

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 124 - NO. 49      BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER 4, 2020      \$.35 A COPY

REMEMBER • UNDERSTAND • HONOR



DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO  
MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

DECEMBER 7, 1941

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

## St. Joseph's Society, Cooks and Distributes, 700 Thanksgiving Meals for Veterans and the Needy



Pictured, L-R: Chef Pino, Jimmy Martorano, Marnie Martorano, Victor Catricala, Mimi Geloso, and Donato Frattaroli, proprietor of Victory Point in Quincy.  
(Photo by Tommy Colbert Photography)

If the people in the picture above look a little tired, they should be.

Members of the St. Joseph's Society of Boston and Victory Point Restaurant at Marina Bay in Quincy cooked and distributed 700 Thanksgiving meals to the New England Center for Homeless Veterans, the Amy Lowell House, the Beacon House and St. Joseph's Parish, as well as to some of the neediest families in Boston's North End. It was

a project that took up a lot of energy and time for several days before Thanksgiving. This feat was coordinated and carried out by Michelle Geloso and Marnie & Jim Martorano with much appreciated help from John, Brian, Carolyn, Scott and Mathew.

The Thanksgiving project would not have been possible without the capable touch of Donato Frattaroli and his magnificent chef Pino of Quincy's Victory Point Restaurant. Even

Frattaroli's Il Molo Restaurant in Boston's North End pitched in as well.

Then came the task of delivering the 700 meals. Eddie Summers, President of the St. Joseph's Society, Vice President Anthony Boyd, volunteers from St. Leonard's parish supervised by the pastor himself, Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM, assisted in completing the deliveries.

All in all, a job well done.

## News Briefs

by Sal Giaratani

### What's Happened to Journalism 101?

Recently, NY's Governor Andrew Cuomo came to the defense of President Trump calling the way the media has treated Trump as nasty, unprofessional, and biased.

Jim Accosta from *CNN* stated that President Trump "goes back to being another crackpot on the internet." Meanwhile, Lester Holt interviewed President-elect Joe Biden on prime time and asked one silly question after another. Hard questions are obviously verboten. Just a little chit-chat between fishing buddies. It is going to be sickening to watch the media not do its job. Journalism 101 is dead.

### Back the Blue PAC Supports Georgia Senate Candidates, David Perdue And Kelly Loeffler

The fate of our country comes down to Georgia. The coming months will result in unprecedented political spending and attention on the two U.S. Senate runoff elections on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We all know what is in store if Joe Biden ultimately takes the White House in January — we cannot allow the Democrats to control the senate, too. The political implications will destroy our country as we know it!

The Democrats are already pumping millions of dollars into the campaigns of Republican opponets Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, while former candidate for Georgia governor, Stacey Abrams is actively calling for citizens to move to Georgia just to vote in the runoff elections!

Pro-law and order House candidates have been elected all across the country in the last few weeks, and we need to continue to hold the majority of seats in the Senate.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Nazzaro Center Turkey Giveaway for Seniors



The BCYF Nazzaro Center, along with Rep. Michlewitz and Sen. Boncore, held a Turkey Giveaway for seniors on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A huge thank you to all who participated and especially to Rep. Michelwitz's office for donating the turkeys!!!

Here are few of the pics.



L-R: Senator Boncore, Rep. Michlewitz, and the Nazzaro Center's Steven Siciliano prepare to distribute Thanksgiving groceries to seniors.  
(Photos courtesy of the Nazzaro Center)

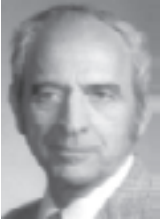
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Stirpe  
Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



THE APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES



Prometheus Bound by Peter Paul Rubens, Circa 1611 to 1612, Philadelphia Museum of Art

The legend concerning the apples of the Hesperides starts with the marriage of Jupiter, chief of all Roman gods, to the goddess named Juno. The wedding was attended by all other deities, who brought beautiful gifts. The grandmother of the bride brought a wedding gift of golden apples growing on live branches. As soon as the ceremonies had ended, the branches were planted in the sacred garden of Juno. The Hesperides, three daughters of Atlas, and a goddess named Hesperis, were directed to cultivate and watch over the growing trees. The golden fruit soon became known as the apples of the Hesperides. The girls were negligent in their duties and frequently plucked off apples for themselves. Consequently, Juno sent a large serpent to guard the fruit. This monster had a hundred heads that slept at different intervals, so that it was ever watchful. The eleventh task required of Hercules was to bring back to the king, at the city of Tiryns, the apples of the Hesperides.

The journey to the sacred garden of Juno took Hercules into the Caucasus Mountains where he came upon Prometheus, still bound to the rock. We remember Prometheus as the Secondary Titan who stole fire from the gods and gave it to mankind. Later, he displeased Jupiter, so he was chained to this rock. Each day a giant eagle tore at his liver, which grew whole again each night. The best artistic representation of this legend has been portrayed on an eight-foot-high oil-on-canvas masterpiece by Peter Paul Rubens. It is entitled *Prometheus Bound*, and is owned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Prometheus

is also represented in a sculptured wall plaque that is now in the National Museum at Naples, Italy. Hercules shot and killed the eagle; then he freed Prometheus from his bonds. In gratitude, Prometheus advised Hercules not to enter the sacred garden of Juno, but to send Atlas, the father of the Hesperides, to fetch the apples for him.

Continuing his outward journey, Hercules finally came to the sacred garden of Juno. It was located near the spot where Atlas was holding the sky on his shoulders. Remembering the advice of Prometheus, Hercules offered to relieve Atlas of the weight temporarily if he would gather the golden apples from the garden. Atlas agreed, fetched the apples, and returned shortly thereafter. Hercules soon discovered that Atlas did not intend to resume his great burden, but instead offered to deliver the apples himself. Having this great weight upon his back prevented Hercules from resorting to any kind of force against Atlas. Using caution and wit, Hercules pretended to agree to the proposal of Atlas, but begged him to hold the sky just long enough to permit a pad to be placed on his head. The gullible Atlas laid the apples on the ground and took back the sky. As soon as the weight was transferred, Hercules picked up the golden fruit and started his journey back home.

After receiving the apples, the king immediately returned them to the Hesperides because it was not considered proper that such sacred fruit remain in anyone else's keeping.

NEXT ISSUE:  
Hercules and the Hellhound

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# Christopher Columbus:

## PARTS II & III

### Fact vs. Fiction

Diane J. Modica, Chairperson, Commission for Social Justice, Massachusetts Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America

This week in a continuing effort to present more balanced information about Christopher Columbus, the Commission for Social Justice of the Massachusetts Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America looks at Columbus: **Fact vs. Fiction**, a document prepared by the National Order Sons and Daughters of Italy. This is Parts II and III of that document.

PART II:  
What Columbus Accomplished

HISTORICAL

- Columbus proved that it was possible to safely cross the Atlantic Ocean.
- Columbus founded the first permanent European settlement in the Western Hemisphere, Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic).
- Columbus was the first to open relations between Europe and the Western Hemisphere. His voyages mark the beginning of more than 500 years of cultural, economic, and political relations between Europe and the Americas.
- The recorded history of the Western Hemisphere begins

with Columbus. There was no written history about these vast continents before his arrival in 1492.

NAVIGATIONAL

- Columbus was the first European to realize the full importance of the Atlantic wind pattern called the prevailing Westerlies, which blew steadily west to east. This convinced him it was possible to sail west with the Trade Winds to the New World and return to Europe with the Westerlies.
- During his four transatlantic voyages, Columbus chartered the route for what today are the islands of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Lesser Antilles and the coasts

of Panama, Honduras and Venezuela.

- Columbus' trans-Atlantic route laid the foundation for future navigation in the region. His maps were used by Amerigo Vespucci (after whom the American continent takes its name), whose maps were used by later explorers of South America.
- The route across the Atlantic Ocean that Columbus charted in the 15th century is still used by sailors today.
- Columbus introduced the principle of compass variation (the variation at any point on the Earth's surface between the direction to magnetic and geographic north) and observed the rotation of the Pole star.

PART III:  
Why We Should Celebrate Columbus Day

- Columbus Day recognizes the achievements of a great Renaissance explorer who founded the first permanent European settlement in the New World. The arrival of Columbus in 1492 marks the beginning of recorded history in America and opened relations between the Americas and the rest of the world. Columbus Day celebrates the beginning of cultural exchange between America and Europe.
- After Columbus, millions of European immigrants brought their art, music, science, medicine, philosophy and religious principles to America. These contributions have helped shape the United States and include Greek democracy, Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics and the belief that all men are created equal.
- Columbus Day is one of America's oldest holidays. The tradition of observing Columbus Day dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in this country. It was first celebrated on October 12, 1792, when the New York Society of Tammany honored Columbus on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first voyage.
- Columbus Day is a patriotic holiday. In fact, the Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first voyage. That year, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a legal holiday.
- The United States has long admired Columbus. America has more monuments to Columbus than any nation in the world, according to the Christopher Columbus Encyclopedia.
- The United States has a significant collection of

Columbus memorabilia, including his desk, papers, and the cross he used to claim the New World for Spain. These are in the Columbus Chapel in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania.

