

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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## Join Us for CityFeast – Dining Out to Conquer Diabetes

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's that time again and CityFeast is right around the corner. I am so proud to say this is our 7<sup>th</sup> year for CityFeast: Dining Out to Conquer Diabetes and with your support and dedication we have raised a total of just over \$135,000.00! We plan to make this year's event the most memorable and beneficial event yet. First of all I would like to say "Thank You" to the participating restaurants: Lucca, Taranta, Tresca, and Caff  Graffiti for all your help and support over the years. We could not have done it without you and I look forward to working with you again this year!

I began CityFeast to raise money for the Joslin Diabetes Center High Hopes Fund to find a cure for diabetes. As you know this cause is very near and dear to my heart. Your participation in this year's very special event supports critical diabetes care, research and education. Your involvement and commitment to this event has truly made a difference. CityFeast: Dining Out to Conquer Diabetes-to benefit The High Hopes Fund at Joslin Diabetes Center will be held here in the North End, on Sunday, January 29, 2012. This exclusive event will help Joslin continue to impact the many lives of people with diabetes like my son David. As always, I will be hosting the event at my two restaurants, Terramia and Antico Forno. It is my way of thanking and supporting the institution that cared for my son David for the last 20 years that he has had Type 1 Diabetes.

On his first birthday, my son David was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Now at age 21, he continues to live with the ups and downs of this disease during these early years of adulthood. If I were to calculate how many shots and finger sticks my son David already has had in his 20 years

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## Boston Celebrates First Night 2012



(See additional photos on Page 7)

(Photo by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

## Befana Knows You Don't Need to be Pretty to be Sweet

by Nicola Orichu 

Before Santa Claus became everyone's favorite gift-giver, tumbling down chimney shoots to stack gifts under lit-up trees, Italian children would receive gifts exclusively from "la Befana." Every year, on the eve of January 6, the old hunchbacked lady would quietly go from door to door to bring gifts, candy and chocolates to all children who had been good. The other kids, the naughty ones, would receive a lump of coal. All of it, candy or coal, would be stuffed in a stocking and left next to the children's beds. Talk about a sweet awakening.

Nowadays, the Befana tradition is still strong in Italy, where she is celebrated every year on January 6, which in Christian tradition is the day of Epiphany, when the three kings found the barn in which Baby Jesus was born. The old lady has become a little less popular, given Old Saint Nick's rise to fame, but children still adore her for bringing some sweetness to the last day of the Italian holiday season.

The Befana tradition dates back centuries and its origin is still veiled in mystery, just like her whereabouts. But everyone knows what she looks like: old, grumpy-faced, her hair never combed and tucked underneath a scarf tied around her head. She wears a wide black gown, pointy boots and her clothes are covered with patches. She never smiles, but if she did, she'd probably have very few teeth to show off. Her nose is big, long, pointy and rugged. In other words, she most likely wouldn't win a beauty pageant. Despite all this, kids in Italy love her.

All across the country there are festivals celebrating her magical gift-giving powers. Families in Rome head down to Piazza Navona, in the capital's historic center,

where booths selling candy or little Befana puppets are set up. On the night of January 5, just hours before the Befana goes from door to door to drop off her treats, the square is so crowded it would probably take all night to cross. Everyone wants to catch a glimpse of the old lady, who is probably staring at the crowd from a roof somewhere around the square. Little kids jump up and down in excitement, and some even swear they heard her cackling laugh in the chilly winter breeze.

Every region pays its respects to the Befana, who despite the age never misses her appointment with children. Perhaps the best place to catch a glimpse of Italians' love for the Befana is Urbania, a small medieval town in the central Marche region. An annual five-day festival takes place here, with live music, parades and never-ending streams of candy. The Befana puts on a personal show each day of the festival, flying 120 feet down a bell tower (with the aid of a rope), until she lands right in the middle of the town's central square.

There are also a few sayings tied to this tradition. The most famous one comes in the form of a rhyming song: "La Befana vien di notte, con le scarpe tutte rotte, con le toppe alla sottana. Viva, viva la Befana!" (The Befana comes at night, with her shoes all broken, with patches all over her gown. Hurray, hurray for the Befana!) Then there is the saying that officially marks the end of the holidays: "L'Epifania tutte le feste si porta via." (The Epiphany takes with it all the holidays.) This year, like every year, the Befana came and went once again, and Italian children are bustling back to school, happily chomping on the candy she so kindly left at their bedside the day before.

## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### Arabs Condemn Newt's Palestine Remark

Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich called Palestinians an "invented people." Newt said it was time for the harsh truth and not more political correctness. Gingrich believes that Palestinians are nothing more than Syrians or Jordanians without any distinct national history. However, he does support the creation of a Palestinian state as part of a peace settlement with Israel. He is being called racist in the Arab world but there's much truth in his politically incorrect statement. There have always been Palestinians but these people were both Jewish and Arabic. I think what Gingrich was trying to say badly was that there has never been an Arab State of Palestine.

### Jesus Isn't a Public Defender

We all hear about prisoners "finding Jesus" behind bars but the town of Bay Minette, Alabama is now allowing non-violent offenders, a choice of going to church on Sundays to avoid jail time. This new program began this past September and many found guilty of misdemeanors have now found God at least for one year under this county program. The police chief in that town says it both saves money and puts folks on the right path. The ACLU in Alabama says the whole idea is "blatantly unconstitutional" and I tend to agree with them on

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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.*



LUCIUS VERUS

The man who ruled jointly with Marcus Aurelius was his adopted brother. Once again it might be appropriate to repeat that after the death of Domitian, it became an approved and welcomed policy for an emperor to adopt a successor. Nerva's administration started the grand period of later Rome, when, for nearly a hundred years, the concept of adopting a successor to the empire, gave Rome the five best rulers who ever followed as the "Antonines" or "The Five Good Emperors." This line all started with Nerva, who adopted Trajan, and he in turn chose Hadrian. The brilliant and scholarly Antoninus Pius was the choice of Hadrian, provided that Pius adopt Marcus Aurelius, and this of course was done.

Although Marcus Aurelius adopted Lucius Verus, he departed slightly from established policy and adopted Lucius as a brother instead of a son and heir. Lucius also contributed his little bit to this departure by dying of a stroke, so that the adopter actually outlived the adoptee, and the story of his life can now be told separately from that of Marcus Aurelius.

Lucius Ceionius Aelius Commodus Verus Antoninus

was given the name Aelius because his father had been adopted by Hadrian, and later called Verus Antoninus because he was adopted as a brother to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. History does not classify him as either a good or bad emperor, but does imply that his vices were on a par with his virtues, and that his lack of ingenuity made it impossible for him to conceal any of those vices. His natural father was the one who was adopted by Hadrian, given the name of Caesar, and then departed from this good earth a short time later.

Lucius was born in Rome on December 15, 130 A.D. Because of his father's association with Hadrian, Lucius was reared in the imperial household and received excellent instruction from Latin and Greek grammarians, rhetoricians, and philosophers. He held a deep affection for them and they returned that affection but not too much knowledge. He was fond of composing verses and orations, however, his critics never commented on which of these was the better, but rather, was he a worse poet than a speaker. There were also more than just a few persons who claimed that the only fairly good things credited to

him were, in fact, written by some of the learned men that were kept in his employ.

After passing into manhood, his first important position was as a "quaestor" (treasury official), and later he was made "consul" (high magistrate) along with Marcus Aurelius. For many years, however, he functioned as a private citizen and not as a member of the royal household, was not singled out for honors as was Marcus, had no seat in the Senate until he was appointed to public office, never rode alongside his father when traveling, and never received any honorary titles except being referred to as the son of the emperor. Lucius was an eager spectator at the circus and in the Colosseum, but always considered his debaucheries to be a contact sport. It was said that he was retained in the royal household as a son of Antoninus Pius only because Hadrian had wanted it that way. Lucius was, however, truly loyal to his adopted father, even though he did not show much affection toward him. Pius, in turn, loved his frank nature, and unspoiled manner of life.

NEXT WEEK:  
Verus the Squanderer

Res Publica

by David Trumbull



In 1815 We Took a Little Trip ...

The governor shall annually ... issue a proclamation setting apart January eighth as New Orleans Day ... to the end that the memory of the services of the soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and the lessons to be learned from the successes and failures of our arms in that war, may be perpetuated.

— General Laws Part I Title II Chapter 6 Section 12F

For many Americans of my age the strongest association with the January 8, 1815 **Battle of New Orleans** is the song of the same title which, as performed by **Johnny Horton**, was the **Grammy Award** "Song of the Year" in 1960. The song was written by **Jimmy Driftwood** (June 20, 1907-July 12, 1998), who based the melody on a traditional American fiddle tune, "The 8<sup>th</sup> of January."

One of the great American popular songs of my youth aside, quite a lot came out of the War of 1812, sometimes called the "Second War of Independence."

The Revolutionary War (April 19, 1775 to September 3, 1783) ended with the King of Great Britain acknowledging, in the Treaty of Paris, the independence that the United States had asserted on July 4, 1776. The War of 1812 ended foreign interference with Americans on the seas and also ended British support of American Indians seeking to limit westward expansion of the young nation.

The Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, in its Tenth Article stated that: "Whereas the Traffic in Slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and Justice, and whereas both His Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition, it is hereby agreed that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavours to accomplish so desirable an object."

The United Kingdom and the United States both, in 1807, had, by law, abolished the slave trade. The American law took effect on January 1, 1808, the earliest date possible under Article I Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. law called for forfeiture of property and monetary fines. Following the Treaty of Ghent, congress strengthened the law to make the importation of slaves punishable by *death*. Having twice fought for our liberty, Americans were more and more awakening to the evils of slavery.

If most of us remember from school *anything* of the Battle of New Orleans, it is that the Treaty of Ghent ending the war was signed on December 24, 1814, but the sailing ships of the day did not get the message to New Orleans for some weeks. That is why the last battle of the war was fought two weeks after the end of the war!

The Battle of Baltimore and the defense of Fort McHenry (September 12-15, 1814) was an important American victory and the inspiration for **Francis Scott Key** to pen the "**Star Spangled Banner**," which, set to the tune "To Anacreon in Heaven," was a popular unofficial national hymn well before congress, in 1931, made it our official National Anthem.

A New Year's Resolution

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

A New Year's Resolution is most often seen as a goal someone sets out to accomplish in the coming year. Many of us at the beginning of a New Year make resolutions or promises to ourselves to overcome, break the habit or establish a new way of doing things. We set out a goal and try to achieve it in the coming year. The person who has always had a problem of finding things and remembering appointments might resolve to become more organized in the coming year. You might promise to finally bring your credit card debt under control, find a more fulfilling job, lose those pounds that continue to creep up

on you, take the trip that you have reluctantly postponed for years. The list is endless and we always embark on our resolutions newly made, with the best intentions.

Many of the same resolutions might have been made before but were not kept, it is estimated by people who look into these things that up to 80 percent of us will in some way or another break our promise to ourselves and end the coming year at the same place we began with our goal not reached. It is easy to indict ourselves and say that we failed, but a promise entered into in good faith but simply not kept, many times for

very legitimate reasons, should not be subject to a harsh indictment.

Every year we promise to pay more attention to the clock, to be on time. Anyone who knows us knows that we have a problem with time, that our clock is constantly running ten minutes behind the rest of our friends. Believe it or not, we promise each year to reset our clock and synchronize it to the rest of the world, we enter this promise in good faith each year, but as the weeks go by and the year progresses, we lose a minute here and a minute there and by mid-year we are once again where we left off, ten minutes behind the rest of the population. Recently a friend advised, that in order to keep our resolutions we should start small, that is, not choose something that will be nearly impossible to accomplish and surround ourselves with positive reinforcements such as inspirational books, people with similar goals, photographs, whatever serves as an encouragement to keep our promise to ourselves.

