

THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 126 - NO. 4

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JANUARY 28, 2022

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Happy Groundhog Day!

Wednesday
February 2, 2022

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

According to Politico Mass. Playbook, Maura Healey ...

In the governor's race where other candidates are running more to their party's flanks — GOP former State Rep. Geoff Diehl is a former President Donald Trump-backed conservative; State Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz and Harvard political theorist Danielle Allen are progressives — Healey is striking a more moderate tone. She's focusing less on her liberal-prosecutor past and more on pocketbook issues like the high cost of living. She eschewed being labeled an "uber-progressive" and said she'd leave it to "others to characterize my record." And, unlike her rivals, she declined opportunities to hit moderate GOP Gov. Charlie Baker over his pandemic policies.

Healey's playing the long game here. Her less ideological, more jobs-and-recovery-focused pitch plays more toward the middle and, critically, to independent voters who've helped propel candidates from both parties into the governor's office for decades.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

The above was the first of three biographies written by the Great Orator Frederick Douglass, which was written in 1845. I recently read through it and was caught up in the history. I never really knew about my own nation's history. I found a powerful paragraph that really made me think about the sins of our past. I found it in Chapter 3 on page 9.

"I have often been utterly astonished, since I came north, to find persons who could speak of the singing, among slaves, as evidence of their contentment and happiness. It is impossible to conceive of a greater mistake. Slaves sing most when they are unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart;

(Continued on Page 10)

Governor Baker Delivers 2022 State of the Commonwealth Address

Governor Charlie Baker delivered his State of the Commonwealth address from the Hynes Convention Center on Tuesday, January 25th. Remarks as prepared for delivery:

Thanks so much for being with us as I deliver my eighth and final State of the Commonwealth Address.

To Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito — you are one of the finest public servants and finest people I have ever had the opportunity to work with.

Your work with local governments has forever changed the way people in public life think about the responsibilities of the Lieutenant Governor.

To Lauren Baker, my wife of 34 years, and the vision behind the now spectacular Wonderfund. You are simply my everything.

You gave me a chance to run and serve these past seven years. And you and your team of 4 made the Wonderfund the one place foster families, social workers and kids can go where the answer is always YES.

But they were positive and optimistic. They touted the special qualities of our people, our communities, and our institutions. They marveled at our success as a Commonwealth. They spoke about our challenges and our setbacks.

But mostly, they focused on our opportunities to be better, to do better, together.

Each one asked us to find the courage to compromise. To engage. To seek what John F. Kennedy once called, "The Right Answer — Not the Republican answer or the Democratic answer."

And for the most part, we've done just that.

Led by the Lt. Governor, we brought last mile broadband service to the people of 53 Western Mass communities.

We brought care and compassion to Bridgewater State Hospital after decades of national embarrassment.

We created the first Section 35 treatment beds for women in state history and became a national leader in the fight against opioid addiction.

We eliminated the widespread use of hotels and



motels to shelter homeless families.

We fixed a very broken Health Connector and made it a national model.

We made deep water offshore wind a booming, affordable reality in America.

We created the first municipal vulnerability planning program in the country and over 95 percent of our communities have participated.

We modernized local government by updating 50 years' worth of mostly useless statutory busywork. There were so many happy local officials with us when we signed that bill into law.

We enacted long overdue changes to our exclusionary zoning laws to unleash much needed housing production.

We rescued a bankrupt, unaccountable public transportation system. Created an oversight board and invested over \$6 billion to modernize its operations and infrastructure.

We delivered the Green Line Extension into Somerville, and finally, after 30 years of broken promises, we funded and began building commuter rail service between Fall River and New Bedford, and Boston, which will begin operations in 2023.

We increased public school spending by \$1.6 billion, and fully funded the game changing Student Opportunity Act.

We invested over \$100 million in modernizing equipment at our vocational and technical programs, bringing opportunities to thousands of students and young adults.

We dramatically expanded STEM programming, and we helped thousands of high school students from Gateway Cities earn college credits free through our Early College programs.

We enacted criminal justice reform legislation that emphasized rehabilitation, treatment and reintegration and we enacted a forward looking, comprehensive and balanced police reform law.

In 2015, we inherited a billion-dollar budget deficit and a depleted Rainy Day Fund.

Over the next seven years, we never spent more than we took in. Increased local aid to schools and communities. Cut taxes for working families. Invested hundreds of millions of dollars alongside billions of dollars of private sector investments in housing, downtown development, waterfront and port operations, and job-creating business expansions.

And that Rainy Day Fund grew from \$1 billion to \$5 billion among the largest fiscal safety nets in the country.

As we rolled into calendar year 2020, we had the highest number of people working in state history, wage gains at every level of the economy, and hundreds of thousands of new jobs. It felt like the world belonged to us.

And then came COVID.

We all know the past 22 months have been tough. We've all suffered some degree of loss, disruption, confusion, anger and isolation.

But the people of Massachusetts did what they always do. They collaborated, created, reimagined, and made the unbearable bearable.

On so many issues, Massachusetts led the way.

We had the largest small business grant program in the country.

Constructed with the state legislature, this program funneled \$700 million to over 15,000 small businesses.

Our eviction diversion program pumped almost \$500 million into rental and mortgage assistance programs, making it one of the largest in the country.

Our food insecurity programs served millions of residents across the Commonwealth.

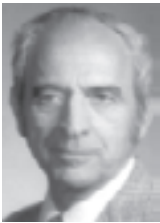
To stop the spread of COVID, we worked with local labs and dozens of community partners to create one of the most

(Continued on Page 5)

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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.

THE ROMAN CATACOMBS



The Catacomb of Priscilla is an archaeological site on the Via Salaria in Rome, Italy, situated in what was a quarry in Roman times. dubbed “The Queen of the Catacombs.” This site famously contains the oldest image of the Virgin Mary in existence

The hills of Rome are mainly composed of a soft rock of volcanic origin, which is called tufa. The early Romans had very adequately developed the technique of excavating deep into this tufa to form their caemetaria (underground cemeteries), which contained Columbaria (pigeon-hole niches for the cremated remains) and Loculi (shelves for the embalmed bodies). The Early Christians who came later were in quite a dilemma. They could not bury their deceased within the city walls because the law did not permit it, and any kind of funeral service either within or without the walls would expose them to arrest and persecution.

It follows then that the excavation work for the Catacombs was a necessary function brought about by the geology of the area, the religious beliefs, and the social attitudes of the party in power at that time.

Outside the walls of ancient Rome, there were about 15 main roads radiating out from the city. About 25 great Catacombs were constructed at various locations near these roads.

It is estimated that the combined length of the tunnels in all Catacombs was 350 miles and that they contained about 6,000,000 deceased. Corridors were generally about 30 inches wide with the Loculi (shelves) in tiers on both sides. These underground cities of the dead were built from one to five stories deep. The depth never exceeded 70 feet because this would bring them below the volcanic crust and into the humid clay. The stratum chosen for these horizontal labyrinths was sufficiently hard to support the weight from above while yet soft enough to excavate these seemingly endless tunnels. The secrecy of their location was maximized by taking the excavated material from the newly



Possibly an image of Mary nursing the Infant Jesus. 3rd century, Catacomb of Priscilla

formed tunnels and packing it into the old and fully occupied ones. The difficult chore of raising the debris to the surface and undoubtedly revealing their location was thus eliminated. Stairs, air shafts, and some light shafts were built as the advantages of the terrain presented themselves.

The countryside around Pagan Rome was literally undermined by these catacombs. During the height of the Christian persecutions, the Catacombs which were not backfilled housed as many of the living as they contained of the dead. The Catacombs of St. Callistus (Calixtus) and those of St. Sebastian on the Appian Way are probably the most frequented and the most interesting. The bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul were originally buried close to the spot where they were martyred. Later they were exhumed and hidden temporarily in the Catacombs of St. Sebastian.

Burial in the Catacombs was gradually given up after peace with the Church in the year 312. It then became the custom to bury the dead near the churches.

NEXT ISSUE:
Triumphal Arches

MBTA Proposes Fare Changes

Including Permanent 5-Day Flex Pass,
Lowering 1-Day LinkPass to \$11,
Introduction of 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders

MBTA staff today presented several fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders, minimize pandemic-related revenue implications and budget uncertainties while increasing ridership where possible, and simplify fare tariff rules as the MBTA's Fare Transformation Program (AFC 2.0) moves forward. If approved by the full MBTA Board in March, these fare changes would go into effect on July 1, 2022. The MBTA welcomes public comment on these proposals.

“We’re excited about our upcoming fare proposals that prepare for technology updates to come as part of AFC 2.0, increasing equity through improvements to LinkPasses, especially for our Reduced Fare Riders, and making the popular mTicket 5-Day FlexPass permanent for Commuter Rail riders,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “If approved by the MBTA’s Board in March, these proposals will allow the T to continue to best meet the needs of riders through incremental fare improvements that reflect how they travel now and in the future, while minimizing revenue implications in this time of continued uncertainty.”

Making Permanent 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket for Commuter Rail:

First introduced as a pandemic fare pilot in June 2020, the 5-Day FlexPass available on mTicket for the Commuter Rail is a bundled fare valid for any five days of travel within a 30-day period. Good for unlimited travel within a 24-hour period, these five passes are available for 10% off the cost of 10 one-way trips. An attractive option for riders whose travel patterns have changed due to hybrid work schedules and the availability of remote-work options, the 5-Day FlexPass on mTicket is proposed to be made permanent. If approved, the permanent 5-Day FlexPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022, or sooner.