- In 1905, Colorado became the first state to declare Columbus Day a holiday.
- In 1971, Columbus Day became a federal holiday in all 50 states after Congress passed a

law declaring the second Monday in October Columbus Day.

- Columbus Day also commemorates the arrival on these shores of more than 5 million Italians beginning in 1880. Today, the children and grandchildren of these early Italian Americans constitute the nation's fifth largest ethnic group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141  
(617) 768-5800  
Docket No. MI20P5280EA  
Estate of  
SHARON E. RUSSELL  
Date of Death: August 26, 2020  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Andrea M. Green of North Reading, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that Andrea M. Green of North Reading, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 21, 2020.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 23, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court South  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000  
Docket No. MI20P5272EA  
Estate of  
DAVID L. NOCELLA  
Date of Death: October 22, 2020  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Susan Nocella of Woburn, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that Susan Nocella of Woburn, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
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Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 23, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020

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# POST-GAZETTE

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Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990

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Friday, December 4, 2020

**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.

## EDITORIAL

### Police Reform Bill a Step Backwards

by Sal Giarratani

As a retired police officer with 28 years of service, I believe the Police Reform Bill that came out of the conference committee up on Beacon Hill is a big step BACKWARDS on the issues that law enforcement work so hard on and now looks most assuredly to hurt law enforcement and public safety. A vote was scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday)

Kevin Plunkett, president, of the Emerald Society of Boston says of this legislation, "While we fully support positive changes for all moving forward, this bill has missed its mark. I agree this bill shouldn't even be under consideration. It is time for a reset creating an open process to develop common sense reform in the next session."

This Police Reform Bill does not protect or serve anyone. It would make police officers second class citizens by denying them the due process given to all other Massachusetts Public Employees. As written, the newly formed Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission would be able to revoke an officer's certification before that officer has a right to challenge discipline, in many cases even before internal investigations are completed! This is absurd! There is no fairness if officers can be stripped of their livelihood based on unsubstantiated claims. Other public employees such as teachers have certification — but their due process rights are protected by the law. Police officers deserve no less than all other public employees.

On Tuesday, (November 1<sup>st</sup>) apparently both branches of the state legislature passed the police reform bill and sent it on to the governor's office where it awaits the governor's action on it. I urge folks to contact the governor's office and urge Governor Charlie Baker to veto this bill which was rushed through the legislature and I also urge all citizens to also contact their State Representatives and Senators urging them not to override the veto but to get back to work on re-writing this rushed bill.

## North End Friends of St. Francis House

### Hat & Coat Drive

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The North End Friends of St. Francis House will be doing our annual collection of Winter Hats and Gloves this year, BUT like everything else it will be slightly different due to the pandemic. We will not be able to collect the actual hats or gloves. We are asking anyone who would like to contribute to send in a donation of any amount to us and we will purchase the hats and gloves and then deliver them to St. Francis House.



THANKS to some repeat generous donors, I was able to buy 300 pairs of gloves and 180 hats.

Our goal is to collect at least \$2,500 of which we have already

received \$1,700, so we still have a ways to go to reach our goal.

Checks can be made out to John Romano and mailed to:

Ms. Olivia Scimeca  
21 Cleveland Place  
Boston, Mass. 02113

Donations will be accepted until December 10, 2020. For more information or to use Venmo, you can reach me at 617-750-9749 or Olivia at 617-605-6142.

Thank you all so much for your continued support!!

## NEW Health COVID-19 Testing Sites

### in North End and Charlestown:

### Hours and Locations for Winter 2020

NEW Health, a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, will continue to offer COVID-19 testing in Charlestown and the North End this season. The testing sites opened this past summer to all NEW Health patients and all residents of both neighborhoods, regardless of symptoms or insurance.

Both sites will remain open as long as needed, and locations and hours are as follows for the winter months.

The Charlestown site is open Monday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and has been moved indoors to the Crossroads Resource Center at 15 Tufts Street; both drive-up and walk-up options remain available.

The North End site is open Tuesday and Thursday, from

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and has been moved into the alleyway directly behind NEW Health at 332 Hanover Street in order to provide more cover from the elements; the entrance is on North Bennet Street. Walk-up patients only.

**Appointments are required** and can be made by calling 617-643-8000 for the North End location and 857-238-1100 for the Charlestown location.

## John L. Forbes

John L. (Jack) Forbes of Quincy, formerly of Woburn, passed away on November 24, 2020.

Beloved husband of the late Nora Theresa Forbes. Son of the late John J. and Ethel Forbes. Devoted father of John and wife Cindy of East Boston, William and wife Susan of Methuen, Peter and wife Kathleen of Braintree, Ann Sullivan and husband Duane, Mary Gallotto and husband Mario, Paul and wife Susie, Joan and husband Jim, Terry Free and husband Mark, all of Quincy, and Michael of East Boston. Brother of the late Joan Logue and husband Joe of Orono, ME and brother-in-law of Peggy and Sally Donohoe. Jack is also survived by 34 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Jack was a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War and was a lifetime member of The Disabled American Veterans. He was also a graduate of the University of Missouri and received his Master's Degree from the BU School of Social Work. He began his career as a Group Worker at Denison House in Dorchester eventually becoming Executive Director. He was also Executive



Director of the East Boston Social Centers for many years. He was well respected in both communities and was a role model and mentor to countless young men and women. Many of them are currently active in community service today. Jack ended his working career as a lead investigator for The Massachusetts Treasury, Abandoned Property Division.

He was a wonderful, caring father and Papa. Jack was loved by many. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack's memory can be made to Quincy Catholic Academy, 370 Hancock Street, North Quincy, MA 02171, or The Jack and Terry Forbes Scholarship Fund, 104 Byron Street, East Boston, MA 02128.

Normally, the funeral is an opportunity for the community to gather in support of one another. Although we cannot gather together with Jack's family at this time, friends may still offer their support by visiting: [www.Keohane.com](http://www.Keohane.com) and sharing a special memory or video message. For those who cannot access the website, please call 1-800-KEOHANE to have your message added.

### In Remembrance

### Joseph "Dom" Compochiaro

June 21, 1938 – December 8, 2014

Sixth Anniversary



Everyday in some small way  
Memories of you come our way.  
Though absent, you are always near  
Still missed, loved, and always dear.

## Maria Florencia Lucia (Zuzolo) Leone

Maria Florencia Lucia (Zuzolo) Leone of the West End passed away on November 23, 2020.

She was a loyal and dependable employee of Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston and the former North End Nursing Home.

Beloved daughter of the late Giuseppe and Carmela (De Guglielmo) Zuzolo. Loving wife of the late Frank J. Leone. Loving devoted mother of Frank Leone and his wife Suzanne of Somerville, Maria C. Leone of the West End, Carmela Branco and her husband Louie of Londonderry, NH, and Joseph P. Leone of



the West End. Cherished grandmother of Tabitha, Nicholas, Christa, Jennifer, Frank, and Sophia; great-grandmother of Cameron, Everly, Miles, Madilyn, Jordan, and Grayson. Dear sister of Frank Zuzolo of Cambridge, Theodoro Zuzolo of ME, and Aminda Daviduk of Kingston, NH. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews and a dear friend to many. Funeral services are private. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Shriners Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114.

For online condolences, please visit: [www.watermanboston.com](http://www.watermanboston.com).

May She Rest in Peace



# L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

## Excitement on Santa Claus Lane

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

*Note: L’Anno Bello is reprinting articles that were written before the Coronavirus pandemic. Obviously, advice on gatherings and reunions contained within are not applicable to this current time when social distancing (and mask wearing!) is the best practice. Please read these articles as a testament to the joy and love that imbues Italian celebrations — and as suggestions for ways to spend time in the future once this pandemic is finally over.*



The Christmas season that most wonderful time of the year, is fully upon us! I feel its merriment whenever I take a sip of spicy eggnog, its velvety texture warming me inside with the taste of the holidays. On the day before Advent, my husband and I decorated our home for Christmas, setting up our small tree and placing an evergreen wreath on our door. The twinkling lights of these adornments shine through even the darkest midwinter night, while the greenery reminds me that the cycle of life rolls on despite the blustery cold of the season. Christmas carols, ubiquitous on the radio now, compose to soundtrack of my days now, filling them with the sounds of jingle bells. However, the most inescapable symbol of secular Christmas celebrations remains the jolly man in the North Pole himself — Santa Claus! Santa Claus appears everywhere nowadays, from thrones in shopping malls to television ads, from cookie faces to household decorations. Sometimes, Santa Claus manifests as the elegant Father Christmas — a serious-faced man clad in long, intricate robes, holding a staff. More often, however, he is a rotund, merry-faced man with a bushy white beard and a red suit, a bag bursting with gifts slung around his shoulder. Though Santa Claus has become a prominent figure in Christmas commercialism, at his purest form he is a comforting symbol of the mirth, goodwill and kindness which characterize this season. This complex character even has his own holiday on December 6<sup>th</sup>, a day abounding with Christmas history!

