

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 129 - NO. 37

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

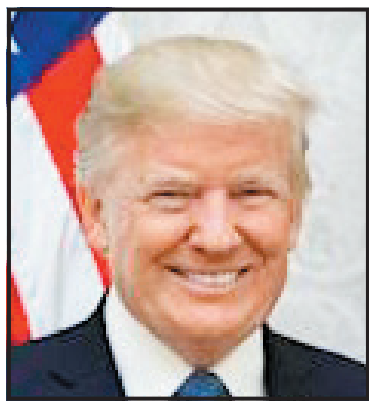
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Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris Hit Hard at Long Awaited Presidential Debate

by Patti Sartori

The declaration of a winner and loser in the recent Presidential Debate between Republican Candidate, Former President Donald Trump and Democratic Candidate, Current Vice-President Kamala Harris, will depend solely on which side of the political aisle you sit. Neither landed a knock-out punch, but rather each gave solid partisan performances, no surprise there. Held in what many believe is the cradle of liberty, historic Philadelphia, under the guidance of ABC News Moderators David Muir and Lindsey Davis, the two candidates entered the stage with a handshake, before retreating behind their respective podiums. There was no studio audience, no pre-written notes, and no teleprompters. Strictly a one-on-one faceoff armed only with their vision and plan to strengthen the United States and unify its citizens.

In the often testy ninety minutes, Harris often frequently succeeded in her goal of rattling the former President with personal attacks that sent him off message. Her comments on the diminishing size of his rally



crowds, his conduct during the January 6th Capitol siege, on former Trump Administration officials who have since become vocal critics continually left Trump to defend his actions rather than focus on Harris' weaknesses. This seemed to be a pattern for most of the debate, with Harris goading her rival and Trump responding in frustrated bursts. Time and time again, as the debate wore on, Harris put Trump on the defensive with her snarky comments that he should have just ignored but of course couldn't resist addressing.

Harris started out nervous and shaky, not answering the

first question regarding the economy posed to her by moderator David Muir, but slowly found a rhythm and seemed to settle in. In fact, she often side-stepped most of pointed questions posed to her by the moderators and gave only vague responses, but also never received any pushback from the either of them, certainly not as Donald Trump did on a number of times throughout the debate.

If this meeting were to be scored on which candidate best took advantage of their strongest issues, and deflected on their areas of weakness, then Kamala Harris would certainly receive the edge. Her tactic of putting Trump on the defensive regarding the economy and abortion were quite visible. Public polling and surveys indicate Americans are very unhappy with how the Biden/Harris Administration has handled inflation and the economy. Yet Harris was able to turn the topics to Trump's proposed tariffs, which she referred to as "Trump Sales Tax", and then proceeded to invoke Project 25, the controversial conservative plan for a future Republican



Administration of government, causing Trump to once again disavow his knowledge or association with it, rather than hammering Harris on inflation and the rising cost of consumer goods and products. On abortion, Trump defended his handling of the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and didn't seem to make his position clear. As a pro-choice female candidate, it's definitely an issue where she dominates with public opinion and voters.

When Harris was asked about her flip flops on her liberal positions, including oil fracking during her failed presidential

campaign in 2019, she totally avoided the question and ended her answer with noting she did not take handouts from her wealthy father, with no pushback from either moderator. Again, the former President responded to her tease rather than pointing out her clear weakness on an issue that is extremely important to the must win state of Pennsylvania. On the Afghanistan withdrawal, another weak point for the Biden/Harris Administration, the Vice-President was able to shift the conversation to Trump's negotiations with the Taliban officials and his invitation to them to Camp David rather than again hit her with the fact that the premature withdrawal from the country left the U.S. weaker internationally, left behind billions of dollars in equipment and resulted in the senseless death of 13 American Soldiers. Again, this was a pattern that proved very effective for Harris.

It should come as no surprise that Republicans began complaining about favoritism

(Continued on Page 10)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

"Teachers of Color" Scholarships

Democrat vice presidential nominee Minnesota Governor Tim Walz approved a state law that discriminates against white students who seek to become educators by barring them from applying for a "teacher of color" scholarship according to a recent civil rights complaint.

The "Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship" worth up to \$25,000 per student is restricted to applicants who has both financial need and "belong to a racial or ethnic group under-represented in the state's teacher workforce," according to a press release from the governor's office last June.

The Equal Protection Project claims in the complaint with the US Department of Education that the Walz administration is practicing blatant bias in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Joe Biden is Very Pro-Vacation

According to a news story last week, President Biden has racked up 532 vacation days in less than four years or 40 percent during his current term. Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama vacationed just 11 percent of their two-terms and Jimmy Carter took only 79 days during his term in office.

A Quote from the Pages of the NY Times

"The Constitution is sacred. Is it also dangerous?"
— Jennifer Szalai, NY Times book critic

(Continued on Page 10)

New Massachusetts State Police Leader Chosen

Under a new Law afforded to Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, a new Superintendent and Colonel of the State Police was chosen. Geoffrey Noble, retired 2nd in command of the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) will assume command of the department in October. Noble retired from the NJSP as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2022 and was currently working as a Regional President for the Inter-Con Security Systems Private Security Firm, prior to being chosen.

Governor Healey is the first Governor to take advantage of the 2020 provision of the policy reform law allowing the State Police Colonel to be hired from outside the department. Noble will take over the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) at a time of great discourse and embarrassment. The most recent controversy came to light this summer during the highly publicized Karen Read murder trial, when a trooper's less than flattering text messages were read aloud in the court room.

Healey made it known she was looking for someone with integrity and managerial



Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Noble

competence," to oversee the scandal plagued department. "Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Noble has dedicated his career to public service, rising to the highest levels of the NJSP and delivering results on some of the most pressing issues facing law enforcement. He is a principled, respected leader who is widely praised for his integrity, compassion, and ability to bring people together," the Governor stated at the press conference last week announcing the new appointment. "I am confident that he is the leader that our hardworking State Police and

the people of Massachusetts deserve," she added.


"I've long admired the Massachusetts State Police, and it is a true honor that Governor Healey has placed her trust in me to lead this distinguished team of law enforcement professionals. The hardworking men and women of the State Police show up every day to keep people of Massachusetts safe, and they deserve a leader who is accessible, transparent, and committed to the highest standards of integrity and excellence. That is the focus I would bring as a Colonel," Noble said in a statement.

State law requires the Colonel to have at least ten years of experience as full-time sworn police officer and five years of relevant full-time experience in a Senior Administrative or Supervisory Position. The 2020 Police Reform Law for the first time allowed Governors to expand their searches beyond candidates within their respective departments. The Massachusetts State Police employs more than 3,000 and operates on an annual budget of approximately \$500 million.

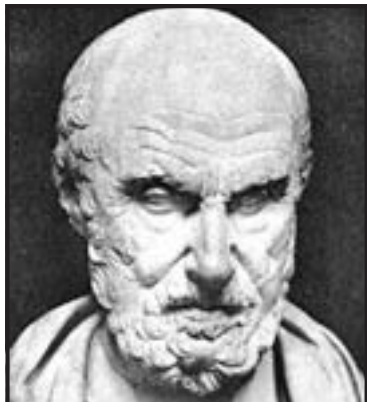
Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



CATO THE ELDER



Cato the Elder

This week, we continue with our series on those great literary Latins. In previous columns, we divided all of Roman literati into four general categories namely: 1. *The Early Age*, 2. *The Golden Age*, 3. *The Silver Age* and 4. *The Later Empire*. We noted that in the Early Age there was Andronicus Livius, a group called the Scipionic Circle, and Cato the Elder. During the last two issues, we discussed Andronicus Livius and also the Scipionic Circle.

This week, we examine Cato the Elder, the last celebrity in the Early Age. His full name was Marcus Porcius Cato; he was born in Tusculum and throughout his life, he remained interested in the simple Roman life-style. He became concerned with Pythagore and philosophy at an early age. The principal beliefs and opinions held by this system were: 1. The passing from an earthly body into a soul at death, and 2. The belief in numbers as the key to universal understanding and solutions. Cato left his hometown and went to Rome with nothing more than a good knowledge of Roman law, and fluency in elocution.