Reducing Price of the 1-Day LinkPass:

In an effort to increase ridership by encouraging more riders to buy passes and increase equity for low-income and minority riders who often purchase this fare product, MBTA staff have proposed to lower the cost of the 1-Day LinkPass from \$12.75 to \$11. An \$11 LinkPass pays for itself with five subway rides taken in 24 hours. If approved, the \$11 1-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Second Transfers on Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway:

Currently, the MBTA only allows one transfer between Bus and/or Subway with one recent addition – CharlieCard riders may transfer from Bus to Subway to Bus. To simplify complexities in the T’s transfer policy, MBTA staff have proposed standardizing the transfer process to allow all combinations of second transfers involving Buses, Express Bus Routes, and/or Subway,



including Bus-Bus-Subway, Subway-Bus-Bus, and Express Bus-Express Bus. If approved, the second transfers on Subway and Buses and transfers between Express Routes would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Proposed Changes for Reduced Fare Riders:

Some riders are eligible for reduced fares, including people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders, people 65 and older, some middle and high school students, and people 18 – 25 with low income. MBTA staff have proposed three fare change proposals that aim to improve equity by closing gaps in existing fare structures for Reduced Fare Riders:

Introducing the 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders:

Aiming to increase equity by increasing the benefits of purchasing fares in bulk for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed the introduction of a 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders, which is not currently available. This 7-Day LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is proposed to be available for \$10, which breaks even after nine subway rides. This product is designed to meet the needs of individuals who might not have enough cash on-hand to afford a monthly pass, but who qualify for Reduced Fare programs. Reduced Single Ride fares for Reduced Fare Riders are \$1.10 for the subway and \$0.85 for the bus with a Reduced Monthly LinkPass available for \$30. The Full Fare 7-Day LinkPass is available for \$22.50. If approved, the expansion of Reduced Fare 7-Day LinkPass would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Introducing Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus:

In order to increase equity by closing gaps in the T’s offering of products for Reduced Fare Riders, MBTA staff have proposed introducing monthly passes on Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus for Reduced Fare Riders. This

proposal would offer a full set of monthly passes for Reduced Fare Riders at approximately 50% of the full fare pass prices. Currently, Reduced Fare Riders have to purchase Single Ride tickets to benefit from the Reduced Fare pricing. If approved, the expansion of Monthly Passes for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Expanding Availability of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders on Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Inner Harbor Ferry:

Currently, a LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders is only available on CharlieCard fare media instead of a printed “flash pass” CharlieTicket that Commuter Rail conductors and ferry staff can see to visually validate a fare. As more updates take place as part of AFC 2.0, customers will be able to use tappable tickets as well as CharlieCards to travel on the Commuter Rail and Ferries. As such, and to increase access and equitable pricing on Reduced Fare passes, MBTA staff have proposed making the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders valid for Commuter Rail travel in Zone 1A and on the Charlestown Ferry. If approved, this expansion of the LinkPass for Reduced Fare Riders would go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The public is invited to comment on these proposed changes at a virtual public meeting on **Thursday, February 10, 2022**, at 6:00 p.m., as well as the official public hearing to be held virtually on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, at 6:00 p.m. The public is also welcome to submit comments online through Thursday, March 3, 2022, at mbta.com/2022FareChanges or by email to publicengagement@mbta.com. The Title VI analysis will be shared with the MBTA’s Board and posted to mbta.com prior to the scheduled March 24, 2022, Board meeting.

For further information, please visit mbta.com or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

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Photos submitted for publication should have a minimum resolution of 150 dpi (or ppi), 300 dpi for best results. Photos taken with camera phones are typically only 72 dpi and will be too grainy to print. If taking photos for a submission, please use a digital camera. If supplying existing photos, please submit a high-quality print for scanning.



POST-GAZETTE

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617-227-8929 617-227-8928 FAX 617-227-5307
e-mail: postgazette@aol.com
Website: www.BostonPostGazette.com

Subscriptions in the United States \$35.00 yearly

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

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

Vol. 126 - No. 4 Friday, January 28, 2022

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.*

Remembering FREEWAY



Fourth Anniversary
January 31, 2018
“Always my boy”
Unconditional Love

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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Pasqualina “Lena” A. (Bionelli) Cortese

Pasqualina (“Lena”) A. (Bionelli) Cortese, of Stoneham, formerly of the North End of Boston, passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022 at her home with her family by her side. She died just one month before her 91st birthday.



Born in Boston, Lena was the daughter of the late Frank J. and Libertina (Ruggiero) Bionelli. A loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, Lena will be missed by all who knew her.

Throughout her life, Lena’s kitchen table was a welcoming place for conversation, a cup of coffee or tea, and always something to eat that appealed to all appetites. She loved to entertain, loved to set a table for company, and loved the joy of breaking bread and catching up with friends and family. There was no subject that bored her, and no topic she would not engage. As an apartment dweller, in the North End and in Stoneham, she was the resident you knew, trusted and relied on. All family and friends were most grateful for her thoughtful gifts, cards, and home cooked favorites — once you were on her radar she never forgot what made

you smile. She loved the simple things in life — a long weekend away in one of her beloved New England towns, a glass of prosecco and some Wellfleet oysters, visits by her children and grandchildren, or dinner or lunch at a local restaurant with friends. She knew what mattered.

Lena is the beloved wife of the late Frank C. Cortese, and devoted mother of Frank A. Cortese and his

wife Daphne, Lisa Bevilacqua and her late husband Jerry Fensterman, and Lianne Stoddard and her husband Paul. She is the cherished grandmother of Gryffin and Chloe Stoddard, the dear sister of the late Jean Serrecchia and Frances Petrucelli, and admired aunt of many wonderful nieces and nephews.

At the request of the family all services will be private.

Please consider donations in memory of Lena to Care Dimensions Hospice (www.caredimensions.org).

To send a memorial condolence go to www.barilefuneral.com or www.facebook.com/BarileFamilyFuneralHome

Fr. Aubert Marie Picardi, O.F.M.

Fr. Aubert Marie Picardi, O.F.M., passed to eternal life on January 20th in Boston after having been hospitalized. He was 91 years old.

He was born in Boston to Amorino and Eva (Parziale) and was baptized James. He grew up in East Boston and entered the novitiate on August 15, 1954, professed first vows on August 16, 1955, and was ordained a priest on June 16, 1962 by Bishop Lawrence Graziano, O.F.M.

Fr. Aubert spent many years ministering in the Central American missions, in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. On returning to the United States, he was involved in several parochial ministries in the New England area, including pastor and associate pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, East Boston, and associate pastor of St. Leonard and St. Margaret, Buzzards Bay. His current assignment was St. Christopher Friary in Boston’s North End.

“Uncle Jimmy” is survived by his sister-in-law Madeline Picardi and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and his Franciscan brothers.

Visitation was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover St., Boston. A Mass of Christian Burial followed. Burial was at St. Francis Cemetery in Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Province of the Immaculate Conception, 125 Thompson St., NY, NY 10012.

For online condolences, please visit www.watermanboston.com



Lucille A. (Langone) Drago

Drago, Lucille A. (Langone), of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 75 years of age, after a courageous three-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Loving daughter of the late Gerald and Rockina (Nuttoli) Langone. Devoted wife of the late John C. Drago. Beloved mother of Jeffrey R. Drago of Winthrop. Treasured Godmother of Nicole Langone. Cherished cousin of Roberta Casaletto, Lisa Langone, and Lucille Reed.

Also survived by many loving cousins and friends as well as her two special canines, Doc and Romeo.

Lucille worked for over 30 years with American International Group, Inc. (AIG) as an Executive Secretary. She was a billing clerk for Drago and Toscano, LLP for the last 11 years. Lucille was also a licensed real



estate agent in the Boston area. She is a founding member of the Boston Socialites Red Hatters. Lucille was a member of East Boston Piers PAC and East Boston Sons of Italy.

Family and friends honored Lucille’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Sunday, January 23rd, and again on Monday morning before leaving in procession to the Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston, for a funeral Mass

celebrating Lucille’s life at.

Services concluded with Lucille being laid to rest with her beloved husband, John, at Saint Mary’s Cemetery, North Street, Salem. May they rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Lucille’s name to Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA 01970 or to www.neas.org/donate



L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

A Path of Lights to Spring

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



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

Candlemas, which occurs on February 2nd, commemorates the date on which the Virgin Mary presented Jesus at the temple, forty days after His birth. The name of the feast derives from the widespread usage of candles during the religious services marking this holiday, which symbolize the light that Jesus metaphorically brings to the world. However,

many of Candlemas's folk customs predate Christianity. The Celts celebrated February 1st as Imbolc, a festival heralding the first day of spring. Imbolc, which some scholars theorize translates to "in the belly," honors the lactation of sheep and the beginning of the birthing season for lambs. This ancient Celtic holiday survives as St. Brigid's Day in modern Ireland, where people light candles, make Crosses out of vegetation, and visit holy wells. Indeed, since it serves as a welcome precursor to spring, Candlemas bursts with quaint customs and superstitions everywhere. European folklore states that a warm and sunny Candlemas portends harsh wintry weather, while a cold and blustery Candlemas promises an early spring. Immigrants from Europe brought these traditions over to America, where they melded into the festival of Groundhog Day Like Candlemas, Groundhog Day is also celebrated on February 2nd, and it further pays homage to the end of the hibernation period for many animals. An Italian dictum repeats this well-known superstition, proclaiming "*Candelora con sole, tarde primavera*," or "sunny Candlemas, late spring." These practices speak to the universal desire for spring and rebirth, whether it manifests in newborn lambs or candles flickering in the windowsills.

In addition to functioning as a turning point between winter and spring, Candlemas also provides people with an opportunity for celebrations and feasting. Pancakes are the traditional dinner of choice in France, possibly because their round shape and golden color

resemble the spring sun, which is now remaining for a longer time in the sky. Superstition claims that a cook who can flip a pancake with one hand while turning a coin in the other will be blessed with luck. In Mexico, people eat tamales on Candlemas, provided by the person who found the hidden bean in their Epiphany King Cake. Italians honor Candlemas, or *Candelora*, with local festivities and regional customs. Though Candlemas traditions vary across Italy, each honor the arrival of spring and the theme of light breaking through the darkness. In the Sicilian city of Catania, *Candelora* festivals segue into parades held in honor of the town's patron saint, St. Agatha, where people make offerings of large candles that illuminate the dark late winter sky. The people of Montevergine, a village located in the southern region of Campania, organize candlelit processions which honor gay rights and pray for increased tolerance. Meanwhile, Neapolitans celebrate *Candelora* with large street parties boasting torches and fireworks displays. Indeed, all throughout Italy, a visitor will find homes, churches and town squares illuminated by candles or bonfires on *Candelora*, the flames both providing warmth against the cold February air and reminding people of the light of the coming spring. Candlemas always makes me think of the long walks I would take on my old college campus at the start of the spring semester, propelled by the wind as I took note of the new buds adorning the otherwise bare tree branches. Nowadays, I bake orange cheesecakes on Candlemas, a seasonal recipe whose color and shape resembles mini sunbursts. How exciting it is to greet spring in all its myriad forms!

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

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicens089@gmail.com.

THINKING OUT LOUD



by Sal Giaratani

Time to Restore Our Inalienable Rights

"Those who would give up their liberty for their security deserve neither."
— Benjamin Franklin

"We are never more than a generation away from losing our liberty."
— President Ronald Reagan



Group shot of Vax mandate opponents at base of Paul Revere statue supporting freedom to choose

Can I tell you how much I have hated the last two years with this never-ending if the government can help it PANDEMIC. I am tired of the endless panic that the elites have been pushing on us. Nothing stands seemingly in its way of pounding us into fear of ourselves, fear of others, and fear of fear.

We have a virus that has altered our way of life. We have seen government leaders take on more and more power and liberty away from us. I don't like this new normal of theirs. Our leaders just keep telling us to follow their orders because they have our best interests at heart.

I look around and I see public education going down the tubes. Last year they kept many kids out of the classroom. For many students, they are only falling behind in their learning, as for their social emotional needs, the same thing if not worse.