Hopefully, as we begin the New Year with our resolutions newly made, we will be able to maintain the same fervor of keeping them

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**Friday, January 6, 2012**

**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.*

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### OBAMA KEEPS SPINNING AND THE LIBERAL MEDIA KEEPS TRYING TO SELL IT

*by Sal Giaratani*

Next year is so, so important for Americans, we can't take four more do-nothing-but-harm years with President Obama. We need real leadership and a new direction. Unemployment goes down 0.4 percent and all we hear from the media is that the tide is turning. Happy days will soon be here again thanks to Obama's policies. Jobs creation is still an illusion. Many of the unemployed have stopped looking for jobs as a hopeless venture.

Recently, the president took the issue of the temporary pay roll tax holiday and turned it into a fight about an extra \$40 a week. He and the Democrats were actually calling Republicans the party of tax hikes. The so-called payroll tax cut of 2011 was funded by a drop in the tax for the Social Security Fund from 6.2 to 4.2 percent. In effect, the so-called cut came from underfunding the trust fund for Society Security. It was regifting something today that must be paid for by our grandchildren's generation.

The Republicans should have been all over this one instead of being turned into the bad guys. The president sounds good talking about some guy's pizza party for his girls or someone else who visits grandpa at the nursing home. Most people didn't even recognize this so-called payroll tax cut they were getting in each pay check. Now, according to the Democrats, the people have been victimized by those terrible Republicans.

Finally, did you know that our national debt rose to \$10 trillion between George Washington and George W. Bush but it only took Barrack Obama three years to tack another \$5 trillion on the total? The media should be all over this and if Obama was a Republican, they would have been.

**"Always continue the climb. It is possible for you to do whatever you choose, if you first get to know who you are and are willing to work with a power that is greater than ourselves to do it."**

**— Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

## Wounded Warrior Project Fundraiser

January 19<sup>th</sup> at Lucia's Ristorante

The Wounded Warrior Project aims to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. The WWP's purpose is to raise awareness and enlist public aid for the needs of injured service members.

The event is on Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6:00-10:00 pm at Lucia's restaurant on Hanover Street in the North End.

There will be appetizers, raffles and a silent auction to help raise money for this worthy cause. Prizes include: 1<sup>st</sup> prize — Bruins signed jersey, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize — Bruins signed stick and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize — two Bruins tickets. Raffle tickets are available at Mangia Mangia, 147 Endicott Street and Hanover News, 352 Hanover Street. Drawing will be held at the fundraiser. Winners need not be present.

Organized by Olivia Scimeca, mother of Ricky Scimeca, who is proudly serving his country in Afghanistan. Upon his return from Afghanistan, Ricky and his friends



Robert McCarthy, Justin Santoro and David McGrath will ruck the Boston Marathon Route in upon their return from the war in order to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project!

If you cannot attend and would still like to contribute, send a check payable to the Wounded Warrior Project

and mail to Olivia Scimeca, 21 Cleveland Place, Apt. #5, Boston, MA 02113. Your contribution is worth double, because every dollar raised will be matched by Jim and Sheila Barry!

We appreciate your support.

### THE CAUSE:

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) aims to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. By upholding the core values of fun, integrity, loyalty, innovation and service, the WWP's purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.

## THE NORTH END HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

### A talk and Book Signing of

## *Reminiscences and Traditions of Boston*

by Dr. Eileen Botting of the University of Notre Dame

on Thursday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m.



Dr. Botting recently edited and published, for the first time, this manuscript history of Boston by Hannah Mather Crocker

(1752-1829). Crocker was the granddaughter of Cotton Mather and the niece of Thomas Hutchinson, she lived near North Square for most of her life (the St. John School now covers the small alley where

her house was), and she inherited the invaluable Mather library. She used her reminiscences of her long life as well as her library and other documents to write a history of Boston that she hoped would one day be published — and now it has happened, albeit about 200 years later!

The event will be held in Sacred Heart Church Hall, 9 Sun Court Street, North End.

Free and open to the public, but reservations are required because space is limited. Please email [northendhs@gmail.com](mailto:northendhs@gmail.com) or call 617-680-3829 to RSVP.

## Gloria Jean Conway

R.I.P.

*by Sal Giaratani*

For over 40 years, Gloria Jean Conway was both the publisher and editor of the *Charlestown Patriot* newspaper. The Patriot was started a few years before Gloria and Jim Conway met and married. Jim founded the paper and then put it into the hands of Gloria who made the *Patriot* the newspaper of record for the town. I met Gloria back in 1970 when I was 22 years old and Gloria only 30 years old. If you lived in Charlestown, Thursdays meant the latest *Charlestown Patriot* copy. It was a must read. If you lived in Charlestown, you knew Jim and Gloria Conway because through the pages of the *Patriot*, they became the face of all that was good about the town. They also served as the voice of the community. The *Patriot* was interactive, giving Townies a place to air their own voices.

She passed away on December 23<sup>rd</sup> after a long illness. Jim passed away about two years ago. Today, Jim and Gloria are together again, both happy and pain-free. We are left behind to remember their legacy. We are left behind with some great memories too. At her funeral service at St. John's Church, all were reminded that an old year is ending and a new year ready for birth. The mourners were reminded that for Gloria, she has left us to begin a new life again in the presence of God. She is reunited with Jim for eternity. Her early life



has ended and her new life has just begun. For us left behind, a sense of loss as we move forward without her at our side. She was a dear friend and I will miss her.

Devoted mother of Dorothy Conway and her partner Thomas Bowers of Oregon and Timothy Conway and his wife Amy of Charlestown. Loving grandmother of Eamon James Conway of Charlestown. Daughter of the late Peter and Dorothy (Pendleton) Scott.

Visiting hours were held at the John H. Sawyer Funeral Home, followed by a Funeral Service in the St. John Episcopal Church, Charlestown, MA. Interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Late publisher of the former *Charlestown Patriot*. Past Matron and Treasurer of the Vesta Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Past president of Charlestown Historical Society. Vice President of Bunker Hill Monument Association. Past president of Life Focus Center Board of Directors. Past Chairwoman of Charlestown Against Drugs and former Secretary of the Charlestown Preservation Society. Board Member of Charlestown Working Theater and member of Bunker Hill James W. Conway Post #26, A.L. Auxiliary. She served as co-chief Marshal of the 2000 Bunker Hill Bay Parade. In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Gloria Jean's name may be made to Townie Santa, P.O. Box 54 Charlestown, MA 02129.



## Lombardo's Announces New General Manager

David Lombardo was recently hired as General Manager of Lombardo's Function Facility in Randolph. Mr. Lombardo brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to the company. As a family, Lombardo's is thrilled to have him join them and the current fourth generation members of their company.

David has worked for Lombardo's for many years as an intern. After he graduated from the University of Vermont in 2007, he joined Legal Seafood and entered their ten week management and training course. After completing the training, he worked at the Legal in Braintree as the restaurant man-



ager for two years. When they opened the Legal C Bar at Legal Place in Dedham, David was part of the opening management team as the restaurant manager and after one year was promoted to assistant general manager. This past year, he was part of the management team to open up the new Legal Harborside and is the

assistant general manager of all three levels with his primary responsibility to run the roof deck.

David grew up in Wayland but now lives in South Boston. He enjoys cooking, skiing, traveling, running, and spending time with friends and family.

## Burlington Sons of Italy Language Classes

The Italian classes offered by the Burlington Sons of Italy, Lodge #2223 will resume on Wednesday and Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for its second ten-week course of the school year. It is offered to all present students and to anyone interested in acquiring levels of proficiency with the language or learning about Italy.

Beginner 1 & 2 Classes and Intermediate 1 & 2 Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Margaret's School on Winn Street in Burlington, MA, beginning on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012; and the Intermediate Advanced Class meet on Thursday evenings in Stoneham, beginning January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Registrations for all classes will take place on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at St. Margaret's School.

Whether you have a desire to learn Italian as a second language, want to pick up a few words or phrases for that trip to Italy, or talk to one of your Italian relatives, this is the class for you! Our teachers, Tom and Maria Stuto of Stoneham, have been teaching Italian to local communities for many years. Maria has taught in the Burlington Public School system and has been part of a team

of teachers that has taken students to Italy every year. In addition to learning the Italian language, you will learn many interesting facts about Italy's culture, people, food and the land.

The Burlington Sons of Italy Lodge has been organizing and supporting Italian Language Classes for over 12 years and the program has become one of our areas of interest and excellent achievement of which we are very proud. The program was the inspiration of a former lodge president and the dream was to teach Italian to the members of our Lodge and community. This dream and goal is ongoing and we have educated many people over the years.

Many of our students have completed the entire course. The majority of our students enroll in the Beginner 1 & 2 classes to prepare themselves so that they will be able to converse in their native tongue for that trip back to the homeland of their ancestry.

For additional details or if you are interested in signing-up for class, please visit our website at [www.burlingtonsonsofitaly.org](http://www.burlingtonsonsofitaly.org) — or contact our class director, Phil D'Alleva, at e-mail address: [phil\\_dalleva@yahoo.com](mailto:phil_dalleva@yahoo.com).

## THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani



### Another Christmas Filled with Memories Another New Year Filled with Hopes to Be

I grew up in Boston's South End and nearby lower Roxbury. Today, hardly anyone goes to church anymore but back then, I actually went to two churches, the Immaculate Conception where I was an altar boy and St. Philip's where I was also an altar boy. St. Philip's Parish had a large Italian community near it while the neighborhood also had many Irish and Black families too. It was quite Catholic as most of Boston was back in the '50s and '60s. You could count the Latinos, mostly Puerto Rican, on your fingertips. By the mid to late '60s, that would change when those Northeast Yellowbirds made direct flights from San Juan to Logan. Ironically, there were Puerto Ricans on the Irish side of my family. I had an Aunt Bianca and three cousins. My uncle Joe Harrington met his wife during his World War II years in the US Navy.

As a little kid about 5 years old I stopped believing in Santa because I was too much into architecture. How could Santa make it down the chimney when we didn't have a fireplace? He could only head to the oven and that wouldn't be good for him. I also spotted the Boston Post truck pull up late at night on to Salutation Street in the North End with those Post Santa gifts for me and my little brother.

I spent most of my youth growing up near Boston City Hospital or the Green Shoe factory both of which were located along Harrison Avenue. My father worked at Boston City Hospital for over 35 years. The South End was much more working class back then when rents on East Springfield Street were \$25 a month plus utilities. Today, rents on that street now reach four digits a month.

Some of my best memories were all those years in high school and college when I worked at the City Spa Cafeteria behind the counter. It was a great place to learn about people and make money too. I paid my college tuition from my City Spa

paycheck. The place was a great slice of South End life. Doctors, nurses, cabbies, hookers, bookies, etc. I also counted more than a dozen barrooms within walking distance of my front door on East Springfield Street. I loved walking by Smith and Sheehan's on Washington Street. We locals called it 'the bucket of blood.' I guess the place had a reputation for fights. I enjoyed double features at the Puritan on Saturdays for 20 cents. Once I got kicked out of the place by the manager for throwing spitballs from the balcony. Then, he went and told my parents too. I remember the Chinese laundry with their garbage dumpster that the neighborhood treated as its own. At night after all the Chinese workers went home, the neighbors would carry their trash over to the dumpster. I did it one evening before the last workers left the place and ended up getting chased up the back alley to Harrison Avenue. I was fleet-a-foot, the guy wasn't.

