Role Of Martha Watson, Lorna Luft

The producers of *IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS*, the stage adaptation of the beloved classic film, have announced casting for the upcoming National Tour, coming to the Boch Center Wang Theatre December 17 – 29, 2019.

The 2019 season will star David Elder as “Bob Wallace,” Jeremy Benton as “Phil Davis,” Kerry Conte as “Betty Haynes,” and Kelly Sheehan as “Judy Haynes.” Also featured are Conrad John Schuck as “General Waverly,” Lorna Luft as “Martha Watson,” Brad Frenette as “Ralph Sheldrake,” Danny Gardner as “Mike Nulty,” and Cliff Bemis as “Ezekiel Foster.” Additionally, Emma Grace Berardelli and Kyla Carter will be reprising their role of “Susan Waverly.”

Rounding out the cast of returning cast members are Darien Crago, Sarah Fagan, Drew Humphrey, Bryan Thomas Hunt, Brianna LaTrash, Stephanie Brooks Martin, Chris McNiff, Daniel Plimpton, Kristyn Pope, Sean Quinn, and Karilyn Ashley Surratt. Additional new cast members for the 2019 season include Lamont Brown, Kimberly Immanuel, Tina Johnson, Kristie Kerwin, and Chris Shin.

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS tells the story of a song-and-dance team putting on a show in a magical Vermont inn who fall for a stunning sister act in the process. Full of dancing, laughter and some of the greatest songs ever written, including “Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep,” “Happy Holiday,” “Sisters,”

“Blue Skies,” and the unforgettable title song, Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas.”

The New York Times exclaims “this cozy trip down memory lane should be put on your wish list.” And, the *New York Daily News* hailed *IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS* as “a holiday card come to life.”

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS features music and lyrics by Irving Berlin with book by David Ives and Paul Blake and is based upon the Paramount Pictures film written for the screen by Norman Krasna, Norman Panama and Melvin Frank.

Tickets are available at the Boch Center Box Office, www.bochcenter.org, by calling 800-982-ARTS (2787) and via Ticketmaster or by calling 866-348-9738.

Season's Greetings!

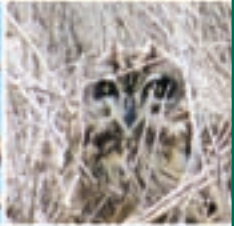


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• Christmas Fund Luncheon (Continued from Page 1)



Honoree Sandra Pascucci with (L-R) Ted Tomasone, NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi, Sandra Pascucci, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, and John Romano



Community Service Honoree John Fiumara with (L-R) NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi, Ted Tomasone, John Fiumara, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, and John Romano



Honoree Filippo Frattaroli with (L-R) John Romano, Ted Tomasone, Filippo Frattaroli, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, and NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi



Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award honoree Toni Gilardi with (L-R) Janet Gilardi, NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi, Ted Tomasone, Toni Gilardi, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, and John Romano



A Special Thank You to the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES) for their generous donation. L-R: President of MOSES Joe Dorant, Robert “Ted” Tomasone, Vice President of MOSES Patrick Russell, and NEW Health CEO Jim Luisi

(Photos by Matt Coni, NorthEndWaterfront.com)

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MARY J. BLIGE – HERSTORY, VOL. 1 (Vinyl) UMe

Mary J. Blige, the honorary “Queen of Hip Hop Soul,” delivers the goods just in time on vinyl (2-LP), ready to be wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree. This collection has 16 tracks of unforgettable hits of the 1990s. From her debut that established her as Queen of ‘90’s R&B, American singer/songwriter, actress and philanthropist, Mary J. Blige has reigned as a trailblazer and icon for women everywhere, proving that she could be as tough as the bad boys, but with a fathoms-deep emotional reservoir of soul that doused hears. Incredibly, until now, there has been no collection of her epoch-defining ‘90s hits as they were heard at the time. Remixes include, “Real Love (Hip-Hop Remix),” “Reminisce (Bad Boy Remix),” “Love No Limit (Puff Daddy Mix),” “What’s the 411 (featuring Notorious B.I.G. & K-Ci),” “Mary Jane All Night Long (featuring LL Cool J),” “I Love You (featuring Smif N’ Wesson),” “I’ll Be There for You/You’re All I Need to Get By (Puff Daddy featuring Method Man),” and “Can’t Knock the Hustle (Jay-Z).” Sandwiched in between are, “You Remind Me,” “Be Happy,” “I’m Goin’ Down,” “You Bring Me Joy,” “Everyday It Rains,” and “Love Is All We Need.” Awesome!