Responders, which was founded and led by Boston Police Officer Shana Cottone who is fighting the vaccine mandate ordered by Mayor Wu. Cottone and as many as 200 other citizens united against such government mandates stood their ground and together.



Folks were lighting up their candles for the candlelight vigil protest

(Continued on Page 7)

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
Lowell Justice Center
370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 656-7700

Docket No. MI22P0167EA

Estate of
BARBARA COOK ROVINELLI
Also Known As
BARBARA C. ROVINELLI
Date of Death: August 25, 2021

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Kim Keough of Natick, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Kim Keough of Natick, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

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• State of the Commonwealth (Continued from Page 1)

expansive free COVID testing programs in the country.

To keep kids and adults safe and in school, we partnered with colleges and universities, K-12 schools and child-care providers to create a first in the nation COVID testing program.

We invented Shared Streets to help cities and towns transform their downtowns into beehives of outdoor activities. Dining. Shopping. Street theater. Farmers’ markets. Walking. Biking. Pop Up Stores. You name it.

And the people of Massachusetts got vaccinated.

Over 80% of our eligible population is fully vaccinated, and those over the age of 65 approach 100 percent.

There’s an old expression about what you learn about people when they are truly tested.

Well — for the past two years, the people, institutions and communities of this Commonwealth have most definitely been tested. Time and time again you have adjusted, and you have responded.

Together, we set the course for a comeback— and it’s working.

Our unemployment rate is below 4% for the first time since March of 2020, and we’ve gained back over half a million jobs.

And because of all you’ve done, and all we’ve done together, I can stand here tonight and say the State of our Commonwealth remains strong.

As we enter the new year, there are many important opportunities to build on the collaborative work we’ve done over the past seven.

Two of those opportunities are closing loopholes that threaten public safety.

The first loophole allows those charged with violent crimes, who may also have lengthy criminal records, to walk free before trial.

And the second leaves residents, many of them women, with little recourse when an ex-partner attempts to violate them and destroy their lives.

We’ve filed bills to deal with these issues three times, to no avail. The time to do something about this is long past.

One after another, these women described, in graphic detail, how they survived multiple physical and psychological assaults, and how these loopholes actually protected the men who were terrorizing them.

Current law is clearly not working. These women were bothered, battered, bruised and beaten time and time again by their abusers, and nothing changed. We felt their desperation.

Massachusetts is one of only two states that doesn’t treat this as a crime. 48 other states treat this as a crime. Because it is a crime.

These women had the courage to come forward and publicly tell their stories. They deserve to be heard. And they and the women they speak for deserve a vote on these two pieces of legislation.

As we come out of the pandemic, we know we have a mental health crisis.

Like many things, it was there before COVID arrived. But the anxiety, disruption and the isolation that came with COVID has made it worse and more visible.

Before the pandemic, we filed a health care reform bill that would improve access to mental health services.

Some pieces of it, like telehealth, became important parts of our effort to expand access to care during the pandemic. Since that time, the legislature has written telehealth into state law. But many other parts of that 2019 proposal have not been addressed.

The message remains the same: the healthcare system doesn’t value behavioral health services, primary care and geriatric services. As a result, there are enormous staff and clinician shortages in exactly the areas of care that we need most.

We know the legislature cares deeply about this issue, and we look forward to working with you to finish this work during this legislative session.

We also appreciated the chance to testify recently before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy on our fourth climate proposal. This one builds on our very successful offshore wind agenda and includes the creation of a \$750 million Clean Energy Innovation Fund.

There are big ideas looking for a chance to test themselves in our academic institutions and our cutting-edge research organizations. This fund can create the ground-breaking solutions we need to get to net zero.

We’re also working to put the ARPA funds appropriated by the legislature and signed into law about 6 weeks ago to work across the Commonwealth.

Housing. Health care. Skills training. Cultural investments. Small business support. Water and sewer improvements. Port development and a host of other investments, all to help us adjust to the changing nature of life and work in a post-pandemic Commonwealth.

In addition, we’ll soon file a transportation bond bill to ensure we get the full benefit of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

As you know, accessing these federal dollars requires state government to authorize the funds that will pay for our share of federally approved projects.

Fiscal discipline also makes it possible for us to make strategic decisions about tax fairness and our competitive position.

The pandemic has proven that we now live in a new world where people have more flexibility about where they live and work.

To encourage our citizens to continue to call Massachusetts home and to help those struggling to make ends meet because of rising inflation, we’ll file several tax breaks in our budget proposal later this week.

The past two years have been very difficult ones for families. Our budget doubles the tax break for children

and dependents, because every Massachusetts family deserves a break.

We’ll also ask lawmakers to eliminate income taxes for the lowest paid 230,000 taxpayers here in the Commonwealth. Instead of paying income taxes, these people should be able to use their earnings to pay for necessities, like food, housing and transportation.

Rents are also rising while wages remain relatively flat. It’s time to give renters a bigger tax break on their monthly payments.

It’s also been a tough two years for seniors. We’ll ask the legislature to give them a break on their property taxes and make our estate tax more competitive with the rest of the country.

It’s time for us to invest in Massachusetts families. To give them back some of the tax revenue they created through their hard work.

As most people know, we’ve been calling on the National Guard since our first month in office. Whether it was Snowmageddon, bomb cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms, natural gas explosions or forest fires, the Guard has been an amazing partner.

But they became a godsend during the COVID pandemic. They did it all.

General Gary Keefe, on behalf of the people of Massachusetts, I want to thank you, your team, and all members of the Guard for your service. You make us so much better than we would be without you.

Five months ago, we were horrified when we heard the news that a suicide bomber had attacked a checkpoint outside the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Over 200 Afghan civilians were killed in the explosions, along with 13 members of the U.S. military.

One of those lost that day was Massachusetts’ own Marine Corps Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo.

She volunteered for that mission. She was there because she wanted to be there to evacuate women and children from the increasingly dangerous streets of Kabul. And she paid for it with her life.

I’d ask for a moment of silence tonight to honor those we’ve lost and the Gold Star Families they’ve left behind. They are the very best among us.

Thank you.
Let me close with this.

In the fall of 2018, we were rocked by a natural gas explosion that shut down Lawrence, North Andover and Andover.

18 year-old Leonel Rondon tragically died that day, and many others were severely injured. Everything in most of Andover, Lawrence and North Andover ground to a halt.

Many members of our team practically lived in make-shift command centers alongside hundreds of emergency response and construction personnel for several months as we worked feverishly to repair the damage.

It was an avalanche of issues, problems and decisions that didn’t stop for weeks, but we worked through it.

To this day, I think a big part of our success was due to the relationships we already had with most of the key leaders who were involved.

The Lieutenant Governor and I knew the local officials and the state legislators. We knew the utility companies. We knew the contractors. And they all knew us.

We trusted each other. And that trust made much of what we got done over the next three months possible.

There’s no collaboration without trust.

If we’ve tried to do anything over the past seven years, we’ve tried to build trust. Others can debate whether we’ve succeeded or not. I believe we have. And I believe it shows in the work we’ve done during good times and difficult ones over the past seven years.

Today, it’s clearly more difficult to build trust, to collaborate in public life than it once was.

The explosion of social media, the arrival of hundreds of news channels and information distribution platforms. And the ongoing churn of information have made it almost impossible for anyone in public life who wants to collaborate to build trust.

Facts are often fungible and curated. Missteps play out in real time and can go viral in the most bizarre and unusual ways. Context is non-existent. And in many cases, history and current events get twisted to support whatever point of view someone is advocating for.

But the answer to the swirl and chaos of modern life is not more of the same poisonous brew.

The answer is to stand up and accept the responsibility that comes with the work. To understand that trust is earned and collaboration is how difficult things get done.

Many of the projects we’ve worked on with our colleagues in local government would never have happened without

trust. Many of the most important pieces of legislation we’ve enacted over the past seven years would not have happened without trust.

Here in Massachusetts, we’ve done big things and small ones.

At a time when so much of our public dialogue is designed to destroy trust, to manipulate facts, and to pull people apart. We’ve partnered with one another, and shared success and blame along the way.

We should continue to focus on building and maintaining positive, collaborative relationships. Because they work for the people we serve and it’s what most voters expect from us.

They want us to work hard and collaborate the same way they do. To listen to them as if they were our neighbors, because they are. To appreciate their life stories the same way we expect them to appreciate ours.

They want us to knock off the noise and focus on building better, stronger communities from one end of the Bay State to the other.

Me too.
And honestly, when I think about what I’ll miss most come this time next year, it will be that opportunity to continue to partner with so many of the great people in this room. And with the great people across this amazing state. Who want nothing more than to leave it better than they found it for those who come after them.

But before that time comes, we have a responsibility to do just that for the next twelve months.

Let’s get to work.
God Bless the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

And God Bless the United States of America.

To view the complete State of the Commonwealth Address, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-delivers-2022-state-of-the-commonwealth-address>

Nazzaro Center Offering Free Activities

The Nazzaro Center will be offering the following free activities. In order to participate you must pre-register. These activities are all free of charge and you must register on-line at **Boston.gov/BCYF-Registration**.

There is limited space for each session. Please check the website frequently for new activities, updates, and changes.

For more information, please contact the Center directly at 617-635-5166.

CORNHOLE:
Mondays | 8-12 yr olds | 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

CORNHOLE:
Mondays | 13-18 yr olds | 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

OPEN GYM:
Tuesday & Wednesdays | 3:15-4:15 p.m. | 8-12 yr olds

OPEN GYM:
Tuesday & Wednesdays | 4:15-5:15 p.m. | 13-18 yr olds

ICE SKATING AT STERITI RINK:
Fridays: 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, and 3/11

Meet at the Nazzaro Center at 6:30 p.m., Pick Up at Rink at 8:30 p.m.

Bring your own skates or \$5 for Rental and money for snacks.

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URGENT MESSAGE FROM
**East Boston Community
Soup Kitchen**
In Need of Winter Coats



We are already nearing the month of February of this New Year, 2022. I wish you all the best in this New Year. I pray that each and every one of you are safe, healthy and happy.

The hard winter days are here and **we are in dire need for your help to get long, if possible, unisex rain-proof winter jackets that both men and women can wear** to give to our soup kitchen's guests who come to stand in line outside in the cold and windy weather in search for a bag of food. **We also need winter shoes, sizes for women are 8, 9 and 10 and for men are 8, 9, 10 and 11.** We ask that the items are new or slightly used and we also need many outdoor bag packs.

The sooner we can get them the better, given that the cold weather is here and it will take

some time before the warm weather gets here, meanwhile, we have many folks who are cold and cannot afford to buy a winter coat, and therefore they ask us for help to get one. Go to our wish-list on **www.Amazon.com** if you are interested in ordering from this source. Also, please know that we can provide you with a tax write-off for your donation.