I remember as a kid buying, well my mother was buying not me, toys at Cobb's 5 & 10 on Washington Street. I had a great collection of fire trucks. I remember shopping at the First National or Folsoms. I remember my mother taking my brother and me shopping at the St. Vincent de Paul's store across from all those new DeSoto's at Hub Motors on the turnstile. I always wanted a DeSoto but they disappeared when I was 12 years old. When I wasn't peering into the picture window looking at those new cars with all those fins, I was down near home at Chico's trying to sneak a peek at all those girlie magazines before they were wrapped in a sealed wrapper. I got kicked out of there many times too.

Here I am today remembering the old days but also waiting to make some new memories in 2012. I am not as "fleet-a-foot" as I once was and I run about as fast as a turtle. I now own two

(Continued on Page 8)

All the glory that was Rome ..... Pompei



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## Mayor Menino Appoints School Committee Members

Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced the appointment of Boston School Committee member, Meg Campbell and the re-appointment of Claudio Martinez, both to four-year terms.

"The Boston School Committee plays an essential role in our city, working to make sure all of our children learn and thrive," Mayor Menino said. "I am pleased to appoint two respected leaders who can help raise our schools to the next level."

Meg Campbell is the Founder and Executive Director of the Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, which has been recognized by the City and the Commonwealth for its partnerships and noted for the college admittance success of its students. Meg, a Dorchester resident, is active in many neighborhood and city-wide initiatives and also writes on education policy.

Claudio Martinez is the Executive Director of the Hyde Square Task Force, where he has developed several programs and grown the award-winning non-profit organization from a \$100,000 to a multi-million dollar operation. He was first appointed to the Boston School Committee for the term beginning in 2008. Claudio, a Jamaica Plain resident, sits on several boards and has been recognized many times for his leadership in the community.

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The time has come, the walrus said,

# TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

## KUDOS TO MURPHY AND ROSS

The wedding business next year at City Hall could be less profitable for the new City Clerk if Council President Steve Murphy and Councilor Mike Ross have their way. They have filed an ordinance to prevent the clerk from pocketing marriage fees during business hours. These weddings cost \$60 a pop can total; some \$60,000 per year. Under the Murphy-Ross proposal all that money would go into the city coffers. Says Murphy, "What we're saying is that from 9 to 5, except lunch hour, fees collected for performing weddings at City Hall should go into the general fund."

In a related Beacon Hill story, Rep. Martha Walz, (D-Back Bay) is planning on filing a bill in January that would bar city clerks from running a business during the workday in a public building like City Hall. She wants municipal clerks to be treated the same way we treat other employees under the state ethics law.

## NH STATE HOUSE REACTS TO CASINO BILL HERE

The passage of a bill legalizing casino gambling in Massachusetts has moved politicians in the Granite State to pass similar legisla-

tion up there too. A Salem legislator said New Hampshire must act quickly to stay competitive with Massachusetts. In January, the NH House will act on House Bill 593 which would bring casino gambling to their state. Rockingham Park in Salem, NH is expected to be first in line for a license. Under the legislation, a second casino would also be allowed.

## IS THIS WHAT JUDGE GARRITY THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN?

I was a proud member of Boston's anti-forced busing movement. Back then, opponents of Judge Arthur Garrity's court order for the Boston Public School system believed that parents should not be denied choice in the education of their young children. Many families liked neighborhood schools because they were close to home. Putting kids on buses in Roxbury and sending them to East Boston and vice versa was more about a liberal elitist concept of control and less about good public education. Before the buses started rolling in September 1974, the school system had some 90,000 students in it. More than 70% of the students were white and a third were African-American. To liberals the existence of too

many schools with overwhelming minority populations was a sign of "segregated schools." These folks sued the Boston School Committee in federal court thus leading to Garrity's court decision. Kids were merely different colored jelly beans to be evenly divided in the city's public school classrooms.

Eventually, the student population of the public school system would drop nearly 50% with many white parents fleeing the city. Today, white students make up about 12% of the total student population. In many public schools in Mattapan, Dorchester and Roxbury, the public schools are more segregated than ever before. *The Boston Globe* and *Bay State Banner* newspapers recently did stories that involved Mattapan's Mildred Avenue K-8 School. Of the more than 700 students that attend this public school, 74% are black, 23% are Hispanic, 1% Asian and 1% white. I guess the liberal desegregation supporters have won the day or have they? Judge Garrity I believed killed the Boston Public Schools in the name of jelly bean counting but not much more.

## ROBYN'S BAR AND GRILL TO BECOME NEW IRISH PUB


Folks in Roslindale are all glad to hear that the old gin mill on Washington Street in Roslindale Village will soon become a neighborhood Irish pub. If all goes according to plans, John Jacob and wife Niamh will open up as soon as possible in the Square. The couple already have Napper Tandy's on Day Street near Norwood Center and are now working on another eatery in Jamaica Plain. He said when the Roslindale pub is opened he will be hiring from the area. Jacob is a past resident of West Roxbury and says he likes what's been happening to Roslindale Village and added, "Roslindale is a good place to get your roots in." I've been to Napper Tandy's in Norwood. It has great food, great music and great atmosphere. I enjoyed my time there and if that kind of eatery comes to Roslindale it will be well-liked and patronized. A classy Irish pub, how can things get any better, huh?

## L STREET TAVERN ON NEW YEAR'S MORNING

On New Year's morn' Kevin Conroy and the Woods family at the L Street Tavern hosted a very successful fundraiser for Scleroderma Research before and after the 108 Annual L Street Brownies' Polar Plunge. This was Southie's first "time" of 2012. Kudos to both Susan and Jackie Woods, owners of this tavern made famous by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck in "Goodwill Hunting." Kevin Conroy the lead bagpiper from the 103rd Postal Fire Column Pipe & Drums ran this fund drive. If you didn't make this time, you can still donate by stopping by the tavern. No one turns away funds

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for a good cause like Scleroderma in South Boston.

## 16th ANNUAL TASTE OF EASTIE

East Boston Main Streets will be hosting the 16th Annual Taste of Eastie at the Hilton Boston Logan Airport on Thursday, January 19. Music by DJ John Dudley with food, fun, raffles, auctions and much more. Some 25 restaurants will be serving up some great cuisine, Latin, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Italian and good old American too. Tickets can be purchased at MP&CO or at Main Streets on Maverick Street or online at [www.ebmainstreets.com](http://www.ebmainstreets.com) or 617-561-1044.

## REMEMBERING PATTY ROSETTI 2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

It is never easy saying good-bye to a loved one. Time passes us by so fast. Before we are ready, God makes His call. Life is about sharing good times and bad. Life is growing with experience. There is no good time for someone to die. There is no right way for us to die. Most of us live in our own denial until we lose someone close to us and then we cherish that life now lost from us. We also in moments of grief come to cherish our time here on this planet even

more. Patty Rosetti passed away two years ago right after Christmas and New Year's Day. Usually a period of happiness and joy looking forward to the beginning of another year of life, sometimes we experience the pain of a loss. We begin a new year without someone we loved dearly. Their time with us has ended as they begin their new beginning in a place without pain, sorrow, hardship and loss. We are left behind to remember their presence in our lives. We fill the void with our memories which continue to live in us.

Our religious faith tells us a better place awaits us. However, while we all want to go to heaven, we don't want to go today. Patty Rosetti still lives inside us all who remember life with her. As long as she is remembered, she never dies. She began a new journey two years ago and we continue our journey down here without seeing her but in the hope of seeing her once again. Her friends all still remember her. There is Larry Kootz, Joan Raffa, Patty Bono, Sal Patrice, Mary Mercurio, Mary Ann Coiusin, Dudie, Leslie Limone and Dorren. As the Bible says, "Heaven and Earth will pass away but my love for you will never pass away."

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**Ray Bourque and Harvey Wilk**  
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Vespa courtesy of Carla Gomes

**Enter to Win a \$50 Vespa!**  
Tickets: 1 for \$25 or 5 for \$100

Winner will be chosen live at CityFeast on January 29, 2012 at Antico Forno.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.joslin.org/cityfeast](http://www.joslin.org/cityfeast) or e-mail [jessica.orndorff@joslin.harvard.edu](mailto:jessica.orndorff@joslin.harvard.edu).

Purchase tickets online or at participating North End restaurants to enter the drawing for a Black \$50 Vespa. All proceeds from the raffle will go directly to Joslin's High Hopes Fund which supports the Center's greatest needs in research, education and clinical care.

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• **Join Us for CityFeast** (Continued from Page 1)

with Diabetes, it would be a minimum of 45,000 shots and 50,000 finger sticks. Needless to say, these are only the minor challenges that come along with this disease. Our recent challenge since he began college three years ago and lives on his own has been trying to keep the number of seizures to a minimum if none at all. Diabetes is an autoimmune disease that strikes men and women, young and old, and forces lifelong disease management, and may cause serious, long term complications.

It is also the people like you who have bought tickets to this event year after year and have supported CityFest with generous donations that have made this event so successful. I want to "Thank You" for your support and continued donations and I will be forever grateful to each and everyone of you. I also will continue to raise money to cure this awful disease which affects my son and so many young children as well. Our goal this year is to raise as much money to support The High Hopes Fund which will help find a cure so one day my son David and millions like him will be free from diabetes.

Just about everyone will be touched with diabetes in some way during their lifetime. Diabetes afflicts 24 million Americans and is the leading cause of kidney disease, blindness, heart disease, stroke and amputations. There is no cure. At least 50 percent of Americans are at risk for this disease. Despite these staggering statistics, there's

reason to be hopeful. Joslin Diabetes Center has evolved to meet the ever-changing challenges of diabetes amid the dynamic landscape of science, technology and medicine. Joslin discovers, creates and distributes new knowledge about diabetes prevention and treatment options — expanding worldwide efforts to combat this disease. The High Hopes Fund generates critical resources to support these multi-dimensional efforts — the ultimate beneficiaries of which are the millions of children and adults who live with diabetes and the millions more at risk for the disease. Joslin gives them high hopes for a world without diabetes.

Please join us for a five-course dinner with five pairings of wine at your choice of one of Boston's exclusive North End restaurants. Visit [www.joslin.org/cityfeast](http://www.joslin.org/cityfeast) to make your reservations online. You may also purchase tickets to enter a drawing to win a black \$50 VESPA. Winner will be chosen live at CityFeast. Purchase tickets online or at participating North End restaurants.

I look forward to working with the participating restaurants once again. I also ask everyone who reads this article to consider coming to CityFest to support this wonderful event or purchase tickets to win the Vespa that will raise critical money to find a cure for my son and the millions more who are affected by diabetes. Together we can beat this disease.

Sincerely,  
Carla Agrippino Gomes

## • News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

this. Finding God and going to church should not be a punishment for your crimes. Forcing people to sit in pews or sit in jail cells insults religions and surely God himself.

## No General Welfare in Corporate America

While I thought the Occupy Movement was a joke, I was never an apologist for Corporate America either. Just heard the other day that General Electric reportedly made a recent \$5 billion profit and in 2012 will according to the news reports pay no federal taxes on it. Then there's Wall Street and all those banks and financial institutions that were bailed out big time from their friends on Capitol Hill. Now, these welfare recipients are once screwing Small Business and the Middle Class. Their practices created the meltdown to begin with and now with the country's economy still struggling, instead of helping small businesses actually create jobs and grow the economy, Wall Street won't help them secure loans to do just that. Small Business suffers and the middle class remains in financial hock, but Wall Street's only concern is its own welfare and %\*# the rest of America.