BING CROSBY: BING AT CHRISTMAS + BRENDA LEE: ROCKIN’ AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE – THE DECCA CHRISTMAS RECORDINGS + DIANA ROSS: WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME + THE TEMPTATIONS: CHRISTMAS CARD + VINCE GILL: THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION (Vinyl) UMe

UMe celebrates the holiday season with gift-wrapped albums of essential Christmas music. Including: **Bing Crosby: Bing at Christmas** — A new holiday album that sets Bing’s original vocals to newly recorded orchestral arrangements, performed by The London Symphony Orchestra. The album breathes new life into many of the best Christmas songs in existence, including Bing’s biggest hit and the world’s best-selling single, his 1942 recording of “White Christmas.” Also featured is a version of “White Christmas” pairing Bing’s vocals with the voices of a cappella group Pentatonix, as well as exquisite arrangements of “Winter Wonderland,” “It’s Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas,” “The Christmas Song,” Bing’s duet with David Bowie for “Peace On Earth/Little Drummer Boy,” recorded just one month before Bing’s death. **Brenda Lee: Rockin’ Around The Christmas Tree – The Decca Christmas Recordings** (Decca/MCA Nashville/UMe) — For the first time, all 18 of Brenda Lee’s Christmas recordings she recorded for Decca Records in the ‘50s and ‘60s

are now available on vinyl on this album. Originally released in 1999 on CD, the new vinyl edition commemorates the compilation’s 20th anniversary. The collection includes her first holiday single “Christy Christmas,” and the twangy b-side “I’m Gonna Lasso Santa Claus,” from her very first recording session when she was just 11 years old as well as every song from her 1964 full-length holiday album, *Merry Christmas From Brenda Lee*. Enjoy Brenda’s her inspired takes on, “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town,” “Silver Bells,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Blue Christmas,” “A Marshmallow World,” and “Frosty The Snowman.” Other highlights have, the orchestral “This Time of Year,” the ballad “Christmas Will Be Just Another Lonely Day,” and the longtime fan favorite “The Angel and The Little Blue Bell.” **Diana Ross: Wonderful Christmas Time** — The spirit and sound of the iconic angelic voice of Diana Ross rings bright again this holiday season with this vinyl reissue. The album features covers of standards, from “Sleigh Ride” to “White Christmas,” to more recent season favorites from Paul McCartney’s “Wonderful Christmastime” to Stevie Wonder’s “Overjoyed.” Diana is also accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra on five stunning recordings: “Sleigh Ride / Jingle Bells,” “O Little Town Of Bethlehem,” “Go Tell It On The Mountain,” “The First Noël,” and “I Heard The Bells.” **The Temptations: Christmas Card** (Motown/UMe), is the 1970 Christmas album by The Temptations for the Gordy (Motown) label. The group’s first holiday release, it features each Temptation leading on various popular Christmas standards and original songs and includes their takes on “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Santa Claus Is Comin’ To Town,” “White Christmas,” “Silver Bells,” “Silent Night” and “The Little Drummer Boy.” **Vince Gill: The Christmas Collection:** Country star Vince Gill’s 1993’s platinum, #1 *Billboard* Holiday Album, *Let There Be Peace On Earth* and 1998’s *Breath of Heaven*, recorded with the Patrick Williams Orchestra, are now available together on vinyl as the double LP, **The Christmas Collection**. The set includes such classics as “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town,” “The Christmas Song,” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” The 21-time GRAMMY®-award-winning artist also lends his voice to Elvis Presley’s 1957 hit, “Blue Christmas.” Also included in the package are Gill’s classic versions of “O Holy Night,” “Let There Be Peace On Earth,” featuring a then 11-year-old daughter Jenny Gill, and “Breath of Heaven,” a song co-written by Gill’s wife and star of the Contemporary Christian genre, Amy Grant.

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 Giarattani

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The above advertisement ran in the *Post-Gazette* back on September 23, 1971. I was only 23 years old back then. I should have jumped at that house back then, but of course, I didn’t. How much does anyone think the same house would go for today? I get sick just thinking about that. How about you?

LAST WEEK CITY COUNCIL EXPANDED SANCTUARY POLICIES

Boston City Councilors last week voted to expand sanctuary city policy by imposing new restrictions in how the Boston Police Department handles immigration matters limiting the ability to share any information with ICE officers. The lead sponsor of the bill was outgoing District 8 City Councilor Josh Zakim who stated it wasn’t the job of the police to enforce “failed immigration policy.” City Councilors, unanimously

approved amendments to the city’s five-year-old TRUST ACT, limiting the role city law enforcement can play in situations dealing with civil immigration matters.

In other related news, Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone stated he was proud of his city’s 30-year policy, making Somerville an official Sanctuary City. He added sanctuary status makes Somerville a safer city than many others. As he stated, “We won’t abandon our values just because this administration is trying to make our communities out to be the bogeyman.”