We are located at 28 Paris Street, East Boston, MA and our mailing address is P.O. Box 497, East Boston, MA 02128

If you have any questions contact us at www.ebkitchen.org and thank you in advance for all of your support.

With gratitude,
Sandra Nijjar
Founder and Executive Director
East Boston Community
Soup Kitchen

Saint Ansgar

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Ansgar was the son of a noble Frankish family, born near Amiens (present day France). After his mother's early death, Ansgar was brought up in the Benedictine monastery of Corbie in Picardy. Ansgar left his native region in Northern France, after receiving a good Christian education, to become a monk in Northern Germany. He was named by the Pope as Archbishop of Hamburg and, from that post, organized the first systematic evangelization of Scandinavia. These regions were far away from the more developed civilizations of Italy, Spain, and France, yet Saint Ansgar and his helpers traveled that far, and risked that much, to plant the Catholic faith in what is today Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Yet nearly all the seeds of faith that Saint Ansgar planted were to die in the ground shortly after his own death. His missionary efforts produced no long-lasting

fruit. Funds for the northern apostolate stopped with Emperor Louis's death. After 13 years' work in Hamburg, Ansgar saw it burned to the ground by invading Northmen;

Sweden and Denmark returned to paganism.

The age of the Vikings dawned, and it would be two centuries before Christianity would again flourish and spread across the northern arc of Europe. Yet even that second evangelization would come to an end! In the sixteenth century, Scandinavia abandoned Catholicism for Lutheranism.

Ansgar's biographers remark that he was an extraordinary preacher, a humble and ascetical priest. He was devoted to the poor and the sick, imitating the Lord in washing their feet and waiting on them at table. He died peacefully at Bremen, Germany, without achieving his wish to be a martyr.

Sweden became pagan again after his death, and remained so until the coming of missionaries two centuries later. St. Ansgar shares the celebration of his feast day with St. Blaise on February 3rd.

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

Four Women “Quattro Donne”

subtitle, ***A North End Love Story***

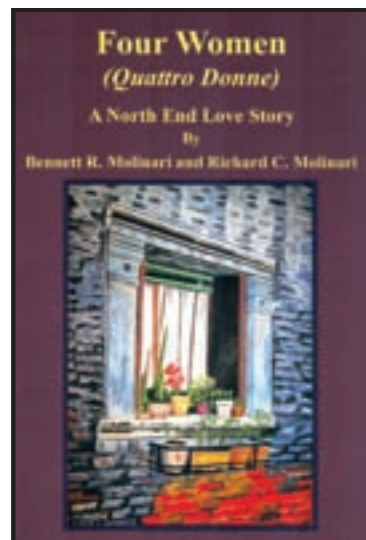
In the next few weeks this column will feature excerpts from this book.

CHAPTER 68

Back at Grandma's, the Telegram

(continued)

Grandma folded the telegram and ceremoniously placed it back in its envelope. Once she had it safely tucked inside, she placed it on the table and quietly said, "Now, what are we going to do? The relatives in Italy have spoken, and you know what they expect of us." "Carmela," Auntie Angie spoke up. "You are the closest to Pietro. You're closer to him in age and personality. He's staying with you and your family, the boys get along well with him, and Joe likes him. You know Pietro best, and you can influence him. I know at heart, we would love to see him and Carla together, but the relatives in Italy don't want it. He is their son. They expect us to do the right thing. You heard the telegram, we have no choice. Pietro must return as he came to us." "Angie, that's impossible. He has fallen in love with Carla, things have changed, and they will never be the same. How can you say he could go back to Italy as if nothing happened?" "Carmela is right," Auntie Stella spoke up. "If the couple love each other, why should anyone stand in their way?" "Stella, shut your mouth," Auntie Angie reprimanded with frustration, evident in her voice. "You always say the opposite thing." "Angie, I mean it," Auntie Stella replied. "I'm still single and know how much I would love to find someone who cares for me," Auntie Stella revealed. "If the couple love each other, no one should stand in their way." Grandma looked up and



directly into Auntie Stella's eyes. She seemed both startled and surprised at her daughter's revelation. Her eyes became teary as she said, "Stella, *non sapevo* (I didn't know). Why did you keep this to yourself all these years?" "Ma," Auntie Stella responded. "You know I love being with you, but like Angie and Carmela, I would love to have had a family of my own, and because I know how I feel, I believe I can speak for Carla and Pietro when I say, no one should stand in their way if they truly love each other." Grandma, reached across the table for Auntie Stella's hand, grasped it, and quietly said, "*Figlia mia*" (My daughter.) With that gesture and simple words, she was able to convey her wishes to her daughters, and the little group came to a common decision, they would not stand in the way of Pietro and Carla.

The unexpected consensus was a relief to all. Before another word was spoken, Grandma spoke up. "We must

send a telegram to Gerardo and Velia and ask them to call us at Angie's house on Friday at 11 o'clock in the morning. It's the only way we can explain to them the seriousness of the situation and how difficult it is."

Finally, the tension was broken, and a decision made. The four women began kissing each other from cheek to cheek in relief. Mom then spoke up, "How are we going to bring Carla and Pietro together? No one wants this relationship to continue, neither his parents nor hers. It's going to take a miracle." Grandma turned toward Auntie Angie, as she always did in moments of anxiety. Reading her mind, Auntie immediately spoke out, "Mama, we will pray for a miracle and place everything in God's Hands." Her words calmed Grandma. She repeated them, "*Sì, metteremo tutto nelle Mani di Dio* (Yes, we will place everything in God's Hands). He'll show us what to do." The women began composing the telegram expressing their sentiments, which Mom later took to Western Union.

Four Women “Quattro Donne” A North End Love Story, is available at R. Del Gaudio Gift Shop, 17 North Square North End (617-227-5915), adjoining Paul Revere House; Post-Gazette; Saint Francis Book Store and Gift Shop at Saint Leonard Peace Garden; lulu.com; molinaridesign.net; Amazon.com; and Barnes and Noble.com. Bookshop.org; Barbara’s Bestsellers, South Station (857-263-8737); Greetings from Boston, Faneuil Hall.

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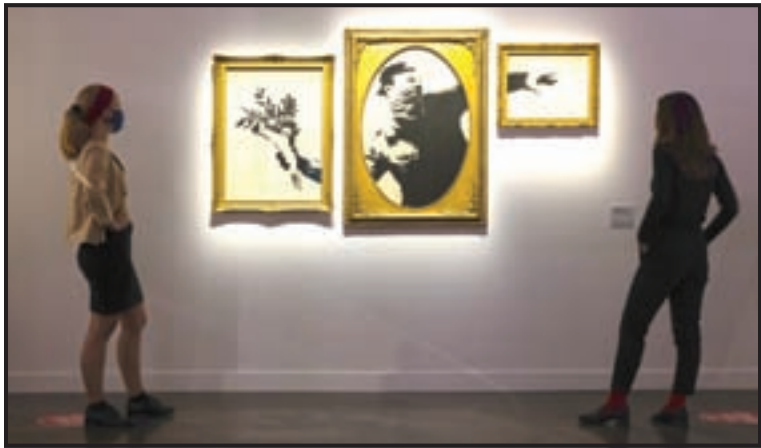
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The Art of Banksy Exhibition

Brings Over 100 Original Works by the Elusive Street Artist to the Boston Market February 17th in Harvard Square

World-famous Pieces from Private Collections Including “Flower Thrower” and “Girl with Balloon” Will Be Hung Among Works Rarely Seen by the General Public



Flower Thrower — The Art of Banksy Chicago

The Art of Banksy, the largest touring exhibition of authentic Banksy artworks in the world, announced that its Boston location will be one of the Harvard Coop’s buildings, located at 12 Palmer Street in Harvard Square. *The Art of Banksy* will feature over 100 original works from private collectors across the globe, offering a rare opportunity to view authenticated and certified Banksy artworks rarely seen by the general public. The exhibition will run from Thursday, February 17th through Sunday, April 3rd and tickets are on sale now at banksyexhibit.com.

In true Banksy style, *The Art of Banksy* is not authorized or curated in collaboration with the artist, but rather sourced from private collections allowing the public to see works that would otherwise stay hidden in private homes

or warehouses. The exhibition features many of Banksy’s most recognizable images, including *Flower Thrower*, *Rude Copper* and original variations of the infamous *Girl with Balloon*, famously shredded at auction in 2018 and sold for a record \$21.8 million in London last month. The canvasses, screen prints, sculptures, one-off and limited-edition pieces on display date between 1997 and 2008, a period which resulted in Banksy’s most distinguishable works.

Banksy, whose identity is the art world’s most closely guarded secret, is an enigmatic artist and world-recognized political activist. His graffiti-influenced stencil technique, often combined with anti-establishment slogans, is immediately recognizable and never fails to generate immediate attention. Banksy’s works are seen on

city walls, bridges and streets throughout the world, but *The Art of Banksy* offers a rare chance to see a multitude of works up close all in one location.

“This is a one-of-a-kind exhibition. You will never again have the opportunity to see this many of Banksy’s works in one place. Once the exhibition is over, the artwork will be returned to art collectors around the world, and the chances that they will be displayed together again in the future are extremely slim,” said **Corey Ross**, President & CEO, Starvox Exhibits, which is presenting the exhibit alongside GTP Exhibitions, the producers of *The Art of Banksy Boston*.

Seen by more than a million worldwide, *The Art of Banksy* has already generated excitement in London, Melbourne, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Auckland, Chicago and Toronto, with rave reviews from critics all around the world. *The Chicago Tribune* advised, “try it without smirking or taking a selfie. That’s not possible.” *Marie Claire* proclaimed it “A must see!” while *TimeOut Toronto* described *The Art of Banksy* as “a welcome reminder of the explosive impact of the artist’s works, and of the powerful potential of street art.”

Tickets for the exhibition are on sale now at banksyexhibit.com.

(Photo by Kyle Flubacker)

• **Thinking** (Continued from Page 4)



Kudos to Boston First Responders United

As Ben Franklin warned back during the American Revolution, those who were willing to surrender their liberty for protection actually deserve neither. It was true when he said it and remains true today.

Most people throughout our history have been uncomfortable in raising their voices and just put up with injustice. It takes heroes willing to risk things like the Freedom Fighters back during the Civil Rights Era when defying the law could really hurt or kill you.

Back in my college years, I turned into a campus activist and writer. I marched in protest against U.S. Vietnam War policies. In 1974, after college, I continued marching in the streets over forced busing in Boston and what I considered an unjust Federal Court order.

In 1981 in Charlestown, I helped my neighbors in taking hold of the Winthrop Street Firehouse where Engine 50 was stationed. We, as a people together took the building and apparatus hostage for 30 days before Mayor White decided to keep both the firehouse and engine company. Had folks just given up in the fight that firehouse would be luxury housing today.

