

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 119 NO. 1

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JANUARY 2, 2015

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2014

Happy New Year

from Pamela Donnaruma
and the Staff of the Post-Gazette

2015

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Here Comes La Befana!

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

For a lot of people, the Christmas season is already essentially over. The ornaments and tinsels make their way back to dusty boxes in the back of the closet. Stale leftovers and crumbs whisper of great feasts the week before. However, according to old folklore, we are still in the midst of the Christmas season! Christmas lasts for twelve days, the last of which is the feast of the Epiphany, occurring on January 6th. In Italy, the Epiphany, or *la Epifania*, is an important holiday with traditions that rival those of Christmas itself. An ancient holiday, the Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Three Magi to the Baby Jesus. On the eve of the festival, Italian children go to sleep eagerly awaiting the arrival of *La Befana*, the most famous gift-bringer in the country. In addition to *La Befana*, the Epiphany also heralds the beginning of the Carnival season, with all of its exciting promises of spring. From friendly witches to plain tomfoolery, the Epiphany is a holiday brimming with fascinating traditions.

Italian children nowadays do receive presents from



Santa Claus, known as *Babbo Natale*, on Christmas. However, *La Befana* has also retained her importance and folkloristic status as Italy's most characteristic holiday gift-bringer. So who exactly is this mysterious figure? *La Befana*, whose name derives from a corruption of the word "Epifania," is a fairy-witch who, like Santa Claus, delivers presents to good children and coal to their misbehaved counterparts.

She is depicted as an old woman in raggedy clothes who rides a broom. A famous legend connects *La Befana* to the Biblical significance of the Epiphany. According to this folk tale, *La Befana* was cleaning her house when the Three Magi approached her, asking her to accompany them on their way to greet Baby Jesus. At first, *La Befana* declined, saying

(Continued on Page 4)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Spoiled Brats

Still in a World of Their Own

Two NYPD officers were murdered in the name of social justice and the liberals seem to care less about their horrible deaths. The "I Can't Breathe, Hands-Up, Don't Shoot" crowd — at least too many of them — couldn't even sit out during the wakes and funerals for these two cops. Mayor Bill de Blasio asked the protestors to respect the families of these two slain police officers, but God forbid this crowd respected the situation, marching is obviously more important to them. Some have even asked colleges and universities to cancel tests or postpone them since they had no time to study while "dying" at shopping malls, bridges or major roadways and boulevards.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility? Whatever happened to the idea that no one deserves a free ride because his or her protests were needed to wake up America? Taking time out from studying to march doesn't get you a free pass at exam time.

These politicians and loud mouths who are anointed by the liberal media stirring up the pot, fan the flames of racial anger and then try to say they aren't responsible for anything when

(Continued on Page 11)

Here We Go Again with Another "Mission Accomplished"

by Sal Giarratani

"The more things change, the more things stay the same." We have all heard this old phrase before, haven't we? Well, remember back when President Bush stood on the deck of that U.S. warship with a banner behind him stating, "Mission Accomplished" as far as the War in Iraq went. Liberals in and out of the media mocked Bush and asked aloud, what was accomplished in that long war.

Well, this past Sunday, December 28th, President Obama announced his own "Mission Accomplished" moment by announcing that the War in Afghanistan was over and added we would be leaving a small 12,000 US soldiers in a non-combat

support role there for two years. He did clearly state that Afghanistan and the world were much safer today for our actions in Afghanistan. You know, Obama's "good" war as opposed to Bush's "bad" war

Are we and the world really safer today than we were right after the 9/11 attacks back in 2001? Is that region of the world much safer? Think about it for a moment. In Iraq, ISIS is on the move across Iraq and even in Syria and Afghanistan, both the Taliban and al-Qaeda are gobbling up everything in sight. It is a terrorist Pacman attack in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

We won the war as Obama tells us the other day, but 24-

hours later, the Taliban declared victory. Who's telling the truth?

If you're wondering if you missed the Victory Parade, don't be concerned. You didn't miss it because it never took place. We didn't win anything, we just pulled up stakes and left. There is no winning if the enemy is still fighting and claiming more and more real estate.

Why isn't the Liberal Establishment going after Obama the way it did Bush? The only mission accomplished is getting out of the war without reaching our goal of stabilizing a dangerous region of the world.

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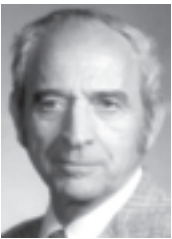
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Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



NEPTUNE

Neptunus or Neptune was a god of the sea and the Roman counterpart to Poseidon. Salacia, his wife, was worshiped as a goddess of salt water. The worship of Neptune appears to have been influenced through the *Sibylline Books* that have often been mentioned in Roman history. These books started as a collection of oral expressions dating back to 600 B.C. According to legend, there were originally nine books that were offered to the Roman King Tarquinius Superbus at an exorbitant price by the Cumaean Sibyl. When the king refused to pay the price, she burned six of the books. The king then purchased the remaining three at the original price.

For those persons who are not familiar with the name "Sibyl," I might add that it identified the female counterpart to a prophet. The ancient City of Cumae, Sicily, was named in honor of the Cumaean Sibyl, one of the ten or twelve most famous of these prophetesses. Roman mythology placed her abode in a cavern below the acropolis in that city. In her youth, Cumaea was loved by Apollo, who later granted her as many years of life as the grains of sand that she held in her hand. She accepted, but forgot to request the youth to go along with her

years. She was also thought of as the Sibyl of the Roman Catholic Church whose strength, age, wisdom, and resistance to false gods she so grandly embodies. The famous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican to Rome shows Cumaea, in addition to four other sibyls; Libica, Delphica, Erythraea, and Persica. Here, Cumaea is shown hoary with age in a manner that only the great master Michelangelo could portray. Also, he shows her holding two books which are thought to be the *Old* and the *New Testaments*.

The identification of Neptune goes back to the "Laetisternium" festival, which started about 400 B.C.

The root of this name is in the Latin "lectus" for bed or couch. Lectisternium is identified as a ritual or feast where the image of a particular god was set on a couch and this couch was placed near the dining table. Remembering that formal dining in ancient Roman times was in the reclining position, we can now understand that this was a festival wherein a selected god was invited to dine with his mortal worshippers.

Like Poseidon, Neptune was also worshiped as a god of the equestrians, and as such, a temple in his honor was erected in the Circus Flaminius sometime around 200 B.C. Marcus Agrippa, a Roman general, son-in-law to Augustus, and builder of the Pantheon, also built a temple to Neptune in honor of his naval victory over Marc Antony and Cleopatra at Actium. This was one of the most decisive battles in the history of the ancient world, since its outcome determined the lordship of the Roman Empire.

The ancient Romans also worshiped "Portunus," a god of the harbors. A special priest in Rome sacrificed to him during the "Portunalia," a festival to this god, which was held annually in the month of August.

Next Week: Hestia

Res Publica

by David Trumbull



HI, BARACK!

"[The President] shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

— U.S. Constitution, Article 2, Section 3, Clause 1.

From this simple requirement to make a report has arisen our current practice of the President, upon invitation by Congress, delivering, to a joint session of the House and Senate, his "State of the Union Address."

Much ceremony attends this, one of the President's most watched, listened to, and read speeches. But of course ceremony can spring up around just about anything. In the 1980s college students developed a ceremony around the watching of reruns of the *Bob Newhart Show* on television. In the "Hi, Bob!" game, each player drinks a beer each time a character on the show says, "Hi, Bob!"

This year's State of the Union Address is a ways off (January 20, 2015), but it's not too early to start planning, so, with that in mind, I recently asked my friends "What words or phrases are in your 2015 edition of the "State of the Union Drinking Game." That is, what utterances are so predictable, that if you knock one back each time Mr. Obama says one, you can get toasted enough to endure his self-important drivel.

High school friend, **Carl P.**, Facebook friend **Chris M.**, and former Boston Republican Party Chairman **Brad W.** said the first person pronoun — "I, me, myself" — and cautioned to use small glasses if you care about your liver, as you can expect to hear the President refer to himself many times.

TEA Party activist, **Christen V.**, said, "Let me be clear."

Boston-area conservatives, **Stephanie D.** and **Carmine B.**, along with childhood friend, **Robert R.**, and Arizona Facebook friend, **Felice P.**, all expect to hear "buzz words" relating to illegal immigrants, such as "dreamers," "undocumented workers," "comprehensive," "immigration," "naturalization," and normalization."

Mr. Obama has already shown that he is willing to act illegally without Congress on immigration reform, so we can pretty much discount it when he almost certainly says, "compromise," "I'm willing to work with Congress", "bi-partisan," and "cooperation" — more suggestions from Felice P. and Robert R., as well as former Chairman of the Boston Ward Five Republican Committee, **Brad M.**

Felice P. Robert R. and Stephanie D. predict he'll attach Congress with such words as "obstructionist," "gridlock," and "sequester."

Massachusetts Republican activist, **Cynthia S.**, says, "fight for middle class families" and "humane." Facebook friend, **Kevin R.**, expects to hear "inequality."

Feisty Felice P. also predicted words that will not be said: "IRS," "Benghazi," "veterans," "sorry", "terrorist," "ISIS," "ISIL," "Berghdahl," "hacked off the head of", and "vacation."

Chris M. predicts a big line will be "the people of North Korea." Childhood friend **Matt H.** says "at the end of the day."

Liberal friend **Marshall N.** expects to hear, "liar" (but only from Congress).