I oppose Sanctuary Cities because such policies actually allow more and more dangerous illegal immigrants to cause harm to everyone, including immigrant communities. The real bogeymen are the dangerous illegals roaming our communities without fear from law enforcement.

This cannot make our cities safer, just the opposite.

REMEMBER THIS NAME

Wayne Lucas who is a friend of mine, and had been a friend of my brother’s and graduated with him at English High School back in 1968, let me know that one of his sons recently ran for Newton City Council. His name is Tarik Lucas and he finished just out of the running in his first try at public office. He’s

37 years old and looks like a comer in this corner. He will be running again, of that, I am sure. Keep an eye on his name.

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING OF UP ON BEACON HILL?


There’s another piece of legislation floating around Beacon Hill from State Rep. Jon Santiago, a recently elected member, who also happens to be an emergency physician at Boston Medical Center.

Santiago thinks guns cause medical health issues so he wants doctors who are talking with their patients at appointments to ask his or her patients whether or not they own a gun. WHAT?

When you see your doctor, he should be only concerned with your health not whether or not you own a firearm. If a doctor asked me if I owned a gun, I would say, do you? Then, I’d ask whether or not he or she uses a seat belt while driving around town.

What is the need to make our doctors spies for the government? Turning us in for our own good! I have a great primary care physician but we never talk politics because he’s very liberal and I am not. Works out good for both of us this way! No one’s blood pressure ever rises during our appointments. Let’s keep it that way.

Merry Christmas



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LEGAL NOTICE

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(617) 768-5800

Docket No. MI19C1080CA

In the Matter of
CAMILLE CANDIDA ENWRIGHT

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Camille Candida Enwright of Malden, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Camille Candida Palladino**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 7, 2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court
Date: December 5, 2019
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19C1053CA

In the Matter of
DANA CHESNULOVITCH PERCY

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Dana Chesnulovitch Percy of Reading, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Dana Terese Chesnulovitch**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 07, 2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court
Date: December 4, 2019
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 12/20/19

Simple *T*IMES . . .

by Girard A. Plante



The Christmas season evokes a myriad of memories and elicits all sorts of moods. Every year people experience those emotions that are ingrained from childhood through adulthood. So why exactly does Christmas transport us back to a certain moment we recall as vividly as if it happened yesterday?

Recently, a friend visited me to share the Holy Eucharistic on a sun-splashed Sunday as the holy season of Advent arrived. With the difficult shuttering of long-established Catholic parishes throughout the Boston Archdiocese the past several years and mergers of neighboring parishes because of priest shortages, and struggles to keep churches viable, another unsettling factor joins the equation.

As my friend discussed the parish of Corpus Christi in Newton merging seven years ago with St. Bernard's Parish a mile away in West Newton, I asked how the parish is getting on. "The numbers are down. There's not as many people attending church." I asked why. She slowly responded, "People simply aren't there." Still not following her as I thought that maybe the merger drove long-time parishioners away from a sacred church they attended for decades, she added: "People have left the church."

My friend's sobering account brought both a sense of gloom and sadness. Because they were baptized Catholic the parishioners who left behind the Church will die Catholic. I know this difficult, painful topic has followed Catholics since January 2002 upon the explosion of horrific sex abuse by dozens of priests over decades throughout the Boston Archdiocese. It follows us wherever we go.

Soon after the awful news, the faithful launched into discussion about whether to remain in their respective parishes or to change membership to another Catholic parish nearby their homes or to never return.

Perplexing questions grew as answers went ignored by the supposed "leaders" within the Chancery.

I began telling my fellow Catholics that our faith is facing mere challenges. Stay true to your beliefs, I reminded them. A few bad apples lack power over our unwavering convictions to fight through the unsettling situation before us. The parishes, schools, convents and church buildings were built by our grandparents and later generations maintained the entirety of the parish. The Holy Mother Church needs our solid support. Don't flee. We'll plow through the difficulties.

My recollections as an altar boy during the late 1960s to early '70s are fond and fun. My two brothers and most of my guy cousins served on the altar, too. Girls were not allowed to be servers until the late 1970s.

We collectively agreed that we enjoyed our vocation whether we were attending a wedding or funeral or holy seasons of Lent and Advent or filling the wrought iron stands with votive candles or other essential tasks. Thank God not one of us was molested. After all, we grew up around priests and nuns. Some became our favorites and even lifelong friends while certain clergy we disliked for their harsh attitudes.

Yet this holy season of Advent offers us the gift of reflecting, meditating, and praying for a better new year. Forgiving others is the hallmark of our faith. And still one of the toughest tasks. The memories of many aspects of our lives inevitably flood our minds. One that seeps into the forefront is that windswept snowy Christmas's trudging to our family parish.