The idea of Santa Claus may seem rather strange, even bizarre. Here is a man who lives in the North Pole, wears red, owns a toyshop run by elves, and hops aboard a sleigh to deliver presents to children on Christmas Eve. Why is this figure so attached to the holiday season? Like most Christmas symbols, Santa Claus derives from both Christian and pagan roots. Some of his characteristics hearken back to the Norse god Odin, who led a wild hunt across the midwinter night sky on an eight-legged stallion. Children would leave carrots out overnight for Odin’s horse, similar to the tradition of offering cookies and milk to Santa Claus. Elves also form a major part of Scandinavian folklore, where tales abounded of magical creatures who were especially active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. Nevertheless, Santa Claus’s most immediate ancestor is St. Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century bishop hailing from Asia Minor, now modern-day Turkey. St. Nicholas became famous for his generosity, eventually serving as the patron saint of children. His association with gift-giving stems from a famous legend in which he secretly made gifts of gold to three sisters too poor to afford a dowry. The very name “Santa Claus” is a corruption of “St. Nicholas,” hailing from Dutch settlers who brought the figure of *Sinterklaas* to America. In other countries, such as England, Santa Claus’s name is “Father Christmas.” This corresponds to his Italian moniker as well, as the jolly man is known as *Babbo Natale* — literally, “Father Christmas.” Though the premiere

gift-bringer in Italy remains *La Befana*, the kindly witch who circles the world on Epiphany Eve, *Babbo Natale* yields enormous presence there as well, and Italian children write letters to the merry, red-suited man.

St. Nicholas, Santa Claus’s predecessor, even boasts his own feast day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. My grandmother hails from the southern Italian city of Bari, which holds the relics of the saint, and as such *la Festa di San Nicola*, or St. Nicholas’s Day, endures as one of her most cherished holidays. She still speaks fondly of citywide celebrations on this day, replete with parades and processions, most centered around the Basilica di San Nicola. In other areas of Europe, St. Nicholas’s Day functions as a quaint and charming precursor to Christmas, a day devoted to the happiness of children. Children in Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic leave their shoes or boots on the windowsills during the eve of St. Nicholas’s feast, only to find them filled with candy and trinkets in the morning. Polish children find small bags of candy tucked under their pillows, while their counterparts in France bake gingerbread and brioche to mark the holiday. My family honors St. Nicholas’s Day with customs that awaken my inner child. My husband’s parents bless and distribute candy canes on this day, sharing the joy of this nostalgic treat. I bake an eggnog cake for this feast. Silky and warm, studded with golden raisins and topped with a brown sugar streusel, this cake tastes like the Christmas festivities. As its scent fills the air, I become thankful for the pleasures of home and hearth that form the crux of holidays like St. Nicholas’s Day.

Though the modern age seems bent on commercializing Santa Claus, we should pay attention to the true significance of this enigmatic and jovial figure. A combination of Christian and pagan roots, Santa Claus celebrates the values of compassion and kindness. The feast day of his predecessor St. Nicholas honors children and is imbued with the optimism and generosity that characterizes the Christmas season. While it may seem far too easy to impatiently wait for Christmas’s arrival, St. Nicholas’s Day serves as a welcome reminder that the whole Advent period brims with unique and special holidays that reveal the various facets of Christmas. During the holidays this year, let us make a pact to face life with the same sense of magic and wonder that typifies Santa Claus, or Father Christmas, or *Babbo Natale*. When we look at Christmas with joyous, childlike eyes, we can finally enjoy the true magnanimous spirit of the holidays, making our souls as bright as Santa Claus’s smile!

*Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at [adicenso89@gmail.com](mailto:adicenso89@gmail.com).*



### Mental Health Issues Hit Third Rail?

As a retired police sergeant for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for 28 years, I believe what transit commuters are seeing in the New York subways is truly madness gone off the rails. If it can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

What has been happening most recently in New York City shows positive proof that there is an ongoing mental health pandemic in the Big Apple and it appears it’s going from bad to worse with seemingly New York City Hall barely acknowledging the problem staring them clearly in the face!

During my DMH career, I also worked as a mental health assistant on an acute in-patient unit for six years in the ’70s and early ’80s. What I see on the streets of American cities today is a systemic failure to address what should be crystal clear. Cities like New York and Boston have many untreated folks out on the streets and politicians everywhere don’t know how to deal with it effectively. This issue is now some 40 years old and started when states started closing inpatient facilities and sending them from the back wards to the back streets and the subways where they can cause havoc.

Is anyone really surprised that for over 45 years now with the unlocking of those bad old back wards, we as a society have created something even worse for those suffering with chronic and quite severe psychiatric issues? The so-called cure of the ’70s was to unlock the doors and free folks from physical bondage while doing next to nothing about the constant pain these folks must feel during their every waking hour.

When people suffer from a horrible form of disease that separates them from reality playing havoc and altering their

minds, anything is possible. These sad souls who end up untreated on our streets and in our communities are always five minutes from midnight. Lately, it seems midnight has been repeatedly reached down in the N.Y. subways. When folks go untreated out in the streets, sometimes they lash out at others, too. Pushing commuters in front of incoming subway trains is about as bad as things could be. These perpetrators are a danger to themselves and everyone around them.

When is it going to be time for state and local public officials across America to see that they have a serious public health crisis both for the untreated who roam around and the innocent people sometimes caught in their crosshairs? Who is addressing the increasing shortage of psych beds in the city’s hospitals? All folks hear is silence from those in power. Their inactions tell me they don’t know what to do and they are caught up in a sea of benign neglect. Is the problem too big for them? Is it too costly to fix? Should they just pretend they see nothing? Or will they step up to the plate and do something? It’s always easy to place the blame elsewhere. Doing nothing does nothing!

The bottom line can’t be to let these troubled souls roam around us because not only is it unfair to them but it is causing a public health and safety issue for those who are innocent and end up paying the price. We have elected politicians who seem to shut their eyes and hope that when they open them again, everything will be fixed. I thought we lived in a sane society but the status quo on the issue of mental illness seems insane to me.

This has to change. It’s up to all of us. Doing nothing only gets you more of the same and the same is failing everyone.

### North End Journey A Memoir

A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

*North End Journey*, the memoir written by a former North Ender recalls his days as a Stillman Street resident in the 1940s. Stephen Zubricki the author recounts his days as a student at St. Mary’s school, an altar boy at St. Mary’s Church, a tag football player at Haymarket Square’s long gone grass rotary, a swimmer at North End Park Beach, crossing Boston Harbor on the *Charles C. Donoghue* aka the “The Penny Ferry,” and a diner at the iconic Pizza Regina. Zubricki recalls the many, rich cultural memories of the North End neighborhood, its people, specialty shops, architecture and ambiance. Over 350 photos portray an evolving Boston and surrounding area from the 1940s on. The author envisioned the book to be both pictorial, historical and autobiographical. **North End Journey is available at:**  
Email: [szjr@mystic-view.com](mailto:szjr@mystic-view.com)  
[zpublishing.mystic-view.com](http://zpublishing.mystic-view.com)

Virtual Community Meeting

### Urban Renewal Community Meeting

**Thursday, December 10**  
6:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3fzhSOW](https://bit.ly/3fzhSOW)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 161 968 9873

**Event Description:**

The Boston Planning and Development Agency invites the the West End and surrounding neighbors for a community meeting to meet members of its Urban Renewal Team and to hear updates to the Urban Renewal Action Plan and Land Disposition Agreement Inventory regarding the West End Urban Renewal Plan Area.

**How to Participate:**

This workshop will be hosted online, using Zoom. You must register using the link above, then you will receive a con irmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. Translated materials, interpretation services, and disability accommodations may be requested by contacting us before 12:00 PM on December 1, 2020 at [Chris.Breen@Boston.gov](mailto:Chris.Breen@Boston.gov) or [ADA@Boston.gov](mailto:ADA@Boston.gov).

**Contact:**

Christopher Breen  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201  
617.918.4202 | [chris.breen@boston.gov](mailto:chris.breen@boston.gov)

[bostonplans.org](http://bostonplans.org)

@bostonplans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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

# Four Women “Quattro Donne”

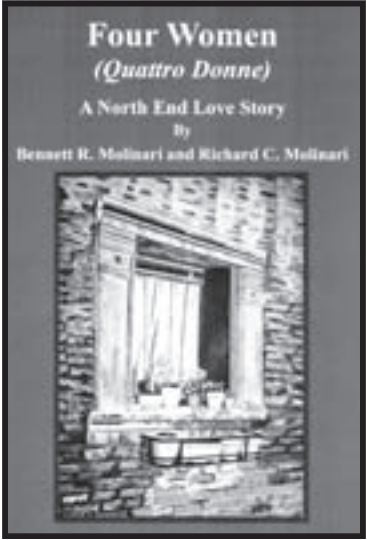
subtitle, A North End Love Story

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

Clam Bake Italian Style

Several days passed rather uneventfully. We were all having a good time. On the surface, all seemed to be going well, but it was obvious that Pietro was thinking of Carla. We all did our best to distract him, but something about his demeanor betrayed his yearning for Carla, which was obvious to Mom and Grandma.