Well, I could go on, but I'm out of space. As you watch the State of the Union Address, be sure to drink responsibly. Now if only we could get people to vote responsibly.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA)

Invite you to attend the fourth public meeting on the

CENTRAL ARTERY RAMP PARCEL STUDY

Thursday, January 8, 2015
6-8 PM at the BRA
(Boston City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room)

MassDOT is required to consider options for covering the open ramp portions of Central Artery/Tunnel Parcels 6, 12 and 18 along the Rose Kennedy Greenway, resulting from environmental commitments made as part of the Central Artery/Tunnel project.

MassDOT and BRA officials are continuing to study options to define potential cover alternatives. At this next public meeting, staff from MassDOT and the BRA, along with their consultant team will present refined ramp parcel concepts based on feedback received from three (3) prior public meetings, including the public workshop that was held on October 29th. We would like to invite interested parties to attend and participate in providing feedback on these possible solutions. This meeting will be followed by a formal thirty (30)-day comment period to allow for public feedback to the design team, MassDOT and the BRA.

Visit our project website at <http://tiny.cc/RampParcelStudy>

If you have any specific questions, please contact:

John Romano
Legislative Liaison, MassDOT
email: John.Romano@state.ma.us

Lauren N. Shurtleff
Senior Planner, BRA
email: Lauren.Shurtleff@boston.gov

This meeting space is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation (such as American Sign Language Interpreters, assistive listening devices, handouts in alternate formats, etc.) and/or language assistance to fully participate, please contact John Romano at MassDOT at 857-368-8905 or john.romano@state.ma.us before **December 30th**. Such accommodations will be provided free of charge.

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POST-GAZETTE

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5 Prince Street, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113
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

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Vol. 119 - No. 1

Friday, January 2, 2015

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.

Saint John Neumann

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Painting of Saint John Neumann done by Bennett Molinari.

Saint John was born in Prachatitz Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology in the seminary of Budweis. By the time he was twenty-four, he had learned six languages. His goal was to be ordained to the priesthood. His bishop, however, had decided that there would be no more ordinations for the time being, as Bohemia had a large number of priests.

Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers. He then wrote to bishops in America, the Bishop of New York responded to his petition.

Neumann was ordained a priest June 25, 1836 at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral by the bishop of New York. His parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. He was one of 36 priests for 200,000 people. John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and celebrating Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish,

John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned.

He was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop?"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!"

Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 49, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified on October 13, 1963, and canonized on June 19, 1977 by Pope Paul VI. In the homily on the occasion of Neumann's canonization, Pope Paul stated "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants." St. John Neumann is invoked as a patron of sick children and of immigrants.

Santa Visits North End Firehouse

by Sal Giarratani



Awaiting Santa's Arrival



Santa climbing up the ladder on his way to the roof, then down the fire pole — which is not to be confused with the North Pole.



Little "Penny" wearing her hoodie with Sal G wearing a ridiculous Santa hat.

On Sunday, December 14th Santa Claus was all over the North End. He flew in by helicopter to be in the annual North End Christmas Parade and then onto the St. Agrippina Society's annual Christmas Party for the kids. Santa was back again just in time for the annual

Christmas Party at the North End Firehouse where all the kids from Ladder 1 and Engine 8 were having lots of fun.

About 2:15 pm, Ladder 1 raced down Hanover Street with lights and sirens. Standing at the tiller's spot was jolly old St. Nick. The

ladder was raised to the roof of the firehouse so Santa could climb up and take the fire pole down to all the kids waiting for him inside.

Santa really must love the North End, I hear he is actually Italian or maybe Sicilian, but it depends on who you talk to.

Italian Films at the North End Branch Library

Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 PM
Francesco, giullare di Dio
(The Flowers of St. Francis)
1950 Drama/Biography 87 min.

The film traces the life of St. Francis, from his embracing of religion to his efforts to establish a harmonious middle ground between life and spirituality.

Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 PM
Il Bidone (The Swindle)
1955 92 min

A trio of con-men lead by a lonesome swindler must deal with their job and family pressures.

Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 PM
Terraferma
2011 1h 28m

An Italian fisherman and his family become caught between the law of the land and the law of the sea when he helps a group of illegal immigrants stranded on an overburdened raft.

Wednesday, January 28 at 6:00 PM
Cesare deve morire (Caesar Must Die)
2012 77 min

Inmates at a high-security prison in Rome prepare for a public performance of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

Eastie Residents Held Successful Coat Drive for the Italian Home for Children



Recently, East Boston residents held a coat drive for the Italian Home for Children in honor of Anthony

Albano who spent his childhood there and Mayor Thomas Menino who often supported the charity.

The coat drive gathered approximately 100 coats, hats, gloves and scarves for the many children they serve. Among the volunteers who helped run the coat drive were Anthony Albano, Jr., his fiancé Kelly Antz, Debra Cave, Adrian Madaro, Lauren Bond and Liana LaMattina. The volunteers extended a special thanks to Cara Real and Mariam Ortiz Clooney of the Italian Home for Children for helping to make the event a success, as well as Alix Hallahan for promoting the event at City Hall.

The coat drive continued with Susan Menino Fenton at her home on December 27th, which was also Mayor Menino's birthday.

• Here Comes La Befana! (Continued from Page 1)

that she was too busy cleaning her home. She later changed her mind, though, and hopped on her broom, flying through the sky to join the Magi. Unfortunately, she never did find them, so today she still zips on her broom trying to locate the Baby Jesus, leaving presents for children along the way. When I was young, *La Befana* used to frighten me, as her haggard nature formed a sharp contrast to the jolly and rotund Santa Claus. This was heightened by a haunting Italian melody my grandmother sang, which intoned: “*La Befana vien di note/ Con le scarpe tutte rotte/ Col vestito a la Romana/ Viva, viva la Befana!*” (Translation: “*La Befana comes at night/ With her shoes all broken/dressed in the Roman style/ Long live, long live la Befana!*”). However, I now love *La Befana* for her symbolism of feminine strength. A lot of scholars believe that *La Befana* is derived from old folk goddesses who guarded over the transition from winter to spring, which intensifies her power.

Indeed, the Epiphany does serve as a sort of milestone in counting down the coming of spring. The winter solstice has already passed, and the sun remains in the sky for a longer time. I can already sense the

lengthening of days in the deep blue skies and golden twilight of these midwinter evenings. Though we can still expect cold and snow in the coming months, the promise of springtime has already manifested itself. The Epiphany ends the Christmas season, as evident in the Italian rhyme which proclaims: “*La Epifania tutte le feste le porta via*” (“Epiphany sweeps all the feasts away”). However, the Epiphany does begin *another* season, that of Carnival. Carnival is a precursor to Lent and Easter, and it stretches from the Epiphany to Mardi Gras, or the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. As such, it functions as a sort of spring festival, a preparation for the still long-off feast to Easter. Around the world, people start baking their King Cakes on Twelfth Night, or the eve of the Epiphany. King Cakes are special breads made especially for Epiphany and the Carnival season, with recipes that vary worldwide. In France, King Cakes have a flaky crust and an almond frangipane filling. Louisiana-style King Cakes are ring-shaped, with a colorful topping and a cinnamon-sugar swirl. I make this type of King Cake every Twelfth Night, replete with purple, green and yellow sprinkles

in traditional Carnival colors. The shape recalls both the crowns of the Three Kings and the growing sun. True to folk custom, I hide a chickpea in the cake — whoever finds it in his or her slice gets good luck in the coming year. Let the revelry of Carnival begin!

The Twelve Days of Christmas may soon be coming to a close, but that does not mean that the festivities have to end. The Epiphany provides us with many opportunities to celebrate. We can honor the arrival of *La Befana*, who symbolizes the ancient strength that women have long possessed and the constant turning of the seasons. We can celebrate the beginning of Carnival, the extended welcome to spring and the time of laughter and color. As the Christmas festivities give way to fresh new January days, keep in mind that as long as we keep a childlike wonder inside of ourselves and a belief in the magic of Mother Earth, we will also have reasons for feasting and rejoicing!

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



Townie Santa Celebrates 32nd Anniversary



Townie Santa: First Responder to those in need.

This year over in Charlestown, Townie Santa celebrated its 32nd anniversary bringing Christmas cheer to the community's elderly. Baskets of goodies and a delicious meal are provided to shut-ins, many of them celebrating Christmas alone with their memories. The volunteers called Elves gathered as usual at the James W. Conway Bunker Hill Post 25 site and set out throughout the town with their deliveries. This year this annual event took place on Sunday, December 21st.

Charlestown is a community steeped in history going back to the Battle of Bunker Hill. Townie Santa's chapter of history began back in 1982 in a conversation amongst a few community activists in November of that year and in less than a month's time Townie Santa was born and made its first visits to Charlestown's elderly, needy and shut-ins. It was well received and has been going strong ever since.

Charlestown often gets a bad rap and Townie Santa shows all what it means to be a Townie. This is a caring community and this annual event has had a unique way over the years of drawing folks together in common purpose to take care of their own.

Today, I believe the engine of success is found in Tim Conway and all of the Townie Santa Elves who show up year after year on a Sunday in December to do their good deed. They are the new generation who carry on the work started back in 1982.

I can remember when the effort began. Thanks to Mary Doherty and Gloria Conway of the old *Charlestown Patriot*, the show got on the road. I remember most of the names behind the early success stories. There was Arthur Crotty, the first president of Townie Santa. He was a large imposing guy, looked every bit the longshoreman that he was. However, he had a heart of gold and loved helping others. There was Dave Flanagan, like myself, one of the young guys back then. Don't forget Kay Whelan, Judy Evers or Cookie Giordano from *Charlestown Live*, State Rep. Richie Voke and Jay Ash now headed to the State House from Chelsea to serve in the Baker Administration.