No snow or frigid temperatures kept us back from our tasks as altar boys. We could not let down our parish pastor nor the other priests and nuns who expected our reverant, passionate participation. Without us altar boys, we laughingly quipped, no sacred Mass could

go on! Our devout Catholic parents would make sure our cassocks were ironed and placed in plastic to protect them from spotting or snowfall. They also made sure we arrive on time.

Midnight Mass always brought an extended excitement that too often caught us napping at home as the hours ticked slowly towards racing into the family car to reach our parish church long before hundreds of devoted parishioners arrived to secure a seat in the old sturdy wood pews. The choir sang to ready themselves for the sacred ceremony.

We tried to stay focused instead of thinking ahead to the excitement of returning to the warmth of our homes, with sweet scent of the Scotch pine tree adorned with colored lights and a pile of multi-colored gifts staring from under the big tree along with hot cocoa, minced meat and pork pies. That glorious annual celebration brought folks together. We unwittingly shared in the many graces bestowed on us since our births.

There's much to be said about longevity. Our Catholic Church has survived heresies, wars, scandals, natural disasters, and other calamities. Yet I place my indomitable faith in the flock to guide us through these difficult times so that our Catholicism thrives far into the future. And I shall forever recall my wondrous moments as direct participant in the daily workings of my childhood parish. The spirits move us in miraculous ways.

Merry Christmas!

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI18P3588EA
Estate of
WILLIAM W. AHERN
Date of Death: June 10, 2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mark W. Ahern of Lincoln, 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 Mark W. Ahern of Lincoln, 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 January 8, 2020.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2019
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/20/2019

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
Docket No. SU19P2449EA
Estate of
JOHN M. CRIMLISK
Date of Death: September 25, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Janet T. Crimlisk of Newton Center, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Janet T. Crimlisk of Newton Center, 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: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
Docket No. SU16P2769EA
Estate of
TRACY PANIAGUA
Date of Death: August 21, 2016
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Evelyn Panlagua of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 27, 2020.

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

WITNESS, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2019

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/20/19

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THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

The Assisination of Franz Ferdinad

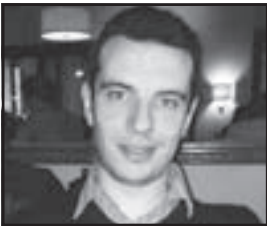
In proportion to the ripple effect it caused the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June of 1914 is remembered comparatively little. There are, of course, those who doubt that the murder single handedly triggered WWI. However, even those who downplay it as the catalyst to the Great War acknowledge that in the gathering clouds of war, the event drew, if nothing else, a well-defined line in the sand, something crucial to a war that, at its crux, was about empires stepping on each other.

The Archduke can be said to have marked himself a target as early as 1908 when, as the leader of the Austria-Hungary Empire, he annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was taken as a blow by the Serbs, who believed claim to those territories belonged to Serbia. For a while, a plot in the works to murder the Archduke.

The perfect opportunity for the Serbian underworld to act came on June 28, 1914 when word got out the Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie would be visiting Sarajevo by car to inspect the empire's forces. Seven assassins planted themselves in strategic points along the route. The Serbian Prime Minister had heard rumblings of the assassination plot and warned the visiting Archduke, but the warnings were dismissed.

The first attempt was a failure. As the royal couple approached Town Hall, Nedeljko Cabrinovic, one of the assassins threw a bomb into the car but missed, the bomb ricocheting off the vehicle and landing beneath the next one in the procession. The royal couple escaped unharmed and, undeterred, attended a ceremony given by Major of Sarajevo. On the return trip, however, tragedy struck and history was made. The Archduke's chauffeur took a wrong turn. Rerouting himself back on track the vehicle came into the view of rebel Gavril Princip who was then standing down in a local café. When he recognized the royal car, however, he immediately got up and began firing. Both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie were hit. A mob soon captured Princip. Sophie fell unconscious and her husband, hit in the jugular vein tried to keep her alert saying, "Sophie, Sophie! Don't die! Live for our children!". He even downplayed his own injuries, presumably to shift the focus of the crowd to his wife. However, by the time they made it to the Governor's house, Sophie succumbed to her wound and her husband died ten minutes later.

The assassination of a leader never goes by without prompting action, but the effects were magnified by Europe's already tense situation amongst its empires. Austria-Hungary took



this, not unreasonably, as a declaration of war and issued harsh demands toward Serbia if it wanted to avoid military retaliation (though many Serbs living in Sarajevo were subjected to violence almost instantly). When those terms were rejected (as Austria-Hungary expected them to be), Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia with Germany pledging support to the late Archduke's empire. However, Serbia had its own powerful ally in Russia which also brought in France and Belgium. By extension, this brought in Great Britain which had made its pledge to help Belgium much earlier.