His military career started with the rank of "Tribune" (officer), and then within a relatively short time he was promoted to "Quaestor" (treasury officer), "aedile" (civil officer), "Praetor" (magistrate), "consul" (high magistrate), "censor" (census taker and guardian of public morals), and lastly, ambassador to Carthage. He died about a year after his return from this last mission, in the eighty-fifth year of his life.

Cato's literary labors include a 162-chapter treatise on the rules of agriculture, recipes of baking, and winemaking processes. It was loosely put together, and obviously intended for his own family use. It is simple, sometimes rude, but confirms our notions of the severe manners of its author and the character of the ancient Romans.

He also left 150 orations and a book on military discipline. During his final years he prepared seven books entitled *De Originibus*, and completed the last one just before his death. In these books, he began an inquiry into the history, antiquities, and language of the Roman people with a view toward counteracting the Scipionic influence. This work also contained an account of the exploits of the kings of Rome, and attempted to establish the time of the foundation of Rome itself. It also examined the origin of the different Italian states, and gave a history of the First and Second Punic Wars.

De Originibus was evidently the result of a great amount of scholarly activity and had it been preserved, it would have given us much valuable information about early Roman history. Cato also appears to be the first Roman who wrote on the subject of medicine. He included foods that were recommended for the sick and ancient remedies from herbs.

In retrospect, we find that the Early Age of Roman literati or as it is sometimes called "The Age of Greek Influence" gives us Andronicus Livius, the founder of Roman dramatic and epic poetry and the translator of Homer's *Odyssey* into Latin verse.

It also gives us the Scipionic Circle, a literary and philosophical group composed of men like Scipio the Younger, a great student of literature; Polybius, the Greek historian who recorded the rise of Roman supremacy; Panaetius of Rhodes, the stoic philosopher who furnished inspiration for many of Cicero's orations; Terence, who left a marked influence on Roman dramatic literature; Lucilius, who was the creator of Roman satire; and Cato the Elder. This last named Cato, is noted for the first history of Rome in Latin, which unfortunately has not been preserved, for being probably the first Roman to write good Latin prose and for his only surviving work *De Re Rustica*, which is a valuable information source on ancient Roman customs.

NEXT ISSUE:
Lucretius

North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC)

Votes on Zoning and Licensing Applications

The NEWNC agenda may have been light on committee reports and neighborhood updates but certainly made up for it in the number of zoning and licensing applications before the council on Monday evening, September 9th. Before diving into the crux of the meeting, council president Kevin Fleming and committee chairs made a few announcements. Fleming commented on the positive feedback he was hearing regarding the recent feast season. Public Safety Chair Kristen Hoffman informed the group a more formal report from the Boston Police Department Area A-1 Community Service Office would provide a more detailed update at the next Northend End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) meeting on Thursday, September 12th, 6:30 p.m. at the Nazzaro Center. Fleming also announced two City of Boston Officials would be attending the October meeting to discuss the city's new rat program. Jack Imbergamo, Liaison to District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta reminded the group of the Councilor's upcoming coffee hour on Saturday, September 28th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Paradiso on Hanover Street.

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) Director Sherri Snow, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the organization, Mary O'Neil and John Romano, Jr., invited everyone to attend its Annual Soiree at the Prado on September 19th, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. It is their Annual Major Fundraising Event in which proceeds will be allocated to supporting the various programming offered by the Center. Tickets can be purchased on their website at nempacboston.org or by stopping by their office at 50 Tileston Street.

The majority of the meeting revolved around the five different zoning and licensing applications. Mother Anna's, 211 Hanover Street, applied for a Wine and Malt Beverage License w/Liqueurs with a midnight closing, Locale, 350-352 Hanover Street, applied for an All-Alcohol License with a midnight closing, North End Lobster Company, 204 Hanover Street, applied for zoning relief to change use to include four residential units on floors 2-3 and one restaurant on the first floor and basement, and Martignetti Restaurant Group, 221 Hanover Street, applied to transfer the existing Wine and Malt Beverage License at Dolce Vita to the proposed new owner at the same location. All applicants received unanimous support of the council members.

The final application before the council was 60-70 Cross Street, DePasquale Ventures, application for zoning relief to combine three parcels into one, (former Martignetti Liquors block between Hanover and Salem Street), add two floors to the existing structure and change use to retail, cafe, gelateria, restaurant with culinary arts/education, outdoor veranda seating on upper story and three apartments with private roof deck. After a lengthy overview from the applicants Attorney William Ferullo, questions from the council members and input from abutters, the council finally voted, 3-2, to table the formal vote until an acceptable agreement between all parties and abutters concerning the rear easement could be reached. While most of the abutters did express support of DePasquale's proposal, the rear egress/easement issue has long been a sticking point in any past or future proposed development of this building.

Facebook Pressured to Suppress Facts

Mark Zuckerberg Caved to Pressure from Biden Administration

META (Facebook) CEO Mark Zuckerberg finally made public what so many surmised. The Biden Administration pressured Facebook to censor COVID-19 content and to suppress the *New York Post's* explosive coverage of Hunter Biden's laptop story. In recent correspondence to House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, Zuckerberg admitted "Senior Biden Administration Officials, including the White

House, consistently pressured META to censor content related to the Coronavirus Pandemic in 2021." Zuckerberg also explained that "Prior to the decision to limit sharing of the bombshell October 2020 Hunter Biden story, the FBI warned META about a potential Russian disinformation operation, related to the Biden family and Ukrainian Energy giant Burisma, where Hunter Biden sat on the board of Directors.

That fall when we saw a *New York Post* story reporting on corruption allegations involving then Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden's family, we sent that story to fact checkers and temporarily demoted it while waiting for a reply," Zuckerberg wrote. "It's since been made clear that the reporting was not Russian disinformation, and in retrospect we shouldn't have held the story back." He admitted.

Zuckerberg was deeply apologetic in his letter to the Judiciary Committee, "I believe government pressure was wrong, and I regret we were no more outspoken about it. We made choices then that we wouldn't make today," and added "Suppressing the *Post's* exclusive report on Hunter Biden's famous laptop ahead of the 2020 election was a mistake." Zuckerberg exclaimed his intent to remain neutral this election cycle and not play a role one way or the other. One can't help but wonder how the 2020 Presidential Election would have turned out had Zuckerberg and Facebook not interfered.

Battleground State Leaders Fighting Non-Citizens Voting Rights

The North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) is facing a lawsuit filed by the Republican National Committee (RNC) and the North Carolina Republican Party for allegedly opening the door for non-citizen voters by failing to require identification to prove citizenship. The lawsuit alleges that NCSBE violated the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) by not checking the identification of approximately 225,000 voters, allowing the agency to "to open the door for non-citizens to vote." North Carolina is the first state in the nation to start voting and began mailing out ballots to eligible voters on September 6th.

RNC Chairman Michael Whatley said, "We are Committed to the basic principle, and common-sense law, that only Americans decide American elections." The state board used a voter registration form that failed to require HAVA identification information, such as driver's license or last four digits of a social security number. Election officials eventually

fixed the form, but not before approximately 225,000 people registered to vote without supplying the HAVA required information.

In Ohio, Secretary of State Frank LaRose identified 597 individuals registered to vote in Ohio, despite not being citizens of the U.S. as their state constitution requires. 138 of these individuals appear to have cast a ballot in an Ohio election during a time that state and federal records indicate they lacked citizenship status.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave partial victory to Republicans trying to enforce proof of citizenship when voting in Arizona. The highest court of the U.S. ruled to allow enforcement of Arizona law requiring documented proof of citizenship to cast a ballot in a presidential election, including by mail.

The most logical way to combat this issue is to require photo ID or proof of residency and citizenship when registering to vote and once again while actually voting.

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POST-GAZETTE

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 617-227-8929 617-227-8928 FAX 617-227-5307

e-mail: postgazette@aol.com

Website: www.BostonPostGazette.com

Subscriptions in the United States \$35.00 yearly

Published weekly by
 Post-Gazette, 5 Prince St., P.O. Box 130135,
 Boston, MA 02113
 USPS 1538 – Second-Class Postage paid at Boston, MA
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
 POST-GAZETTE - P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

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

Vol. 129 - No. 37 Friday, September 13, 2024

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.