Townie Santa will hopefully be around as long as there are Townies who care about their community and the elderly who came before them. If you would like to know more about Townie Santa contact Towniesanta@gmail.com.

• Here We Go Again! (Continued from Page 1)

How many U.S. soldiers died in both Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 13 years? How many more were injured and maimed for life? What did we gain from their sacrifice?

Politicians claim victory

where none is seen. Politicians say missions were accomplished when they weren't.

Here we are entering 2015 and we still have our fighting forces in harm's way and part of strategies that

cannot work. This is what happens when politicians run wars. We don't win and accomplish very little meaningful.

Thank you very much Washington, DC, you did it again!

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BOOK REVIEW



by Claude Marsilia



HAVENS OF POMPEII

By Nicole Louw

Revised Edition • Soft Cover • 523 Pages

This is an explosive book. From the very initial page to the very last page it never lets up. The reader is faced with daily excitement. Even the love scenes are enacted with complete passion.

Author Louw declares, "On August 24, 70 AD, the earthquakes, which had over the years been little more than a growing nuisance, became a continuous vibration." The cities of Herculean and Pompeii, which were located at the base of the God considered mountain, Vesuvius, was buried under layers of pumice for many years.

Louw introduces two Roman companions who are travelling together, one named Valerus, a scarred arena gladiator. The other named Lucius, a sensitive soul who wrote poetry. They arrive in the town of Neapolis (Naples), I assumed. Here is where slaves were bought and sold. They decided to join this common frantic display. Following a price debate, Valerus who was thinking of buying a gift for his father, Pedius, decided to buy three of the slaves. One slave was Flavia who was a beautiful dancer and sold at half price because she was still a virgin. Explain that? These two adventuresome Romans were typical when compared to present day friends except today's friends would probably drop in a coffee shop and flirt about while our Roman friends would drop in a slave shop to buy a companion for the night and beyond. That night Valerus' attempts to force himself on Flavia were futile. He blurts out, "You will be severely punished for what you have just done." A confrontation such as this could easily mean death for a slave.

Valerus and his purchased three slaves arrive at his mansion home in Herculean. Flavia is thrilled to be here, in a beautiful home that included a library. Nonetheless, she is frightened because she is afraid of what Valerus might do to her because of her disobedience toward him.

Flavia is instructed by Valerus to prepare to dance at a forthcoming party, which included two erotic dances. Then she is to go to Valerus' room and wait for him. Flavia, at first finds this direct order a dilemma. She consoles herself by remembering what Christ said, let them do as they wish.

Author Nicole Louw rises to the task. Her passionate description of the lovemaking between a Roman slave and her Roman master is masterfully portrayed, even though Flavia believed in one god and Valerus believes in many. All this was set aside. Although she kept saying no, no, "her body responded positively, it wanted it to happen." The relationship between them began to soften. Their social status being what it was created subtleties that had the reader guessing at times as to where they were headed.

While all this is happening author Louw does a remarkable job explaining in comprehensible terms the life of slaves and masters during the time when Rome was the dominating power in the known world. The plot was thickening as political changes were occurring. Subtle hints in our lover's behavior were getting clearer. Even Mother Nature was at work. The earth trembled but the people were silent. Obviously Flavia and Valerus were falling in love, an unheard of circumstance.

Valerus is shocked to learn that his loving slave, Flavia is a Christian, which is against Roman law. Nonetheless, this rev-



Author Nicole Louw

elation did not interfere with the planned love scenes. Author Louw brings to light several sensational love scenes that I believe will affect and expose the reader to an exclusive rendezvous seldom achieved.

The new religion, Christianity, was plaguing Rome. Flavia was arrested for being a Christian. Valerus killed a slave whom he thought was about to hurt Flavia and was placed under house arrest as a protective measure by his father. During this period of isolationism Valerus pondered over the differences between his beliefs, as a Roman citizen, wherein he worshipped bloodshed and orgies, whereas Flavia worshipped one God and believed in his peaceful ways. Valerus found it unbearable and completely unjustifiable that Flavia could be put to death for being a Christian while he would be pardoned, because of his political position, even though he killed someone.

Louw, cleverly notes, from time to time, minor earth tremors that were occurring occasionally. This is Louw's way of alerting the reader realistically to the forthcoming disaster. The use of Roman names and Roman words throughout the book adds credence to the book and is quite appealing. Both Valerus and Flavia are captured and chained in slave quarters. It was during this time of captivity that Valerus states emphatically that he intends to join Flavia as a Christian and be condemned with her. This powerful statement may be considered a declaration of major

changes forthcoming in religion. Mount Vesuvius' rumblings, which had marked the lives of the people who lived in its sight for years, were seldom affected. But now things had changed. Vesuvius was spouting fire and brim. "The sun was blocked out by a thick, black cloud." Author Louw vividly describes the horrific scene and how the imprisoned couple managed to escape. Pompeii and Herculean were slowly being covered with ash and pumice. Chaos reigned, panic increased, nevertheless you can hear above the din the people's voices debating whether to stay or leave. Some expressed the thought that the dilemma is over, others knew better.

Valerus' attempts to carry Flavia away from the ruins are in vain. Status was an important issue throughout the Roman Empire. Now in the midst of the destruction of Pompeii and Herculean it didn't matter any longer. Survival was the predominate factor. Chances to escape were minimal. Breathing became a major chore. Staying indoors was hopeless, roofs were collapsing because of the excessive weight of the volcanic debris. The wind, rain, fire and lava, which covered the entire area was too much for Flavia, she passes away. Apparently some people who made it to the seashore and boarded ships in the harbor were saved.

Valerus, survived, but wondered why he is alive and not Flavia. While in this melancholy mood he discovers his old Roman friend, Lucius. When the dreadful conditions began to diminish the two Roman friends began to make plans to outfit a ship and travel to the end of the world to explore the rumors that life may exist there. Slave girl Flavia had this dream. Remember it was approximately fourteen hundred years later that Columbus showed up.

This book was exciting, especially the love scenes, that will stay with you a long time.

The cities of Herculean and Pompeii, which were located at the base of the God considered mountain, Vesuvius, were buried under layers of pumice for many years.

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PIRANDELLO LYCEUM

Italian Opera Aria Concert

The Pirandello Lyceum invites everyone to enjoy this wonderful Annual Bel Canto Italian Opera Aria Concert on Sunday, January 18th, 2:30 pm at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center, 41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA (617-876-5160).

The Boston Bel Canto Opera Company artistically directed by Bradley Pennington will focus on the timeless beautiful music of Puccini. This annual concert is now in its 20th year.

All are invited. The concert is free for Pirandello members in good standing. Coro-Dante members, guests of Pirandello members and students will receive a discount.

Parking is available at the Dante for "early birds." Overflow parking is available nearby at the Kendall Theater Cambridge at a reduced rate with validation from the Dante.

For further details, call 781-245-6536 or 781-640-3637.

Invitation to Learn Italian from C.A.S.IT.

The Education Committee, under the auspices of the Italian Consulate of Boston, CENTRO ATTIVITA SCOLASTICHE ITALIANE (C.A.S.IT), is pleased to invite those who wish to learn the beautiful Italian language to enroll in a new adult education program. You may choose to take **Travel and Conversation**, a 10 session course which prepares you for travel to Italy and focuses on situations you may encounter. Or you may take **Elementary Italian**, a 10 session course, offered for those who wish to perfect listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Evening classes are held from 7:00-8:30 pm. Day classes and individual tutoring can also be arranged.

Classes taught by professional educators start in February and will be held at 37 Water Street, Unit 4, Wakefield, MA.

For additional information, call 781-640-3637.

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THOUGHTS
BY DAN
ABOUT THIS & THAT
with Daniel A. DiCenso



Nanna & Babbononno
by John Christoforo
A Nostalgic Remembrance



THE HISTORY OF ANIMATION:
Tom & Jerry



There was one franchise at M-G-M animation studio that Tex Avery, otherwise king of the cartoon studio, especially after he introduced the world to Droopy, didn't touch. That was William Hanna and Joseph Barbera's *Tom & Jerry*, who brought comic cartoon violence, slapstick, and pantomime to all new levels, essentially monopolizing the Oscar for Best Animation Short after years of devotion to Disney. For the *Tom & Jerry* cartoons, Hanna & Barbera won a total of seven awards from 1943-53 (*The Yankee Doodle Mouse*, *Mouse Trouble*, *Quiet Please!*, *The Cat Concerto*, *The Little Orphan*, *The Two Mouseketeers*, and *Johann Mouse*) and were nominated six times (*Puss Gets the Boot*, *The Night Before Christmas*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Mouse*, *Hatch Up Your Troubles*, *Jerry's Cousin*, and *Touché, Pussy Cat!*).



The team started out with a simple enough concept. Jerry was a mouse going through all the daily struggles of a mouse, namely stealing food from a household. Tom was the bullying gray cat, doing his job as the domestic feline keeping the pest away but usually became a victim of his own Machiavellian schemes when he began enjoying his job too much, becoming more interested in revenge and sadism than simply being a cat.

The first cartoon, 1940's *Puss Gets the Boot*, is a prototype, Tom (then referred to as Jasper) chases Jerry around the house, meeting pratfall after pratfall, until the maid discovers the mess, blames the framed cat, and throws him out of the house. In this cartoon Tom was more or less a regular looking cat, walking on all fours and hissing and growling like a common tabby. The character designs evolved as dif-

ferent variations were tried on the storyline. *Yankee Doodle Mouse*, *Night Before Christmas*, and *Mouse Trouble* are essentially prototypes with a single gimmick in the works (one is a parable of WWII, one set on Christmas Eve, and the other a spoof of guidebooks).