My claim to fame as a street activist was a few months after

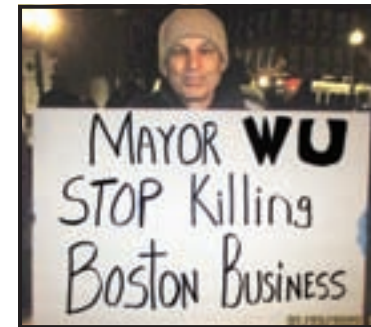
that firehouse was reopened when both East Boston activists joined by Charlestown folks blocked the Summer-Callahan tunnels at rush hour in hopes of saving another fire apparatus in the East Boston community. I ended up becoming infamous as a member of the “Charlestown 7” who got arrested that evening along with East Boston protesters. Exactly four years after being arrested for my act of civil disobedience, I was appointed a police officer for the Massachusetts Mental Health Department where I would serve for the next 28 years before retiring two weeks after the Boston Marathon Bombings.

I still stay in the fight but in more recent years, I have used my writing as a form of protest when necessary. I still can march if needed or attend protest rallies like the one on January 23rd at the Prado and then spread the word in my political commentaries like this one here.

In closing, I repeat what President Reagan so eloquently put forth that we are always just one generation away from losing everything we have, which is why people should never be afraid of standing up for our liberty guaranteed us by the Bill of Rights.



“Medical Freedom New Civil Rights Movement” banner held up by rally supporters



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WAYNE’S WORLD (Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Wayne’s World celebrates 30 years with this limited edition Steelbook released by Paramount Home Entertainment. The party-on movie of the ’90s never gets old with its rockin’ tunes, radical babes and your excellent hosts, Wayne (Mike Myers) and Garth (Dana Carvey), making their big-screen debut in this hysterical send-up of pop culture. Originally released on February 14, 1992, the wildly popular character of Wayne and Garth originated on *Saturday Night Live*, also featured are Rob Lowe, Tia Carrere, and Alice Cooper.

SAINT-NARCISSE (DVD) / Film Movement

Dominic is a young man with a fetish ... for himself. Nothing turns him on more than his own reflection, and he feeds his solitary obsession by posing for Polaroid selfies. Following the death of his beloved grandmother, Dominic begins to unravel the hidden truth about his fractured past. His lesbian mother did not die in childbirth, and he has an identical twin brother, Daniel, who was secretly raised in a remote monastery. Reunited with his long-estranged family, Dominic becomes embroiled in a blasphemous web of sex, revenge and redemption.

A WALK IN THE SUN: COLLECTOR’S SET (DVD) / Kit Parker Films

Lewis Milestone directs this compelling drama of American soldiers in combat during the Allied invasion of Italy in September 1943. Dana Andrews, Richard Conte, John Ireland, Lloyd Bridges, and Norman Lloyd, head a stellar ensemble cast comprising the lead platoon of Texas Division of the U.S. Fifth Army. This eclectic group of citizen-soldiers is thrust into a life-or-death mission to blow up an enemy bridge while attempting to capture a strategic farmhouse heavily garrisoned by German troops. The dilemma of the common soldier trudging to an unknown fate under a blazing Italian sun is captured by the different thoughts and personalities of a disparate group of men under arduous stress. The film’s literate script dramatizes the narrative from the perspective of the infantryman whose mundane routine of service-related ennui is interspersed with heart-pulsing action amid the ever-present specter of sudden death. Once seen, this film in black-and-white should never be forgotten.

MARIONETTE LAND (DVD) / MVD Visual

Marionette Land is an intimate portrait into the wonderful world of Robert Brock and his magical Marionette Theatre. Brock lives above the theatre with his mother and business partner, Mary Lou. From classic marionette shows for families (Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz) to grown-up shows where he straps on his heels to become famous Hollywood divas of the past, you never know what will happen next at the Lancaster Marionette Theatre. But new

personal and professional challenges emerge as Robert and Mary Lou struggle to keep the theatre open while preparing to celebrate its 30th anniversary. *Marionette Land* is a film about doing what you love no matter what.

EL HOMBRE BUFALO (DVD) / IndiePix Films

Inspired by true events, with a surreal aesthetic and disruptive narrative that underscores the disenchantment and dangers of investigative journalism in Mexico, *El Hombre Búfalo*, follows Eric, a young journalist in Mexico City who stops writing after he receives death threats. Obsessed with an elderly homeless man who has dementia and a mythical being who takes care of abandoned children, he decides to write again, even if it costs him his life. Since 2000, at least 133 journalists have been killed in Mexico — rated by the Reporters Without Borders organization as the most dangerous country without war in which to practice journalism, behind only Afghanistan and Syria.

THE FLAG OF IRON (DVD) / 88 Films

Coming from 88 Films USA Label in partnership with MVD on February 8th is another cult classic from the Shaw Brothers Studio. *The Flag of Iron* is a quintessential Hong Kong tale of rivals, betrayal and family feuds. When the master of the Iron Flag clan is killed by a mysterious assassin known only as Spearman, it sets off an explosive chain of events which pits two brothers against each other in an action-packed adventure of fist flying fury. Directed by Chan Cheh, this kinetic and highly influential Kung Fu picture mixes traditional storytelling with more modern presentation techniques, layering acrobatics, the use exotic weaponry and quick as lightning fight sequences to produce a surefire entertaining hit, which no serious collector of martial arts movies can be without.

BACK TO SOLOZ (DVD) / Corinth Films

Beyond a simple personal quest and far from a nostalgic narration by an Armenian lacking roots, *Back to Soloz* from director Serge Avédikian, is a journey through multiple layers. Filmed over the course of four trips and thirty-three years, from 1987 to 2019, the film addresses the history of the village of Soloz, not far from Bursa, in Turkey: the deportation of the Armenian people who lived there, including the filmmaker’s grandfather whose village was located 100 miles south of Istanbul and a stone’s throw from Bursa; exchanges of populations and the settlement of Balkan Muslims in Soloz; shared histories of lost ancestral lands and exile; the near-erasure of the history of Armenians in Soloz and all of Turkey; and a dialogue on possible Armenian-Turkish reconciliation that engages historical truths and identity. *Back to Soloz* is a living encounter between two peoples marked by blood, on the spot of one of the greatest human tragedies of the twentieth century.

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

SOUTH SHORE PET FOOD PANTRY

I help out every month with a veteran’s food pantry distribution at the studios of WAD 95.9FM and WMEX 1510AM in Marshfield. There is still much food insecurity out there and these monthly events help out so many. Additionally, the South Shore Food Pantry shows up with pet food so that no animals go hungry. For more information on its mission, go to southshorepetpantry.com or call 781-277-4981.

MOM STUFFS KID IN TRUNK OVER COVID

Dateline Texas: This story takes the COVID cake. A mom is now facing charges after she allegedly stuffed her 13-year-old son in the trunk of her car because he had tested positive for COVID. She drove him to Houston to a drive-thru COVID testing center.

Witnesses reported hearing noises coming from her trunk as she pulled into the testing center. She was asked to open her trunk; revealing the teen inside. She said she did so to prevent her from being exposed to him while driving there. The police were called and a warrant was issued for her arrest on child endangerment charges.

DOE, RAY, ME, MY DEER

Down in Pennsylvania, a suspected drunk driver was pulled over by the cops and they discovered a live deer in his trunk. She said she found the injured deer on the road that was apparently struck by another car. The police freed the animal after the stop and it ran back into the woods. She thought it was a dead deer before it started making noise in the back of her car, but kept driving anyway. The 19-year-old driver is being investigated for suspicion of driving under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. No kidnapping charges were filed against her and the deer isn’t pressing any charges,

only glad to have gotten away from her.

RONNIE SPECTOR, RIP

Ronnie Spector, the cat-eyed, bee-hived rocking siren who was remembered for hits like “Be My Baby” and “Walking in the Rain” and also was the leader of the girl band The Ronettes has recently passed away at 78. She has been called the voice of a million teen dreams. Back in the day, the band often toured with the Rolling Stones.

SHANA COTTONE HAS COURAGE AND CHUTZPAH, TOO

Whether you agree with Sgt. Shana Cottone or not on vaccine passport mandates, you have to admit it takes courage to stand up and speak out for your individual liberty. She doesn’t think it is anybody’s business whether or not she has been vaccinated and won’t comply with proving her vaccination status. She’s currently on administrative leave, something many think happened when she formed Boston First Responders United anti-vaccination group and started speaking out on the issue.

She recently ended up in a confrontation with Boston police officers who were called to a Pizzeria Regina restaurant on Boylston Street in Boston by the store manager because she would not show her vaccination status.

NO PAPERS? YOU MUST EAT IN THE COLD OUTSIDE!

Cottone and her friends had purchased two pizzas and drinks and were seated at a large table together waiting for her order to arrive. Apparently, the employee who waited on her at the counter didn’t ask about vaccination status and took her order.

I am pretty sure I heard Mayor Michelle Wu state that the police would not be enforcing this city mandate. However, there were three officers demanding some kind of vaccination paper work. This incident went viral as it was being taped by those

waiting for their pizza order.

An executive vaccination mandate in the City of Boston is not law. It is just a mayoral executive order not voted on by the city council and signed by the mayor. Kudos to Shana Cottone for standing up for her rights and not being afraid of standing in defiance of any loss of freedom in the name of the pandemic.

VFW POST BACK DANCING AGAIN

The VFW Post #6712 in Beachmont is back up and dancing again. Live music, this Friday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. performed by the “Kick Back” band. Get those dancing shoes on again. For more information, call the Post at 617-418-5476.

THE WOLFE TONES CONCERT THIS MARCH

The Wolfe Tones will be performing for one night only at the Strand Theater in the Uphams Corner section of Dorchester on Sunday, March 13th. For tickets, visit the Strand Theater website at www.strandtheatre/boston.gov

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO REMEMBER

Jimmy Jay from WMEX Boston just celebrated his 72nd birthday this past January 11th ... The legendary R&B singer Sam Cook would have been 91 on January 22nd.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22C0021CA
In the Matter of
ASHLEY ELIZABETH NOVAK
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Ashley Elizabeth Novak of Stoneham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Ashley Elizabeth Bagwell.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of February 10, 2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court
Date: January 13, 2022
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 01/28/2022

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

The POST-GAZETTE newspaper is a paper of general circulation. We are qualified to accept legal notices from any court in each town that we serve.