COMMENTARY

Did You Watch the Debate?

by Sal Giarratani

Did you watch the debate this past Tuesday evening? This time ABC Television hosted it and once again we witnessed the debate moderator's horrible bias. If I were Donald Trump, I would not do a second debate against Harris until the rules are fixed.

There are supposed to be only two folks debating, however, it was clear to see from start to finish that Trump was going up against three individuals. It rattled his cage and he went off message. Harris wants another debate but Trump can't afford again to be on the defense all night long with all those incoming political missiles being fired at him.

It is time to cease altogether TV debates sponsored by the various news networks. I don't even want Fox News hosting one. Any future debates must be moderated by the candidates themselves or both Harris and Trump get to select who both want to ask debate questions.

What we watched on Tuesday evening led me to switching stations. It is obvious that the state media can't help itself when it comes to hosting debates. Tuesday night, they were part of the Harris team. That cannot happen again. Fix the debate process or end this meaningless debate format.

NORTH END BRANCH OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

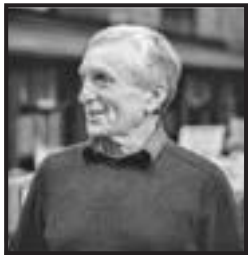
Talk by Rare Book Specialist

Ken Gloss

Wednesday, October 2nd

Hosted by The Friends of the North End Library

Kenneth Gloss, internationally known rare book specialist and appraiser who runs the Brattle Book Shop in Boston, will give an in-person and virtual presentation for the North End Branch of Boston Public Library, 25 Parmenter Street, Boston, on Wednesday, October 2nd, 6:00 p.m. Ken will talk about the "improbable finds" of his decades-long career and discuss the value of old and rare books. The event is free and open to the public.



Ken, who is frequently seen on national TV, will talk in part about the history of his historic bookshop (www.brattlebookshop.com/about), which goes back to circa 1825.

He is a second-generation owner. Ken will discuss growing up in the book business, show some of his favorite finds while enjoying "the thrill of the hunt," and explain how he appraises books and manuscripts. He has many fascinating anecdotes to share about private and institutional collecting as well as guidelines for building and maintaining a significant collection. There is also a Q&A session at the conclusion of his talk. Following the talk and question-and-answer session, Ken will give free verbal appraisals of books participants have on hand or will do so at his shop in Boston at a later scheduled date.

For more information on this event, please contact: info@friendsnelibrary.org.

Lucy (D'Andrea) Aceto

Lucy (D'Andrea) Aceto of East Boston, passed away on September 8, 2024.

Born in Roccasicura, Italy on October 8, 1937 to Pasquale and Maria D'Andrea (Mazzochi).

Loving wife of the late George J. Aceto Sr. Devoted mother of

George J. Aceto, Jr., Michele Aceto-Amanouz and husband Joseph, and Jacqueline L. Aceto SCN. Cherished grandmother of Ashley Aceto and the late George J. Aceto III. Adored great-grandmother



of Hunter and Wyatt Aceto.

Family and friends will honor Lucy's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Friday, September 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and again on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church in East Boston for a 9:30 a.m. Funeral Mass. Committal services are private.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieormh.com.

In Loving Memory of



Barbara Summa Sullivan
 September 16, 2022 - September 16, 2024
 2nd Anniversary

*Sadly missed along life's way,
 quietly remembered every day.
 No longer in our life to share,
 but in our hearts,
 you're always there.*

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

Frank Bartucca



September 21, 1995 - 2024

*Wife
 Delia*

*Children
 Frank, Elizabeth, Jeannie, Anthony, Theresa,
 Ann Marie, Mary Ellen and Christopher*

*Grandchildren
 Jeremy, Hannah, Caitlin, Daniel, Kevin,
 Eric, Alexander, Benjamin, Jennifer,
 Shaun, Jacqueline,
 Joseph, Christopher, Wesley, Bradley,
 Delia and Brendan*

*Great-Grandchildren
 Charlotte, Ayden, Logan and Alexandra*

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

How Do You Like Them Apples?

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



For me, nothing better signifies fall than taking a bite out of a crisp, juicy apple. Even the tangy smell of apples, especially when it is mixed in with cinnamon, is enough to conjure memories of cool fall days and sun-soaked orange leaves. As soon as September mornings dawn misty and fresh, I know that it is time for apples to make their way back into my pantry and recipes. Apple cider, glowing with the color of amber, remains a mainstay in my refrigerator until the winter, refreshing me with its sweet-tart taste. I scour cookbooks and magazines to find new ways to incorporate apples into cakes, pies and crisps — and even savory dishes. As the quintessential fruit of autumn, first appearing in August and ripening late into the season, it is little wonder that many people, like myself, crave apples this time of year. However, apples also contain a much more significant role in folklore, mythology and culture. Whether growing in a New England farm or in the gnarled orchards of northern Italy, apples offer a wealth of symbolism that enriches the meaning of fall. Perhaps that is what we really crave when we think of apples, that connection to antiquity and our ancestors.

The most famous example of apple symbolism stems from the fruit's prominent role in the Adam and Eve story, although the forbidden fruit is never actually identified as an apple in the Bible. Apples also appear in many mythologies that pre-date Christianity. The ancient Greek demigod Heracles — known as Hercules to the Romans — sought to pick golden apples from the Garden of the Hesperides as one of his Twelve Labors. The Trojan War of legend began when the Trojan

prince Paris offered an apple to Helen of Sparta for being the most beautiful woman in the world, angering the goddesses Hera and Athena. In Norse mythology, where the apple tree was considered a sacred symbol of rebirth, a goddess named Idunn was tasked with guarding the apples that granted immortality to all the deities. Celtic mythology explains that the mysterious island where the legendary King Arthur recovered from his wounds was known as Avalon, or the "isle of apples." This all goes without mentioning the many times apples appear in fairy tales, most famously as the delectable fruit used to tempt Snow White by the evil Queen. Apples further abound in rituals and superstition. An Irish tradition states that if a girl manages to peel an apple in one long continuous strip and throw it over her shoulder, the shape the peel takes would reveal the first initial of her future spouse. Eating an apple in front of a candlelit mirror could also expose a distant love. As one of the hardiest fruits of the season between summer and winter and a prime source of sustenance, the seemingly humble apple has acquired a large significance in many folk traditions and lore.

Apples, in all their splendor and lore, remind me of my annual apple-picking excursions with my family. Every year, when late September or early October rolls around, we all trek to a small family-owned farm to gather these jewel-hued fruits. These trips truly feel like a voyage back in time, to an epoch where the simplicity of community binds and a ready harvest reigned supreme. From the rickety hayrides that get us to the orchard to the silky apple cider donuts that await

us when we finish gathering the apples, this yearly event always reassures me that the love of family and the gift of nature's bounty are enough to weather the upcoming winter. My father would remark that visits to the apple farm transported him to his bucolic childhood in the Italian countryside. He grew up in the mountainous region of Abruzzi in central Italy, where picking harvest fruits and vegetables formed a regular and essential part of my father's youth. In Italy, apples are known as *mele* and may grow all over the peninsula, although the most famous Italian apples hail from the northern Trentino-Alto Adige region. Italians use apples in desserts as varied as cakes (*torta di mele*) and *strudels* inspired by their German neighbors to the north. Italians have also been known to enjoy apples in savory treats. In her book *Festa*, author Helen Barolini marvels at the simple yet delectable pairing of an apple slice with a sliver of buttery, salty Pecorino-Romano cheese. In Italy as in the United States, the act of lovingly baking apples into meals that will nourish the soul and harvesting these fruits with the family imbues renowned symbolism into the apple. They become so much more than an autumn staple and turn into a harbinger of the communal, cozy feasts that characterize the season.

This fall, by all means enjoy apples in all of their wonderful varieties — fresh and juicy off the tree, refreshing in a cider, warm and comforting in a baked good. I am already counting down the days when I can sit down with a piece of my mother's famous apple pie, always made with the apples we gather on our farm excursion. What is important is that you enjoy these apples consciously, paying heed to their symbolism throughout the ages and their source of sustenance for the cold months to come. No matter how you enjoy them, apples will always remain an inextricable part of the autumn season and of the human story, a symbol of life in cultures across the globe. For in the beautiful fall days of September, life, in all its rhythmic and cyclic forms, is truly something apparent and exhilarating.