Eventually, the cat and mouse developed into the icons recognized all over the world (Tom walking upright and screaming in pain much like a human), while the storylines became more and more original. *Baby Puss* involved Tom being strapped to a nursery when a little girl takes him for her doll. *The Million Dollar Cat* has Tom inheriting a fortune and a Park Avenue apartment on the condition he doesn't hurt any mice (of course, Jerry takes full advantage of the situation). *Puttin' on the Dog* is set entirely in a dog pound. *The Cat Concerto* is set in a concert hall and virtually all the gags revolve around a piano. Mouse in Manhattan was entirely dominated by Jerry when he leaves home for New York City. And *Heavenly Puss* is unlike anything they did before, a satire on the afterlife and penance. Most ambitiously the cat and mouse were transported to 17th century Paris in the literary lampoon trilogy, *The Two Mouseketeers*, *Touché, Pussy Cat!*, and *Tom & Cherie*. Finally, in one of their most unusual shorts, *Johann Mouse*, the duo reside in mid-19th century Vienna with Johann Strauss and become musical legends in their own way.

Adding to the fun and ideas was the introduction of a cast of co-stars such as Butch the bulldog (who first appeared in 1942's *Dog Trouble*, forcing the battling cat and mouse to form a truce but by 1944 had become an ally of Jerry's in *The Bodyguard*), who was later replaced by Spike and was given a son Tyke. Tom formed a gang of alley cat friends who often became competition especially when a female kitty caught Tom's eye, such as in *Springtime for Thomas*, in which Butch the

(Continued on Page 9)



It was Christmas Day and I was a child. Santa had brought the electric trains I had asked him for and I was up at the crack of dawn assembling the tracks, connecting the transformer and placing the wheels of the engine and cars in the right places on the tracks. When I began operating the train, the noise awakened my folks, but they didn't mind, it was Christmas day.

Not long after, Dad told me to get dressed. He was playing a Christmas party aboard the *USS Vulcan*, an aircraft repair ship that was stationed in Boston. Each year since WWII ended, he and a few of his fellow musicians played on the ship for the officers, crew and their families, most of whom were from this area. Santa would show up just as dessert was being served. I was told that he made the stop while he was on his way back to the North Pole. All the children of the sailors were happy about this fact and none of them were left out when Santa distributed presents.

When we returned home, Nanna and my mother were busy preparing the Christmas dinner. The smell of the seven fishes from the night before was being replaced by the smell of Nanna's gravy and the meats that were being sautéed in garlic and oil before they were placed in the gravy pot.

Babbononno was setting up a table with bottles of wine, aperitifs and what ever else had flavored alcohol. These bottles were carefully placed behind the dishes that contained the antipasti he would serve the family when they all arrived.

As the afternoon rolled in, the family began arriving and Christmas dinner became a reality. Uncle Paul, his wife, Aunt Eleanor showed up with their two daughters, my cousins, Paula and Ellie. Uncle Nick arrived alone. He had not yet married Aunt Dorothy. Uncle Gino and Aunt Ninna were the last of the immediate family to arrive. At this point, their children hadn't been born yet. Once we were all seated, Babbononno toasted the holiday and Nanna served the first of the many courses that would keep us at the dinner table for several hours.

Later in the day, a few of Nanna's relatives dropped by with their families and then a few paesani who always celebrated holidays with my grandparents. On this Christmas day, and many more that followed, there were visits from friends of my grandparents who were alone in America. They were lonely and this was the closest they could get to a family experience on an international holiday. Even as a child I wondered how lonely it might have been for these people if it had not been for my grandparents

and their old fashioned hospitality. My young mind determined that the worst thing on a holiday as important as Christmas must be the feeling of loneliness. In my own youthful way, I considered myself quite lucky.

Well, here we are many decades later and my cousin, Ralph Pepe, and I try to continue the traditions we remembered from our childhood experiences. We combine families on holidays, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. His grandfather, Zi'Antonio Ceruolo and my grandmother (Nanna) were brother and sister, plus, my great uncle and Babbononno were the best of friends. He and his wife had, I believe, 11 children of their own, but always showed up even if it was just for a cup of coffee and dessert.

Christmas day, Loretta and I made the trek to Ralph and Angela's home to continue the family tradition started two generations ago by our transplanted grandparents. We combined families for yet another holiday.

Before Ralph and Angela's children and grandchildren began arriving, Ralph and I were sitting in the kitchen as Angela and their daughter, Kristen, set up the kitchen table with antipasti. Ralph and I began sipping the drinks he poured and both of us began reminiscing about those long-gone days when our grandparents were the elders of the family. As our conversation continued about the old days, Ralph and I both admitted that we were now the family elders. Hopefully, what we have attempted to continue as a family tradition, has rubbed off on our off springs.

Years ago, the entire family lived within blocks of each other in East Boston. Our generation moved to the suburbs and were within local towns outside the old neighborhood. Our kids are part of this type of exodus. My son

John and his wife Beth, live in Harvard — work in Boston, and my son, Michael, lives and performs in New York City. Who knows where the next generation will be found living. But, hopefully, they will follow our lead and get together on special holidays.

I've spoken so much about my cousin, Ralph Pepe, and his family. My wife, using her cell phone, took a dozen or so pics of the three generations of his family while we were all together. I don't know if my boys will ever produce children, but if they do, I wonder if I will ever experience the pleasures I saw expressed on Ralph's face as he watched everyone celebrate Christmas.

Well, Christmas 2014 is over and it's New Year's Eve. Loretta and I will be joining forces with Dean Saluti, Margie Cahn and a group of friends. I stopped playing on New Year's Eve after 50 something years and spend the time with my wife and closest friends. Our kids are on their own, John and Beth with their friends locally and Michael and his girlfriend, Abby, staying in New York. For us, being together at Christmas was more important.

It's tough getting old. Each day, I read the obituaries and, unfortunately, see too many names that I remember from the old neighborhoods of East Boston and the North End, but, that's life, I guess. Permit me to stop, I'm starting to sound morbid. Considering what we experience at holiday time, I quote the title of an old song, "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think." So, from all of us to all of you, a very Happy New Year, or should I say, "Felice Capo d'Anno a tutti." And once more, may GOD BLESS AMERICA.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141-0005
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI10P2098EA

Estate of
ELIE J. BAGHDADY
Date of Death November 29, 2009
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

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

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on January 19, 2015.

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

WITNESS, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 12, 2014
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 1/2/15

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by TODISCO TOWING OF 94 CONDOR STREET, EAST BOSTON, MA pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c 255, Section 39A that they will sell the following vehicles.

Vehicles are being sold to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and notices of sale:

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1992 TOYOTA TERCEL
VIN #JT2EL44AXN0187819

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VIN #1HGEG8552PL007725

The above vehicles will be sold at auction online only at TOWLOT.COM

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 at 10:00AM at towlot.com

Run dates: 12/26, 2014, 1/2, 1/9, 2015

ITAM Holds Toys for Tots Event

by Sal Giarratani



Steve Gray, Santa Claus, Toni Sabia and one of Santa's Elf.



Joe Ruggiero, Santa Claus, Santa's Elf and Andrew "the Reindeer" Biggio.



Toni Sabia, Sal Giarratani and Pamela M. Anderson.

In the December 19th, 2014 edition of the *Post Gazette*, there was an oops in the photo used. The photo and photo caption did not go together as many readers quickly observed. This week, here are the two photos with the correct photo captions. We all make mistakes which is why they say all pencils have erasers and all computers have a delete key.

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Mrs. Murphy . . . As I See It

The promises and predictions are Mrs. Murphy's opinions.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Promises for 2015: East Boston streets will be cleaner, crime will be down, people will be nicer and recipients of free housing promise to take care of the property they live in. Garbage will be thrown out in sealed trash bags with care, trash pickers will be taken off the streets and a promise for a brighter future for East Boston will surface! ... Dunkin' Donuts promises to get the bitterness out of their coffee and make bigger and better donuts ... **Prediction:** Santa Claus will send "King Obama" a one way ticket to the North Pole to make toys for kids! ... Boston Mayor Marty Walsh promises to fine people that litter and throw cigarettes out windows ... Elected officials promise to do a better job lighting East Boston for the holidays next year ... Airlines promise better service, lower rates and eliminate the charge for luggage ... Motorists promise not to double park in the Bennington Street parking lot making it a nightmare for other cars to get in and out; also to not double park on the

main streets, namely Bennington Street . **Prediction:** Ferguson, Missouri troublemakers and looters will be brought to justice ... Betty Ann's Bakery on Bennington Street promises to open longer hours ... **Prediction:** First Priority Credit Union will double its customers ... Damelio's "Off The Boat" on Porter Street promises to open on Revere Street in Revere soon ... Gus Serra promises to run for office ... Elite Donut promises to open longer hours ... **Prediction:** Day Square will become a shopping experience when the new housing and business development is finished ... **Prediction:** Joe Ruggiero, Jr., will run for State Representative Carlo Basile's position and win ... **Prediction:** A statue of Mayor Tom Menino will be erected in Central Square Park ... **Prediction:** C.D.C. Community Development Corp., will build another gorgeous senior citizen complex in East Boston ... **Prediction:** More Italian restaurants will begin to open in East Boston ... **Prediction:** The Waterfront Development at Pier One on