And so, the catalyst for war was started, though its true the clouds were darkening earlier, just waiting for the right moment to strike lightning. The war would go on for four years, and ultimately cost the empire much more, and its ally Germany suffered the biggest loss. The final blow to Germany was the declaration of total accountability for the war, sending the nation into a financial downward spiral and the Germans looking for a leader to drag them out of the doldrums. And, as often happens, seeds for another bigger war were planted.



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Web site at www.massvacation.com**

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



One of my fondest memories concerning Christmas when I was child, was the annual party at the Trinity Neighborhood House on Meridian Street in East Boston. During the course of the year, I attended that long-gone settlement house and learned how to make model planes, play basketball, box, wrestle, and even dance. During the week before Christmas, the staff would have a party for the kids of the neighborhood. The only relative who wasn't working was Babbononno and he accompanied me a couple of years in a row.

Of all the things that happened at the party, the one I remember the best was the reading of the Gospel According to Saint Luke, Chapter 2, by Ms. Orr, the woman in charge. I would hear this once again at the Children's Christmas Mass at the Sacred Heart Church on December the 25th, and I thought you might like to read it:

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, and all went to be taxed everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered, and she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace and good will toward men."

There are many versions of this Gospel reading and this is an abbreviated one, but the one I remember the best. And so, from the Christoforo family, my wife Loretta, sons John and Michael, daughter-in-law Beth and granddaughter Lina, and yours truly, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, December 25, 2019. BUON NATALE tutti.

Getting back to the musicians in my family at Christmas time, I remember many things. First of all Dad and my uncles lived in tuxedos. That was how musicians dressed in those days. Dad even hired someone to drive him from job to job during the month of December as he often had no time to look for parking spaces between the two or three parties he had to play on a daily basis. Even back then, parking in downtown was at a premium. Uncles Nick and Paul did the same. Every major business had Christmas parties for their employees and DJs with canned music hadn't been

invented yet.

For several years, Dad was part of a trio that played at Santa's Enchanted Village at Jordan Marsh during Christmas season. With Danny Cavicchio on accordion, Charlie Oppen on violin and Dad on bass, they entertained the kids who had come to see Santa Claus. With all three dressed like Tyrolean musicians, wearing lederhosen (Swiss leather short pants) and hats with feathers in them, they kept the kids jumping with Christmas songs.

All of this would come to an end at around sunset on December the 24th. They would hire Jewish musicians to cover them on jobs that were booked on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They would reciprocate when the Jewish holidays arrived unless the Christian and Jewish holidays coincided. Then they would all scramble to find musicians who could cover for them.

Christmas Eve was spent with the entire family at Nanna and Babbononno's dinner table. The traditional seven fishes were served, and if Dad had a hand at cooking, the best lobster fra diavolo I ever tasted would be his offering to the family. Nanna and my mother would do the rest of the cooking. If we kids were still awake, the family would head to the Sacred Heart Church for midnight Mass. When we got home, it was bedtime and I would leave cookies and a glass of wine for Santa Claus who I knew would be arriving right after I fell asleep.

Dad and Uncle Nick would play on Christmas morning but be back in time for the traditional family dinner, again, held at Nanna and Babbononno's apartment. When I was old enough, I would accompany Dad to his Christmas morning job. It was aboard the U.S.S. Vulcan, an aircraft repair ship that was docked at the Navy Yard in Boston. The captain, having a large portion of his crew that was from the local area, would throw a Christmas party for their families that included music and entertainment. The children of the musicians were also invited and until the ship was decommissioned, it was a great time for me.

Later in his career, Dad would play on Christmas morning at the Fernald School in Waltham for children who were severely handicapped. He would often return a bit depressed from what he saw, but would snap out of it when he was back with the family. I never accompanied him on those Christmas mornings as Dad tried to spare me from seeing what less fortunate children were like.

By one or two o'clock on Christmas day, we kids would have opened our presents and be called to Nanna and Babbononno's dining room table to celebrate Christmas dinner. What great memories I have and I am grateful I can still remember them. So, once again, Merry Christmas from all of the Christoforos and Buon Natale a tutti.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



by
**Marianna
Bisignano**



In an Italian home, there isn't a thing that portrays Christmas Natale more than a beautifully arranged cookie tray! Cookie baking is a tradition that begins weeks before Christmas. A time when the nonnas, mamas, and zias come together and share cherished family recipes that have been passed down through the generations. The smell of anise and almond fills the air along with hints of lemon and orange. Cookies are perfectly baked, elegantly decorated, and carefully organized on platters and trays. Jordan Almonds or Cannellini Ricci candies are often used to fill in empty spaces, and cellophane wraps them tight. A beautiful bow graces the top and trays are placed on tables throughout the home.