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

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



Thinking Out Loud About Those Images and the Heroism of September 11, 2001



The horrors of 9/11

On Sunday, September 8, I found myself once again over at Piers Park in East Boston. It was a really nice day with endless blue skies above and a temperature that would soon rise higher. It was chilly during the 23rd service in memory and gratitude of the heroes of that long ago day.

East Boston folk have gathered at this beautiful park overlooking the Boston Harbor and skyline across the waters in Downtown Boston since that day hours after those towers were taken down by terrorists and every year since, we the people of East Boston go back there to remember what was lost that day and what we found. Terrorists could crumble towers



Buddy Mangini speaking of the importance of why folks keep this tragic anniversary alive to honor all who perished that long ago day



A reminder of why we still remember 9/11 and its connection to East Boston at the 23rd anniversary service

but they couldn't weaken our resolve. We came together after that attack and discovered we were one people and we stood together. Many people today have forgotten that resolve as we now bicker with each other over partisan politics.

The late Fran Rowan was the one who spearheaded this community to move forward together after those attacks. Until her dying day she was a force of unity in our community seeking the good from inside each of us.

Fran Rowan represented us all quite well. The world stood still that day but the human spirit didn't. For as long as

she lived, she would not forget how in the middle of such despair we did not cower. We moved forward and still move forward. That is what she would want us to have done. To quote the prophet Isaiah, "Be strong. Fear not." Always do the right thing too. Remember all of us here right now got here on someone else's back. Never forget.

God willing and the creek don't rise, we will return in a year's time to remember the sacrifices made on that beautiful morning on September 11, 2001.

(Continued on Page 10)

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Run dates: 09/13, 09/20, 09/27/2024

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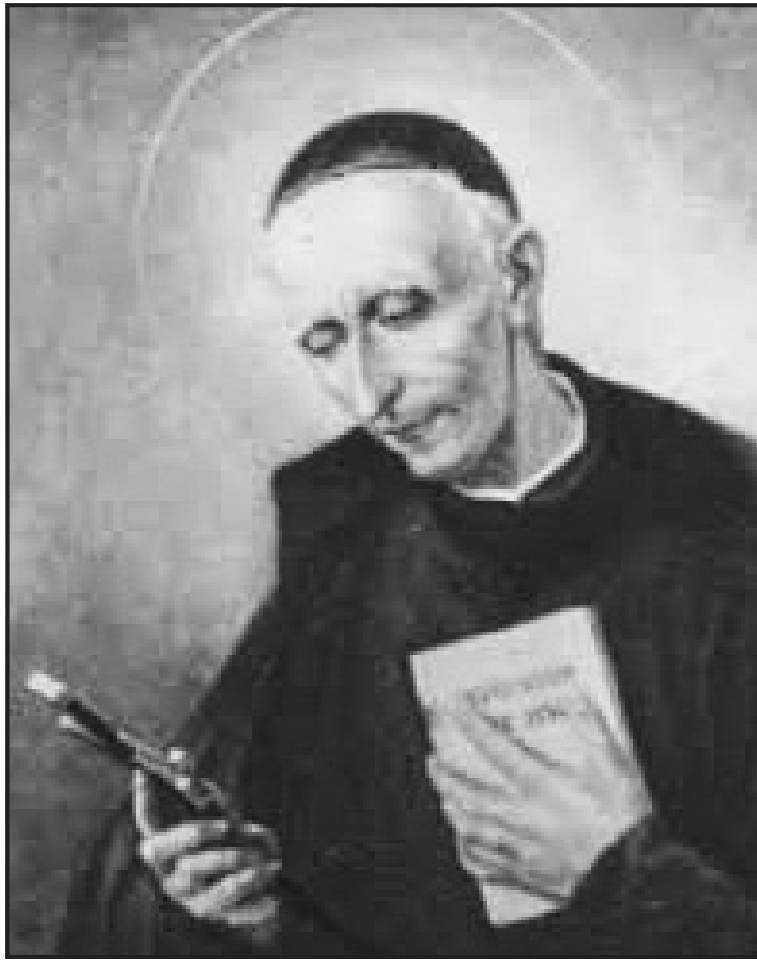
by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Pignatelli was born on December 27, 1737 in Zaragoza, Spain, of Neapolitan descent and noble heritage. He did his early studies in the Jesuit College of Zaragoza, along with his brother, Nicolás. There he developed tuberculosis, which was to plague him his entire life. He entered Jesuits at the age of 15 on May 8, 1753 in Tarragona, despite his family's opposition. On completing his theological studies, he was ordained a priest, and assigned to teach at the College of Zaragoza.

In 1766 the Governor of Zaragoza was held responsible for a threatened famine, and so enraged was the populace against him that they were about to destroy the Governor's palace by fire. Pignatelli's persuasive power over the people averted the calamity. Despite the letter of thanks sent by King Charles III of Spain, the Jesuits were accused of instigating the riot. Pignatelli's refutation of the charge was followed by the decree of expulsion of the Jesuits of Zaragoza on April 4, 1767.

The Count of Aranda, a favorite of the king and a supporter of the expulsion of the Jesuits from Spain, offered to allow Pignatelli and his brother, Nicolás (also a member of the Society), as members of the nobility, to remain in the city, provided that they leave the Society. In spite of Joseph's ill-health, the brothers stood firm and went into exile.

They sailed to the Corsican Republic, where Pignatelli



displayed a marked ability for organization in providing for 600 priests and seminarians. His sister, the Duchess of Acerra, aided them with money and provisions. He organized studies and the Jesuits were able to maintain their regular religious observances.

When France took control of Corsica in 1770, the Jesuits fled to Genoa. Pignatelli was again required to secure shelter in the legation of Ferrara. The

community, however, was dissolved upon the suppression of the entire Society by Pope Clément XIV in August 1773. The two Pignatelli brothers were then obliged to seek refuge in Bologna, where they lived in retirement, being forbidden to exercise their Christian ministry. They devoted themselves to study and Pignatelli began to collect books and manuscripts

(Continued on Page 10)

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GIRL FRIENDS of the North End

*Will Gather Together
Once Again ...*

**Please Note
Change of Venue & Time**

Saturday, September 28, 2024

12 Noon

SPINELLI'S

10 Newbury Street, (Rte. 1) Peabody, MA
- Free Parking

\$75.00 per ticket (cash bar available)

Please send your check by September 20, 2024

made payable to Francine Gannon and mail to

Ms. Francine Gannon

74 Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02109

Please include email

If you are replying for more than one person, please list her name (maiden name if applicable), address, and email.

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

We look forward to seeing all the "girl" friends of the North End once again on September 28th.

The Committee

Francine Capodilupo Gannon, Chair - 617-742-6912

Carol Langone Catanzaro - 617-283-1925

Diane Passero Pesaturo - 781-443-3624

Christina Penta - 617-227-9568

† Saint Leonard † of Port Maurice



JOIN US

NORTH END BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, September 15th, 2:00 PM
11 Tileston St. (parking lot)



Bring a dish for a **potluck-style** block party, and welcome new faces to the neighborhood! Scan the QR code here to **RSVP**.

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, Devon, in the southwest part of England. The youngest of three children she was educated at home by her mother, who encouraged her daughter to write. As a child, Agatha enjoyed fantasy play and creating characters, when she was 16, she moved to Paris for a time to study vocals and piano.

In October 1912, Agatha met Archibald "Archie" Christie at a dance. The pair became engaged in 1913, just before Archie entered military training. At the outset of World War I, he was stationed in France and became a pilot. The couple married during his first period of leave, on Christmas Eve in 1914, and they moved to London at the end of the war.

As her family was growing, Christie's writing career "took off". She published her first book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, in 1920. The story focused on the murder of a rich heiress and introduced readers to one of Christie's most famous characters: Belgian detective Hercule Poirot.

Agatha and Archie had one child, Rosalind Hicks, born in August 1919. Their marriage began crumbling in 1926, when Archie revealed in August that he had begun a relationship with a woman named Nancy Neele and asked for a divorce. Agatha, who was also grieving the death of her mother, had an alarming response to the revelation.

On December 3 after an argument, Christie left her home in Sunningdale and disappeared. Christie's disappearance set off a manhunt involving both police and civilians. her flight became a media sensation and writer Arthur Conan Doyle even consulted a medium in an attempt to find her whereabouts.