Marginal Street will give South Boston waterfront restaurants competition ... **Prediction:** Santarpio's will face off with Pizza Regina and win world acclaim ... **Prediction:** Spinelli's will open another fabulous state-of-the-art function facility on the North Shore ... **Prediction:** Steve Wynn Entertainment casino in Everett will have many problems with the contaminated soil and will not be completed by 2017 ... **Prediction:** The new housing development at the Seville Theatre will be finished by spring, adding a touch of class to the Central Square area ... **Prediction:** East Boston will become a tourist attraction with its fine restaurants and newly-constructed shopping ... Biggest upset in our area was when the Market Basket chain beloved CEO Arthur T. DeMoulas was ousted by family members. After two months of unrest, Arthur bought the chains for \$1.5 billion, ending more than two months of conflict ... For the benefit of America, President Barack Hussein Obama promises to RESIGN! ... *Till next time!*

Italian Cultural Event

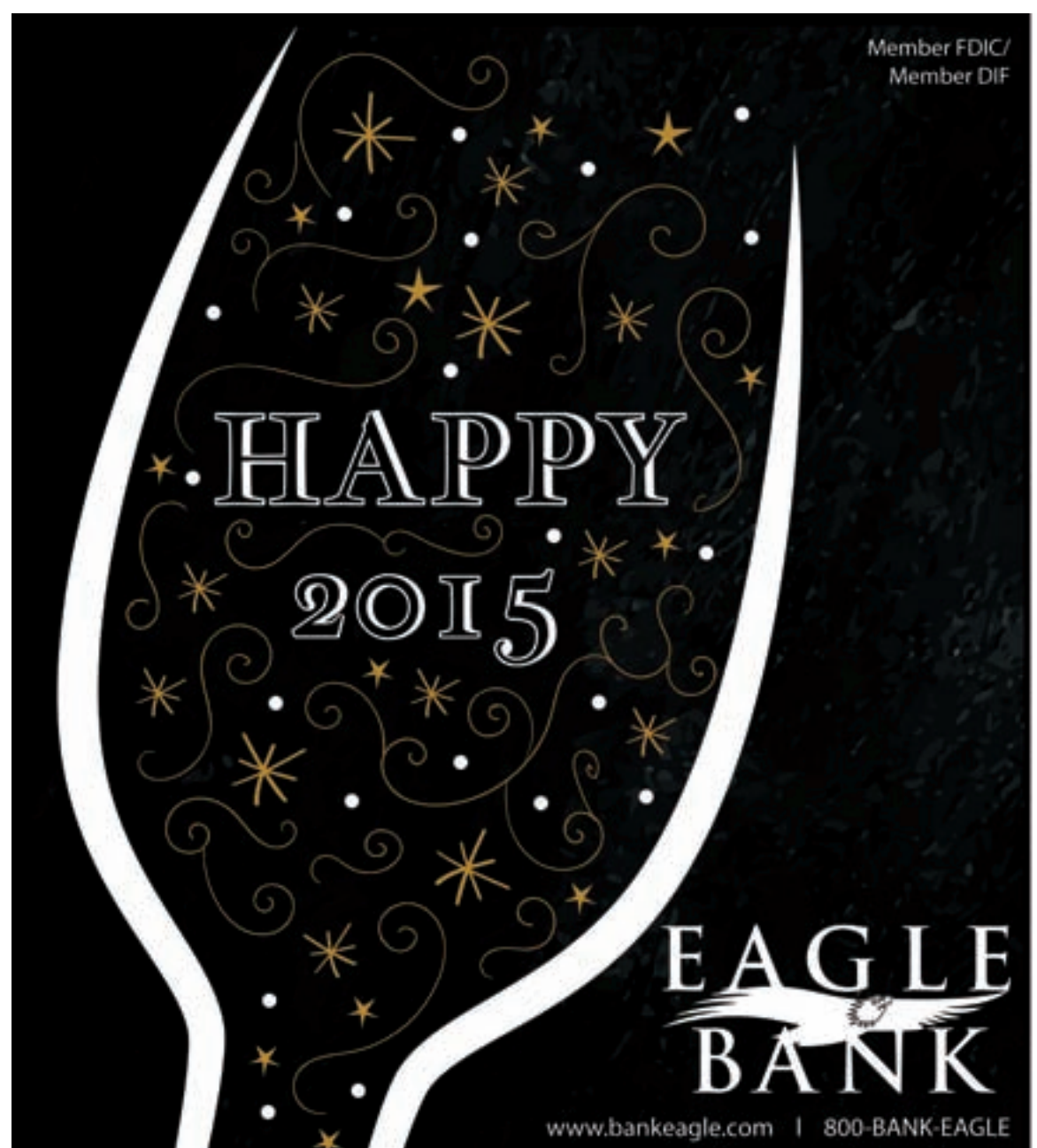
Italian-American Cultural Organization (IACO) of the South Shore, Massachusetts; an Italian group that fosters a greater awareness of Italian Culture will be hosting a Cultural Event on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Grove Manor Estates, 160 Grove Street, Braintree MA.

Vincent Cuccaro will be the guest speaker. He will speak about the Development of the Italian Language. Vincent was born in

Italy and came to live in America at the age of 11. He has masters and a PhD in Romance Languages and literature at Harvard University.

Join us as we learn and share our culture. Refreshments will be served. General public and visitors are welcome.

For further details, contact Richard Leccese at 781-843-5095 or by email at rmleccese@beld.net.





**JUSTIFIED –
THE FIFTH SEASON**
(Blu-ray)

Sony Pictures Home Ent.

In the penultimate season of this fiery drama, U.S. Marshal Rayland Givens (Timothy Olyphant) harbors a secret that could threaten his career and put the rest of the Marshals in jeopardy. The brutal and volatile Crowe family re-emerges in Harlan County to cash in on their ongoing schemes — this time, not allowing anyone to stand in their way. And as Boyd Crowder (Walton Goggins) desperately tries to protect his imprisoned fiancée Ava (Joelle Carter) and gain control of the heroin market in Harlan, the result is a web of criminal conspiracies that will lead to an electrifying conclusion!

**LALALOOPSY GIRLS:
WELCOME TO L.A.L.A.
PREP SCHOOL (DVD)**
Lionsgate Home Ent

The Lalaloopsy girls are all grown up — and headed for the Lalaloopsy Academy for Learning Arts! The friends soon discover their new school is super cool — and so much fun. It's a semester full of laughs and excitement as the girls take creative classes such as Glitter 101 and Cloud Sculpting, join silly clubs, make new friends and cheer on Jewel Sparkles as she runs for student body president!

**JULIUS JR.:
SNOW MONKEY
ADVENTURES (DVD)**
Lionsgate Home Ent.

Enter the miraculous world of Julius Jr., and join this clever monkey and his pals Worry Bear, Sheree, Clancy, and Ping, as they unlock young imaginations with inventive episodes and toe-tapping music videos. Based on the Paul Frank family of characters, this new series takes preschoolers on exciting adventures into a magical box playhouse and through the wondrous Hall of Doors to discover the importance of cooperation and creativity. Whether trying something new or helping a cloud make snow, fun is just a door away! Various packages contain a full-size Fisher-Price Julius Jr. figurine.

**GUNSMOKE:
THE ELEVENTH SEASON,
VOLUMES ONE & TWO**
(DVD)
CBS + Paramount

The classic television western "Gunsmoke: The Eleventh Season, Volume One and Volume Two" ride in on DVD. James Arness returns in his legendary role as Matt Dillon, who is in charge of a Wild West town full of lawbreakers. From train-robbing outlaws and claim jumpers to cattle rustlers and bounty hunters, disorder is everywhere. It's up to Dillon and company to restore

order to a town where anything can happen. Jam-packed with famous guest stars including George Kennedy, Lesley Ann Warren, Leonard Nimoy, Joe Don Baker, Diane Ladd, Darren McGavin, Tom Skerritt, Bruce Dern and Slim Pickens. Includes all 32 episodes from season eleven.

**HAPPY DAYS:
SEASON SIX (DVD)**
CBS + Paramount

Relive the magic of one of America's beloved sitcoms, "Happy Days." Join the all-star cast for a timeless comedy that will drive you out of your seat with laughter! Travel to 1960s Colorado with Richie and the gang as they desperately attempt to save Uncle Ben's dude ranch in a riveting three-part episode. Watch as the Fonzy (Henry Winkler) becomes convinced he's allergic to girls, and later, stages his own fake funeral in order to avoid the wrath of the crime lord, Candyman. Also included is the episode in which the Orkan alien Mork returns to learn about the concept of friendship.

**WWE POWER SERIES:
TRIPLE H & WWE FIT
SERIES: STEPHANIE
McMAHON (DVD)**
**Lionsgate Home Ent.
+ WWE**

WWE icons Triple H and Stephanie McMahon lead two top-of-the-line workout programs. Triple H (WWE Power Series) offers a total body workout with exercises designed for the upper and lower body along with cardio and mobility moves to build a strong, ripped and fit body. In (WWE Fit Series), Stephanie McMahon helps viewers achieve the sculpted, sexy physique of the extraordinary WWE Divas. The system transforms and strengthens your entire body while shedding fat.

**PERRY MASON MOVIE
COLLECTION DOUBLE
FEATURES: TEN, ELEVEN
& TWELVE (DVD)**
Lionsgate Home Ent.

One of television's most famous dramas is back in the courtroom when "Perry Mason Movie Collection Double Features: Ten, Eleven & Twelve" were released. Raymond Burr stars as the famed defense attorney, Perry Mason, who fervently fights for justice. These single-disc, double feature releases include digitally enhanced versions of "Perry Mason" made-for-TV movies, including: "Double Feature Ten" — *The Case of the Glass Coffin* and *The Case of the Fatal Fashion*. "Double Feature Eleven" — *The Case of the Fatal Framing* and *The Case of the Reckless Romeo*. "Double Feature Twelve" — *The Case of the Heartbroken Bride* and *The Case of the Skin Deep Scandal*. Perry Mason laying down the law with wisdom!