Christmas cookie trays in my family always included cuccidati, Italian butterhorns, butterballs, date balls, assorted biscotti, chocolate dipped and jam filled butter cookies, amaretti, pignoli cookies, prune slices, pistachio cookies, Sicilian lemon fingers, cherry slices, and Italian egg biscuits. While every one of these cookies are amazingly delicious, egg biscuits seem to be the ones that disappear the fastest. The "Italian Egg Biscuits" I am sharing today are soft, moist, have just the right amount of anise and lemon, and when combined, taste truly incredible!

From my home to yours, Buon Natale Con Amore!

ITALIAN EGG BISCUITS

Biscotti All'Uovo Italiani

5 cups all purpose flour
5 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 eggs
3/4 cup milk
3/4 cup oil
1 tablespoon anise extract (can use vanilla, lemon or almond)

Icing:
4 cups confectionary sugar
1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons lemon extract (can use vanilla, lemon or almond)
Whole milk

Preheat oven to 375°. Mix flour, baking powder, sugar and salt in large bowl. Make a well in center. Beat eggs; pour into the well. Add milk, oil, and anise. Mix to form well-blended dough. Place on lightly floured board and knead until dough is smooth. Break off tablespoon size pieces and roll to make snake-like ropes, 7-8 inches long. Coil or braid and twist into a circle. Place one at a time on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven for about 10-12 minutes until done, not brown. They should be pale in color. Cool on wire rack.

To make icing, mix confectionary sugar, lemon extract and enough milk to make a thick glaze. Dip cooled cookies in and let dry.

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

Buon Natale



Dr. Dean J. Saluti

President,
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 28, 2019 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

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VIN #1N4AL3AP8HC153198

Vehicles are being stored at D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Gabriela Estrada, Owner

Run dates: 12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 2019

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19P5988EA

**Estate of
ROCHENEL LOVAINCY**

Date of Death: April 25, 2018

**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ronelson Lovaincy of Malden, MA**.

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: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19P6153EA

**Estate of
KATHLEEN HAYES MURPHY
Date of Death: August 25, 2019**

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **James P. Murphy of Belmont, 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 **James P. Murphy of Belmont, 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 January 06, 2020.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: December 09, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/20/2019

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19C1068CA

**In the Matter of
KATELYN ROSE BENNETT
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Katelyn Rose Bennett of Arlington, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Katelyn Rose**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Middlesex Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 27, 2019. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: December 3, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. 530607 TP2

NOTICE OF FIDUCIARY'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of **Cathleen O'Neil of Lexington, MA** a mentally incapacitated person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the 11th - 12th (being the 37th - 38th) & Final accounts of Bank of America, N.A., Henry C. O'Neil, Jr. and Nancy Eckstein as trustees

* the fiduciaries under an Irrevocable Trust Agreement dated December 30, 1980 for the benefit of Cathleen O'Neil have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Cambridge** on or before January 13, 2020 the return day of this citation.

You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such other time as the court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. Rule 5.

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court at Cambridge this
6th day of December, 2019.**

Date: December 6, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. 548919 TP2

NOTICE OF FIDUCIARY'S ACCOUNT

To all persons interested in the estate of **Mark W. Monihan of Waltham, MA** a mentally incapacitated person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the 12th - Amended 15th (being the 18th - 21st) and the 16th (being the 22nd) & Final accounts of Bank of America, N.A. and Roland D. Monihan as trustees

* the fiduciaries under an Irrevocable Trust Agreement dated November 4, 1998 for the benefit of Mark W. Monihan have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Cambridge** on or before January 13, 2020 the return day of this citation.

You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without cost a copy of said account(s). If you desire to object to any item of said account(s), you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty (30) days after said return day or within such other time as the court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. Rule 5.

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court at Cambridge this
6th day of December, 2019.**

Date: December 6, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/20/19



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



Nick Cafardo Honored



Late *Boston Globe* sports writer Nick Cafardo was elected the winner of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award by the BBWAA. The award is presented annually to a sports-writer for “meritorious contributions to baseball writing.” Cafardo who died unexpectedly during the 2019 Spring Training at age 62 will be honored by the Baseball Hall of Fame during induction weekend.

Happy Birthday Greetings To ...

Larry Parrish just turned 66

years old and Alfredo Aceves turned 37.

Angels Sign Rendon

For 7 Years, \$245 Million

The Angels missed out on Gerrit Cole but did get superstar third baseman Anthony Rendon on a 7-year, \$245 million contract. The 29-year-old Rendon spent his first seven seasons with the Nationals. He had a career high 34 homers and league leading 126 RBIs while hitting .319 this past season.

Tim Thomas Honored

Former Boston Bruins goalie Tim Thomas was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame last Thursday. Threes cheers to Thomas from this longtime Bruins fan.