On December 14, a stranger recognized Christie at the Swan Hydro hotel in Harrogate, where she had checked in using Neele's name. She had no recollection of the prior 11 days. Christie ultimately recovered, with she and Archie finally divorcing in 1928.

The year of Christie's second marriage saw the release of *Murder at the Vicarage* (1930), which became another classic and introduced readers to Miss Jane Marple, an enquiring village lady.

In 1930, Agatha remarried with archaeology professor Max Mallowan, with whom she traveled on several expeditions, later recounting her trips in the 1946 memoir *Come, Tell Me How You Live*. During both World Wars, she served in hospital dispensaries, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the poisons that featured in many of her novels, short stories, and plays. Following her marriage to archaeologist Max Mallowan in 1930, she spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East and used her firsthand knowledge of this profession in her fiction.

Writing well into her later years, Christie wrote more than 70 detective novels as well as short fiction. Christie's success as an author of sleuth stories has earned her titles like the "Queen of Crime" and the "Queen of Mystery." She also wrote romance novels like *Unfinished Portrait* (1934) and *A Daughter's a Daughter* (1952) under the name Mary Westmacott. In total, Christie published 83 books, including works using her pseudonym.

Christie was a renowned playwright as well, with works like *The Hollow* (1951) and *Verdict* (1958). Her play *The Mousetrap* opened in 1952 at the Ambassador Theatre and — at more than 8,800 showings during 21 years — set the record for the longest unbroken run in a London. The show is still going strong today with more than 27,500 performances as of February 2022.

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed Christie with damehood in 1971 for her contributions to literature. Three years later, Christie made her last public appearance for the opening night of the play version of her 1934 book *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Christie passed away at her home, Winterbrook House, at age 85 on January 12, 1976. That night, the lead actor of *The Mousetrap*, Brian McDermot, led a theater audience in a silent tribute to the author. She is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church in Cholsey, where she attended worship services.

Guinness World Records lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

In 1955, Christie was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award. Later that year, *Witness for the Prosecution* received an Edgar Award for best play. In 2013, she was voted the best crime writer and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* the best crime novel ever by 600 professional novelists of the Crime Writers' Association. In 2015, *And Then There Were None* was named the "World's Favourite Christie" in a vote sponsored by the author's estate. Many of Christie's books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games, and graphic novels. More than 30 feature films are based on her work.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Ausonia Council #1513

North End, Boston, MA 02113

2024 Scholarship Rules

- Minimum of \$1000.00 per scholarship, total number of scholarships to be determined.
- Applicant must be entering high school, in high school, entering college, or already in college.
- Checks will be made out to scholarship recipients.
- Applicants must be a North End Resident, current member in good standing of the Ausonia Council, or family member of a current Ausonia Council member in good standing.
- Applicant must provide a letter from the school they are attending in 2024/2025 as proof of acceptance and residency.
- Only one application per student
- Preference to students attending a Catholic high school or college, but not required to apply.

• Applicant must fill out application completely and accurately, and must return application by deadline to qualify.

• Applications to be reviewed by Ausonia Council Scholarship Committee

• Scholarships will be awarded on Columbus Day, October 14, 2024. Winners will be notified and invited to a small award event.

• **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 27, 2024. If mailed, they must be postmarked by September 27, 2024. Mail to:**

Ausonia Council #1513 K of C, 41 North Margin Street, Boston, MA, 02113.

• Hard Copies of Applications can be picked up at St. Leonard's Church

• Applications may be submitted electronically here: <https://forms.gle/q7xADJDQuXPfT2sN9>

Nanna and Babbonnonno Brings Back Fond Memories

Dear John Cristoforo,

With the way things go today, I hesitate to write Dear in addressing anyone. Everyone gets so up tight with language/words. However, I'll chance it with you.

To begin this small yarn (olde term for sure), I have been receiving the *Post-Gazette* for several years. It was sent to me as I had submitted a short rather humorous story about people who would be happy for you if you gave them a donation, but if not ... As time passed and so many years of life go by, my copy got lost in our moving here and there. I am telling you this as a prelude to what I really want to ask/tell you about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine asked if I was familiar with a songwriter named Harry Warren. The name was unfamiliar and then she proceeded to tell me some of the songs he had composed. It really did shock me as this man had written so many songs that were so popular on the American music scene while growing up. I Googled his name which is where I found all the info on his career. Then I googled his parents name and sure enough his family history was amazing. By the way, he wrote 800 songs during his lifetime. Not all were hits but ... hello.

I won't go on here as Google will tell you more than I could. As a musician and of Italian heritage yourself, you may already know all about him. It was a real pleasure to read it.

My four sisters and I always sang together at

family gatherings even at a very young age. God blest me with a memory of lyrics of all the songs. It used to be a little "harangue" with my sisters like, "how come you remember all those words." And to this day, I do remember all those words. We got to entertain in local shows and other small venues but never hit the bigtime.

I've been wanting to write to you but never took the time. As the years collect, I thought, I'd best get going. If nothing else, you could visit a very interesting musical personage of yesteryear (unless of course, you already know who Harry Gauranga/Warren was). His father Antonio changed the family name to Warren after settling in America.

Your column in the *Post-Gazette* is my first read when I get my copy. I have always enjoyed the stories of your neighborhood recollections. So many of them reminded me of our young life growing up in Waltham. And sir, you yourself have quite an interesting history and thanks for sharing so much of your life in Boston, etcetera. of the 'good old days'.

Best regards,
Beverly Kenny

P.S. My husband John, and I are rather old ducks, being married 62 years this last May — and would do it all over again. We are blessed!

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Middlesex Probate and Family Court

10-U Commerce Way

Woburn, MA 01801

(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI24D2133DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY

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JOSUE CUBERO

vs.

CLEUSA DE JESUS PEREIRA

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce

requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been

entered in this matter preventing you from

taking any action which would negatively

impact the current financial status of either

party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court

Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required

to serve upon Josue Cubero, 40 Taylor

St., Apt. 201, Framingham, MA 01702 your

answer, if any, on or before October 01, 2024.

If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the

hearing and adjudication of this action. You are

also required to file a copy of your answer, if

any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,

First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 20, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 09/13/2024

Pasta Dinner



St. Lazarus Church

59 Ashley Street, East Boston

Saturday, October 19, 2024

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Adults — \$15.00

Children 6-12 — \$10.00

Children 5 and under Free

Tickets go on sale September 21, 2024

After every Mass and at the Rectory

St. Theresa Society A Newly-Formed Religious Society in the North End Gives Back to Local Schools in the Community

On Friday, September 6, 2024, members of the Saint Theresa Society of Boston visited St. John's School and Eliot School teacher Vitianna D'Amico to donate school supplies to help support students and teachers of the school. The St. Theresa Society is a new religious organization in the North End that helps raise money to help support people/groups in the North End community and to spread the devotion of the "little flower" St. Theresa.

Although the North End is generally known as a wealthy neighborhood, the schools have several families and teachers who suffer from not having enough money for school supplies for the school year. Some items that were donated included: notebooks, pencils, markers, tissues, cleaning wipes, stickers, colored pencils, glue, etc.

Annmarie Quezada, principal at the St. John School, was on hand with many students to accept the donation

from the society's officers and members, Anthony Boyd, Jr., Father Michael Della Penna, Debbie Gello, Anthony Boyd, Sr., Holly Marcus and Maria Correale. President of the St. Theresa Society of Boston, Anthony Boyd, Jr., relayed the importance of society which is all about giving back to the neighborhood his family grew up in and supporting the local schools who are in need.

"This is the entire reason that the St. Theresa Society exists, so that we are able to help residents of this neighborhood who are in need and bring everyone together. We are extremely happy that we could help St. John School and Ms. D'Amico's class out," said President Boyd, Jr.

The St. Theresa Society originated in the North End of Boston this past January. The Society is set to celebrate



Maria Correale, Member St. Theresa Society, Anthony Boyd Jr., President St. Theresa Society, Holly Marcus, Secretary St. Theresa Society, Eliot School Teacher Vitianna D'Amico and Sarah, Paraprofessional.

St. Theresa's feast day in the North End on October 1st with a Holy Mass at St. Leonard's Church beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Followed by coffee and pastries at Sacred Heart Church conference room on 9 Sun Court Street. All are welcome to attend.