## ***It's California That's Wrong with America!***

Recently, while up at a campaign stop in southern New Hampshire, Newt Gingrich stated, "Please don't turn America into Massachusetts." However, it isn't Massachusetts that America needs to worry about. It is California. One would think with border security issues, the Golden State would be worried about all those sneaking across our borders from Mexico. However, what really concerns them is making poor illegals careless.

Since police checkpoint stops have hit illegal immigrants so hard and made life for them so difficult, the state of California's police departments will no longer impound vehicles of unlicensed drivers. What a great idea. Allow unlicensed drivers to be on their way knowing that these drivers have no license and are driving on the roads illegally and often making our roads unsafe for the rest of us who are driving legally. The new state law allows motorists to continue driving without a license if that is the only offense discovered during a police stop. One illegal told a reporter, "A car is a necessity, it's not a luxury." His wife is legal and his son is American born. Good for them but not good for him.

Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, tried to restore drivers' licenses to illegals after the state revoked that privilege in 1993 and has now submitted a bill to ban the towing of vehicles after police stops to impound lots. Idiocy is alive and well in California as the politically correct police have overruled the real police. Keep those illegals driving illegally and pretend everything is okie-dokie in La La Land.

## Christmas Time Horror Continues

Seven are dead on Christmas Day in Grapevine,

Texas, a suburb of Dallas-Ft. Worth. Police say a gunman killed 6 others before shooting himself. Police said it appeared the shootings took place inside an apartment that victims "had just celebrated Christmas. They had opened their gifts."... Meanwhile, half way around the world, coordinated bombings tied to an Islamist sect are being blamed for an attack on Catholic churches in Nigeria that killed 39 at three different churches celebrating Christmas Mass. Proving there are no holidays for the forces of darkness striking at civilians.

## Romney Versus Obama

On Christmas Day, I was talking with my nephew Dominic down in Austin, Texas. Whenever we talk, politics always enters the conversation. The subject of the chances for the Republicans to beat President Obama in '12 came up. My nephew told me, he didn't think Newt Gingrich could beat Obama and I agreed. He thought Mitt Romney had a "slight" chance of taking Obama down. I thought Mitt's chances were even slighter. We both agreed. The Giarratani from the Red State of Texas and the Giarratani from the Blue Commonwealth of Massachusetts think that you can't beat somebody with nobody, which is fast becoming the truth. When all the Republicans are giving the American people a group of GOP nobodies who have debated each other about 275 times to date proving they are all nobodies, President Obama must be sitting down in a chair at the White House getting tired of laughing so much.

My nephew Dominic had such high hopes of Rick Perry, his governor being the candidate to beat Obama but Perry has failed terribly at being a competent candidate. Dominic says he'll probably vote for Romney as being better than Obama but I'm still not ready to vote for Romney.

### **Negative Campaigning by Mitt's Forces**

Up in New Hampshire, Mitt Romney's supporters have set up a Super PAC to relentlessly go after Romney's main threat Newt Gingrich. Newt has attacked Romney for being so negative and Romney says in return if you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen. Mitt says those negative attacks aren't coming from his campaign but from pro-Romney PACs and he can't tell them what to do or not do.

Romney has been on cruise control so long in this campaign never going above or below the speed limit. His goal is to be the last Republican standing. Gingrich's rise in the polls was totally unexpected. If Ron Paul does really well in Iowa and Newt does really well in New Hampshire, the South Carolina primary will end up being a major event.

I personally still like Rick Perry's politics but his presentation seems lethal. However, he still would be better than our current Vice President Joe Biden. Especially, if Romney wins the nomination, as a Northeast Republican viewed as a moderate, he doesn't stand a chance of winning without a candidate representing the area below the Mason-Dixon Line on the ticket with him.

## ST. JUDE AND ST. ANTHONY NOVENA

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

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN:**

(never known to fail) O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here You are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none who can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer 3 consecutive days and then publish, and it will be granted to you.

## REMINDER ...

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• **First Night** (Continued from Page 1)



(Photos by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)



Ray Barron's  
11 O'CLOCK NEWS

And so begins another year of my attempting to create weekly columns that will prove to be of some interest to the readers of this great newspaper. Well, let's get started by thanking many of you who sent me Christmas cards. We never did get a card from Bella Culo of Chestnut Hill!

The widely read *National Enquirer* reports Prez's wife Michelle Obama "splurges thousands on pricey jewels." And they also reported the family's annual holiday vacation in Hawaii will cost taxpayers a whopping \$3.2 million in airfare alone. Big deal! She well deserves the vacation for her and her daughters Sasha and Malia.

Wow! Eating more fish — as long as it's not fried — could help keep your mind sharp as you age. A new study found that 70-year-olds who ate at least one serving of fish per week had bigger brains after 10 years than those who didn't. Many experts think the omega-3 fatty acids found in fish reduce the risk of Alzheimer's by improving blood flow to the brain and preventing inflammation. But the new evidence that only baked and broiled fish proved beneficial suggests that "other factors" could be involved, says neurologist Richard Lipton of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Maybe it's not the fish itself that offers protection but the tendency of people with healthy eating habits to "exercise more or eat less total calories."

Health scare! Many popular apple and grape juices contain arsenic and lead levels that could be dangerous to children, a study by *Consumer Reports* shows. The magazine tested 31 popular grocery-store brands and found that one in 10 samples had arsenic levels higher than the Food and Drug Administration's limit for bottled water; elevated levels of lead were also found in a fourth of the samples. The FDA previously suggested that juice could safely contain nearly five times the arsenic found in bottled water, because most people drink less of it. Meanwhile, experts urge parents to limit their children's consumption of fruit juices to avoid increasing their risk of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti has banned cash payments in Italy over 1,000 Euros (\$1,340). Many Italians pay cash for major expenditures like monthly rent, and small companies often pay salaries in euro notes, making tax evasion easier. Monti hopes the move will recoup some of the billion Euros the government loses each year in unpaid taxes.

Ah, taxes! The income tax, the property tax, and the sales tax are an unbeatable combination. They get you coming and going. Add the inheritance tax and they get you after you've gone.

Time for some opinions about taxes. The unofficial mayor of Medford, Tom Analetto, says, "The only thing easier to skin than a banana is a taxpayer."

The brilliant Christina Quinlan of Windham, New Hampshire, says, "It's getting so your annual property tax is more than you paid for your home in the first place."

Carlo Scostumato, says, "Most of us have enough money to pay our taxes. What we need is something to live on!"

Wait! More opinions about taxes! Lucille A. Monuteaux of East Boston, says, "It might be well to bear in mind that when Uncle Sam plays Santa Claus, it's the taxpayer who holds the bag."

The lovely, brilliant Rosalie Cunio of Waltham, says, "Pound for pound the American taxpayer is the strongest creature on earth. For many years he has been carrying Washington and a considerable portion of the world on his shoulders."

Cancer-ravaged Penny Marshall is smoking up a storm, and medical experts warn it could dramatically cut what little time she has left. But pals say the beloved comic actress is determined to go out HER way, and she intends to enjoy her vices till the bitter end. "Penny has accepted the fact that she's terminally ill, so she wants to live life to the max while she can," a source reveals. The former "Laverne & Shirley" star, 68, showed total disregard for her health by sucking on

a cigarette while chatting on her cell phone. Penny was diagnosed with a benign brain tumor and a malignant tumor on her liver in late 2009. "Penny is very sick, but she's writing like a maniac," divulged another source. "But once the book is finished, Penny says she's ready to go. She's not afraid of death, and right now she's concentrating on the joy of living."

Regular mammograms do save lives! Despite the debate over mammograms, the bottom line is they save lives in women ages 50 to 75. A new Dutch study shows the scans cut the risk of death from breast cancer by almost half. Women in that age group who had at least three mammograms before they were diagnosed were 49 percent less likely to die of the disease, according to Dutch researchers. Those aged 70-75 benefited the most from mammograms, with a whopping 84 percent reduction in breast cancer deaths.

We discovered some stuff about how to ward off evil spirits. Are you ready? Bless someone when they sneeze. When you spill salt, throw a pinch of it over your left shoulder (that's the side of your body where evil spirits dwell). A yawn is a sign that death is summing you, so cover your mouth when you yawn or evil spirits will enter your body through it. Tying knots in your handkerchief helps you to remember something because a knot is a charm against evil. When baking, remember to mark your loaves with a cross. Hang a horseshoe above the door. Evil spirits linger in doorways. That's why a bride must be carried over the threshold. Ring bells and bang pots and pans after a wedding ceremony. The bridesmaids dress up finely to act as decoy brides and confuse evil spirits. And remember, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, walk around your house thirteen times.

Some interesting show biz stuff from the stately musicologist Albert Natale. Where did the Chipmunks in the Chipmunks' "Christmas Song" get their names? Songwriter and performer David Seville chose the names for the "stars" of his 1958 hit record. Simon and Alvin were named for two executives at Liberty Records — Simon Waronker and Al Bennett. Theodore was named for Ted Keep, the recording engineer. Where did Chubby Checker get his name? Born Ernest Evans, Checker chose his stage name as homage to Fats Domino. As Maria in the 1965 musical *The Sound of Music*, Julie Andrews was described as a flibbertigibbet. What is it? Shakespeare used the word in *King Lear* to describe a devil, and Sir Walter Scott used in *Kenilworth* to describe a young rascal. But the meaning Rodgers and Hammerstein intended — a talkative or dizzy person — arose in 1549, in a sermon by Bishop Hugh Latimer for King Edward VI. Latimer spelled the word *flybertgybe*.

One more time! Albert A. "Al" Natale, the youngest of 12 Natale children was raised at 11 Sheafe Street in Boston's North End. In brief, Natale took up playing the trumpet and began his professional career with the house orchestra at the RKO-Boston Theater. He left the theater job to travel with big-name bands and for four years crisscrossed the country playing at ballrooms, theaters, nightclubs, hotels, Army and Navy bases. Some of the bands he played for Al Donahue, Jerry Wald and Bob Chester. Natale was active in the Boston's Musicians' Union and was elected as vice president. Natale thanks his mother for encouraging him to invest in real estate and she proved to be right! Natale, wound up with highly valued real estate holdings in Boston. Natale is proud of financing a bronze casting of St. Leonard surrounded by the Stations of the Cross, which he presented to the North End's St. Leonard's Church. Albert Natale has been honored many times for his contributions to many charities, scholarships, etc. He is truly a fabulous individual! We are blessed to have him as a friend! Perhaps a book will be written about the life and times of Albert Natale. God Bless You, Al!

AMERICA IS A BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN NAME



Recipes from the  
*Homeland*

by Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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VINEGAR (PICKLED) PEPPERS

1 quart white vinegar  
1 quart water  
5 green bell peppers  
3 teaspoons salt

3 medium pickling jars with  
screw caps  
3 teaspoons sugar

Place white vinegar and water in a saucepan over medium heat and cover. Bring to a rolling boil for about three minutes.

Meanwhile remove stems and seeds from peppers. Wash peppers thoroughly. Cut peppers into quarter portions lengthwise and place in clean jars. Pour enough boiled water and vinegar combination over peppers, up to rim of jar. Add one teaspoon of salt and one teaspoon of sugar to each jar. Place cover tightly on each jar.

On a clean cookie sheet or cutting board, turn closed jar upside down, resting jar on its cover. Check to be sure that water is not leaking from jar. Allow standing for thirty minutes before turning jars right side up. Store for three or four weeks in you cupboard before use. Refrigerate only after opening jars.