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 Giaratani

THE WIZ IS COMING

The Wiz is a great musical and great take-off from the original *Wizard of Oz*. It is a soul version starring, among others, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson. It is coming to the Strand Theatre in Dorchester on February 13-22.

**TUFTS AND BMC
TALKING MERGER**

Tufts Medical Center and Boston Medical Center are reportedly considering a medical merger. "Tufts Medical Center is currently engaged in discussion to explore a merger with Boston Medical Center," according to Brooke Hynes, a Tufts spokesperson.

Tufts and BMC are both outstanding academic medical facilities backed by great medical schools. BMC has 496 beds and the city's busiest emergency trauma center. Tufts has 415 beds, performs more heart transplants than any other Massachusetts hospital and includes the Floating Hospital for Children.

**GAY GROUP MARCHING
IN SOUTHIE PARADE
IN 2015**

Organizers of the South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade have approved an application by OUTVETS to march. The vote by the Allied War Veterans Council to allow this gay veterans group to march hopefully will bring this almost 20-year controversy to an end. OUTVETS includes gay veterans and has no political or social agenda. This group marches to honor all veterans.

I agree with Veterans Council President Brian Mahoney, "To other people, it will be a big thing but to us, it's a group of veterans that wanted to march and deserved to be honored."

Kudos to everyone here. Hopefully the contingent of liberal fakers will continue its self-ban on participating on this holiday parade.

**NEW SITE FOR
HOMELESS SHELTER
FOUND**

It now appears a permanent solution has been found for the displacement of hundreds of homeless who were rushed off Long Island in a panic last October. I said then that whether or not a new bridge is built, the homeless will never return to that site. I see developers ready to do great things out there, but not for homeless people by a long shot. I see harbor-view luxury housing out there along with fine dining restaurants also. Watch and see if I'm right.

The new site appears to be across from Boston Fire Headquarters on Southampton Street in a city-owned building that houses the city printing department. It is right down the street from Boston Medical Center and a proposed pot store and don't forget the House of Corrections behind it. Few real neighbors to complain like they did over the Frontage Road site which many



The drop in the price of gasoline at the pumps keeps dropping. At ALFA in Roslindale Square, it is now down to \$2.31, a huge dip since it was \$3.95 per gallon just a few months ago at C & S Service on L Street in Southie.

thought was far too close to the Pine Street Inn.

**BOSTON
HARLEY-DAVIDSON
OPENS NEW SITE**

The Boston Harley Davidson sales and service shop is now long gone from Revere Beach Parkway in Everett and has re-opened in Revere's Linden Square. The new store for Revere brings with it an \$18 million investment in this area and brings excitement to what was just an old strip mall. This place is far bigger than its old Everett site which should be great news to bikers everywhere.

**TOMMY ARCADIPANE
KNOWS HIS POLITICS**

Once again this past year, my pal Tommy Arcadipane was right in the middle of a political campaign. This time he was Karyn Polito's

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
Docket No. MI14P6551GD

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

In the Matter of
PAMELA G. KWAN
of Weston, MA

**RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Wah T. Kwan of Weston, MA** and **Po Yu Rosaline Huen of Weston, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Pamela G. Kwan** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Wah T. Kwan of Weston, MA** and **Sarah K. Kwan of Weston, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 a.m.** on the return date of **January 20, 2015**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 22, 2014

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 1/2/15

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI14P6484EA

Estate of
STEPHEN JOSEPH FEENEY
Also Known As
STEPHEN J. FEENEY,
Date of Death October 15, 2014

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by **Stephen P. Feeney of Arlington, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. And also requesting that **Stephen P. Feeney of Arlington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on February 11, 2015.

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

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

WITNESS, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court
Date: December 17, 2014

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 1/2/15

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

• Thoughts by Dan (Continued from Page 6)

black cat became solidified in his role as the archrival. Jerry also found his own army with his little nephew Nibbles (also called Tuffy) and his voracious appetite and a downhearted duckling. There were also a series of one shot wonders like the woodpecker family in *Hatch Up Your Trouble*, the home-sick lion of *Jerry and the Lion*, and Jerry's Uncle Pecos from *Pecos Pest*.

Certain things in the Tom & Jerry series remained constant. The duo never spoke (except as gag punctuations when Tom would imitate Charles Boyer). All gags were visual based and the genius of Tom & Jerry is how much personality Hanna and Barbera were able to infuse in those two with virtually no dialogue.

Humans were hardly ever seen from above the waist and were little more than peripheral contributors to the storyline. Unlike most other cartoons of the war years, no political caricatures appeared save one time Jerry painted a Hitler moustache on a picture of Tom early on in the series.

But the most crucial thing that Hanna and Barbera did

to ensure the timeless and universal appeal of Tom & Jerry is make their relationship far more complex than a simple cat and mouse routine. Jerry, first of all, was never guaranteed a victory. He got away as far as his wit would take him but, his cockiness occasionally turned the tables and Tom got the upper hand. Finally, with Sylvester and Tweety and then the Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote the chase was motivated simply by predation. Tom occasionally thought of Jerry as fodder, but more often it was simply to guard the house, end an annoyance, or simply responding to provocation. Such a complicated relationship sometimes, though not often, led to a partnership in which they temporarily forgot their rivalry. In those moments, no matter, how rare, a certain affection between the two was apparent. Certainly, neither one could exist without the stimulation from the other. And the millions of fans around the world would never take anything less than the most famous cat and mouse in history together.



Gridiron Audibles

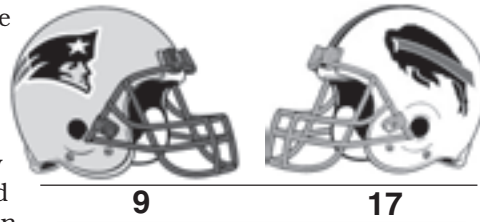
with Christian A. Guarino

Patriots Fall to Bills, Await Playoffs on January 10th

With the top seed in the AFC playoffs wrapped up thanks to a Denver Broncos loss in Cincinnati last Monday night, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots had nothing further to prove in the 2014 regular season.

Despite a league best 35 straight wins at home versus AFC foes (16 overall) and the fact that Buffalo had not defeated them at Gillette Stadium (0-12), ever, the lone goal heading into their regular season finale versus the Buffalo Bills was to stay healthy. The outcome: The Patriots emerged virtually unscathed, and the 9-7 Bills finally won a game at Gillette. But even with their 17-9 victory, Buffalo would be wise to not get used to this new found success. "We always hate losing," said Brady.

The game was a glorified pre-season game as Belichick elected to keep Tom Brady's two favorite toys, tight end Rob Gronkowski and wide receiver Julian Edelman, off the active roster. With linemen Sebastian Vollmer and Dan Connolly also out of commission, it was a bit surprising to see the Patriots play Brady the entire first half. Despite his presence, in which he failed to throw a touchdown pass, as they have been for over a month, the Patriots offense was completely out of synch. "This game was an opportunity for us to give some guys that haven't had a lot of playing time an opportunity to play a little bit," Belichick said. "You never know how that's going to turn out in the games ahead: who we'll need or when we'll need them. So, get them a little game experience, and we also obviously competed against a good team."



The second half saw rookie quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo get first team reps (if you can label them that), completing 10 of 17 passes for 90 yards but showing an ability to keep plays alive with his legs. Garoppolo looked

poised in the pocket despite being sacked three times.

"Plenty of room for improvement," Garoppolo said after the game. "There were some good things, some bad things, things to learn from, and it will only help me going forward."

By the time Garoppolo entered the game, the Patriots were without three offensive linemen as left tackle Nate Solder left the game in the second quarter with what appeared to be a right knee injury.

"I thought Jimmy competed well," said Belichick. "He was under some pressure. Some of the opportunities where he had to make plays, he made them. There are definitely some positive things there. There are also some things to learn from and build on."

Next up for the Patriots is a divisional round playoff matchup versus either the Bengals, Colts or Ravens on Saturday, January 10th at 4:35 pm. With two weeks to prepare, the Patriots will need to find some remedy for whatever it is that's ailing the offense.

"All the records (regular season), those are gone and the teams that play the best advance. So hopefully we're at the best and most healthiest we can most possibly be in two weeks and we've got to go out there and let it rip. I'm excited for this time of year. It's a great opportunity for us. This is what we play for."

2014 REGULAR SEASON STATISTICS

The Patriots finished the 2014 regular season in the top-10 of points per game scored and allowed. Scoring an average of 29.25 points per game, good for fourth, while allowing 19.56, ranking as the eighth stingiest defense.

In the all important category of turnover differential, the Patriots finished Tied for 2nd with the Houston Texans

However their 13 Giveaways tied with the Green Bay Packers for the fewest in the NFL.

The Patriots also finished in the top-10 in terms of Red Zone (within the 20-yard line) for both offense Ninth (39 of 67) and Defense 6th (22 of 46)

(These stats are based on red-zone Touchdown percentage)

BRADY RESTRUCTURES CONTRACT

With key players set to hit free agency at the end of the 2014-15 season, the Patriots received some cap relief from Quarterback Tom Brady. On Monday, Brady agreed to restructure his contract giving the team an added \$24 million to re-sign players like Safety Devin McCourty among others.

This move instantly improves the likelihood of Cornerback Darrelle Revis returning to the team past this season. Revis is on a 2-year, \$32 million deal that will bring a cap hit of \$25 million in 2015. That's just not going to happen. With Brady reworking his deal, the team now has the ammunition to rework the Revis deal, adding some

years and bringing that cap number down in 2015.