Debbie Gello, Vice-President St. Theresa Society, Anthony Boyd, Jr., President St. Theresa Society, St. John School Principal Annmarie Quezada, Holly Marcus, Secretary St. Theresa Society and Anthony Boyd, Sr., Trustee Saint Theresa Society.



Debbie Gello, Vice-President St. Theresa Society, Anthony Boyd, Sr., Trustee St. Theresa Society, Pastor of St. Leonard Church Father Michael Della Penna, Anthony Boyd, Jr., President St. Theresa Society, Holly Marcus, Secretary St. Theresa Society with students from St. John School.



Generous donation of school supplies made by St. Theresa Society

Don't Forget Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation.



Remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash.



Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED Let's Protect Boston's Waterways.

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VIKINGS: VALHALLA: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON (Blu-ray)
Warner Bros. Discovery Home Ent.

From Creator/Showrunner/Executive Producer Jeb Stuart, Warner Bros. Discovery Home Entertainment brings the next chapter in the *Vikings* franchise, with the release of *Vikings: Valhalla: The Complete First Season* on Blu-ray and DVD. One hundred years have passed, and a new generation of legendary heroes has arrived to create their own destiny — and make history! All 8 gripping episodes from the first season are available for purchase online and in-store at major retailers. *Vikings: Valhalla* chronicles the heroic adventures of some of the most famous Vikings who ever lived — the legendary explorer Leif Eriksson, his fiery and headstrong sister Freydis Eriksdotter, and the ambitious Nordic prince Harald Sigurdsson. As tensions between the Vikings and the English royals reach a bloody breaking point and as the Vikings themselves clash over their conflicting Christian and pagan beliefs, these three Vikings begin an epic journey that will take them across oceans and through battlefields, from Kattegat to England and beyond, as they fight for survival and glory. *Vikings: Valhalla* stars Sam Corlett as Leif Eriksson, Frida Gustavsson as Freydis Eriksdotter, Leo Suter as Harald Sigurdsson, and Bradley Freegard as King Canute. Other cast members include Jóhannes Jóhannesson as Olaf Haraldson, Laura Berlin as Emma of Normandy, David Oakes as Earl Godwin, Caroline Henderson as Jarl Haakon, Pollyanna McIntosh as Queen Ælfgifu, and Asbjørn Krogh Nissen as Jarl Kåre. Jeb Stuart, Michael Hirst, Morgan O'Sullivan, James Flynn, Sherry Marsh, Alan Gasmer. The series was produced by MGM Television and originally debuted on Netflix February 25, 2022, and the third and final season arrived on July 11, 2024.

BLUE DESERT (DVD)
INDIEPIX Films

In a future seemingly devoid of memory where humanity has lost its purpose, a young man named Ele guided by intuitions and dreams, goes off in search of the meaning of life and existence. Revelations and symbols set him on a path of enlightenment, leading to enigmatic encounters with a prophet-like painter of the desert (Chico Diaz) and a beautiful woman named Alma (Maria Luisa Mendonça) whom he soon realizes is his soulmate. With plot points based on Yoko Ono's first art book, "Grapefruit" (which inspired John Lennon to pen "Imagine"), BLUE DESERT, a visually stunning sci-fi tale, set in the distant future against the bold architecture of futurist Oscar Niemeyer's Brasilia, offers a dreamy take on new age spirituality and the physical realm.

THE PROFANE EXHIBIT (Blu-ray) Unearthed Films

The Profane Exhibit is a collection of ten tales of unflinch-

ing horror directed by genre greats Nacho Vigalondo (*Colossal*), Anthony DiBlasi (*Malum*), Ryan Nicholson (*Gutterballs*), Michael Todd Schneider (*August Underground: Mordum*), Sergio Stivaletti (*Demons*), Mariam Dora (*Cannibal*), Yoshihiro Mikshimura (*Tokyo Gore Police*), Uwe Boll (*Postal*), Ruggero Deodato (*Cannibal Holocaust*), and Jeremy Kasten (*The Wizard of Gore*). Cited as "the biggest cult film ever" by *Bizarre Magazine*, *The Profane Exhibit* caused quite a stir when it premiered at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival in 2014. The Blu-ray Exclusive Special Features include audio commentaries, interviews, a mini documentary, behind-the-scenes footage, a photo gallery, and trailers.

THE SHADOW BOXING (Blu-ray) 88 Films

From the legendary Lau Kar-leung comes one of his finest — and wildest — rides, following a pair of very special undertakers who transport dead bodies by magical means. But their latest trip is proving tricky; it's bad enough that a strong-willed young woman has invited herself along for the ride but, even more awkwardly, one of the corpses might not actually be dead ... Pretty much inventing the kung fu horror-comedy, and a huge influence on later films like *Encounter of the Spooky Kind* and *Mr. Vampire*, *The Shadow Boxing* stars Gordon Kill Bill Liu and features the sort of action only the great Lau could serve up. 88 Films are delighted to unleash this Hong Kong classic on Blu-ray.

TWO TAOIST TALES (Blu-ray) Eureka Ent.

In the wake of *Encounter of the Spooky Kind*, the Hong Kong film industry launched headlong into a prolific genre cycle that drew upon Taoist folklore. Popular throughout the 1980s and into the next decade, these films combined elements of horror, fantasy, comedy and martial arts as they pit their protagonists against hopping vampires, vengeful ghosts and evil sorcerers. Eureka Classics is proud to present two of the most mind-bending tales of Taoist magic ever committed to film: *Taoism Drunkard* and *Young Taoism Fighter!* Directed by and starring Yuen Cheung-yan, *Taoism Drunkard* follows a man with a love for wine who accidentally damages a sacred statue. To atone for this blunder, he is asked by an enraged Taoist priest to find a virginal boy to aid in defending his temple from a demonic sorcerer. Then, in *Young Taoism Fighter* (directed by Police Story's Chen Chi-hwa), a practitioner of Taoist kung fu manages to separate his soul from his body before teaming up with a vengeful young woman to take on a sinister sorcerer and the evil leader of a rival kung fu school. Filled with imagery both fantastical and thrilling — not least *Taoism Drunkard's* banana monster — and featuring some of the most jaw-dropping inventive fight sequences in the history of martial arts cinema.

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

EAST BOSTON OPEN-STREETS

This coming Sunday, September 15th will celebrate the second annual Open-Streets initiative between Meridian Street and Bennington, Street between Maverick Street to Porter Street, and Porter Street to Day Square from 10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Walk, bike, skate and enjoy activities for all ages.

SOMETIMES JEFF KUHNER IS JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME

I have been listening to Jeff Kuhner on WRKO 680 AM since he first came into the Boston radio talk market. Before him, I listened to Jeff Katz. I liked Katz but quickly thought the Kuhnerman was pretty good. However, there are times when he rambles on and on about Hunter Biden, and the MassGOP. I'm thinking he likes ginning up his Kuhner Country audience with plenty of red meat. At times between those extra-long commercials, I switch over to WJIB 740 AM for some great music with no commercials.

SPEAKING OF WJIB

It will soon be increasing its reach by getting permission to increase its signal power and will be heard for much longer into the day and much further reaching a bigger radio audience. The station eventually will be switched over to 720 AM because a radio station in Toronto already has a powerful signal on 740.

DEDICATION OF THE NOBLE JOURNEY SCULPTURE

The unveiling and dedication of the Noble Journey Sculpture will be held at St. Leonard's Peace Garden on Sunday, September 29th at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments to follow downstairs in St. Joseph Hall.

TRUMP STORE OPENS IN QUINCY



Trump Pop-up outlet

A Trump pop-up store has opened up in Quincy down by the Fore River Bridge rotary. Most of the merchandise was priced to sell. My new Trump baseball cap was only \$25 and is good to wear and drive liberals crazy.



Here I am holding my brand-new cool Trump cap

EAST BOSTON "UNDER THE SEA" GALA FUNDRAISER

The East Boston Community Soup Kitchen will be holding their annual fundraiser this Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. over at Logan at the Hyatt Regency.