*Note: I began to pickle bell peppers in the 1950s when my cousin Josie (LaGrassa) DeSisto shared her recipe with me. Each time I pickled peppers, my mind wandered back to my childhood when each fall, Papa bought a case of the small Santo Nicolo peppers for pickling. They were small but firm. They were green, and some were spotted with a little red, or yellow skin. While Mama washed the peppers without removing stem or inner seeds, Papa prepared the very large ceramic container. It was the same kind that everyone else in the neighborhood used for pickling peppers.*

*After the peppers were clean, my parents placed them in the container and added the necessary vinegar and spices. I remember Papa placing a large ceramic cover on the container. He warned us not to go near the peppers.*

*All this took place in the little cubical of space in the cellar of 39 Charter Street, below our bakery. Each family had a cubical reserved for storing extra canned goods, wine, and preserved vegetables. Before long, the aroma of the pickled peppers found its way up to the street floor of the building. Papa wasn't the only one who had pickled peppers.*

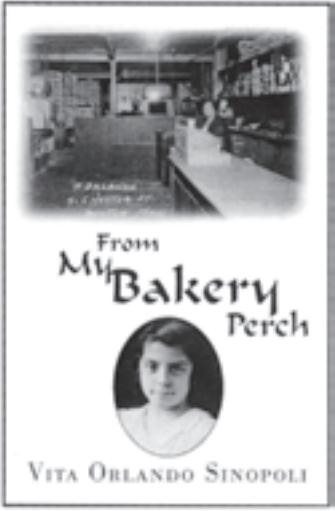
*Each time I look at the ceramic container, still in my possession, it reminds me of the above yearly ritual.*

Vita can be reached at [voswriting@comcast.net](mailto:voswriting@comcast.net)

• Thinking Out Loud (Continued from Page 4)

garbage cans of my own and also use a blue recycling bin too. I miss much of the old days when life on the surface seemed easy but that was probably just the view of a kid with parents who did everything for their children. There was more love back then, more kindness and understanding. We weren't always rushing around. We appreciated our lives no matter the struggle.

For me the good was and is that I learned so much from back then that helps guide me through life today and into the New Year. I await 2012. I await all that lays ahead, all the easy things, all the challenges and all the new roads that stand ahead of each of us. The past, present and future stand together as we move forward. You can't have one without the other two!



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# Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Before the holidays, I was talking about a trip to Italy that I made in 1972. Sal Meli, a fellow East Bostonian whom I had grown up with, had gone to visit his parents who had retired and moved back to their point of origin, southern Sicily. I joined them just before the end of June and Sal and I toured Sicily, headed to the mainland, visited a friend in Calabria, headed up the west coast to Naples, picked up friends from Medford at the Naples airport, and then aimed the car northward toward Rome.

One of the things I wanted to do after visiting the towns on the Amalfi coast was to stop at Anzio. Like Salerno, it was the site of a major World War II battle and I wanted to visit the American cemetery and pay my respects to our servicemen that had lost their lives in that part of Italy. The American Anzio-Nettuno cemetery was gigantic, filled with white crosses and Stars of David. The names of the men interred were carved into the white marble markers as well as the battles they fought in. Just outside the cemetery, a Frenchman, possibly a tourist, heard us talking about the men buried there. He walked over to us and sarcastically asked what was so important about the dead American soldiers. Sal was ready to confront him physically. I stepped in front of Sal and answered, "The importance is this, if it wasn't for those dead American soldiers, you would be speaking German today." The Frenchman said nothing and just walked away.

We drove northward and arrived in Rome around lunchtime. Knowing that Rome is like any other big city, I had made reservations for accommodations ahead of time. Summertime in Rome is tourist time and I didn't want to take any chances. We checked in at the Hotel Cristina on Via Nazionale, near the center of Rome. The only problem was parking. Everywhere I looked there were no parking signs and the hotel didn't have a garage. The desk clerk advised us to return the car to the rental agency and rebook it for the day we were going to leave Rome. He told us that the public transportation was excellent and easy to use. As it turned out, the main train terminal for Rome was just a few blocks away from the hotel at the Piazza Indipendenza. Sal, Jose and I unloaded the car and I drove it toward the train station where there were Hertz and Maggiore car rental agencies.

Just as I was making the arrangements to re-book the car two weeks down the road, I heard someone call me by my professional name

(Johnny Christy). I turned and saw two people I recognized, Bill Leavett and his wife Ruki Surkano. Bill was a character actor I had known from my Hollywood days. Ruki, his wife, also an actor, was the daughter of the then president of Indonesia. I had run into them in Venezuela the year before when they were there working on an ill-fated version of the film Papillon at the same time I was taking a winter's vacation in Caracas.

I finished the paperwork returning the car and renting another for a point two weeks in the future. They were there renting a car for a drive to the French Riviera. Ruki was to appear in a couple of commercials being shot there and they were going to make it a working holiday experience. Bill mentioned that they had a friend, a character actor who had a full size American Chevrolet, and when he wasn't working as an actor, he rented his car and his services as a chauffeur to people who didn't want to take public transportation. Like Hollywood, the movie studios in Rome are on a break during the summer and Bill indicated that his friend might be interested in driving us around. I liked the idea and Bill called the man who had no bookings. We agreed on a price and planned to sit with the man the next day to work out a schedule. Bill and Ruki drove me back to my hotel and said goodbye. I told Sal, Jose and Franny of my find and they were happy we would not have to worry about traveling around Rome.

I next checked out the room Sal and I were going to share: two beds, private bath room, a TV and a telephone. What more could I ask for. After unpacking, I decided to call home and let my folks know we had arrived in Rome. It was late morning in Boston when Babbonnonno answered the phone, "Allo." I yelled out, "Babbonnonno, it's John." My grandfather immediately asked me about my trip and I spent the next ten minutes detailing our travels. When my mom finally was given the phone, I went through the same story. She then gave me the phone number of the only sister Nanna had that did not immigrate to America. She was widowed and lived in Rome with her son who worked in security at Rome's DaVinci Airport. I promised I would call and hung up. My gang was hungry and it was time for dinner. Dinner in Italy is in the middle of the afternoon, not at 6:00 pm or so, as it is in the states. We asked the man at the front desk if he knew of a restaurant that wasn't a tourist trap. He explained that most Italians eat at places called

trattorias. The upscale restaurants were for tourists and Romans who were celebrating special occasions. Seeing we were now walking, we took his advice and headed for a trattoria on a side street off Via Nazionale where the hotel was located. Ten minutes later we were at the place, an unassuming restaurant. The diners were all speaking Italian and the aroma coming from the food was definitely Italian. We knew the desk clerk hadn't given us bad information and we entered and were brought to a table.

The waitress brought the menus, and hearing us speaking English, tried her hand at it. I explained to her that we had just arrived in Rome and were given the name of her restaurant from the hotel. We ordered and were not disappointed. The food was fantastic and not expensive at all. The wine was homemade and arrived at the table in carafes with no labels. Just before we finished, the owner came over to the table and introduced himself. It seems that the restaurant was a family operation and that they were originally from Sardinia. He asked how we liked the food and we praised it to highest levels. The owner then told us to try other places to make comparisons and then return to his place for the best. We would take his advice and did just that. When we returned a couple of days later, the owner greeted us and asked how long we were going to stay in Rome. We gave him our itinerary and we told him that we decided to return each day for dinner. He asked if we minded if he picked out the specialties of the day for us and we told him to go ahead, letting him know what time we would arrive for dinner. As a result, we had the best authentic Italian food Rome could offer.

That night, we began a walking tour of that part of Rome which was near the Piazza Venezia, the geographical center of the city where the tomb of Victor Emmanuel is located. When we became tired, we found a sidewalk café, sipped espresso and sambuca and watched the people walking the streets of Rome. Before we called it a night, I called the man Bill Leavett had spoken to and made arrangements for him to pick us up in the morning to begin our sightseeing of Rome.

To be continued ...

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# VIDEO VIEWS

by Bob Morello

... more than meets the eye

## BRATZ: 3-DVD MOVIE COLLECTION + FASHION BRACELETS (DVD)

**Lionsgate**

The Girls with a Passion for Fashion are back and ready to strut their stuff on Bratz: 3 Movie Collection + Fashion Bracelets. The first ever Bratz gift set to include three animated movies that arrive with bonus Fashion Bracelets, a favorite collector's item for young girls. Enjoy Yasmin, Cloe, Sasha and Jade as they enter the mysterious and exciting world of Genie Magic. On Rock Angelz they attempt to steal the show with their band to save their magazine. Starrin' & Stylin' features the foursome creating a high-fashion-hit and saving the prom with hard work and far out — flash 'n' dash!

## PACKERS: ROAD TO XLV (4-DVD)

**NFL-Vivendi Entertainment**

NFL fans can relive the experience of the Lombardi Trophy/s return to Titletown, USA, as the Green Bay Packers are Super Bowl champions for the fourth time. The 4-disc set relives the Packers' remarkable championship run with the original network broadcasts of their thrilling four-game post-season run over Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago and the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV. It was a season to be savored for all of Packers Nation as Green Bay captured the imagination of an entire nation creating NFL legacy.

## LEAPFROG: PHONICS FARM (DVD)

**Lionsgate**

Join Scout and his friends as they learn letter sounds with the help of some amazing animals. Scout, along with Violet, Eli and Penny long to learn about new animals. When their magical toy car, Axle, whisks them away to a farm, they discover a remarkable alphabet collection and ABC antics ensue! As the friends get in shape with an athletic alligator, console a sad seal, converse with a high-pitched horse and more, they make their way through the entire alphabet!

## THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN (Blu-ray)

**HBO Home Entertainment**

The Tuskegee Airmen is based on the true story of the 332nd Fight Squadron. It is 1943 and the Germans are winning the Second World War as the U.S. suffers huge losses on the ground and in the air. Four newly recruited pilots are united by a desire to serve their country at a time when black flyers are not welcomed in the Air Force. Now, through the brutal demands of their training, to the perils of flying over nations at war, the men must undertake the riskiest mission of their lives. An all-star cast includes Laurence Fishburne, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Malcolm-Jamal Warner.

Celebrate "Black History Month" with this thrilling adventure!

## COP LAND: COLLECTOR'S SERIES (Blu-ray)

**Lionsgate**

Action hero extraordinaire, Sylvester Stallone headlines this edgy crime thriller that explodes with an all-star cast of Robert DeNiro, Harvey Keitel and Ray Liotta. Freddy Heflin (Stallone) is the sheriff of a small and seemingly peaceful town populated by the big-city police officers he's long admired. When he uncovers a massive conspiracy that could turn deadly, he must choose between protecting his idols and upholding the law.

## ED SULLIVAN SHOWS: THE ROLLING STONES (2-DVD)

**UME-SOFA Entertainment**

Considered as "the world's greatest rock 'n roll band," The Rolling Stones performed 17 of their greatest hits while appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show six times. They delivered eye-popping, musical gems that showcased them as young, edgy and electrifying, all while on their way to conquering the world! Also includes performances by Dusty Springfield, Petula Clark, Tom Jones, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Joan Rivers, Rodney Dangerfield, Topo Gigio, The Muppets, plus original commercials.