On Friday evening of our first week in Kingston, Dad arrived by train, as he always did, to spend the following week with us. On Saturday morning, Dad suggested we should go quahogging on the flats in the bay. We all knew this would be followed by a dinner of spaghetti with crab sauce, made up of Alaskan King Crab legs, Dad always bought in Plymouth. Just before heading to the flats, Dad pulled Mom aside to tell her he heard the Ricci brothers were coming to Kingston to visit their Uncle Seymour, who was renting a cottage just down the road from us. Mom anxiously asked Dad if Carla would be coming along with them. When Dad responded he didn't know, Mom began to worry, for if Carla came, it could mean trouble. It was about 10:00 o'clock in the morning when the guys all gathered on the beach to wade out to the flats. The tide was dead low, we had two hours of quahogging ahead of us before the returning tide would terminate our hunt for the delicious molusk. We waded out to the flats in our bathing suits, and began the process of searching for quahogs by plodding through the mud in our bare feet. Quickly, we were all knee-high in mud, hoping with each step, to feel the subject of our search beneath



our feet. Every time one of us hit a quahog, he would yell, “quahog!” Everyone cheered. Pietro, seemed to be frozen in place, finding the whole process amusing and foreign to him. Dad kept urging Pietro to wade through the mud. Finally, he got moving, and before long he found his first quahog. About an hour into the hunt, Charlie reached into the mud and pulled a horseshoe crab out by its tail. He threw it into his bucket with the quahogs, planning to take it back to shore to terrify the women. Dad spotted him, knew what he was up to, and told him to get the crab and throw it in the water, which of course Charlie didn't obey. Instead, he put it at the bottom of his bucket and covered it over with quahogs, figuring one of the women while preparing supper, would uncover it and begin screaming. With our buckets filled with quahogs, and the one special bucket containing the stowaway horseshoe crab, we headed back to the beach. The tide was returning, and the flats were already submerging under

the incoming waves. Back at the cottage, the women were speculating if Carla would be coming with her brothers to Kingston. As they talked, they were preparing for the evening's feast, a clambake Italian style. The King Crab legs, Dad purchased earlier in the day, were protruding from the huge pots of tomato sauce they flavored, looking as if they were attempting to escape. “Carmela, do you think *la sirena* (the siren), Carla will be coming from Boston with her brothers?” Grandma asked, as she sprinkled the tomato sauce with red pepper flakes. “Mama, do I know?” Mom replied, as she turned to Auntie Angie and repeated Grandma's question. “Angie, do you think she's coming?” Before Auntie Angie could reply, Auntie Stella let fly one of her juicy comments. “If *la sirena* comes here, I'll take care of her.” Finally, Auntie Angie could get a word in. “Carmela, if you were keeping a better eye on him, this wouldn't have happened.” Mom, feeling the pressure from Auntie Angie, was in no mood to take a scolding. “Angie, supposedly, he's becoming a priest. How could I know he would fall head over heels for Carla?” Full of frustration, Grandma shouted from the other side of the kitchen, “*La sirena, la sirena*, stop with *la sirena*. He's going to disgrace us. We will never be able to face the family in Italy and our friends in the North End. The “Little One” made this happen, now the “Little One” has to fix it.” Auntie Angie then blurted out, “What about the Ricci brothers? They will beat him up if they think he's fooling around with their sister.”

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

## Holiday Magic, Memories & Traditions Celebrated at Christmas by Candlelight

at Old Sturbridge Village



Christmas by Candlelight will return to Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this December, as a time-honored tradition of the season celebrating New England Christmases of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and today. On select dates in December, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Village will open special for guests to take in the holiday cheer. Tickets are on sale now. This annual event has been re-imagined in 2020 with safety in mind, taking many favorite activities outdoors. Guests can see demonstrations of classic Christmas projects like knitting stockings, wreath-making, natural ornament-making and more, and watch as costumed interpreters create a traditional Christmas meal or work on special projects such as making

ice skates or a sled from scratch. A horse-drawn carryall (a large wagon) will run throughout the Village offering rides and several bonfires will be lit throughout the night to warm up beside. A returning favorite of the event, visitors are invited to stroll the Christmas Tree Trail — new in 2019 — featuring dozens of sparkling, decorated trees. Tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the Common, the trail welcomes wanderers in to enjoy the sights, ending at the special Christmas Wish Bridge. Several dates during December offer additional activities for guests — including Members' Shopping Nights December 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and the firing of OSV's 24-foot kiln for the second time this year, on December 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The 15,000-brick kiln found outside of OSV's Pottery Shop can fit approximately 1,000 pieces of pottery stacked 10-feet high within its walls. It is a fan favorite among many visitors who come to the Village. Christmas by Candlelight is an evening of traditions, memories, and holiday cheer. Admission is free for children ages three and under. Tickets must be purchased in advance for the date and time of attendance. Visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight-2020/> for available dates and time blocks, along with current Massachusetts and visitor guidelines around COVID-19.

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[www.depasqualeventures.com](http://www.depasqualeventures.com)

North End Christmas Fund

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

For over 40 years the North End Christmas Fund has been providing help to families and seniors at Christmas time. The program was started by Uncle Fred Carangelo working with the various social service agencies in the neighborhood to help those who may have lost their job, had a health crisis, financial need or maybe just needed some cheering up at the holiday due to loneliness or loss of a loved one during the past year. This tradition is carried on by a committee of about a dozen people led by Robert “Ted” Tomasone and agencies like the North Health Center, North End Athletic Association, Nazzaro Center, North End Against Drugs, A.B.C.D. – North End/West End Service Center, North End Seniors and Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus.

Each year a fabulous luncheon is held at Filippo's Restaurant and with the generosity of the Frattaroli Family, a fantastic raffle and many donations, we raise approximately \$15,000. For the last several years more than 200 checks per year have been distributed to those who need our help.

As you can imagine, due to COVID-19, we are unable to hold our annual luncheon, however the need is anticipated to be greater than ever!

We are asking our friends and neighbors to make a contribution of any kind to help support this great institution and carry on the tradition started by Uncle Fred more than 40 years ago.

Donations made out to the North End Christmas Fund can be mailed to:

North End Waterfront Health  
c/o North End Christmas Fund Committee  
332 Hanover Street  
Boston, Mass. 02113

**Thank you in advance for your generous, continued support of the families and seniors of our beloved neighborhood and may you and your families have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.**





ALL THAT ZAZZ

by Mary N. DiZazzo

Rice Water



Ciao Bella,

As they say “It’s another miracle!” In ancient times since East Asian beauty rituals were performed, Rice Water and Rice Milk were used to eliminate dead skin and enhance hair.

The antioxidant-rich ingredient was introduced by soaking Rice in water.

Many stories and anecdotal evidence from Korea, Japan and China state that Rice Water is good to strengthen hair. The benefits were remarkable.

A study found that vitamin B 9 was found in Rice Water. The Rice Water when used would penetrate the hair and was found to strengthen hair and also improved hair’s elasticity.

I’m pretty sure the Rice Water was used after cleansing hair and then used as a final rinse. Probably acting as a detangle and conditioning treatment. On skin use a cotton pad and apply every day.

Can we make our own? Yes!

- 1.) Rinse uncooked Rice
- 2.) Soak in water for 30 Minutes
- 3.) Drain water and use externally only.

To purchase products look for Rice Bran Extract or oil, or Rice Ferment or starch on the list of ingredients on label. Many over the counter beauty products contain Rice Water and Rice Milk.

Rice Water is also beneficial for treating dry skin, damaged hair, digestive upsets, eczema, acne, rashes and inflammation, also eye problems and sun damage protection. Use a spray water bottle before going out to sunbathe.

Rice Water also has anti-aging benefits, moisturizing by making skin supple and young.

Also claims to tighten skin and reduce wrinkles as Mother Nature comes around!

Avon even carries a Rice Water Bright Foaming cleanser for your face!

Well there you have it ... short and sweet!

Buona giornata and God bless the United States of America!

— Mary N. DiZazzo-Trumbull

Read prior weeks’ “All That Zazz” columns at [www.allthatzazz.com](http://www.allthatzazz.com). Mary is a third-generation cosmetologist. She may be contacted at (978) 470-8183 or [mary@mary4nails.com](mailto:mary@mary4nails.com)

Pet News from the Gazette

by Marie Simboli

Cold Weather Tips for Dog Owners

Even if your dog has a thick, heavy coat, he or she might still feel chilly in the winter. Pets are just as likely to get frostbite (frozen skin and tissue) and hypothermia (low body temperature) as their owners. But it’s easy to protect your pooch from the cold. Many of the same safety measures you take for yourself will keep your best friend safe and warm.