HARVEST ON VINE FUNDRAISER

For the past several years even before the pandemic hit, I have been volunteering over at the Harvest on Vine food

distribution site in Charlestown. Tom MacDonald who runs this food pantry let me know there will be a fundraiser to be held on Sunday, September 29th at 1:00 p.m., at Brewer's Fork, right around the corner in Hayes Square. If you haven't signed up to attend, I am sure you can pay at the door. It all goes to a worthy cause.

This Saturday September 14th starting at 10:00 a.m., there will be the monthly Saturday morning food distribution. It happens every second Saturday of the month.

GAS PRICES GOING DOWN BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH IN EASTIE



The Neon gas station in Quincy had the cheapest price around at under \$3.00 per gallon. I got gas there as soon as I saw the price.

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

I have noticed a recent drop in gas pump prices. Over in Quincy, the price of gas is between \$2.94 per gallon up to \$3.09 per gallon. In Roslindale, the price is between \$2.94 to \$3.09 per gallon. However, the cheapest gas in East Boston is \$3.49 up to \$4.09. In Charlestown, it is \$3.99.

Why is gas so high in some places and not so high in other places? Inquiring minds want to know.

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With a Gift Subscription to the Post-Gazette, your generosity will be remembered every week of the year.

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Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



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

One summer day when I was in my teens, Dad and I were sitting on (in) Adirondack chairs sunning ourselves at the water's edge behind our summer cottage in Winthrop, Maine. The conversation gravitated to the 1930s when times were tough for so many millions of Americans. He said that my mother's family were better off than many, but confided that it wasn't as easy for his folks. Grandpa Christoforo was a day laborer and sometimes couldn't find work. The culmination of his problems meant that the family was often two steps ahead of the bill collectors. Dad didn't make excuses or apologies but concluded with, "That's just the way it was."

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

Fortunately, I came along just as the Depression ended and never experienced the tough times of the '30s. My memory allows me to remember the shortages and restrictions that accompanied home life during WWII, but I also knew that it was all for a good cause. Dad's early years taught him to be conservative and never indulge in an extravagance. Even later in life, when he could indulge himself or the family, he was reluctant to spend money. Throughout his adult life, Dad owned cars. They were either used Plymouths, Fords, or Chevs, three brands that were called the "low priced three." The first one I remember was a '37 Plymouth, which he bought used and kept until 1949. It was

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

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

I was never the rebellious type but did rebel against the conservative thinking of the family by spending money on the luxuries of life including traveling and going first-class when I headed to exotic locations. Dad just saved for a rainy day fearing the return of the Depression that plagued the '30s. The '30s never returned and when Dad passed away in 1991, there was a bank account left for Mom. By this point in time, I was married with two kids and talked Mom into enjoying what Dad had left behind. She insisted that the money was for me to inherit. I told her that I didn't need it and every time we were to travel or vacation somewhere, she was to come along and enjoy

herself. She listened to me and her later years were filled with travel, good restaurants, an abundance of designer clothes, and a lot of happiness.

Mom passed away in 2007 at age 98. By then, the cottage in Maine was long gone, but I inherited the house in Belmont. I rented it from then on. I hated being a landlord but couldn't part with the property out of sentimentality. It was the first family home after East Boston and I subconsciously felt that I owed it to Mom and Dad to keep it. The summer of 2013, my tenants moved out and I decided to put the house on the market. It lasted one day and was sold. Loretta and I talked it over and decided to buy a winter retreat in Florida. We both love the warm weather and I thought it was time to maybe step back and smell the roses.

We purchased a house in an over 55 community that I was familiar with in the city of Delray Beach. Both of us liked the location due to the fact that Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothy lived in Delray Beach in retirement until they passed away. Maybe we will become snowbirds and head to the new place between New Year's and Easter. I don't think I could ever live there permanently. My kids and their families are in the north, John in Boston and Mike in New York, and my best friends and my involvements in all things Italian are here locally.

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

Anyway, I enjoy my life in Florida when we are there, and the friendships I developed with guys close to my age. If I'm wearing shorts, docksiders, and a T-shirt that says something stupid, I might be considered overdressed. My social activities include playing cards, bocce, sunning myself at the pool, and a night or two at a cigar bar. At the cigar bar, we, the cigar smokers, solve the world's problems ... not bad, not bad.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Remember Your Loved Ones



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by
**Marianna
Bisignano**

Hailing from the hilltop city of Ragusa in Sicily, *Squisiti Ragusani* are an irresistible shortbread biscuit with a distinctive twist. Unlike the buttery shortbreads many of us are used to, these Sicilian treasures are traditionally made with lard or shortening, which gives them a rich, melt-in-your-mouth texture that sets them apart. What makes *Squisiti Ragusani* even more unique is their characteristic squiggly S-shape. Historically, they were formed using an iron meat mincer or sausage filler, a creative solution that added to their charm. The dough, delicately infused with the fragrance of fresh lemon zest, strikes the perfect balance between aroma and a subtle sweetness.

While my family's old iron sausage maker is no longer in existence, I've adapted by using a pastry bag with a large star-shaped tip when making these *Exquisite Ragusani Biscuits* today. Their firm yet tender consistency makes them an ideal companion for a morning coffee, a warm tea, or even a simple glass of milk.

EXQUISITE RAGUSANI BISCUITS *Squisiti Ragusani*



- 160 g granulated sugar (¾ cup)
- 125 g shortening (½ cup)
- 3 extra-large eggs (or 4 regular-sized eggs)
- 500 g all-purpose flour (4 cups)
- 1 bustina Lievito Pane degli Angeli (or 2 ¼ tsp baking powder + 1 tsp pure vanilla extract)
- 1 large organic lemon, zested
- Confectionary sugar for dusting (optional)

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set it aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the sugar and shortening until creamy and well combined.

Add the eggs one at a time, mixing them into the sugar and shortening mixture until smooth.

Sift the flour along with the Lievito Pane degli Angeli (or the baking powder and vanilla extract) and the lemon zest into the wet mixture.

Mix the ingredients until a smooth dough forms. Let the dough rest for about 15 minutes.

Using a large pastry bag with a star-shaped tip, fill the bag with the dough a little at a time.

On the prepared baking sheet, pipe out 6-to-7-inch logs of dough and shape each one into an "S" shape.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the cookies turn a golden color.

Remove from the oven and allow them to cool.

If desired, dust generously with confectioner's sugar before serving.

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

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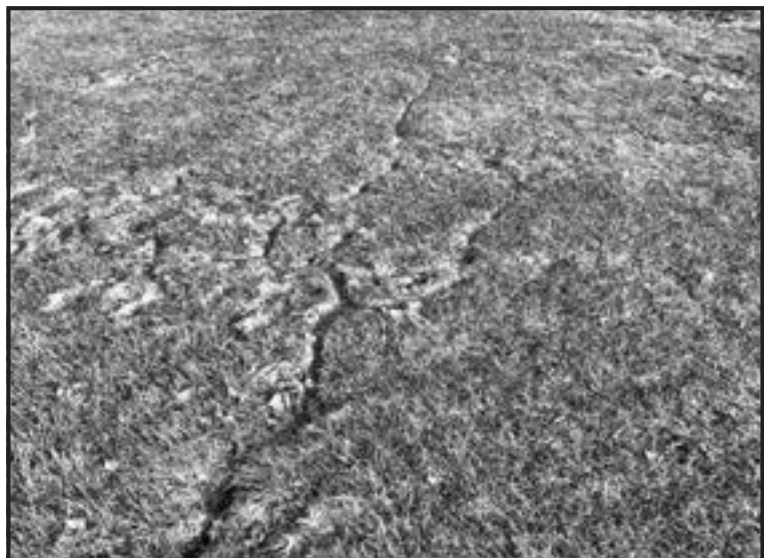
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Tips for Preventing Vole Damage in Your Landscape

by Melinda Myers



Damage to a lawn caused by voles
(Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

Matted down, grassy trails in the lawn and missing bark on trees and shrubs in late winter and early spring might be when you first become aware of voles in your landscape. Fall is an important time to protect plants from damage.

Voles are herbivores actively feeding on plants, seeds, bulbs, and the trunks and roots of various trees and ornamental plants year-round. Soon after planting you may discover voles have devoured young plants and dug up newly planted seeds and bulbs.

Moles are often blamed for the damage caused by voles. Unlike voles, moles feed on earthworms and some soil-dwelling insects. They travel in interconnected tunnels 3 to 12" below ground whereas voles typically use above-ground surface runways.