Opioids, Cocaine to be Tested in MLB

Tyler Skaggs, the former

Angels’ pitcher who died earlier this year from an opioid addiction initiated a conversation that led to changes in baseball’s Joint Drug Program. The program was initially designed to prevent players from using illegal performance enhancers and, to discipline those who strayed from the fold, will now have urine tests and blood samples for “opioids, fentanyl, cocaine, and synthetic THCC, along with the other substances listed under “drugs of abuse,” which includes banned substances and drugs classified as Schedule I or Schedule II under federal law.” They will also prioritize treatment over punishment.

Porcello Goes to NY Mets

Rick Porcello who pitched five seasons with the Red Sox including his 2016 Cy Young year has signed a one-year deal with the Mets for \$10 million.

The 31-year-old right hander is coming off a terrible season in which he posted a 5.52 ERA. He won 73 games with the Sox. He’s hoping to have a good year in New York and then test free agency next year for even a larger salary. It makes sense for him. He needs a good season to get more money next year. He’s done it before and can do it again. Remember only three years ago he was 22-4 with a 3.15 ERA earning that Cy Young of his. I still remember his rookie season with the Tigers at age 20 winning 14 games.

I forgot he started out with the Tigers at age 20 winning 14 games in 2009.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19P6178EA

**Estate of
JOAN E. COSTA**

Date of Death: August 8, 2019

**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 **Scott C. Garratt of Wilmington, 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 **Scott C. Garratt of Wilmington, 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 January 7, 2020.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: December 10, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/20/2019

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19C1060CA

**In the Matter of
ELSA DEL ROSARO ARISTON
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Elsa Del Rosaro Ariston of Arlington, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Ana Clara**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Middlesex Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 27, 2019. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: December 2, 2019

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 12/20/19

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 539A, that on **January 6, 2020 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2005 FORD F150, GRAY

Vin: 1FTRF12W35NC10826

*Ronald M. Tango
25 Fountain St.
Medford, MA 02155*

2007 LINCOLN MKX, BLACK

Vin: 2LMDU88C57BJ17276

*Gina M. Harvey
57 Lawrence St.
Waltham, MA 02451*

2011 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER, BLACK

Vin: 5TDBK3EH4BS094102

*Lovinsky Pierre
129 Page St.
Avon, MA 02322*

**2007 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO,
BLACK**

Vin: 2G1W115C979171624

*Daniel Tyler
8 Stonefield Dr.
Waterbury, CT 06705*

2005 SUBARU, GRAY

Vin: JF1SG63685H750980

*Liam T. Cunningham
400 Spring St.
Fayetteville, NY 13066*

1997 HONDA ACCORD, GREEN

Vin: 1HGCD5629VA002789

*Joan E. Barker
171 Salem St., Apt. 22
Medford, MA 02155*

2000 HONDA CIVIC, GREEN

Vin: 2HGEJ8547YH603002

*Judith A. Hernandez
2 Rice St., Apt. 110
Saugus, MA 01906*

Run dates: 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 2019

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI19P5941EA

**Estate of
JOHN JOSEPH O'TOOLE
Also Known As
JOHN J. O'TOOLE**

Date of Death: September 12, 2019

**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mary P. O'Toole of Concord, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Mary P. O'Toole of Concord, 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: 12/20/19

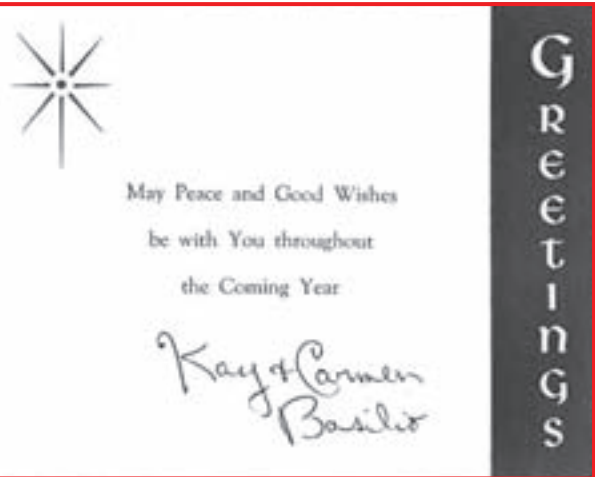
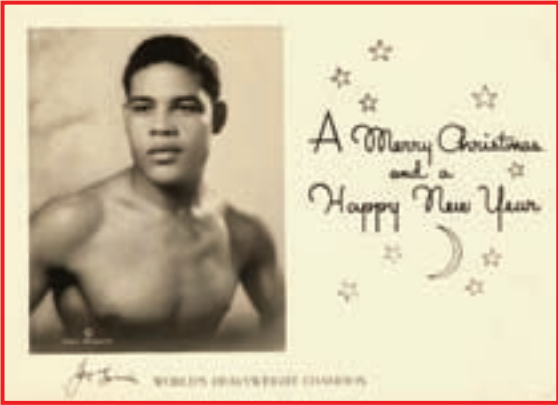
Boxing



Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Merry Christmas to All My Readers
Peace and Joy to All of You



HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



THE FIGHT AT 40 — It wasn't supposed to be this way, of course. The Christmas season was in full swing and if traditional norms had been followed, the players on the two teams would have left the ice and gone their myriad of ways to celebrate Christmas with their families.