LEGAL NOTICES

For information on placing a Legal Notice in the POST-GAZETTE please email postgazette@aol.com call (617) 227-8929, or mail notice to: POST-GAZETTE P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113 Attn: Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI21P5903EA
Estate of
MARGUERITE S. SWAIN
Also Known As
MARGUERITE STAY SWAIN,
MARGUERITE SWAIN
Date of Death: May 18, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Cynthia Swain** of **Buffalo, NY**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Cynthia Swain of **Buffalo, NY** 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: 01/28/2022


LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI21P0783EA
Estate of
DENISE DAVIS
Date of Death: October 12, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jerrill Ugwunze** of **Brockton, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Jerrill Ugwunze of **Brockton, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Run date: 01/28/2022

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



I have not seen a lot of snow since the blizzard of '78. When that storm hit in February of 1978, we got a winter's worth of snow all at once. This winter, we've been getting hit with a few inches at a time. The problem I have at this point in time is that everyone prevents me from shoveling or plowing out the snow that we get. To keep my loved ones quiet, I have hired a snow removal company headed by a young man who grew up with my son, Michael. My problem is that we live on a street that is a bus route. The minute one snow flake hits the ground; the plows are out clearing the way for public transportation. This means that if we get a sizable amount of snow, I could have a plowed mountain across my driveway. Loretta tells me that I'm too old to shovel my way out and maybe she's right. So, I leave the snow removal to the professionals.

Snow was the main reason we left East Boston back in the 1960s ... no place to park. When I was a kid, Dad had one of the few cars that was parked on Eutaw Street. He, Al Luis, Marie Alexander, Marjorie Warren, Bert Marotta and a couple of other neighbors owned cars; most did not. As a result, there was never any trouble parking. As a matter of fact, Dad never had to secure his shoveled parking spot by placing barriers like old chairs, barrels or saw horses in them. Everyone knew that the spot in front of #74 Eutaw was my father's and they left it alone. At night, Dad would return home from wherever he was playing, park in his dug-out spot, take his bass violin out of the car and head into the house. But, beginning around 1950, things began to change.

The neighborhood began to change by mid-century. Many of the old timers began to die off, houses were sold and new people began to move to the Eagle Hill section of East Boston. This was combined with the fact that many of my folks generation began to move to the suburbs. When this began to happen, most of the new comers owned cars, and as time went on, parking sometimes became a problem. At one point in the '50s, the city passed an ordinance regarding parking restrictions. You could only park on the even numbered side of the street on certain days and the odd numbered side on the alternate days. If you violated this, you might get a parking ticket. This made it more difficult for Dad who came home sometime after midnight most nights of the week.

By the mid to late 1950s, most of my generation that grew up on Eutaw Street owned cars which added to the parking problem. This meant that Dad might have to drop off his bass violin while double parked and then go hunting for a parking space somewhere in the neighborhood. When I became a professional musician, I had the same problem, but I was a

kid and things like hunting for a parking space didn't bother me like they did my father. Disgruntled during the winter months, Dad began talking about moving to the suburbs.

Actually, he had wanted to buy a house in the burbs before this point in time, but my mother wouldn't hear of it. She wanted to be close to Nanna and Babbononno. By the mid-1950s, my grandparents were living in an apartment at 199 Lexington Street, near the corner of Putnam. Babbononno had sold 70 Eutaw Street to the Pina family. Uncle Paul had moved his family to St. Edwards Road in Orient Heights, Uncle Nick was living in Brookline going through a divorce and Uncle Gino and his new wife, Ninna, had an apartment on Saratoga Street. We were living at 74 Eutaw and the big house at #70 became too much for Nanna to handle. Once the house was sold, my grandparents moved to Princeton Street, then later, Lexington Street, both locations within walking distance from where we lived which meant that Mom could take care of her parents whenever it was necessary.

In 1957, Nanna developed breast cancer and passed away just before Christmas in 1958. Cancer cures were primitive back then, and she really suffered. After her passing, Babbononno moved in with us which allowed my mother to take care of her father every day. The five room third floor walk-up became a bit crowded, but we managed. Every time Dad mentioned moving to the suburbs, Mom and Babbononno would gang up on him and the subject went nowhere.

I graduated college in June of 1960 and began teaching drafting in the Boston Schools. Like Dad and my uncles, I was now a professional musician playing several nights of the week. With so many cars now on Eutaw Street, parking was getting more difficult especially during the winter months when there was snow on the ground. One night, Dad was playing with his band and went an hour overtime. When he left the function hall, there were several inches of snow on the ground and he carefully drove home. He stopped in front of the house, brought his bass inside and then drove around the neighborhood for a half hour before finding a place to park. He walked home with his snow filled shoes on his feet, swearing all the way. When he got home, he, surprisingly, poured himself a shot of cognac (he was a teetotaler) and complained about the parking situation, waking everyone up in the process.

The next day, he began to look at houses in the suburbs. Uncle Gino and Aunt Ninna had moved to Belmont and Dad liked the town. When he mentioned it to my mother, she would have none of it. She was an East Bostonian and would

not move. Babbononno sided in with her. By the winter of 1961, Dad found a house in Belmont. When he discussed it with friends and relatives, they told him he was crazy because of the price, "You can buy the same house in Medford for \$10,000 less or Saugus for \$8,000 less. His reply was always, But, I want Belmont." When he intensified his desire verbally, Mom refused to go. He then told her that he would continue to pay for the apartment at 74 Eutaw Street, and she and Babbononno could stay there, but he was moving to Belmont. I was in graduate school, living at home, and agreed to move with him.

Mom panicked and told Babbononno that her place was with her husband and if he wanted to buy a house in the suburbs, then her place was with her husband. Babbononno grumbled, but had no say in the matter. So, in the spring of 1961, we moved to Belmont. That first night, I couldn't sleep. There were no planes flying overhead. There were no sirens blasting away. There was no traffic noise. The quiet kept me awake. Dad was happy and Mom made new friends in the neighborhood. Although they weren't Italian, my mother fit in and became a Belmontonian. Babbononno was never happy there, and in his old age, moved back to East Boston. My folks remained in that same Belmont house for the rest of their lives and loved it ... no parking problems due to a garage and a long driveway. I'm getting older and can't handle the cold any longer, so I spend the winters in Florida with no snow or parking problems. Do you think I made the right move?

GOD BLESS AMERICA

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 12, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

2006 INFINITI G35
VIN # JNKC5V51F86M608444

2003 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT
Vin # WVWMD63B73P279447

2003 HONDA CIVIC
VIN # 1HGEM22533L039703

2014 CHEVROLET SONIC
Vin # 1G1JC6SG5E4100113

2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
VIN # 1GCEK19T93E353282

2007 HONDA CIVIC
VIN # 2HGFA16527H508087

2013 NISSAN ROGUE
VIN # JN8AS5MV4DW630743

2007 LEXUS IS
VIN # JTHCK262575010661

2012 BUICK LACROSSE
VIN # 1G4GD5E35cF332175

2004 NISSAN ARMADA
VIN # 5N1AA08B54N701080

2006 BMW 325XI
VIN # WBAVD13506KV04887

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

Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
Run dates: 01/28, 02/04, 02/11/2022



by
Marianna Bisignano



Step into a pastry shop or *pasticceria* in Sicily and you are sure to find an assortment of dry biscuits that are perfect for "dunking" at breakfast time or just about any other time of the day. To name a few, among these "dunking biscuits" are the sweet *Frollini*, the *Umberto* and of course, the well-loved *Biscotti al Latte Siciliani* or Sicilian Milk Biscuits!

When I was a little girl, I remember watching my Grandpa Francesco take milk biscuits and break them in a bowl. He would then pour milk over them and then eat them with a spoon for breakfast. The biscuits found in Sicily are those he loved best, which meant they were typically made with lard and ammonia for sweets. These ingredients are not always easy to find for those living in the states. So, my Nonna made a version of *Biscotti al Latte Siciliani* or Sicilian Milk Biscuits that used vegetable shortening and baking powder, and were just as delicious. In fact, Grandpa Francesco never knew the difference between hers and the ones he loved from Sicily. *Biscotti al Latte Siciliani* are perfect for breakfast when dunked in a warm cup of coffee or milk, and equally as scrumptious to snack on any time of day!

SICILIAN MILK COOKIES
Biscotti al Latte Siciliani



- 2 eggs
1 cup sugar
½ cup vegetable shortening (I use Crisco)
Grated rind (zest) of 1 organic lemon

½ cup whole milk, room temperature
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
¼ to ½ cup whole milk for brushing biscuits

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, shortening and lemon zest, add in milk and mix well. Gradually add in the flour, baking powder and salt. With your hands, mix together and then turn the mixture onto a lightly floured dough board. Knead until you have a soft, smooth dough. Shape dough into a ball, wrap with plastic wrap, and place in the refrigerator for 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°. Remove dough from refrigerator and make biscuits by taking even sized scoops of dough, rolling them into a 7 to 8-inch pencil shape, then folding in half and twisting. Place biscuits on prepared baking sheet and brush generously with milk. Place in preheated oven and bake 15 to 20 minute, until light golden color. Cool and store in an airtight glass or metal container.

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

BOSTON ITALIAN RADIO

Itali-Echo with *Viviana Dragani*

WNTN1550 AM RADIO

Streaming

www.wntn1550am.com

MONDAY - FRIDAY
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The Federal Trade Commission works for the consumer to prevent fraud and deception.
Call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or log on to www.ftc.gov.

THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

Russians in Afghanistan



Mujahideen fighters

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which began on December 24, 1979 and lasted until February of 1989, defined the 1980s, but it marked the end of the Cold War after 40 years and the beginning of the United States’ volatile relationship with Afghanistan. Ironically, it signaled the bettering of America’s relationship with Russia.

Ostensibly, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan to uphold the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978, installing Babrak Karmal, leader of the Marxist People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan, as head of the country. But the true motives were deeply rooted in the ongoing Cold War.

The United States had formed strong alliances with several countries in the Middle East by 1979, including Israel, Jordan and (until the revolution that same year) Iran. The Soviet Union wanted to establish its own stronghold in the region and what better place than Afghanistan where the Saur Revolution of 1978 saw Afghanistan’s Communist Party take over?

What the Soviets were not counting on, however, were two factors that led to their ultimate demise. The displeasure the Islamist faction of the country toward the secular Marxist regime.

Almost from the start, the Soviets were met with violent resistance.

The Sunni-based Mujahideen led the strongest resistance, attacking Soviet bases and disappearing into the mountains before the military could react. For the Soviets, fighting the mujahideen was akin to fighting a ghost.

Internationally as well the Soviet invasion was widely condemned. The Islamic world was almost unanimous in demanding the Soviet withdrawal while the UN voted to protest the invasion. Around this period, the Afghani insurgency began receiving a lot of support from the Western world, notably the United States in Great Britain. Supplies, artillery, and sustenance were sent. The United States in particular saw this as a culmination of the ongoing struggle with the Soviet Union and imposed heavy sanctions on their old enemy, most symbolically a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

As the ‘80s progressed the role of the United States became more intricate. Representatives of the mujahideen even visited the White House to discuss aid



Lastly, the media back home in Russia, never known for its forthcomingness, hid the reality of the war not only to suppress bad news but out of shame that the Soviet Army was not met with universal welcome.