Although short-lived, voles are very productive, and their populations tend to peak every three to five years. You'll often see a rise in the number of voles and damage they cause when winters are mild and there is a consistent cover.

The damage to lawns is irritating but usually only cosmetic and can be repaired. Allow the surrounding grass to fill in narrow trails or overseed the trails and damaged areas in spring.

Reduce the risk of damage to your plants by pulling mulch away from the trunk of trees and stems of shrubs. Enclose susceptible plants, typically new plantings and young trees, with a cylinder of hardware cloth. Sink the wire several inches into the ground to keep the voles out.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

• Presidential Debate (Continued from Page 1)

by ABC and its moderators almost immediately after the debate ended, with both pushing back at real time fact-checked answers by Trump, yet none by Harris. In the end, it was Trump's overeagerness to take Harris' bait that was the story of the evening, and that often played out visually on the screen to viewers at home, with Harris looking incredulous

at his statements and Trump scowling at hers. Most believed this would be the one and only national debate between these two candidates, however, Harris team immediately began to call for a second debate before November. That should be a clear tell-tale sign indicating just how well the Democrats believe this debate went for Harris.

• Thinking Out Loud (Continued from Page 4)



Thomas Schlichting of Winthrop with his 2002 Harley Davidson Firefighter Special Edition motorcycle which came out in 2002 in the aftermath of 9/11 in honor of the many firefighters and all first responders who were lost on September 11, 2001



Liane Sherman and David Arinella at the podium



YMCA Senior Singers



East Boston ROTC Color Guard members

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

Rescue

A cat recently rescued from the basement of a Russian hospital was so heavy when animal-rescue workers found him, he was unable to walk. His living conditions seemed horrible to his rescuers but he wasn't starving, the cat tipped the scales at 38 pounds. Reportedly he was existing on cookies, soup, etc. Hospital workers apparently enjoyed feeding him to the point things went overboard.

The cat is now on a serious diet at a shelter in hopes of returning him back to his ideal weight.

End Quote

"Focus on what can be, unburdened by what has been."
— Kamala Harris

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• Saint Joseph Mary Pignatelli (Continued from Page 5)

bearing on the history of the Society.

A few years later, the newly elected Pope Pius VI granted permission for the surviving ex-Jesuits to reunite with the members of the Society of Jesus still functioning in the Russian Empire. Pignatelli was permitted by Ferdinand, Duke of Parma (who had violently expelled them from his lands in 1768), to re-establish the Society in his duchy. In 1793, having obtained through Empress Catherine II of Russia a few Jesuit fathers from Russia, along with some other Jesuits, the re-establishment was made.

On July 6, 1797, Pignatelli renewed his religious vows. In 1799 he was appointed master of novices for a new novitiate in Colorno, which had been authorized by the pope. On the death of the Duke of Parma in 1802, the duchy was absorbed into France. Nevertheless, the Jesuits remained undisturbed for eighteen months, during which period Pignatelli was appointed provincial of the Jesuits within Italy in 1800 by

Pope Pius VII. After considerable discussion he obtained permission for the Jesuits to serve in the Kingdom of Naples. The surviving Jesuits soon asked to be received back. Schools and a college were opened in Sicily, but when this part of the kingdom fell into Napoleon's power the dispersion of the Jesuits was ordered, though the decree was not rigorously enforced. Pignatelli founded colleges in Rome, Tivoli, and Orvieto, and the Jesuit were gradually invited to other cities.

During the exile of Pope Pius VII and the French occupation of the Papal States, the Society continued untouched, owing largely to the prudence of Pignatelli; he even managed to avoid any oaths of allegiance to Napoleon. He also secured the restoration of the Society in Sardinia in 1807.

Pignatelli passed away in Rome on November 15, 1811, due to hemorrhaging resulting from his tuberculosis. He was canonized on June 12, 1954 by Pope Pius XII. The Feast Day of Saint Joseph Mary Pignatelli is November 14th.

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WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Happy Birthday Charley Burley

The man Archie Moore called the greatest fighter he ever faced would have turned 107 on September 6th.

There is only a partial film from one of his fights available and very few photos of him. Here are a few to remember him by.



Charley Burley



Burley demonstrates his form



A serious Charley Burley



And in a Happy Mood



Burley (2nd from Right) and Jimmy Bivins (Far Left)



Charley gives pointers to some young prospects



Burley (Right) lands on Lloyd Marshall



Burley on the attack against Fritzie Zivic in their third Fight

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



WHO WILL WIN THE TV RATINGS BETWEEN THE BIG EVENTS? — As we all know this coming January 20th will be a significant day in our nation's history. A new President will be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.

But another major event will take place on the same date. The national champion in NCAA Division One college football will also be determined on that date. That game will be played in Atlanta.

The game will be the culmination of the new 12-team playoff format that is being used for the first time this season in college football. Much like college basketball, each football conference also will have its own conference championship game.

Then those winners plus other highly ranked teams will play the first round of the new playoffs — at the campus of the higher ranked team. New Year's Bowl games will later host playoff games at their traditional sites.

It will all culminate in the Championship Game. There won't be a time conflict with the inauguration. That takes place at noon with a parade to follow. The game is at night.

But what if the game manages to draw better ratings than the inauguration? We think that is a distinct possibility. And if it does, what does that say about contemporary America?

And let's be honest. This also affects other college sports. In men's and women's basketball, for example, it means that some games will receive less publicity as the football playoff teams are slowly whittled down to a precious few and publicity increases for the survivors. In that sense it could also affect coverage of some NBA, NHL, and college hockey games if those teams are in the same market as one of the college football playoff teams.

As the playoff games are narrowed to a few remaining teams, additional media writers and also more broadcast time on local TV will need to be devoted to the survivors. That means less coverage for traditional winter sports.

Consider that when the championship game is played on January 20th only five weeks or so will remain in the regular season for both collegiate men's and women's basketball and men's and women's hockey.

All this means is that college football now has a very long season as far as coverage is concerned — from the first practice in early August to the conference championship games in early December to the National Championship game on January 20. And all that publicity takes away potential coverage of other college sports — including basketball and hockey.

Then throw in the NFL Playoffs which start in January and will culminate in the Super Bowl in New Orleans on February 9th. In essence all of January and a portion of February have been turned into additional football time. Remember when football was a fall sport with most college football teams concluding

their seasons in November and only a precious few advancing to the handful of New Year's bowl games? And the era when the NFL championship game was played in late December? We most certainly do.

Well, this season if you count the College Football Subdivision's Celebration Bow and the college football playoff first round games there will be 47 bowl games across the United States. We are confident that someone will work very hard in future years to increase that to an even number — 50.

And let's be honest. The Stanley Cup Final and the NBA Finals that end in June every year did not always have those threshold-of-summer conclusions. There was a time when the Stanley Cup Championship was determined in late March and the NBA crowned a winner by mid-April.

And baseball is no better. MLB preseason practice now begins in late February with the World Series played in late October. On a few occasions the end has slid into the first few days of November.

The Division One college baseball season usually starts around Valentine's Day with the College World Series ending in late June. Northern teams — BC, Harvard, and Northeastern among them (BU does not have a baseball team), usually fly south to compete in the early going. Harvard's first baseball games this past season came on February 23-25 when the Crimson squad flew south for a season-opening three-game series with Troy University in Alabama.

Several months later — on June 24th — Tennessee defeated Texas A&M to win the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska on the strength of a 60-13 season. This was more than a month after the two institutions had held their annual spring commencements and less than two weeks before the Fourth of July Weekend.

So, it seems that in contemporary times we are always in some kind of perpetual merger season. Right now, MLB plus NFL and college football are in action with the NHL teams set to open practices and play their first exhibition games.

NBA teams will hold their various media days at the end of the month followed by some exhibition games and the start of the regular season in late October. College basketball opens practice in October.

In fact, there will be a point in late October when the NFL, the NBA, the NHL, MLB and college hockey will all be playing games. College basketball will be right on their heels with some teams playing exhibition games in late October before the regular season starts in early November.

How anyone is able to keep all this in balance we do not know. All we do know is that with these varied offerings by various leagues and franchises, there are teams somewhere on any given day or night looking for our attention. It is your decision on how to respond.