**Limit time outdoors:** No dog not even the toughest Arctic sled dog is meant to spend huge amounts of time outside in the winter. A thick coat doesn’t protect all body parts. Their ears are exposed, their paws are in direct contact with cold cement, and their nose is sticking out there in the wind. Never leave dogs outside unattended for any length of time. Only take them outside if they’re going to be active and exercise. Even then, you may need to shorten a walk if it’s really cold.

**Dress him or her warmly:** Small dogs and those with short hair need extra help when there’s a chill in the air. Puppies and old canines also may find it hard to control their body heat. A sweater or coat can be a really nice addition that makes the pet more comfortable. But leave his or her head bare. If it’s so cold that you think you should cover their head, you probably shouldn’t go outdoors. To keep your pal’s coat healthy during the winter, bump up the protein and fat in his or her diet.

**Wipe down his or her paws:** Ice, snow, rock salt, and toxic chemicals like antifreeze and deicers can build up on your dog’s feet. If he or she licks them, he or she could swallow the poisons. Antifreeze, in particular tastes sweet but can be deadly. Make sure you wipe his or her paws down with a towel every time he or she comes inside. Check his or her pads regularly for injuries. Ice and snow can cause painful cracks and bleeding. Trim the hair between their toes to prevent ice buildup.

**Don’t leave him or her in the car:** You know not to leave your dog in a vehicle when it’s hot.



The same goes for cold weather. It really is a bad idea, often people don’t think about how fast cars can cool down in the winter. Even if it’s not a direct health risk for pets, they’re likely to be uncomfortable.

**Pet-proof your house:** Keep an eye out for winter dangers inside your home, like space heaters. Dogs can burn themselves or even tip them over and start a fire.

Heated pet mats could burn your pal’s skin. A dog bed or blankets should keep him or her plenty warm. Know the warning signs. Be on the lookout for symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia, and know when to call your vet.

**Get your pet inside right away if him or her:** Whines or act anxious; can’t stop shivering or seems weak; has ice on his or her body; stop moving or slows down and looks for warm places to burrow. These can be signs of hypothermia. Once he or she is out of the cold, wrap him or her in blankets and call the vet for more instructions. Frostbite symptoms can take longer to show up. Check your dog every day for any unusual changes like painful or pale areas.

**Protect against the elements:** If you have no choice, but to leave your dog outside for a time, make sure he has a dry, roomy shelter out of the wind. The floor should be raised several inches off the ground and sprinkled with cedar shavings or straw. Keep the doorway covered with waterproof plastic or canvas. Give him or her plenty of food, and check as often as you can to make sure his or her water doesn’t freeze over.

REMEMBER IT’S ALL ABOUT  
“UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”

Reagle Music Theatre Teams with Eternal Artists of NYC to Present

Santa’s Holiday Extravaganza

An Interactive Virtual Celebration Via Zoom

Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston and Eternal Artists of New York City are teaming up to present SANTA’S HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA, an interactive virtual holiday celebration streaming via Zoom. Families with children from “one to 92” will enjoy performances by Broadway artists culminating in personal visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Streams can be viewed December 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Participation is limited to 30 screens per session. All proceeds from these four performances benefit Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston. For more information and tickets go to: [EternalArtistsNYC.com](http://EternalArtistsNYC.com).

“It’s heartbreaking that we can’t celebrate the holidays with our families and friends in our traditional ways this year,” says Robert Eagle, Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Reagle Music Theatre. “Our ChristmasTime spectacular has become a holiday centerpiece for our audiences for more than 30 years. We just couldn’t let the season go by without some form of celebration. So, we are thrilled to collaborate with the Broadway and regional performers of Eternal Artists NYC to bring viewers a virtual extravaganza.”

Reagle alum Joey Cullinane is a founding member of Eternal Artists. He has designed Santa’s Holiday Extravaganza to be a multi-cultural kaleidoscope of song, dance, and interactive performance art including a musical ASL lesson and

even a no-bake cooking demonstration. Performers Justin Long (*Seminar*), Shoshana Bean (*Wicked*), Leanne Cope (*An American in Paris*), Maria Bilbao (*On Your Feet*), Nati Rabinowitz (*FBI*), Cristina Lucas, Erica Lustig, members of the Boston Ballet, and a six-member band will present It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, Noche de Christmas Through Your Eyes, R-U-D-O-L-P-H, *The Nutcracker*, Kristen’s Kreations, Ma’oz Tzur, “Jingle Bell Rock,” “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” and a

Grand Finale that is a medley of cherished favorites.

Viewers are encouraged to reserve screens early. Tickets are limited to 120.

Patrons are also reminded that Reagle Music Theatre participates in the Amazon Smile charitable giving program. Shoppers may either designate Reagle Music Theatre as its charity of choice or donate directly online at: [ReagleMusicTheatre.com/Support](http://ReagleMusicTheatre.com/Support).

For more information, please visit: [ReagleMusicTheatre.com](http://ReagleMusicTheatre.com).

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CITY of BOSTON





## Saint Amato Ronconi

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Amato Ronconi was born in the village of Saludecio near Rimini in 1225 to a noble and wealthy household. He was orphaned in childhood and cared for by his older brother Giacomo spending his childhood and adolescence growing up in his brother's home. He had at least one sister named Chiara.

As he grew older, he was urged to get married, but felt that God called him to a life of prayer and penance. After joining the Third Order of

St. Francis, he fled to a solitary place and began to live as a hermit following the life of Saint Francis. Ronconi followed his call to serve God and devoted his life to catering to the needs of the poor and assisting pilgrims, in doing so gave up all his possessions which he passed on to the poor. He later emerged from his hermitage and constructed various chapels and shelters for pilgrims; some of those places still exist at present including a hospital in Rimini, the Hospital of St. Mary of Mount Orciale, where he spent the last years of his life as a nurse.

He underwent four pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela to visit the tomb of James the Apostle wanting to grow in personal holiness. He attempted a fifth pilgrimage to Santiago but never made it for he had a vision in which he was told he would soon die and had to return to his home; he did so and stopped at the Benedictine convent of San Giuliano in Rimini where he gave them the remainder of his possessions. Ronconi passed away on May 8, 1292 at Saludecio. He was canonized on November 23, 2014 by Pope Francis. His remains are in the Church of San Biagio in his home town of Saludecio.

## Commonwealth Shakespeare Company Joins "Downtown Holiday Magic" With A Christmas Carol

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) is pleased to announce that it is participating in Downtown Boston Business Improvement District's "Stage Windows" initiative, which features installations in storefront windows created by four top Boston-area performing arts organizations.

CSC's installation is a reduced 40-minute adaptation of the holiday classic *A Christmas Carol* by **Charles Dickens** beginning on December 7<sup>th</sup> and running through January 31<sup>st</sup> in a storefront at 467 Washington Street, Downtown Crossing. The show will run on a continuous loop from 4:00-9:15 p.m.

CSC's *A Christmas Carol* is a video-taped solo performance by award-winning Boston actor **Will Lyman**, directed by CSC Founding Artistic Director **Steve Maler**, with an adapted script by **Fred Sullivan, Jr.**, videography by **Ernesto Galan**, Scenic Design by **Jeffrey Petersen**, Projection Design by **Yee Eun Nam**, Costume Design by **Nancy Leary**, and Sound Design by **Ryan Blaney**.

Victorian London will be brought to life through video projections that will light up the storefront. Audiences will view the production from the pedestrian walkway in front of the storefront and can watch all or just parts of the show. English subtitles will be available.

Steve Maler stated: "We're so pleased to be part of the Boston BID's holiday initiative, along with our other colleagues in the Boston-area arts community. This initiative is a wonderful gift to the City during this holiday season, and also provides much-needed support to performing arts organizations that have been so severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Partnerships between arts organizations and businesses will be an important model for recovery, weaving together the economic and civic interests shared by all."

Beloved Boston actor **Will Lyman** was seen on CSC stages in *King Lear*, *American Hamlet*, *Beckett in Brief*, and *Old Money*; plus many other Boston credits Awards: Norton Outstanding Achievement (4 plays), Norton Sustained Excellence 2013, IRNE, NETC Award for Contribution to American Theatre, Howard Keel, Best of Boston, Imaginaire.

In addition to CSC, the other organizations that are being featured in "Stage Windows" are Boston Ballet, the Huntington Theatre, and Revels.

CSC is grateful to the Downtown Boston BID and TwinFocus for their support.

CSC is also offering a range of online programming under its *PlayOn@CSC* program, which includes *The Actor's Craft* plus the *Shakespeare Reimagined* film series and *Tempest Talks*, which will take place in 2021.