JETS TAMPERING

Mondays firing of New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan by team owner Woody Johnson came as no surprise. What was shocking was the continued ignorance of that organization. In an effort to perhaps inject some hope into a hopeless situation, Johnson remarked that former Jet, Darrelle Revis, currently under contract with the Patriots would be welcomed to return to his organization, stating "Darrelle's a great player. I'd love for Darrelle to come back."

Problem is that according to NFL rules, this constitutes tampering with a player signed to another organization. (See rule below)

* **Public/Private Statements.** Any public or private statement of interest, qualified or unqualified, in another club's player to that player's agent or representative, or to a member of the news media, is a violation of this Anti-Tampering Policy. (Example of a prohibited comment: "He's an excellent player, and we'd very much like to have him if he were available, but another club holds his rights.") In addition, speculation by a club owner, executive, or employee on whether a player under contract to a second club may play for a third club in the future may negatively impact the relationship between the player and the club currently holding his rights. If comments are found to have adversely affected that relationship, a finding of tampering can result. All clubs should be aware that improper disclosure of confidential trade discussions with another club may be a violation of this section on prohibited public statements.

Johnson later backtracked stating that he contacted Patriots owner Robert Kraft to clarify his comments. Despite the call, it doesn't sound as though Patriot coach Bill Belichick is accepting the explanation. In an interview with Boston sports station WEEI, Belichick said "I would think that the league would look into those comments."

NFL WILD CARD ROUND PREDICTIONS

Panthers over Cardinals

Saturday, January 3rd, 4:35 p.m.

Two of the best defenses in the league. Only difference is that one team has a legitimate quarterback and the other doesn't.

Steelers over Ravens

Saturday, January 3rd, 8:15 p.m.

Steelers running back LeVeon Bell's injury situation is a major factor, but I like the Steelers mainly because they're at home.

Colts over Bengals

Sunday, January 4th, 1:05 p.m.

With that defense, I'd love to pick the Bengals, but they need to prove they can win an important game on the road.

Cowboys over Lions

Sunday, January 4th, 4:40 p.m.

Things feel different than in years past for the Cowboys. They are this years hot team entering the playoffs. Romo to Bryant is lethal and like the Bengals, I don't trust the Lions to win on the road.

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Ray Barron's 11 O'CLOCK NEWS

So here we are in the year 2015. Let's get started with news from Italy. An Italian man named Romeo has been jailed because his girlfriend made too much noise during sex. Neighbors said Romeo Artemio Lori's girlfriend made such loud moans and ear-shattering yelps that they felt "terrorized" by their lengthy sex sessions. A judge agreed and sentenced Lori to six months in jail. Lori filed an appeal, claiming he is being punished for "being too good at sex."

Divine intervention, after a priest in Italy fed up with worshipper's texting and making phone calls during Mass installed a cell phone jamming device. "It has stopped the problem," said Father Michele Madonna of Naples. Amen.

Great idea! A Colorado school district is offering students a chance to win bicycles, iPods, and other prizes if they buy a federally mandated "healthy" lunch. The new nutrition rules backed by Michelle Obama caused a drop in cafeteria purchases, so officials set up a raffle to reward students who give the new food a try. "It really tastes good," said lunch facilitator Lori Burris. "It's just a bit different."

Wow! An Ohio woman received a bill for \$584.87 to cover the cost of the police response to her minor car accident. After Grace Jones, 20, bumped into the rear of a car, two cop cars showed up. She was billed under a local law requiring nonresidents to pay police costs. "I can't believe that the police would charge you for doing their job," said Jones's mother.

Credulity, after a New York City high school student admitted that his tale of making \$72 million through Wall Street trading-publicized by New York magazine — was

entirely made up. A contrite Mohammed Islam said he confessed because his parents "knew it was false and basically wanted to kill me."

Child labor: Mexican children are working in appalling conditions on Mexican farms that grow produce for American supermarkets, the Los Angeles Times reported in a four-part expose. The children forego school to pick crops in sweltering heat, dodging snakes and bugs.

It appears Leonardo DiCaprio's on-off girlfriend Toni Garrn has finally had enough of the actor's womanizing. The German model and DiCaprio ended their 18-month relationship during a trip to Miami, and Leo was then seen leaving a nightclub with the entire female population of his VIP section. "He left with 20 girls," a source told the Daily Mail (U.K.). "Leo and 20 girls. He is my hero. He was overflowing with models everywhere."

Santa Claus has undergone many transformations over the centuries. The jolly rotund gent started out as St. Nicholas of Myra, a real-life, 4th-century Byzantine monk who handed out bags of money to the poor. St. Nicholas was introduced to the U.S. in the early 1800's and quickly mutated into a "right jolly old elf" thanks to the 1823 poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas," commonly known as "Twas The Night Before Christmas." By 1890, children could meet "Santas" at department stores — the new name having been taken from the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas, Sinterklaas. In the 1930's Santa's bearded face was strewn over advertisements for Coca-Cola, solidifying his status as Yuletide's main man. Santa is undergoing a new, politically correct transformation: Worried that his obesity sets the wrong impression, some greeting



card companies have started to feature a leaner, healthier Santa on their Christmas cards.

Show biz stuff by the stately, musicologist, Al Natale. Herb Albert's Tijuana Brass was the most popular and influential band on the 1960's and 70's, adapting the sounds of the Mexican Mariachi Bands into a commercially acceptable formula. Reminder, several years after his death in 1951, "The Eddy Duchin Story" was produced in Hollywood (1956) Tyrone Power played the part of Duchin and Carmen Cavallaro dubbed in the piano playing. Frank Sinatra was Director Elia Kazan's first choice to play Terry Malloy in "On The Waterfront" (1954). The part ultimately went to Marlon Brando who won the Best Actor Oscar for his performance. And Liza Minelli won a Tony in 1965 for "Flora, the Red Menace," an Emmy in 1972 for "Liza With a Z" and an Oscar in 1973 for "Cabaret." In the early days of the Woody Herman band, Woody had a chance to hire Dinah Shore, but didn't feel she had what it took to be successful. Interesting enough, they each had hit records of "Blues in the Night."

Happy New Year!

AMERICAN IS A
BEAUTIFUL
ITALIAN NAME

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI14P6069EA

Estate of
BARBARA N. DYER
Date of Death April 20, 2014
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by Christopher J. Cullen of Reading, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. And also requesting that Christopher J. Cullen of Reading, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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 January 16, 2015.

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

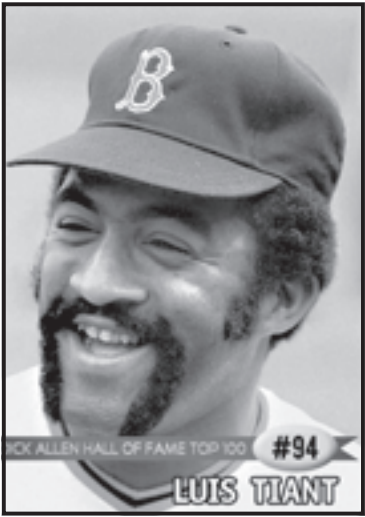
The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court
Date: December 19, 2014
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 1/2/15

EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarattani



Tiant Misses Hall of Fame

Once again, Luis Tiant was denied entrance into Cooperstown by the Golden Era Committee. El Tiente went 229-173 over 19 seasons with the Red Sox, Indians, Yankees and 3 other teams. Meanwhile, lefty Jim Kaat won 283 games mostly with the Twins and is still looking through the Hall of Fame windows. Mostly, he played for some pretty bad teams and still was but 17 games short of being a 300 game winner.

Both of these guys should have been elected into Cooperstown years ago.

Dodgers Deal Kemp

The Padres have the worse offense in the majors which led San Diego to get Matt Kemp and catcher Tim Federowicz from the Dodgers for catcher Yasmani Grandal and two unnamed pitchers. If all pass their physicals, the Dodgers will send \$432 million to the Padres to help offset the remaining \$32 million to help offset the \$107 million remaining on Kemp's contract. The Kemp trade is the biggest deal in Padres history.

Twins Get Santana

The Twins and free agent Ervin Santana agreed to a 4-year, \$55 million contract. According to sources, Santana is guaranteed a \$1 million buyout of a fifth year option. Santana averages 12 wins, 207 innings and 164 strikeouts while making at least 30 starts per season.

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Hughes Stays in Minnesota

Phil Hughes finished his first season with the Twins and won a new deal. He went 16-10 with a 3.52 ERA. He had been scheduled to earn \$8 million each of the next two seasons but now will make \$9.2 million in the next 2 years and \$13.2 million annually from 2017-19.

Pedro Big Winner Again

Pedro Martinez has won the Fuchs Award from the Boston chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America. The award for long and meritorious service to baseball is named for Judge Emil Fuchs, the former owner of the Boston Braves.

Steroids Still a Problem

The Mets' L.J. Mazzilli, son of former All-Star and Manager Lee Mazzilli, was suspended for 50 games under baseball's Minor League drug program following a second positive test.

Kuroda to Japan

Free Agent and right-hander Hiroki Kuroda will be headed to Japan in 2015 to pitch for his first team the Hiroshima Toyo Carp. He turns 40 in February and signed a one-year deal for \$3.3 million. He pitched for Hiroshima from 1997-2007 and then spent 4 seasons with the Dodgers before moving to the NY Yankees. Last season, he was 11-9 with a 3.71 ERA. Career wise he was 79-79 with a 3.49 ERA and struck out 986 and walked only 292.