## SPY KIDS TRIPLE FEATURE SET (3-Blu-ray)

**Lionsgate**

Spy Kids fans can enjoy a trio of fun action films for the whole family on Blu-ray — Spy Kids, Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams and Spy Kids 3: Game Over. The 'hat-trick' of films has star-studded casts that include Antonio Banderas, Alexa Vega and Carla Gugino. Gregorio (Banderas) and Ingrid (Gugino) are the best secret agents on Earth. Nine years after retiring, they are called back to duty. When they disappear, there are only two people who can rescue them — their kids! The pint-sized spy siblings sprang into action, all leading up to Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World — in stores now!

## COMPOSING OUTSIDE THE BEATLES: LENNON & MCCARTNEY 1973-1980 (DVD)

**MVDvisual**

Recently overlooked is this independent documentary that reviews Lennon & McCartney's '70s output. In the early 1970s both artists carved out highly successful solo careers — both critically and commercially. By the end of 1972 both hit the lowest points in their respective careers. 1973's output, however, put both men back on the musical map, beginning the final period during which John and Paul were recording and releasing music simultaneously. Memories!!





**The Tale of the Allergist's Wife**, by Charles Busch, focuses on the burgeoning midlife crisis of an upper-class, upper-crust, Upper West Side woman who fights to better herself through frequent night time visits to museums and theaters. See **THEATER** for more details.

THEATER

**WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE**  
 Wheelock College  
 200 The Riverway Boston, MA  
 617-879-2300  
**www.WheelockFamilyTheatre.org**  
**THE WIZARD OF OZ** – Friday, February 3, Friday, February 10, Friday, February 17, Friday, February 24. Based on the classic 1939 MGM movie with a score co-written by the legendary Harold Arlen, this magical production will sweep audiences off their feet, from the moment the tornado twists its way into Kansas. Young farm girl Dorothy and her little dog Toto are transported “Over the Rainbow,” where they meet the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow on the Yellow Brick Road, and travel together in search of the great and powerful Wizard himself. Featuring such classic songs as “Ding Dong the Witch is Dead” and “If I Only Had a Brain,” *The Wizard of Oz* is sure to cast its timeless spell over the entire family.

**ARSENAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS - BLACK BOX THEATRE**  
 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA  
 617-923-8487  
**www.wellesleyplayers.org**  
**THE TALE OF THE ALLERGIST'S WIFE** – Friday, January 20, Friday, January 27, 2012. This adult social satire by Charles Busch focuses on the burgeoning midlife crisis of an upper-class, upper-crust, Upper-West-Side woman, the wife of a doctor, who strives to better herself through frequent nighttime visits to museums and theaters. Her neuroses about being mediocre come to a boiling point when she pitches a fit at a Disney Store, resulting in substantial damage to both the merchandise and her psyche. Running for nearly 800 performances on Broadway starting in 2000, this show received Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics nominations for Best Play, and Charles Busch won the Outer Critics Award for Outstanding Playwriting. Joe Stallone directs. This play is for mature audiences due to adult content.

**BOSTON CHILDREN'S THEATRE**  
**The Wimberly Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts**  
 527 Tremont Street, Boston, MA  
 617-933-8600  
**www.BostonChildrensTheatre.org**  
**REFELCTIONS OF A ROCK LOBSTER** — March 3 through March 11, 2012. After being bullied relentlessly, 17 year-old student Aaron Fricke from Cumberland, Rhode Island sued his high school in 1980 for the right to escort his boyfriend to his senior prom. In the tradition of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this play deals with issues of bullying and prejudice. Boston Children's Theatre is most proud to bring a story from

local history to enlighten today's youth with positive messages of tolerance and acceptance.

**BOSTON CHILDREN'S THEATRE**  
**The Plaza Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts**  
 539 Tremont Street, Boston, MA  
 617-933-8600  
**www.BostonChildrensTheatre.org**  
**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** — March 17 through 25, 2012. A magical peach! An incredible journey! Insect friends! In *James and the Giant Peach*, Roald Dahl's story comes hilariously to life in this family show that reveals the wickedness of some and the goodness of others. Follow James, the wise Old-Green-Grasshopper and the pessimistic Earthworm on their wild adventure. And, don't forget James' mean Aunt Spiker and cruel Aunt Sponge!

**BOSTON OPERA HOUSE**  
 539 Washington St., Boston, MA  
 617-259-3400  
**www.BostonOperaHouse.com**  
**AMERICAN IDIOT** – January 24 through 29, 2012. Based on Green Day's smash-hit album and featuring such songs as: “Wake Me Up When September Ends,” “Holiday and the blockbuster title track, this Boston premiere tells the story of three life-long friends forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia.

**LES MISERABLES** — March 13, 2012 through April 1, 2012. Les Misérables has been seen by over 53 million people in 38 countries and 21 languages since its first London performance in October 1985. The original Broadway production opened on March 12, 1987, at the Broadway Theatre, winning seven Tony Awards that season, including Best Musical. The show went on to play a total of 6,680 performances. Based on Victor Hugo's epic novel. Relentless policeman Javert pursues escaped convict Jean Valjean over decades through the tumult of revolutionary France. Valjean becomes a mayor, agrees to raise the daughter of dying prostitute and joins the fight for freedom. None of this impresses the single-minded Javert, until the day Valjean saves his life. Score includes “Who Am I?,” “A Little Fall of Rain,” “One Day More,” “Bring Him Home” and “I Dreamed a Dream.”

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** — May 29 through June 3, 2012. Tale as old as time, true as it can be. Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the smash hit Broadway musical, is coming to you! Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, this eye-popping spectacle has won the hearts of over 35 million people worldwide. This classic musical love story is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including “Be Our Guest” and the beloved title song. Experience the romance and

enchantment of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*!

**SHUBERT THEATER**  
 270 Tremont Street, Boston, MA  
 866-348-9738  
**www.ShubertTheater.org**  
**THE ADDAMS FAMILY** – February 7–19, 2012. They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky — c'mon, you know that tune! A dream cast takes on the quirky characters in a new and original Addams Family tale. As the musical begins, there are storm clouds gathering over the Addams Family home. Wednesday is falling in love, young Pugsley, jealous of his sister's attention, begs her to keep torturing him severely, while mother Morticia fears being upstaged and discarded by her daughter's lurch into womanhood ... like yesterday's roadkill. But when outsiders come to dinner, the events of one night will change forever this famously macabre family — a family so very different from your own — or maybe not.

**LOWELL MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**  
 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, MA  
 978-454-2299  
**www.LowellAuditorium.com**  
**COME FLY AWAY** — Thursday, March 1, 2012. “Come Fly Away” is the new Broadway musical that brings together the legendary vocals of Frank Sinatra and the creative vision of Tony Award-winner Twyla Tharp (*Movin' Out*). This one-of-a-kind experience combines the seductive vocals of “Ol' Blue Eyes” with the sizzling sound of a live on-stage big band and the visceral thrill of Tharp's choreography. As 14 of the world's best dancers tell the story of four couples falling in and out of love, you will experience the exhilaration of a first kiss, the excitement of a first dance, and the bitter-sweet moments of a first good-bye in a world of sparkling romance and astonishing beauty. Come Fly Away features a host of beloved Sinatra classics, including “Fly Me to the Moon,” “My Way,” “New York, New York” and “Witchcraft.”

MUSIC

**WILBUR THEATRE**  
 246 Tremont St., Boston, MA  
**www.TheWilburTheatre.com**  
**GLEN CAMPBELL GOODBYE TOUR** — Thursday, February 23, 2012. The legendary singer/songwriter released his final studio album, “Ghost on the Canvas.” Despite the diagnosis of Alzheimers, Glen will hit the road for his “Goodbye Tour”. “I still love making music,” says Campbell. “And I still love performing for my fans. I'd like to thank them for sticking with me through thick and thin.” Glen Campbell is best known for a series of hits in the 1960s and 1970s. Campbell's hits include: “Gentle on My Mind,” “By the Time I Get to Phoenix,” “Wichita Lineman,” “Galveston,” “Rhinstone Cowboy” and “Southern Nights.” Campbell made history by winning four Grammys in both country and pop categories in 1967. For “Gentle on My Mind” he received two awards in country & western, “By the Time I Get to Phoenix” did the same in pop.

**LOWELL MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**  
 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, MA  
 978-454-2299  
**www.LowellAuditorium.com**  
**REAL OLDIES LIVE** — Friday, March 23, 2012. Join us for a classic night of Doo-Wop for Real Oldies Live! Don't miss your chance to enjoy the fun-loving, toe-tapping tunes of artists Gary “US” Bonds, The Clefones, The Orlons, and Johnny Tillotson and the Tuttie Frutties. Gary “US” Bonds created legendary party' record, “Quarter to Three,” a number one hit with a spirit and energy that would eventually inspire and influence a generation. He is also known for “School is Out,” “School is In,” “Dear Lady Twist,” “Twist, Twist Senora,” “Seven Day Weekend,” and others. He has performed throughout the world, rising to a status so high that on a 1963 tour of Europe, he headlined above a group of relative newcomers The Beatles. A rare distinction for Gary is that he managed to transcend the decades with hits. The Clefones are known for hits “Little Girl of Mine,” “Can't We Be Sweethearts,” and “String Around My Heart.” Also, appearing, The Orlons, who are a predominantly female group from Philadelphia, had some dance and novelty gems in the early '60s: “The Wah Watusi,” “Don't Hang Up,” and “South Street.” You wouldn't want to miss Johnny Tillotson, who is famous for chart records “Poetry In Motion,” “It Keeps Right On A Hurtin’,” “With-

out You,” “Send Me The Pillow That You Dream On,” and many more.

**TD GARDEN**  
 Causeway Street, Boston  
**www.TDGarden.com**  
**NEIL DIAMOND** – June 23, 2012. Rock and Pop Icon Neil Diamond, a 2011 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee and 2011 Kennedy Center Honoree, will take his greatest hits on the road on a much-anticipated North American tour. Neil Diamond has had numerous hits including: “Forever in Blue Jeans,” “Cherry, Cherry,” “Sweet Caroline,” “I'm a Believer,” “Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon,” “You Don't Bring Me Flowers,” “Red, Red Wine,” “America” and many more. Neil's musical career spans nearly five decades, Neil has sold more than 125 million albums worldwide, with a remarkable track record of 16 Top Ten albums, and 37 Top Ten singles. A Grammy Award-winning artist, Diamond has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Songwriter's Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award. Among Neils' many other honors, he has received a Golden Globe Award, 12 Grammy nominations and was named the 2009 MusiCares Person of the Year.

**SCULLERS JAZZ CLUB**  
 Double Tree Hotel  
 400 Soldiers Road, Boston, MA  
 617-562-4111  
**www.ScullersJazz.com**  
**DAVID SANBORN** – February 10, 2012. Renowned and revered the world over as one of the greatest saxophone players of all-time, David Sanborn is an artist whose music has inspired countless other musicians while creating a body of work that spans the genres of rock 'n' roll, R&B, pop and jazz. A naturally gifted performer, David has helped defined the saxophone's modern sound while influencing a generation.