CSC presents fully-staged indoor productions including past productions of *Our American Hamlet* (world premiere), *Beckett in Brief*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Old Money*, Caryl Churchill's *Blue Kettle* and *Here We Go*, and Naomi Wallace's adaptation of William Wharton's novel *Birdy*. In 2018, in partnership with Google, CSC created a Virtual Reality (VR) experience of William Shakespeare's classic play *Hamlet*, entitled *Hamlet 360: Thy Father's Spirit*, released in partnership with Boston public media producer *WGBH*; it can be viewed exclusively on the *WGBH* YouTube channel.

To learn more, visit: [commshakes.org](http://commshakes.org) or call 617-426-0863.

## Wonderfilm Announces its Latest Feature

### All In

### Has Begun Filming in Boston

### Against All Odds, the Students, Faculty, Staff and Parents Band Together



Emmy Award winning producers, Jeff Bowler and Bret Saxon's *Wonderfilm Media* just completed the forth of eight weeks of principal photography on the highly anticipated documentary, *All In: Miracle at St. Bernard's*. The feature-length documentary is based on the incredible true story of how St. Bernard's, a small private Catholic high school in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, found itself 100 years after its founding, facing a dramatic shut-down. The film follows the community as they pour their hearts and souls into saving their school from being permanently shuttered. A miracle ensues.

#### A Real-Life

#### David and Goliath Story

With enrollment dwindling, by 2018 St. Bernard's was the smallest school in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a total of 99 students. The Catholic Diocese of Worcester made the difficult decision to close the school. Led by the school's principal, Linda Anderson, students, parents, faculty, alumni and the townspeople of Fitchburg hatched an idea to raise enough money to take the school independent and keep it open. They worked tirelessly to raise the daunting amounts needed. Unfortunately, like the school, the town was struggling, and fundraising proved extremely difficult. With quickly approaching deadlines, extreme pressure from the budget shortfalls, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools informed all parties of the dire straits they were facing, and that short of a miracle, the school would cease to exist. Then the football team started winning.

#### It All Came Down to Football

Almost every eligible student at the school joined the football team. With an enrollment so small that meant the St. Bernard's football team had 26 boys. Miraculously, despite going up against schools often ten times as big as St. Bernard's, the team, led by Coach Tom Bingham, was winning, and winning, and winning. And with each win, the media started reporting on this David beating Goliaths. "St. Bernard's was going up against teams from the top schools in New England, with thousands of students, multi-million-dollar endowments, and players who were much larger physically — and winning," said *All In* producer **Jeff Bowler**. The St. Bernard's team went on to win the state Super Bowl played in Gillette Stadium. The 26 boys on the team, fighting for every inch of the field that their hero, New England Patriot

Quarterback **Tom Brady**, called home on Sundays, won the State Championship, generating enough national publicity to raise the money needed to save the school, including a huge donation from a still anonymous donor.

Shortly thereafter, with funds in hand, the school officially became independent, with the full support of the Diocese. In the first year following the miraculous football season, admissions are soaring, and an entire town's spirits have been raised in celebration of saving their historic high school.

"As a St. Bernard's alum and filmmaker, I was tapped by the school to help tell this truly remarkable story to the world," said Bowler. "This feel-good, underdog tale is about so much more than football. The story is about a community that rallied together to create their own miracle. Faced with the closing of their beloved high school, students and faculty members stepped up to the plate to save their school, with unwavering perseverance."

*All In: Miracle at St. Bernard's* is being produced by *Wonderfilm's* Jeff Bowler and Bret Saxon. The Emmy Award-winning duo have enjoyed success in feature documentaries, including the 2017 documentary, *Unchained: The Untold Story Of Freestyle Motocross*, narrated by Oscar nominee Josh Brolin, which won the Emmy for Best Documentary, in the sports category, as well as the 2009 feature-doc, *DIRTY OIL Aka DOWNSTREAM*, directed by Leslie Iwerks, which was short-listed for an Oscar.

*All In* is being directed by Gregg Backer (Producer/Director *HBO Sports*, *Real Sports*). Other producers include Foglight Entertainment's Gregg Backer

and Evan Kanew with Nathan Bilotta serving as Executive Producer.

*All In: Miracle at St. Bernard's* is currently shooting in Fitchburg, Boston and Los Angeles.

*Wonderfilm Media* recently wrapped supernatural horror *Lullaby* directed by John Leonetti (Anabelle), with Alcon, in Toronto. Cast and crew adhered to all COVID-19 production guidelines and there were no cases of the virus on set. The film is set for a major release next October. *Wonderfilm* latest release, *Dead Reckoning* with K.J. Apa and India Eisley, just premiered November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming *Wonderfilm Media* projects include the biopic on Tampa Bay Rays breakout star, Randy Arozarena. The outfielder escaped Cuba on a makeshift boat in 2015, started a new life in Mexico before making his way to the U.S and has become the most talked-about MLB player in baseball. *Wonderfilm* is also developing the highly coveted Steve McQueen biopic as a limited series based on Marshall Terrill's book, *A Tribute to the King of Cool*.

#### About Wonderfilm Media

*Wonderfilm* is a leading entertainment company with offices in Hollywood, Boston, and London. *Wonderfilm* focuses on the production of high-quality feature films and episodic television that offer international appeal through the Company's commitment to elevated storytelling. *Wonderfilm* has seen twelve of its features released over the past twelve months, including the Nic Cage thriller *Primal* and the Guy Pearce vehicle *Disturbing the Peace*. *Wonderfilm* was founded by Jeff Bowler, Bret Saxon, and John Lewis.



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**TOP GUN (Blu-ray)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

The story of an elite group of pilots competing to earn the title of *Top Gun* captured the imagination of moviegoers upon its release. Tom Cruise is superb as the talented pilot Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, a daring young in-your-face fighter pilot with a need for speed, who’s out to become the best of the best ... with a lot to prove and even more to learn. Featuring a sensational soundtrack with unforgettable songs, including Berlin’s “Take My Breath Away,” which won the Academy Award for ‘Best Music, Original Song,’ and Kenny Loggins’ “Danger Zone,” the film also stars Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards and Meg Ryan. This highly collectible release includes an exploration of the film’s legacy and enduring popularity through interviews with Cruise, producer Jerry Bruckheimer and members of the cast of the upcoming *Top Gun: Maverick*, including John Hamm, Miles Teller, Glen Powell, and more.

**POPEYE (Blu-ray)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

The legendary, beloved anvil-armed sailor of the seven seas, comes magically to life in a delightful musical, starring the incomparable Robin Williams as *Popeye*, in his first big screen role, and Shelley Duvall as his devoted sweetie, Olive Oyl, one of many loveable characters who join the ‘sailor man’ in his adventures in the harbor town of Sweethaven. The delightful musical celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, having debuted in theaters December, 1980. The new Blu-ray includes access to a Digital copy of the film, along with nearly 30 minutes of all-new bonus content, featuring excerpts from one of Robin Williams’ final interviews.

**EDDIE MURPHY:**  
**COMING TO AMERICA,**  
**BEVERLY HILLS COP,**  
**TRADING PLACES &**  
**THE GOLDEN CHILD**  
**(Blu-ray)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

**Coming to America** – Join Eddie on an unforgettable comic quest to the New World. As an African prince, it’s time for him to find a princess ... and the mission leads him to his most loyal friend (Arsenio Hall) to Queens, New York. In disguise as an impoverished immigrant, the pampered prince finds a new job, new friends, new digs, new enemies and lots of trouble. ***Beverly Hills Cop*** – Follows the one-and-only Axel Foley, a street-smart cop from Detroit. Tracking down his best friend’s killer in Beverly Hills. Axel smashes through the local barriers in a hilarious high-speed pursuit of justice. He learns quickly that his wild style doesn’t fit in with the Beverly Hills Police Department, which assigns two officers (Judge Reinhold and John Ashton) to make sure things don’t get out of hand. ***Trading Places*** – The very rich and extremely greedy Duke Brothers wager a bet over whether “born-loser” Billy Ray Valentine (Murphy) could become as successful as

the priggish Louis Winthorpe II (Dan Aykroyd) if circumstances were reversed. Alongside the street-smarts of Ophelia (Jamie Lee Curtis), Winthorpe and Valentine is a trio ready for a riotous revenge that culminates on the commodities trading floor in New York City. ***The Golden Child*** – Eddie Murphy is “the Chosen One,” a social worker on a madcap mission to find “the Golden Child,” a young boy possessing mystical powers. Joined by Kee Nang (Charlotte Lewis), they’ll battle the countless henchmen of Sardo Numspa (Charles Dance), the mysterious and evil cult leader holding the boy captive. It’s a dangerous quest, complete with obstacle courses and a mystical amulet, sharply combining Murphy’s wit with eye-popping special effects for an unforgettable adventure.