Sir Didi Replaces Sir Derek

Derek Jeter's replacement as Yankee shortstop is Sir Didi Gregorius a proud member of the Order of Orange-Nassau. He was knighted after playing for the Netherlands in the 2011 Baseball World Cup where the Dutch beat Cuba 2-1 in the final.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. MI14P6363EA

Estate of
FRANK BARNEY FRANS
Date of Death January 7, 2012
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Christina Basham of Chino Hills, CA.

Christina Basham of Chino Hills, CA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Run date: 1/2/15

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
Docket No. MI14D3446DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
IBRAHIM IBRAHIM A/K/A
IBRAHIM LAKEW
vs.
MESTAWOT LAKEW

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B.

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 Ibrahim Ibrahim a/k/a Ibrahim Lakew, 402 Mass. Ave., Mail P.O. Box 230752, Boston, MA 02123, Cambridge, MA 02139 your answer, if any, on or before January 30, 2015. 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. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court
Date: December 24, 2014
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 1/2/15

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

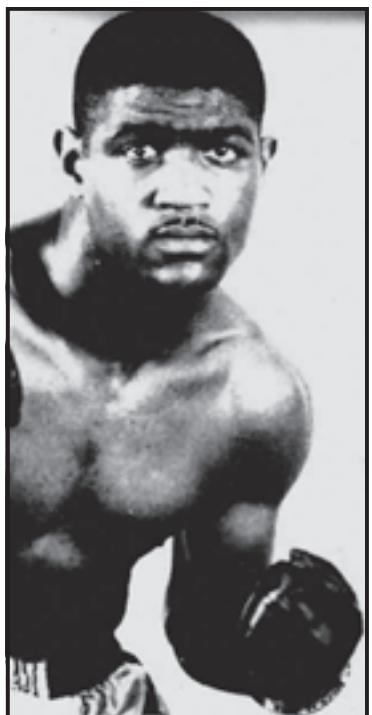
God Bless those Who Passed in 2014 Part II



Mickey Duff



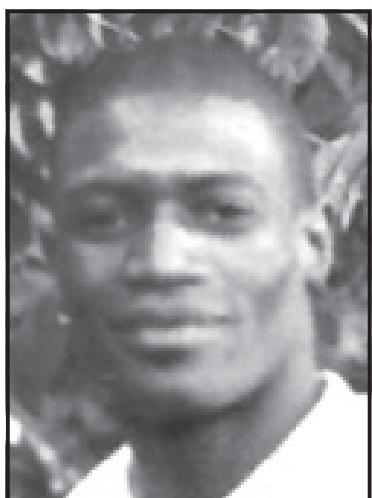
Mathew Saad Muhammad



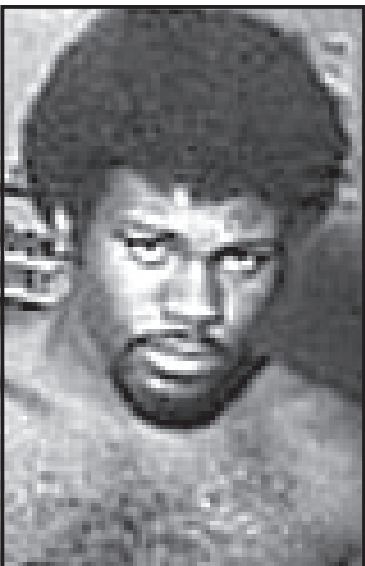
Ernie Terrell



Walter "Peanuts" Arsenault



Dornell Wigfall



Larry Middleton



Sandro Lopopolo



Willie Williams

May
They All
Rest in Peace

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

they are clearly to blame for the actions of the mob.

We are a country of laws and rule by mob is un-American. We aren't a third world nation, we are a democratic republic.

More on Jeb Bush

More and more it would appear that the Republican Establishment wants Jeb Bush as its next Mitt Romney, John McCain or Bob Dole. These GOP leaders obviously are running from the Tea Party folk and their point of view.

The Republicans just had a landslide in Washington. They control both House and Congress — not seen since the days of Herbert Hoover — but the crew in charge starting right now seem no better than their Democratic counterparts. The voters wanted change not

more of the same in GOP gift-wrap.

The Truth is Out

During the past election season, liberals constantly said that conservatives like the Koch brothers were out to buy the elections but recently the truth emerged. It was the liberal side of politics that actually outspent their conservative opponents. The liberal media helped spread the notion that Democrats were clearly outspent, which meant the other side with their moneybags distorted the democratic process were responsible. George Siros is a bigger threat to the democratic process than either of the Koch brothers ever could wish to be, but liberals close their eyes to this truth because it isn't part of their playbook.

DiBlasio Not Big in Italian American Community

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio is not a big hit with Italian Americans in the North End. He is seen as a progressive politician who is so out of touch with reality. You know you are doing something wrong when Italian Americans turn against you. How did this guy ever win in New York City? Recently, the *Irish Voice* newspaper took on the mayor over his attempt to end horse carriages in Central Park and actually referred to him on the front page as a "Horses' %#@." I wish I knew how to say that in Italian, but no matter the language that seems to be what he is.

Every day, he makes Michael Bloomberg look real good.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

Last week we recalled several of the Bruins greats that were honored by having their uniform numbers retired.

One of the things they had in common was that they played prior to the television era.

Johnny Bucyk was the first in the retired numbers club to play his entire career in the TV era (1957-1978). Coming to the B's in 1957 as part of a deal with Detroit, Bucyk blossomed as a Bruin. He led the team in scoring five times during some rough stretches in the early 1960s when the B's finished in the netherworld of the NHL.

However, as the B's rejuvenated, Bucyk was also up to the challenge, helping Boston to win its Stanley Cup championships in 1970 and 1972 while sandwiching in a spectacular 51-goal season in 1970-1971. He ended his career with 545 goals and remained active with the Bruins as a broadcaster and front office executive. He currently is the team's director of road services. His no. 9 was retired on March 13, 1980.

If Bucyk was productive and durable then Bobby Orr was electrifying. Many people think that the Orr statue that graces the approach to the Garden honors him alone. But when one gets up close and reads the inscription it is apparent the sculpture is a way of bestowing laurels on the entire team that won the 1970 Stanley Cup.

The statue does capture the dramatic goal by Orr that delivered that championship to the B's on May 10, 1970, the most remembered single moment of his illustrious career. Even though he would be named the winner of the Art Ross Trophy, Hart Trophy, Norris Trophy and Conn Smythe Trophy for his great performances that season and go on to have the highest plus-minus rating in history (+124) the next year, nothing can compare to that visually electrifying moment nearly 45 years ago. Orr's no. 4 was retired on January 4, 1979.

Phil Esposito was the B's top center during the majority of the Orr years, from 1967-75.

Espo came to Boston from Chicago in 1967 via a trade. He would have a superb career in the Hub, becoming one of the top scorers of all time. In 1969 he became the first player to finish with 100 or more points in a season (126). After just missing at 99 the next year, he would post triple digits for the next five years. He was the NHL's top goal scorer from 1969-1970 through 1974-1975 seasons.

Traded to the Rangers in 1975, he retired in 1981. He later served as general manager and coach of the Rangers in the 1980s. He co-founded the Tampa Bay Lightning franchise in 1992 and today serves as its on-air radio analyst during games. His no. 7 was retired on December 3, 1987.

If Orr and Espo were known for finesse then Terry O'Reilly was the everyman hero of

hockey in the Hub — a tough, gritty player who could score, make a decisive pass to a teammate and also fight his way through the NHL.

Although even Orr and Espo were traded away, O'Reilly played all of his 891 NHL games in a Boston uniform, starting in 1972 and ending in 1985. As a winger, he went 29-71-90 in 1977-1978 and added 26-51-77 in 1978-1979. He also accumulated 211 and 205 penalty minutes in each of those two seasons while on his way to career totals of 204 goals, 402 assists, 608 points and a whopping 2,095 PIM.

Just as Orr is remembered for a goal, O'Reilly is remembered for wading into the stands at Madison Square Garden on December 23, 1979 and taking on fans in a brawl that resulted in an eight-game suspension.

O'Reilly went on to coach the B's for three seasons in the late 1980s (including a trip to the 1988 Stanley Cup Final). He later served as an assistant coach with the Rangers. His no. 24 was retired on October 24, 2002.

Like O'Reilly, Cam Neely was a rough, tough winger who came on the scene in Boston about a year after O'Reilly retired. Traded to the B's by Vancouver in 1986 on his 21st birthday, Neely led the team in goals in his first season on Causeway Street, going 36-36-72 while compiling 143 penalty minutes.

All things were go until a devastating hit by Pittsburgh's Ulf Samuelsson in Game 3 of the 1991 conference finals. Neely would play only 22 games over the next two seasons due to physical problems. He would score 50 goals during the 1993-1994 season but would be forced to retire at age 31 following the 1995-1996 campaign. He re-joined the team as Vice President in 2007. He was named President of the Bruins in 2010. His number 8 was retired on January 12, 2004.

Defenseman Ray Bourque is the only member of the retired numbers club to play in the 21st century, closing out his career in Boston in March of 2000, before being traded to Colorado where he would win a Stanley Cup with the Avalanche in 2001.

Drafted eighth overall by the B's in 1979, he scored a goal in his first game to commence a rookie season that saw him amass 65 points. Over the course of 21 years on Causeway Street, Bourque became one of the most popular figures in New England.

That was proven on June 12, 2001 when Bourque personally brought the Cup back to Boston for a rally on City Hall Plaza attended by an estimated 20,000 fans. Looking out on the assembled multitudes Bourque exclaimed: "Everybody loves Raymond and Raymond loves you."

It was a fitting close to a stellar career, one that would be memorialized in a more formal way that fall when his no. 77 was lofted to the rafters on October 4, 2001.

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