COMEDY

**WILBUR THEATRE**  
 246 Tremont St., Boston, MA  
**www.thewilbur.com**  
**Ticketmaster 1-800-745-3000**  
**GEORGE LOPEZ** – Friday, January 20, 2012 and Saturday, January 21, 2012. George Lopez is a multi-talented entertainer whose career encompasses television, film, standup comedy and now late-night television. “Lopez Tonight” represents Lopez's return to series television after co-creating, writing, producing and starring in Warner Bros. Television's groundbreaking hit sitcom *George Lopez*, which ran for six seasons on ABC. George Lopez remains a hit with viewers in syndication on both broadcast stations and cable's Nick at Nite, ranking as one of the top-rated shows on the network and among the top five comedies and top 20 weekly programs in syndication. Lopez has risen to become one of the premier comedic talents in the entertainment industry. He has been praised by audiences and critics alike for his work in television, film and standup, as well as his extensive charity work with various foundations.
**AMAZING JOHNATHAN** — Saturday, January 28, 2012. The Amazing Johnathan is an eccentric comic magician whose bizarre humor and unscripted antics have earned him widespread recognition as one of the most original and unique performers today. His DVD, “Wrong on Every Level” is the latest example to prove this point. The Amazing Johnathan has performed for audiences all over the world. Despite making regular ap-

pearances on national television shows, his live shows are what Amazing Johnathan thrives on. He has literally destroyed audiences and stages with a style that has been described as a cross between Steve Martin and Alice Cooper. With his impulsive, raw humor and abrasive wit, he keeps audiences on the edge of their seats while exhibiting spontaneous magic and showcasing impressive special effects. The Amazing Johnathan Show has added new material but still showcases the same impulsive, bizarre humor and abrasive wit that has earned him widespread critical acclaim.

**COLIN QUINN: LONG STORY SHORT** – Sunday, January 29, 2012. In “Long Story Short,” Colin Quinn focuses his “articulate brand of comedy” on the demise of empires, including our own. More than standup comedy, “Long Story Short” is a hilarious blend of incisive observation, sharp commentary, and Colin's channeling of the personalities of the past. From Socrates to Snooki, Quinn is at his satirical best, taking on the attitudes, appetites and bad habits that toppled the world's most powerful nations. Long Story Short proves that throughout human history, the joke has always been on us.

**ETTA MAY'S WHITE TRASH DIARY** – Tuesday, February 7, 2012. What's the best way to describe Etta May? “Minnie Pearl with a migraine.” To put it simply, when Etta May takes the stage, she is the reigning Queen of Southern Sass. She reflects “You know you're getting fat when you sit in the bathtub and the water in the toilet rises!” Born and raised in Bald Knob, Arkansas, Etta May grew up alongside nine older brothers, who referred to their baby sister as “the human sacrifice.” In fact, Etta May's parents - her father, a potpourri farmer, and her mother, bedridden by constant childbearing, — did not realize Etta May was a girl until she required a training bra. Etta May met her husband, Delbert, an aspiring truck driver, at a friend's kegger. From across the yard their eyes locked in a love look. Nine months later, she was blessed with a boy, followed by a girl and two more boys. “That's where my comedy comes from. I just wait for my husband or kids to do something stupid, and then I write it down.” Etta May, will take you on a redneck ride through the Deep South.

**DAVID SPADE** — Friday, February 10, 2012. Born in Birmingham, MI, but raised in Scottsdale, AZ, Spade first made a name for himself as a standup comedian. He spent most of the '80s performing in clubs, theaters, and college campuses. He joined the cast of Lorne Michael's long-running television show *Saturday Night Live* in 1990 as a writer and a performer. On the show, he soon gained popularity for such recurring sketches such as “The Hollywood Minute” in which Spade would sarcastically shred some of Tinseltown's biggest stars with his nasty comments. Spade also proved an able impersonator of celebrities ranging from Jeff Foxworthy to Tom Petty. Spade has appeared on many television talk shows and guest starred on several series. He began his film career in the late '80s playing a small role in *Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol*. In the '90s, he began playing major supporting roles in such films as *Coneheads* (1993) and *P.C.U.* (1994). He and former SNL alumni Chris Farley shared top billing in two popular comedies, *Tommy Boy* (1995) and *Black Sheep* (1996). Spade starred opposite Joe Pesci and Dyan Cannon in *Eight Heads in a Duffel Bag* (1997). In 1997, Spade returned to series television in the sitcom *Just Shoot Me* and also has a starring role in the popular sitcom *Rules of Engagement*.

ITALIAN  
EVENTS & PROGRAMS

**ITALIAN RADIO PROGRAMS**  
**“The Sicilian Corner”** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm every Friday with host Tom Zappala and Mike Lomazzo and **“The Italian Show”** with Nunzio DiMarca every Sunday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Go to [www.1110wccmam.com](http://www.1110wccmam.com).  
**“Italia Oggi”** Sundays 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm with host Andrea Urdi 1460 AM [www.1460WXHR.com](http://www.1460WXHR.com).  
**“Dolce Vita Radio”** DJ Rocco Mesiti 11:00 am-1:00 pm Sundays 90.7 FM or online [www.djrocco.com](http://www.djrocco.com).  
**“The Nick Franciosa Show”** Sundays from 12 Noon to 3:00 pm on WLYN 1360 AM and WAZN 1470 AM.  
**“Guido Oliva Italian Hour”** 8:00 am-9:00 am Sundays on WSRO 650 AM and online at [www.wsro.com](http://www.wsro.com).  
**“Radio Italia Unita”** - Thursdays

2:00 pm-3:00 pm on [www.zumix.org/](http://www.zumix.org/) radio or itunes, college radio click on Zumix. For more information, log onto [www.italiaunita.org](http://www.italiaunita.org).  
**“Tony's Place” on MusicAmerica WPLM FM 99.1** - Every Sunday 9:00 pm-10:00 pm on MusicAmerica. Host Ron Della Chiesa presents Tony's Place. Visit [www.MusicNotNoise.com](http://www.MusicNotNoise.com).  
**DANTE ALIGHIERI CULTURAL CENTER**  
 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA  
 781-640-3637  
**www.DanteAlighieri.net**  
**BEAUTIFUL CLASSIC ITALIAN OPERA ARIAS** — Sunday, January 15, 3:00 pm. Sponsored by the Pirandello Lyceum. Free to Pirandello members. Public invited.



## • A New Year's Resolution (Continued from Page 2)

as 2012 draws to an end. Regardless of our success, what is important is that we try, the earnest desire to improve ourselves, to become more organized, lose the weight, spend more cautiously and in our case be more cognizant of time can only be good, though success would be great what seems equally important is the desire to succeed, sooner or later, with determination, even we might finally make

it to being on time. Wishing success to all who've embarked upon this year's resolutions, reminding all that equally important to reaching our destination is the journey itself with the stories and encounters we have along the way and if we don't reach our destination hopefully at least we had fun in trying and there is always next year when we can try again. Happy New Year fellow travelers.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11P6109EA

In the Estate of  
**PETER SABIA**  
Late of MELROSE, MA 02176  
Date of Death December 15, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **Joseph P. Sabia** of Winthrop, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve **Without Surety**.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 26, 2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

#### MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code 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 the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.

WITNESS, Hon. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 29, 2011

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11P6117EA

In the Estate of  
**BARBARA A. WAKA**  
Late of MELROSE, MA 02176  
Date of Death December 19, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **F. N. Waka** of Los Angeles, CA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve **Without Surety**.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 25, 2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, Hon. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 28, 2011

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11P6204EA

In the Estate of  
**EVELYN M. MAHONEY**  
Late of CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139  
Date of Death October 28, 2009

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **E. P. Mullane** of Cambridge, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve **Without Surety**.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 31, 2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, Hon. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 3, 2012

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11P6065EA

In the Estate of  
**GERTRUDE C. SCHLESNER**  
a/k/a GERTRUDE C. SCHLESNER  
Late of WINCHESTER, MA 01890  
Date of Death November 24, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **Edith Doenges** of Winchester, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve **Without Surety**.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 26, 2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

#### MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

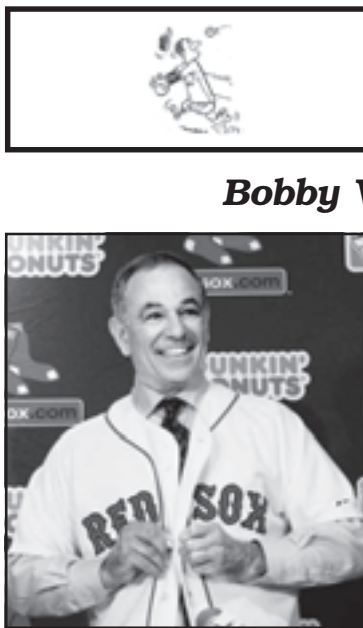
Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code 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 the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.

WITNESS, Hon. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 29, 2011

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12



**Red Sox Manager Bobby Valentine.**

His first day on the job as Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine did the right thing; he gave tribute to the memory of Tony Conigliaro by choosing Number 25 for his team jersey. As he slipped on his new jersey at the press conference, I saw it, that number. Those of a certain age like me — a baby boomer — I still remember when Tony Conigliaro played in his first Red Sox game at age 19. The number on his back was "25." Over the years other players wore that number but it always seemed wrong. I liked both Troy O'Leary and Mike Lowell but neither was a number "25." When I see that number I think of Tony C. and all the "what ifs" that go with the number. What if he never crowded home plate? What if he were never

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11P6081EA

In the Estate of  
**PAMELA M. PALMER**  
Late of NEWTON, MA 02461-0106  
Date of Death December 1, 2011

#### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed and that **Gregory J. Palmer** of Framingham, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve **Without Surety**.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 20, 2012.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

#### MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code 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 the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.

WITNESS, Hon. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 23, 2011

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12

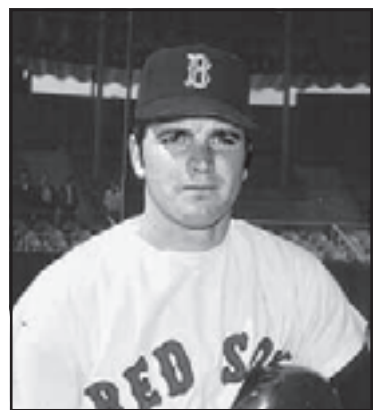
## EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani

### Bobby Valentine to Wear Number 25

beamed during the Impossible Dream season? What if? By age 22 in 1967, he had 100 home runs. No one did that before him. In 1965, he hit 32 home runs to lead the AL. He made a comeback of sorts and in 1970 at only 25 years old, he hit 36 homers but that beaming did in his great eyesight and long-term career. He was a homeboy from right here. He had a natural talent like the great Mickey Mantle.

When will the Boston Red Sox retire his number and place it with the other great



**Tony Conigliaro, former Red Sox Rightfielder.**

names above the right field bleachers?

The time is now more than ever and perhaps it can be Bobby Valentine's personal tribute to Conigliaro that can lead the way to that hometown honor at Fenway.

#### Bonds Found Guilty 30 Days House Arrest

San Francisco slugger Barry Bonds was found guilty in a court of law recently for committing perjury concerning enhancement drug usage. He could have gotten time behind bars but the judge was nice and only gave him 30 days of house arrest. He'll still appeal the sentence because it was a guilty finding. The King of Homeruns all time and single season is now an officially tarnished stats leader. I still consider Hank Aaron the real lifetime HR leader and Roger Maris the single season HR leader.

Here's hoping that the door to Cooperstown is closed for ever to players like Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and "Rocket Man" Roger Clemens. The harm done will never be undone but at least we can separate the wheat from the shaft, huh?

## Small Ads Get Big Results

For more information,  
call 617-227-8929.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
Docket No. MI11D4846DR

#### DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

**JULIE ELLEN DoCARMO MOURAO vs. CLOVIS ANTONIO RODRIGUES**

To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage. 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: **Leslie Whitney O'Brien Esq., Attorney at Law, Post Office Box 426, Winchester, MA 01890** your answer, if any, on or before **January 30, 2012**. 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. PETER C. DiGANGI,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 19, 2011

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 1/6/12

### LEGAL NOTICE

**AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS**  
523 SPRAGUE STREET  
DEDHAM, MA 02026  
617-347-9104  
781-286-8402 FAX

TO: OWNER OR OWNERS,  
AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS  
HAS HAD A  
2003 CHEVY BOX TRUCK  
IN THEIR POSSESSION  
SINCE 2009.