The Soviet casualties were high, close to 15,000 were killed and the amount spent on a fruitless war was a contributing factor to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Afghanistan, however, was left in ruins. Up to two million Afghani may have been killed (though other estimates go as low as half a



Soviet troops in withdrawal

in defeating a common enemy with President Reagan. This culminated in the introduction of the anti-aircraft missiles by the United States in 1987. Within the next two years, with the help of the United States artillery, the resistance fighters of Afghanistan had downed 118 Soviet jets and 333 helicopters and almost 150 tanks.

Soon after, the newly elected Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. By February of 1989 the last of the Soviet troops had left though the struggle against government officials still in the country continued until 1992.

There were a number of factors that led to the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan. Chief among them was the Red Army’s lack of training with an enemy benefiting from a vast rocky terrain in which to hide. In addition, sheer numbers played a detrimental role. At its height, the Russian forces was around 115,000 strong, most of them conscript.

million), but the real devastation was the number of civilians that fled the country, leaving Afghanistan a nation without the resources, finances and, now, the population to rebuild.

With the Soviets gone and the Cold War, for all intents and purposes, over, the Western powers now had little interest in Afghanistan and the country they had once helped to bring down a powerful empire was left to fend for itself.

This brought Afghanistan to a bloody civil war in the next act of the struggle and, with few alternatives, the forsaken turned to extremists like Osama Ben Laden, who now had our weapons and our training ...

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI21P6321EA

Estate of
ANTHONY A. TOMASETTI
Also Known As
ANTHONY TOMASETTI, SKIP TOMASETTI

Date of Death: October 09, 2021

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Linda M. Tomasetti of Natick, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Linda M. Tomasetti of Natick, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 01/28/2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI21P6321EA

Estate of
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Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 05, 2022 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2019 DODGE CHARGER
VIN # 2C3CDXHGXH578766

2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON
VIN # KM8J3CA42GU206529

2005 MAZDA 6
VIN # 1YVFP80C455M29080

2020 MERCEDES C CLASS
VIN # W1KWJ8HB7LF989577

2008 NISSAN MURANO
VIN # JN8AZ08TX7W515401

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

Signed
D & G Towing

Run dates: 01/21, 01/28, 02/04/2022

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by tears. At least, such is my experience. I have often sung to drown my sorrow, but seldom to express my happiness. Crying for joy, and singing for joy, were alike uncommon to me while in the jaws of slavery. The singing of a man cast away upon a desolate island might be as appropriately considered as evidence of contentment and happiness, as the singing of a slave; the songs of the one and of the other are prompted by the same emotion.”

— Frederick Douglass
Some Sound Advice to Remember

No matter how far you go down the wrong road, we can always turn back.

Kamala What Time is it?
“It is time for us to do what we’ve been doing and that time is every day.” (Actual quote)
— Vice President Kamala Harris
Hats Getting Thrown Into ‘22 Races

Boston NAACP President and Attorney Tanisha Sullivan launched her campaign for secretary of state. She is the first Democrat to announce her bid to the office long held by Secretary of State Bill Galvin who has yet to say if he intends to seek an 8th term.

Meanwhile, Rayla Campbell who ran unsuccessfully for the 7th House district in 2020 has

announced her candidacy as a Republican challenging Galvin as well later this year.

Ricardo Arroyo Considering a Bid for Suffolk DA
District 5 Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo is the latest name floating around to be running for the Suffolk County District Attorney seat. Another candidate Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty is also rumored to be mulling a run for Suffolk DA, too.

Where’s Your Mask? Pow!!!
Recently, an irate customer was told by the manager over at Regina Pizzeria here in the North End that he couldn’t enter without wearing a mask. The customer refused to put a mask on, pushed his way inside and then punched the manager in the face.

The suspect fled the restaurant and has yet to be apprehended.

End Quotes
We hope our Republican colleagues change course and work with us. But if they do not, the Senate will debate and consider changes to Senate rules on or before January 17th ... to protect the foundation of our democracy: free and fair elections.”

— U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, D-NY in a letter to his colleagues earlier in January concerning ending the filibuster
“Everything you’re looking for lies behind the mask you wear.”
— Dalai Lama

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 539A, that on **February 21, 2022 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2005 AUDI A6, BLACK
Vin # WAUDG74F75N099721
Ron K. Dupie
11 Nottingham St., Apt. 1
Boston, MA 02121

2014 NISSAN SENTRA, GRAY
Vin # 3N1AB7AP8EY327927
Barbara Agri
P.O. Box 80323
Stoneham, MA 02180

2005 HONDA ACCORD, BLACK
Vin # 1HGCM56465A105301
Francheska Rivera
25 Francis St., Apt. A
N Andover, MA 01845

2001 BMW X5, BROWN
Vin # WBAFA53551LM90542
John Czerwinka
187 Page St.
Stoughton, MA 02072

2004 FORD RANGER, GRAY
Vin # 1FTYR11U64PA96455
Linda M. Larrabee
19 Donnas Way
Seabrook, NH 03874

Run dates: 01/28, 02/04, 02/11/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Export Enterprises, Inc., 50 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after **February 05, 2022 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2001 SUBARU LEGACY
VIN # 4S3BH675717615448

1998 TOYOTA AVALON
VIN # 4T1BF18B8WU281643

2007 MITSUBISHI GALANT
VIN # 4A3AB36F27E030994

1993 BMW 318
VIN # WBABE5315PJA06277

2004 MAZDA TRIBUTE
VIN # 4F2YZ04114KM19996

2005 FORD E450
VIN # 1FDXE45S55HA14806

Vehicles are being stored at 142 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Export Enterprises, Inc.

Run dates: 01/21, 01/28, 02/04/2022

Remember Your Loved Ones



The Post-Gazette accepts memorials throughout the year.

Please call
617-227-8929

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI21P6609EA

Estate of
BEVERLY M. VISNICK

Date of Death: November 09, 2021

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Alan L. Visnick of Beverly, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Alan L. Visnick of Beverly, MA, Burton S. Visnick of Newton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 29, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN # 4T1BF1FK1HU659534
2019 HONDA CIVIC
VIN # 2HGFC2F69KH582723
2009 HONDA PILOT
VIN # 5FNYP48969B046779
2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER
VIN # 1GNDT13S042341976
2009 FORD FOCUS
VIN # 1FAHP35N79W183983

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

Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
Run dates: 01/14, 01/21, 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI21D4639DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
LUZ MARY QUIROZ PATINO
vs.
FREDDIE FERNANDEZ

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 **Luz M. Quiroz Patino, 32 Pemberton Street, Cambridge, MA 02140**, your answer, if any, on or before **February 22, 2022**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 11, 2022

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Pat's Towing, 160 McGrath Highway, Somerville, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after **February 05, 2022 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2007 BMW 525XI
VIN # WBANF33567CS40804
2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
VIN # KMH DU4ADXA U936325
2020 MAZDA CX-30
VIN # 3MVDMBCL8LM119034
2016 MAZDA CX-3
VIN # JM1DKBC7XG0123380
2000 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN # 2T1BR12E9YC290835
ORANGE SCOOTER/MOPED
VIN # VY2A29128MK780535
YAMAHA MOTOR CORP. SCOOTER/MOPED
VIN # JTA4FBA04SA028385
2014 TAOTAO PALADIN 150
VIN # L9NTELKA1E1050141
2021 ZNEN ZN50QT
VIN # L5YACBAV4M112035
2008 FORD FOCUS
VIN # 1FAHP35N68W212775
2003 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 3HGCM56363G713793
2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN # 4T1BE46K07U623353
2020 CHEVROLET MALIBU
VIN # 1G1ZD5ST9LF034660
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN # 1N4AL2AP7CC18156
2009 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN # 1N4AL21E09N527964

Vehicles are being stored at 142 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Pat's Towing
Run dates: 01/21, 01/28, 02/04/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22D0037DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
LEONIE CIVIL
vs.
ANTOINE M. CHARLES

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 **Leonie Civil, 22 Howard St., #23, Melrose, MA 02176**, your answer, if any, on or before **February 22, 2022**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 11, 2022

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI21P6443EA
Estate of
BARBARA L. GRAVES
Date of Death: November 22, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Debra D. Carli of Wilmington, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Debra D. Carli of Wilmington, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
Lowell Justice Center
370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 656-7700
Docket No. MI21P6023EA
Estate of
TODD JOSEPH CARMEL
Date of Death: October 13, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christopher W. Carmel of Framingham, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Christopher W. Carmel of Framingham, MA, has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 01/28/2022



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



Roger Clemens was the Best Pitcher in Baseball, then ...

I recall that young lanky hurler named Roger Clemens who first took to the mound back in 1984, I knew from the start that he would become one hell of a pitcher and most likely the best in Red Sox history, which is what he indeed was! Two seasons later, at age 24, he was the most dominating pitcher, winning the Cy Young and MVP Awards going 24-4 and taking us into the World Series versus the Mets. Boston went from a 3-2 lead in



the series to losing it in seven games.

Over 13 seasons with Boston, he was 192-111 and tied for all-time winningest pitcher with the great Cy Young. Had Clemens retired right then, he would have been a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame but he wasn't quite ready to hang it up. He left the Red Sox for the Blue Jays following the 1996 season. Fan reaction to his exit was mixed. After all, from the 1993 season until 1996, he went a subpar 40-39 and he was not looking that good on the mound.

However, he had his moments

in that final 1996 Boston season when on August 17th, he threw his second 20 strikeout game matching his own record in a game he first accomplished back in April of 1986 when he did it against the Mariners and here he was 10 seasons later doing it again against the Tigers. He never won another game with the Sox that season and finished 10-13.

When he returned with Toronto the following April, he looked like his old self, winning at least 20 games in both 1997-98 and Cy Young Awards both seasons. Rumors started spreading that he was on the juice and followed him for the remainder of his career. He next went to the dreaded Yankees and his success continued and the rumors grew stronger. He ended his career with the Houston Astros while slowing down from age; he was still great on the mound.

After 24 years in baseball, he retired with 354-184, 4,672 strikeouts, 7 Cy Young Awards and a lifetime 3.13 ERA. That should be more than enough to enter Cooperstown but tonight (January 25th) it appears that he will miss out for his 10th time and move to the veterans committee henceforth.

As of Tuesday morning of this week, it appears that Dave Ortiz will get elected into Cooperstown and leaving both Clemens and Barry Bonds still outside and looking in.

Eventually, I see both Clemens and Bonds getting in but we are sadly still years away from that day. More time has to elapse since they finished their careers and the Steroid Era fades further back in time.