**THE GODFATHER,**  
**CODA: THE DEATH OF**  
**MICHAEL CORLEONE**  
**(Blu-ray)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Godfather, Part III*, director/screenwriter Francis Ford Coppola brings a definitive new edit and restoration of the final film in his epic Godfather Trilogy — Mario Puzo’s *The Godfather, Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone*. Michael Corleone (Al Pacino), now in his 60s, seeks to free his family from crime and find a suitable successor to his empire. That successor could be fiery Vincent (Andy Garcia) ... but he may also be the spark that turns Michael’s hope of business legitimacy into an inferno of mob violence. The film’s meticulously restored picture and sound, includes a new beginning and ending, as well as changes to scenes, shots, and music cues. The resulting product reflects author Mario Puzo and Coppola’s original intentions of *The Godfather, Part III*, and delivers, in the words of Coppola, “a more appropriate conclusion to *The Godfather* and *The Godfather, Part II*.”

**YELLOWSTONE – SEASON 3**  
**(Blu-ray)**  
**Paramount Home Ent.**

In the most explosive season of *Yellowstone* yet, John Dutton (Kevin Costner) and his family must protect their land from new and old enemies, lead by Wall Street maverick, Roarke (Josh Holloway). Threatened by betrayals, bad blood, and lucrative business deals, the Duttons form unexpected alliances and confront dangerous measures to safeguard their legacy. Season 3 continues to be a huge hit with viewers, with this third season finale setting a new series record and becoming the #1 most-watched cable telecast of the year. Go all in on this season with extended content and bonus feature, including making-of featurettes, behind the scenes clips, never-before-seen interviews with cast and crew, and much more. *Yellowstone – Season 3* includes a three-disc Blu-ray that offers all 10 hour-long episodes. The cast list includes, Luke Grimes, Kelly Reilly, Wes Bentley, Cole Hauser, Kelsey Asbille, Brecken Merrill, Jefferson White, Danny Huston and Gil Birmingham.

The time has come, the walrus said,  
**TO TALK OF MANY THINGS**  
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarattani

**PRETTY SOON I EXPECT**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY TO BE**  
**ABOLISHED, TOO**

I know some readers will think I am exaggerating, but look what’s happened to Columbus Day? This is what happens when historical anarchists start rewriting history, as it should have been not as it was. How will anyone learn from history if we create a new history and whitewash all previous history?

Now, it’s the Pilgrims. They used to inspire America every year around Thanksgiving Day. They still do for most of us, but the new guard is out to erase our history, knock down our statues, tear down reputations of great American leaders from our past, and create division between all of us, pitting one against the other and making us the Divided States of America.

America is still a great nation where the people are sovereign. Government here is supposed to follow from the people up to those who rule in our names. Where else is there such a thing? Not even in Britain from whom we were spawn.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 12, 2020 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

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Run dates: 11/27, 12/04, 12/11, 2020

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Middlesex Probate and Family Court South**  
**10-U Commerce Way**  
**Woburn, MA 01801**  
**(781) 865-4000**  
**Docket No. M120A0377SJ**

**SUMMONS on**  
**COMPLAINT FOR DEPENDENCY**  
**PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 119, § 39M**  
**ARYADINE DANIEL De ALMEIDA**  
**GRECO de PAULA, Plaintiff**  
**v.**  
**ALDO ALAN De PAULA, Defendant**  
**“Parent One”**

**If applicable:**  
**CARLA REGINA GRECO, Defendant**  
**“Parent Two”**

**To the above named Defendant:**  
You are ordered to appear at the **Middlesex Probate and Family Court** for a hearing on this Complaint for Dependency Pursuant to G. L. c. 119, § 39M.

Information about the hearing:  
**Motion**  
Date: **01/21/2021**  
Time: **11:00 AM**  
Place: **www.Zoomgov.com/my/monks**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Hannah Krispin, Esq.**, whose address is **Krispin Law, 50 Chestnut St., 2nd Floor, Needham, MA 02492**, your answer, if any, to the complaint for which is herewith served upon you, within **7 days** after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Register of this Court at **Middlesex Probate and Family Court**, either before service upon plaintiff or plaintiff’s attorney, if represented by counsel, or within a reasonable time thereafter.

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,**  
**First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: November 19, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020

Ours is a constitutional democratic republic and it is being attacked by radicalized politicians, firebrand socialists, and anarchists groups like Antifa who appear to be pushing a dangerous ideology by any means necessary.

We still have much to be thankful for and to stand up for. In America we find free people willing to stand up thanks to our Bill of Rights and our liberties guaranteed into the foundation of this nation.

God Bless the USA!

**I DON’T THINK I’M**  
**BUYING ANY OF THEM**

I just heard on a radio ad that there is a company out there selling something new this year: Bacon-scented men’s underwear. Yup, I said BACON-SCENTED UNDERWEAR! Who comes up with things like this and why? Someone told me that they might be made up in Canada where I hear guys like bacon better than sex. I think that’s fake news!

Hey, at ten bucks a pair I think guys won’t be spending that kind of money on shorts or they’ll be wearing them until the underwear falls apart. C’mon we all know how cheap guys can be. I know how cheap I am.

**HOLIDAYS RETURN JUST IN**  
**TIME FOR CHRISTMAS**

The Holidays are returning to Medford Square’s Chevalier Theatre with *A Sinatra Christmas with Rich DiMare* on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Rich DiMare is a Boston-based jazz singer who specializes in the *Frank Sinatra Songbook* and will be joined by Ron Poster and the Sinatra Ambassadors.

*\*Please note: This is a socially distanced, COVID-19 safe performance. For more information regarding all the precautions being taken by the Chevalier Theatre team, please visit the following link: <https://chevalier-theatre.com/safety-guidelines/>*

**SPEAKING HIS MIND**

We probably recognize actor Sam Elliott’s voice more than his face. He has that great deep voice. Whatever he’s selling, you need to buy it. Right now, he’s the voice of Wild Wild West on *Family Guy*.

However, he also plays a tough cowboy on TV and movie westerns, which is not that often nowadays. Not that long ago, he was the voice of something called the National Livestock

and Meat Board, pushing good old American red meat. The TV ad mentioned this association was located in Austin and on one of my many trips down there, I actually went hunting for the place and found it. It is located down on 620 near the intersection with 222 at Four Points in north Austin.

Boy, did I just digress, huh? Anyway, I saw a recent quote from Elliott where he stated, “I have no intention of retiring and just do voiceovers. I like working with people rather than being in a sound booth looking through a piece of glass.”

I wonder how many struggling actors would love having that voiceover voice of his, huh partner?

**HERE’S A GOOD PODCAST**  
**FOR Y’ALL**

Couldn’t help myself from saying y’all again, still thinking about Sam Elliott. Moving on, there’s a great podcast I just found by former U.S. Rep. Gary A. Franks, R-Conn. When he was first elected in 1990, he was the first black Republican elected to the U.S. House in 60 years, and the very first black Republican elected from New England and served for four terms. He is the host of the podcast *We Speak Frankly* follow him @GaryFranks.

**ANOTHER GOOD BOOK**  
**TO READ**

Back in the ’90s it was published as *Our America*. It was written by two young men who grew up in the Chicago projects. One of the authors stated, “I live in a second America — an America that doesn’t wave the red, white and blue flag with 50 stars for 50 states. I live in a community that waves a white flag because we have almost given up.” This book is almost 25 years old and I wonder how many are still waving that white flag today?

**PUMP PRICES**  
**STILL MAKE NO SENSE**

In East Boston or Revere I find gasoline pump prices ridiculously high. Travel down to the South Shore in Quincy or Weymouth, the price tends to be about 22 cents cheaper. Travel over to Roslindale, West Roxbury, or Jamaica Plain about 27 to 30 cents cheaper. What gives? Whenever I am over on the other side of the harbor, I gas up there; my money gets more for the buck.

Mattéo Gallo

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# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Well, December is here and it's time to prepare for Christmas. Christmas season was a lot different in the Christoforo and Contini households back in the day. My father and two of my mother's brothers, Uncle Nick and Uncle Paul were professional musicians, and Christmas time was their busy season. When I was in my late teens, I joined the family business and made it three generations in a row. You see, Babbononno, my grandfather, (Mike Contini), started the tradition, but by the time I became a professional he had long retired from playing.

The way it started out for me was with an assumption. When I was a child, everyone assumed that I would become a musician like Babbononno, my uncles and Dad. This assumption began to take root when I was just a kid. Babbononno would sit me down in front of a music stand and teach me something called Solfeggio, the Italian method of rhythmic articulation in reading and understanding what written music was all about. When he felt I was ready, Dad tried interesting me in accordion. His presumption was that keyboard players always worked and even made more money than the other sidemen. I hated accordion. The next instrument was piano. I took a couple of lessons and hated that, too. Both Uncles Nick and Paul then stepped in and tried to teach me their instruments, soprano, alto, and tenor saxes, along with clarinet and flute. I hated them, too. Babbononno had played drums and guitar and gave me lessons on both. Again, I didn't bite.