REGISTRY OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES HAS NO RECORD  
VIN #1GBJG31U131116488.

IF YOU CAN PROVE OWNERSHIP,  
CALL MIKE SORRENTINO AT  
THE ABOVE NUMBER.

TRUCK WILL GO UP FOR SALE.

SUBMITTED BY  
MIKE SORRENTINO  
FOR  
AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS

Run dates: 1/6, 1/13/12





## CORNER TALK

by Reinaldo Oliveira, Jr.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!"

**How to make Society Better — More Fight Family Gyms**

*Let's also Increase the Number of Fight-cards in Boston!*

A Boxer Versus the Ultimate Fighter? Hmmm???

I Go with the Boxer. Let Me Reword That. I Go With The "X-treme Boxer!"

I'm watching: "**Cage Fighting in the USA**"

At the Fights in Gloucester, Massachusetts

**Happy New Year Fight Family.** Members: Did you have some "**Punch!**" on New Year's. We're now in the year 2012. What should we expect? Were you **naughty** or **nice** in **2011**? Did you do as you did to make the life of others **better** or **worse**? We'll see what's in store for you in the year **2012**. Believe in God. He is the **caretaker** of the world. Please remember "**God does not sleep!**"

A word of advice to society. More Fight Family Gyms should be encouraged and promoted. Many might see that as a throwback to the Gladiator days. Quite the contrary. Society has developed in a way to take the control out of self driven motivated people. Taking the drive away from hard working, hard driven people is un-American. Individuals **honestly fight** for what they **have!** That's American! I remember as a child looking up to great American heroes: Joe **Louis**, Rocky **Marciano**, John **Wayne**, Paul **Pender**, Jim **Brown**, John F. **Kennedy**, Julius **Caesar**, Tony **DeMarco**, Albert **Einstein**, Sir Isaac **Newton**, John L. Sullivan, my parents **Reinaldo, Sr.**, and **Jennie** Oliveira, uncles Frank and John Barboza, who both served in **WWII**. My grandparents came from the Cape Verde Islands in 1902 and 1904. We have developed into a society that does not encourage being strong, athletic and successful. We have developed into a society that cares for everyone else but ourselves. **America!** Remember, that **Throwing a fight is illegal!** Stop throwing the **fighting spirit** of America away. Wake up and be tough and strong. As they say in Boxing, "**You can never tell a great fighter, till they get knocked down!**" I recommend more individuals getting involved in going to fight gyms. More smokers at local fight gyms. More families encouraging those around them to go to local fight gyms. Let's have **fight teams** competing against other fight teams. Start arranging your fight teams. If one team has 20 members, and another only has 8 members, arrange competition between 8 members and give points to the individual and team. At the end of the season, **crown the Fight Championship Team (most points)** and **Crown Championship Team Members** who fought and won their individual league title. Give second and third place points to those who place in that position. Have team schedules. Have team fights at the local gym or at a location that can accommodate paying spectators. More fight gyms develop character and respect for others. Remember that confrontations are usually started by the person that knows they will lose and not win the fight on the street. Usually fights on the street are started by chumps. Either they start a fight with someone they know can beat them up, to get them in trouble, or they start with someone who can't fight and is weak, to hopefully gain a victory. People that usually start fights are **chumps**. They insult and prey upon others, who they know can beat them, to get the other person in trouble. Law enforcement gets called and upon arrival reacts as they feel they should. Arresting, summoning or lodging a complaint on those called on. I feel that more fight family gyms should be opened? I feel that weasels could be brought back to reality. Wouldn't it be better if someone wanted to actually confront another in a physical fight-match to say "**Hey!**" **Let's go to the gym and settle our differences!**" Case closed. No one gets in trouble. Both agreed to go to a gym. Street problems decrease. I find that a high percentage of people lodging complaints are in fact perpetrators of incidents. That's their strength. **They get you in trouble!** It's sad that others fall for it. "**Ding, Ding!**"

A message to "**Boston!**" The Boston area has been a major Fight Capital throughout

the history of fighting. World Champions and contenders: John L. Sullivan, Rocky Marciano, Paul Pender, Tony DeMarco, Joe DeNucci, Kenny Florian and others. Come on. Let's do it again. Many of the greatest in fight history have come from the Boston area. The equation of success has been accumulated through the efforts of the many great **fighters**, great **trainers** and great **promoters** who've entertained and added to our history. Do it again.

Now to the subject of "The **X-treme Boxer** versus The **Ultimate Fighter**." I believe a style called "**X-treme Boxing!**" is the best style for the MMA, and Cage Fighting. I would like to demonstrate this style. A style developed while I fought over the years. Okay I wasn't what you call a great boxer. I was a pretty good fighter. I thank the many over the years who've contributed to my "**fighting skill!**" I also thank St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford. Recently in the hospital I received great care in 2011. My nose was cared for and made better. Gaining more than what I've lost. God blessed me with **strength**. I can breathe better out of my nose. I could not breathe out of my nose from December 1958 to the two recent medical procedures I had on my nose in the last two years. I've had another nasal airway opened somewhat. I want to fight. I don't blame losses for not being able to breathe out of my nose. I give credit to my tough opponents left hooks, right hands and their great ability. My two medical procedures in the last couple of years have given me "**new life!**" I've gained more than what I've lost.

Talking with **Jimbo** Curran, one of the great trainers at The Peter Welch Gym in South Boston. He spoke of two fighters that he's high promise on: James **Murrin** and Matt **Finny**, both of South Boston.

"**Cage Fighting in the USA.**" 45 states now allow MMA fights and over 2.5 million Americans trained or fought in MMA. Mixed Martial Arts consists of boxing, wrestling, jiu jitsu and other fight styles. On this program Women Mixed Martial Artist **Emma** put it well, "Thinks anybody that has the courage to get up and actually get into a ring is already a winner. So it doesn't matter if you win or lose a fight. If you have the courage to get up there in front of a crowd and put yourself out there like you're a bad ass, then you've proved yourself."

In Gloucester, a fundraiser fight for the Gloucester Public School Athletic Program by Granite Chin/Danny **Kelly** Promotions. Presented for your entertainment: Derek **Silveira** 6-0, 2 KO's won the New England Welterweight title when he defeated Josh **Beeman** 4-11-3, 3 KO's, by scores of 79-73, 78-74, and 77-75. On the undercard Junior Welter Augustine **Mauras** kept his undefeated 3-0-1, 2 KO record intact. He defeated 2-13-1 Noel **Garcia** by way of a convincing decision. Carlos **Candelario** Jr. of Lowell started his career victoriously, by defeating Jesus **Cintrón** 0-1-1 of Springfield via 1<sup>st</sup> round TKO. Lightweight Carlos **Hernandes** who was scheduled to fight Edwin Rosado left town an hour before the show was to begin. He was a **No Show**.

Andre **Ward** 25-0, 13 KO's won the The Showtime Super Six World Boxing Classic Final **Title**. He convincingly defeated Carl **Froch** 28-2, 20 KO's by 12 round decision. Andre Ward is also the 2004 Athens Greek Olympic Gold Medal Light Heavyweight Champion. He's from Dublin, California. He's the *Ring Magazine*, WBC, WBA and Showtime Super Six Super Middleweight World Champion.

WBC Light Heavyweight Champion **Donny** LaLonde. His T.K.O.O.O. Initiative to help boxers suffering the effects of their career in the ring. There are many who give back to the Fight Family World. He's one.

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



The picture captured her in midair, it did, her knees bent back in a midjump with a big smile on her face.

Her hair was blowing in the wind and there she was, strumming her hockey stick as if it was a guitar.

That picture, one of women's hockey star Angela Ruggiero, ran with the announcement in *USA Today* that she is retiring from the sport as an athlete after 16 years as a defensive player with the U.S. National Team, a span that saw her participate in a record 256 games.

But what it really depicted was that free spirit, the idea that someone could still play a sport for fun, for enjoyment, for pleasure.

You see, at age 32 Angela Ruggiero (her birthday was January 3) is not just retiring, she is retiring as essentially an amateur — after an outstanding college career and that long run with Team USA that saw her post 208 points for the Red, White and Blue via 67 goals and 141 assists.

Sure, she had played briefly with her brother Bill with the Tulsa Oilers — a minor league team and yes, she had played in the Canadian Women's Hockey League but in essence there were no huge checks and the biggest paydays came from time well spent in the sport she loved.

And therein is the reason that separates her from many quality athletes today. She engaged in an activity for pure enjoyment, not because there was a financial fortune waiting for her at some point along the way.

There weren't any strikes, lockouts, holdouts, negotiations over contract clauses or moaning and groaning over the financial terms of a pact. There was just hockey for the love of it.

She played hockey at Harvard — a school that doesn't offer athletic scholarships — all four years. Play would be an understatement since all she did was to cap her collegiate career in her senior season by earning the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award as the most outstanding women's collegiate player in America in 2004. That's the equivalent of college football's Heisman Trophy for women's college hockey.

That award added to the honors already bestowed: being named the No. 1 female hockey player in the world by *The Hockey News* in 2003 and the No. 1 women's player in America by USA Hockey in both 2003 and 2004.

Oh, and in the classroom she also was an all-star — earning first team Academic All-America honors in 2004 when she graduated cum laude with a degree in government — as well as being named one of the top eight student athletes in the entire NCAA that year. She's also recently earned a degree in sport management from the University of Minnesota.

In international competi-

tion she competed in four Winter Olympics, winning the gold medal with Team USA in Nagano, Japan in 1998, a silver in 2002, a bronze in 2006 and another silver in 2010 when the Olympics were held in Turin, Italy. She also won the 2005 Women's World Ice Hockey Championship for Team USA when she scored the deciding goal in a shootout.

Each of those Olympic teams was put together in the classic way — a summer training camp followed by a fall and early winter tour when the team would play various college and all-star teams in the style of the 1980 men's Miracle on Ice gold medal squad.

Today, only the women use this method, the men's team being comprised of NHL stars who come together on the eve of the games. Perhaps those teams are dream teams but it only the women who are living the dream in the classic style.

In recent times she's been named to the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission as well as the IOC Evaluation Commission, a group that will evaluate sites for future games. She also is presently serving an eight-year term on the U.S. Olympic Committee. In addition, she also has applied to Harvard's well-known MBA program and is evaluating employment opportunities. This past October she was inducted into the National Italian Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Chicago.

She told *USA Today* that she felt she could make the 2014 Olympic Team that will play in Sochi, Russia. "I'm not declining in my playing. For me, I've always felt like 100 percent is required no matter what you are doing."

Given her other duties she added: "I don't think it would be fair for me to play on a team if I was not 100 percent dedicated."

Some will say that life has been unfair to her — that if there was a WNHL and she had been paid a high salary she could well be retiring as a millionaire.

But that's not necessarily the way she looks at it. "When I was training and feeling the pressure, I always reminded myself that I was exactly where I wanted to be: enjoying myself and playing the sport I love."

Through hockey, Angela Ruggiero furthered her education at one of America's best colleges, was able to travel to many distant lands all expenses paid and was able to participate in the world's finest athletic showcase — the Olympic Games.

Along the way she didn't pick up many paychecks but she had the best of experiences. And you couldn't put a financial value on them. They went beyond any monetary value that could have been assigned. They, like her life achievements thus far, are priceless.