Major League Baseball is mostly to blame, they knew what was happening and apparently didn't care to notice anything because baseball parks were overflowing with paying customers. For some players, steroids were a fact, but for many all you needed hanging over your head is allegations and a preponderance of evidence.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22C0009CA
In the Matter of
SCHEREZADE ALI AKBAR KHAN
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Scherezade Ali Akbar Khan of Somerville, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Scherezade Ahmad Khan**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of February 09, 2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court
Date: January 12, 2022

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI21P6495EA
Estate of
WILLIAM JOSEPH SCHWALM
Also Known As
WILLIAM J. SCHWALM
Date of Death: December 29, 2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Gregory K. Schwalm of Avon, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Gregory K. Schwalm of Avon, CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of February 16, 2022.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 22, 2021

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 05, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN # 4T1BE46K97U648462
2008 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # JHMCP26358C049967
2011 MAZDA MX5
VIN # JM1NC2JF7B0218788
2007 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN # 1N4CL21E17C155276
2009 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCP26339A098097
2012 KIA SOUL
VIN # KNDJT2A66C7367880
2007 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCM56837A124183

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

Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
Run dates: 01/21, 01/28, 02/04/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI21P6354EA
Estate of
SUZANNE OESTERREICHER
Date of Death: September 25, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jeffrey G. Freudberg of Newton, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jeffrey G. Freudberg of Newton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 01/28/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P0129PO
TRUST CITATION
In the matter of:
75 GROVE STREET RESIDENCE TRUST

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by **Helen Hellstrom of Bedford, MA** requesting this honorable court remove the current trustee **Richard Maloney** of said trust and appoint successor trustee **Joblin Younger, Esq.** In accordance with c. 203E.

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, 2022.

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. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 14, 2022

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 01/28/2022



Rest in Peace MARION CONNOR

Former New England Heavyweight and Light Heavyweight
Champion Passes at the Age of 81

Marion Connor had a magical smile. When you would see him flash it, it was hard to believe this man had a career in the most violent sport there is. There was a kindness to his face that belied his career as a professional prizefighter. On January 12, 2022, Marion Connor passed away. He had been suffering for a number of years from dementia brought on from his years in the ring.

Marion was born in 1940 in Canton, Ohio. From an early age, he was athletically gifted and anticipated in swimming, basketball, track, and football, but it was boxing that captured his imagination.



The Author with Marion in 1965

I first met Marion Conner in 1965. I was a ten-year-old boy, and my father had taken me to some sort of sporting show. At the time, I was a very shy kid, but for some reason loved to watch boxing on TV. When my father asked me if I would like to meet a real boxer in person, though a bit nervous, I jumped at the chance. He brought me over to this very handsome fellow with the friendliest smile. It was such a thrill for me to meet Marion Conner, and he made me feel like his friend. We squared off for a photo, and I never forgot that moment and the really nice person who made me feel so important.



A disappointed Marion after losing to Joe Frazier

About two years later, I would attend my first professional boxing card. It was on December 18, 1967. My father brought me to the Boston Garden where we were seated a couple of rows behind former Governor Foster Furcolo. As I sat there, I got to see my friend Marion Conner step into the ring with the number one heavyweight contender Joe Frazier. I now had a personal connection right into that ring, and I was so proud of how my friend handled himself. Outweighed by thirty pounds and in with one of the all-time greats, Marion did not give an



Marion Connor

inch. He was not an opponent. He was in there to win and go on to become world champion.

Unfortunately, he had run into one of boxing's greatest fighting machines. Not only had Marion been decked, but the referee went down as well. When you look at a picture taken right after the fight you can see the disappointment etched in Marion's face. He had come to win and felt he had let everyone down. Well, he hadn't let me down. He showed this now 12-year-old what courage and determination was all about. To me he was a winner and a champion, and I was proud of him.



Marion and Emma Connor

Forty-five years later, I would meet Marion Conner once again when he came to Boston to receive an award. We got to have another picture taken, and you can still see that wonderful smile on his face. We talked about his boxing career and how it still pains him that he never became a world champion. How thrilled he was to have met such greats as Joe Louis, Ezzard Charles, and Jersey Joe Walcott. His time living in Roxbury and training at the New Garden Gym, a gym I would later work out at as I tried my hand at a boxing career. His friendship with New England Boxing Champ Larry Carney and how much he respected Larry.

When I asked him about his fighting style, he told me he was an aggressive body puncher with a very strong good left hook to the head, who wore his opponents down. As an amateur, he had competed as a southpaw and was then turned around when he became a pro. In his first fight with Tom McNeeley, Marion credits a part of that win to the fact that he switched to lefty midway through the bout. Boxing scribe Mike Marley remembers the bout that way as well.

When our discussion turned to his fight with Joe Frazier, I was surprised to learn from Marion that his handlers told him to trade left hooks with Joe Frazier. That wasn't very wise advice. I believe Marion's best chance would have been to use his speed and a sneak right hand.

Tragedy struck on November 16, 1966, when Marion met rugged Greatest Crawford of Brooklyn, NY at the Canton Memorial Auditorium. Going into this fight, he had an outstanding record of 30 fights, 23 wins, 6 losses, and 1 draw. Crawford, who was 26 years old, was knocked out in the



And again in 2012

ninth round and was taken to a hospital after efforts to revive him failed. He underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain but succumbed to the injury on November 17, 1966. The tragedy of that night took the fire out of Marion. Marion's wife Emma told me he was never the same after that fight. He would now let up when he had an opponent hurt. In his rematch with Herschel Jacobs, Marion had Jacobs cut but then backed off out of fear of hurting him. His post Crawford record of 7-17-1 shows just what an effect the sad outcome of that fight had on him.

During his career Marion Conner fought many of the top names in an era when boxing was still a sport with many great fighters. Look at his record and along with Joe Frazier, you will see many familiar names. Henry Hank, Herschel Jacobs, Tom McNeeley, Jimmy Dupree, Levan Roundtree, Mark Tessman, Billy Tisdale, Billy Douglas, and Ronnie Harris to name just a few. It is also something to note that Joe Frazier had 37 bouts against 30 different opponents. Only two of them were light heavyweights, one being Bob Foster and the other Marion Conner. Quite an exclusive club to be in.

It has been a long time since that ten-year-old boy first met the boxer with the warm smile, but he is still the man I remember so well from that day. When heard he had died I felt very sad. I know he is still smiling.

Marion and his lovely wife Emma had just celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary in November. Emma was his strength. In his later years, Marion devoted much time at the Food Ministry at the Community Life Church of God in Christ. He was a good man.

So long Champ, you will be missed.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



It will be a homecoming for a player who began his career in the area as one of the Hub's most promising prospects but who then went west to find a place where he could blossom.

Welcome home Ryan Donato, former Harvard star and top Bruins prospect who visits the Garden with his new team — the Seattle Kraken — on February 1st — as a member of the National Hockey League's newest team.

It will be Seattle's first stop in the Hub in the brief history of the franchise and the only appearance of the Western Conference team in the Garden this year. But for Donato, who grew up on the South Shore in Scituate and who once played briefly for the Bruins, it will be a return to the familiar, to a region where he learned the game and went on to be a college star.

There will be some very interested spectators taking it all in, of course, chief among them being Ted Donato, Ryan's father, who is currently the head coach at Harvard University and who also once played for the Bruins.

Another one taking in the proceedings with interest will be Bruins GM Don Sweeney, also a Harvard alumnus who had a lengthy career as a Bruins defenseman, most of it underappreciated since he spent the bulk of it patrolling the back end in the shadow of Ray Bourque. It was Sweeney who signed Ryan to his first professional contract as a Bruin.

The Bruins had their eyes on Donato for a long time, having selected him in the second round (56th overall) in the 2014 NHL Draft. Like many players, Donato decided not to sign right away but to continue the development of his career in the ranks of scholastic hockey and in college.

When he eventually laced up the skates to play for the Crimson in the fall of 2015, he did not disappoint, earning accolades as the top freshman on the team while playing in 32 games and amassing 21 points on 13 goals and eight assists. Those numbers led to him being named the top freshman on the team.

The following year (2016-2017) he was named the Ivy League Player of the Year as he saw action in all 36 games, registering 21 goals and 19 assists for a total of 40 points.

For his junior season (2017-2018), a campaign that also saw him play for Team USA at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, he played 29 games for the Crimson, finding the range for 29 goals and 17 assists for a total of 42 points as he led Harvard in scoring. At the Olympics he had five goals and one assist in five games that saw Team USA finish seventh.

Donato concluded his Harvard career having amassed 104 points with 60 goals and 44 assists across 97 games.

He signed with the B's on March 18, 2018 and made a very impressive NHL debut the very next day, scoring a goal

and adding a pair of assists in a 5-4 overtime loss to Columbus.

Sometimes smooth paths eventually lead to rough patches. After playing 12 games for the B's (5-4-9) he returned for the 2018-2019 campaign that would be one of transition. He played 34 games with Boston (6-3-9) but also 18 with Providence (7-5-12).

Less than a year after Donato made headlines with his NHL debut he was traded by the B's to Minnesota. Bruins fans see the results of that trade during nearly every game. The player who became a Bruin in the transaction: Charlie Coyle.

Although the Wild did give him a two-year contract extension in the summer of 2019, he didn't last. In October 2020, he was traded to San Jose. This past summer the Kraken picked him up as a free agent.

And now? Well, he has a new lease on an NHL life. And he took full advantage of it by writing his way into the record books of the franchise not just once but twice. And that was in the very early going.

Back on September 26th, when Seattle played its first preseason game in history, it was Donato who scored the opening goal in that first-ever on ice action against Vancouver.

People say, of course, that what occurs in the preseason doesn't count because, well, it is the preseason.

So, just to make sure everyone got the message, when Seattle played its first official NHL regular season game at the Vegas Golden Knights back on October 12th, it was Donato who scored the first regular season goal in the history of the Seattle franchise. How is that for making an impact statement? However people might feel about the preseason goal, there was no denying the historic value of the regular season score.

And, as a typical first year team in the league, it certainly has not been a bed of roses for Seattle. The team opened with a five-game road trip that spanned three time zones. Through the first half of the season, there have been far more defeats than victories. As of January 26th they owned a 13-25-4 record (30 points) through 42 games, second worst in the Western Conference.

Donato has played in 37 of those games, scoring nine goals and adding seven assist for a total of 16 points, good enough to place him sixth in team scoring.

So, with half of the season remaining, there's still room for significant improvement. Don't count Ryan Donato out from making the best of those opportunities.

DOWN MEMORY LANE — It was 26 years ago (January 20, 1996) that Bruins stand-out defenseman Ray Bourque scored with 37 seconds remaining to give the East a 5-4 victory over the West in the NHL All-Star Game in Boston. Bourque was named the game's MVP for his accomplishment.