But that is not what occurred, of course. What took place was the very antithesis of what the Christmas season represents to so many people: a time to gather with relatives and friends in a peaceful manner and to reflect upon the past with a look toward the future.

What happened at Madison Square Garden in New York City some 40 years ago on the night of December 23, 1979, was anything but a peaceful meeting between two teams that had just dueled for almost three hours.

The clock was just a couple of hours shy of Christmas Eve morning when the action on the ice concluded with the Bruins claiming a 4-3 victory in the latest meeting between the two Original Six teams.

The action had been choppy for a good portion of the game — a contest that would not have an official overtime, but would be remembered for all time by followers of the National Hockey League both in North America and overseas.

The official action ended in a dramatic way — with Boston goalie Gerry Cheevers denying a potential tying tally on a breakaway by former Bruins star Phil Esposito in the closing seconds of the third period — and thus preserving a victory for the B's.

Tempers were running a bit high as the final whistles blew with both teams coming together when the first punch was thrown and a group of players gathered near the glass partitions — which were not as high as they are in the modern era.

That's when a person later identified as a business executive stepped out of character, reached over and hit Bruins tough guy Stan Jonathan in the eye with a game program, snatching Jonathan's stick when he lifted it up to protect himself.

Mayhem followed as 18 Bruins climbed over the glass and into the stands where a wild scene unfolded over the next few minutes. Among the best remembered performances of the evening have been those of Bruins forward Terry O'Reilly — who led the charge from the ice to the seating area — and Mike Milbury — who beat the aforementioned executive with one of the man's own shoes. Peter McNab, a player who rarely incurred penalties, also played a prominent role in the fisticuffs.

"I went from happy and content and ready to go home for Christmas to full combat mode in about 20 seconds," said Milbury who returned to ice from the locker room to join the fray.

Eventually, building security guards managed to separate everyone but even then an extended version of the action moved outside where some 300 Ranger fans surrounded the Bruins bus, rocking it from side to side until they were stopped by mounted police officers.

It may be hard to believe but another man was in charge of the National Hockey League at that time. We say that because for many younger hockey fans, the person they identify as the leader of the league is Commissioner Gary Bettman. For them, he has been commissioner all their lives.

But back in that era before the internet, before satellite superstations and just a few months after an embryonic outlet called ESPN had been hatched, the person on high in the NHL offices was John Ziegler.

Following a month-long review of the incident, Ziegler suspended O'Reilly for eight games while Milbury and McNab had to sit out six contests. In addition, every Bruins player except one was fined \$500.

The case of Milbury was particularly interesting since he was off the ice and headed for the locker room when he was told what was occurring out in the arena. O'Reilly's involvement more fit his persona. The 1979-1980 regular season would come to end with the popular Bruins forward having engaged in 22 fights.

Although police filed charges against the business executive and a few others, they were eventually dropped. Authorities declined to press charges against the players. A lawsuit filed by the executive and his family was eventually withdrawn. It seems that, in spite of the extensive publicity, no one was seriously hurt in the incident.

Unlike today, where becoming involved in such an incident might serve to tarnish a career, except for the suspensions and fines, no one experienced additional consequences.

The New York Times noted that a total of nine players went on to coaching careers in the National Hockey League while several others were hired as scouts by various franchises and a few became broadcasters, notable Milbury who has worked for national outlets.

The Bruins went on to finish second in the Adams Division of the Prince of Wales Conference with a total of 105 points in 80 games in a year that saw the NHL expand from 17 teams to 21. The Rangers finished third in the Patrick Division of the Clarence Campbell Conference with 86 points.

Both the B's and the Rangers won their best-of five preliminary round series in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, the Bruins downing Pittsburgh 3-2 in games while the Rangers took out Atlanta 3-1. Both then lost in the best-of-seven quarterfinals by identical 4-1 counts, the B's going down against the New York Islanders (the eventual Stanley Cup victors) while the Rangers lost to Philadelphia.

And by the way, who was that lone Bruin who declined to participate in the fitful frenzy that night in midtown Manhattan? Why it was none other than Cheevers, who said he was relaxing in the locker room as the sorry scene unfolded out in the arena.

He had done his job when moments earlier he had turned aside Esposito's scoring bid that would have tied the score. "I was already on my second beer," Cheevers told media outlets at the time.