These ill fated attempts went on for years, and Dad reconciled himself to the fact that his son was going to play baseball until the first snowfall and then read *Captain Marvel* comic books and make model airplanes out of wood until the snow melted and it was baseball time again. When I started the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the Joseph H. Barnes Junior High School, I decided to join the drum and bugle corps and take lessons on how to play the bugle. The teacher turned out to be a man named Ralph Fucillo, a trumpet player that Dad and my uncles had worked with over the years and knew well. Dad was happy and brought me to a music store, Harris and Fandel. I believe they had a branch store on Meridian Street near Central Square in East

Boston. He bought me a Rexcraft bugle, the best that was available at the time. With a musician's discount, the price was a whopping \$17.00. I still have that bugle and have recently begun to restore it to its original condition.

Mr. Fucillo taught me how to play the instrument and I learned the required marches that we would play when marching with the school band. Next, I went to Sabo's, a men's store also located on Meridian Street near Central Square. There, I bought the required military uniform and shoulder patches that indicated I marched for the Barnes Junior High School. The uniforms were the same as the U.S. Army wore back then, tan shirts, pants, with matching overseas cap, necktie and web belt. Nanna sowed on the patches and with my creased shirt, pants, and the rest of my uniform, I was ready to play my bugle.

The band marched in the Columbus Day Parade (East Boston or the North End), Feast Day parades, the School Boy Parade, and several others that we were asked to march in. At times, we even joined with the East Boston High School Drum and Bugle Corps to celebrate Veteran's Day, (Armistice Day back then) President's Day, Memorial Day and even the Fourth of July. If the Catholic churches in East Boston had parades where they needed music, we played for them, too. I loved every minute of it. When I started high school, I joined the English High School Drum and Bugle Corps, but lasted only one year. At age 13, I lied about my age and began working at the Seville Theater. This job, combined with homework and baseball prevented me from continuing with music. Dad didn't want me to give it up and asked Mr. Fucillo to teach me how to play the trumpet. He borrowed a silver trumpet from a Mr. Joseph Trongone, the head of the music department for the Boston Public Schools, and I took the weekly lessons, but could never find the time to practice. The trumpet sat in my bedroom and began to collect dust from lack of use and Dad's hopes of his only son becoming a musician began to fade.

When I was in my last year of high school, I asked Dad to teach me how to play the bass violin, his main instrument. He started giving me lessons, but

I got to the point where I lost interest. Reconciled to the fact that I preferred working at the Seville, hanging on a corner in my spare time, or playing baseball, the lessons ended. The interest returned when I started college, and the lessons resumed. One warm spring day during my junior year of college, I was sitting on the front steps of our house at 74 Eutaw Street, and a friend, Johnny Magnasco, happened to walk by on the other side of the street with his bass violin over his shoulder. I asked him where he was going and he stopped to talk for a few minutes. He told me that he was selling his bass as he had joined the army. He added that he had been playing with another neighbor, guitarist, Bob Avola who had a small band that was popular around East Boston. He then suggested that I contact Bob and take his place seeing that I studied bass and Bob's band would need a new base player.

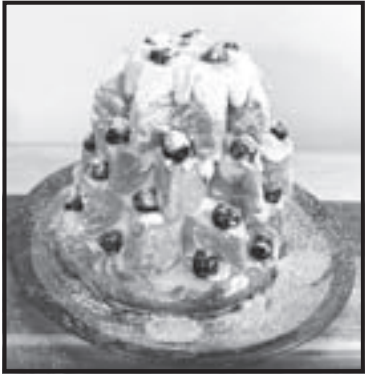
I took his advice and began rehearsing with the band which included Bob on guitar, Ronny Hughes on alto sax, Jimmy Pastore on trumpet and Bill Welch on drums. I knew them all as we lived within blocks of each other, and this time I didn't quit. My first job with them was in 1958, and I played successfully, either bass or bass guitar for the next 50 something years. During this time, I tried everything from symphony to soul. Babbononno loved it when I played classical music as that and opera were his first loves. From that beginning, I worked my way up and worked with some of the greats in Boston, New York, and Los Angeles, playing both dance music for private functions and jazz at many of the long-gone clubs that dotted all three of those cities and several others around the country. At the tail end of my career, I was working as part a piano and bass duo with the late Marty Goldman. We specialized in private cocktail parties playing the great American songbook that featured the music of Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and many other talented American composers of good music.

When Marty passed away unexpectedly, I tried a couple of other pianists but it wasn't the same. I decided that maybe 50 odd years was enough and I went into semi-retirement as a musician. By this point in time, Babbononno, Dad, Uncle Paul and Uncle Nick were all gone and I became a senior citizen. As some of you know, I combined this profession with teaching school and when I retired from the Boston Public Schools, I became a professor at three colleges, positions I recently retired from. The COVID virus has caused most of my former classes to become virtual, as most college classrooms are now off limits. I don't like teaching via the computer or cell phone, so it's up to the next generation of college professors to take over. What makes me proud, though, is this column. Next May it will be 30 years running!!!

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



by  
Marianna  
Bisignano



In Italy, few desserts symbolize Christmas as much as *Pandoro* except of course for its equally favored counterpart, the *Panettoni*. During the holiday season, *Pandoro* can be found beautifully wrapped and packaged throughout most of the shops in the country. *Pandoro* (*pan d'oro* or "golden bread") is traditionally a tall, golden colored star-shaped cake dusted with powdered sugar. It resembles a Christmas tree covered in newly fallen snow. *Pandoro* originated in the northern Italian town of Verona and this legendary Christmas cake is the brilliant creation of Verona pastry chef Domenico Melegatti. While attempting to improve Verona's traditional Christmas dessert, the *Nadalin*, (a yeast-based cake in the shape of a star, with raisins, pine nuts and granulated sugar), Melegatti adjusted some of the ingredients. He eliminated the raisins, nuts and sugar; because he believed they inhibited the leavening. He added more butter and eggs to increase the softness and flavor, and hence the iconic "golden bread" or *Pandoro* was born. Melegatti patented his recipe and *Pandoro* on October 14, 1894.

*Pandoro* is delicious yet simple. It is equally as good when served plain and sprinkled with icing sugar as it is when toasted and dressed with butter or jam. It goes beautifully with a cup of Espresso and even better with a glass of *Prosecco*. *Pandoro* can be decorated and filled with cream, chocolate, custard or Mascarpone (Tiramisu). The decorated Stuffed *Pandoro* Christmas Tree or *Albero di Natale Pandoro Farcito* is a Christmastime favorite in Italy. It is made with a variety of fillings, a few of which I have shared below. Once you place a deliciously decorated Stuffed *Pandoro* Christmas Tree on your holiday table, it's going to look just as beautiful as those in Italy do!

## STUFFED PANDORO CHRISTMAS TREE

### *Albero di Natale Pandoro Farcito*

1 large homemade (I make my own) or store bought Pandoro, cut into 4-5 slices (see directions below)

#### FILLING CHOICES

**Italian Custard:** In a medium saucepan, sift together 3/4 cups flour and 2 cups sugar add 8 egg yolks and 4 cups whole milk, beat well. Add whole rind from 1/2 organic lemon and 2 teaspoons vanilla bean, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly for about 15-20 minutes or until a thick custard forms. Remove from heat remove lemon rind, strain, and place in a glass bowl. Cover custard with plastic wrap, cool and refrigerate. Will be ready in about 4-6 hours.

**Diplomat Cream:** Fold 1 recipe of Italian Custard into 1-2 cups whipped cream sweetened with 2-3 tablespoons icing sugar (added to the cream when whipping for sweetness).

**Nutella and Whipped Cream:** Place 3 cups whipping cream, 3-4 tablespoons icing sugar, and 2 teaspoons vanilla in a mixing bowl, beat until whipped. Layer Pandoro as directed below layering Nutella first then whipped cream on top. Decorate with shaved chocolate curls, if desired.

**Tiramisu:** Place 2 cups whipping cream, 1/2 cup icing sugar and 2 teaspoons vanilla in a mixing bowl, beat until whipped. Add 2 cups softened mascarpone cheese and mix until combined and smooth, set aside. In a medium bowl pour 2 cups espresso sweetened with sugar and mix in 2 tablespoons amaretto, rum, or coffee flavored liqueur. Layer Pandoro as directed below taking pastry brush and painting coffee mixture on Pandoro first then layering cream mixture, and dusting cream with pure cocoa powder, repeat until finished. Decorate with shaved chocolate curls, if desired.

#### TO STUFF/DECORATE PANDORO

Place the Pandoro on its side and using a sharp knife, cut it into 4-5 slices. Make sure the bottom slice is slightly thicker than the others.

Place the bottom layer on a chopping/serving board and spread a thick layer of filling on top, in the centre, using a spatula.

Then, place the next slice of Pandoro on top, making sure it is off centre so that you start forming the shape of a Christmas tree.

Layer filling (before layering filling, you can brush rum or amaretto syrup lightly on each layer) on top of this layer and place the next slice on top. Repeat this until you top off the Christmas cake with the final slice.

Put a few generous spoonfuls of filling into a piping bag and squeeze small amounts onto each star peak of your Christmas tree.

Starting with the bottom layer, place small cherries, currants, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, etc on each star point.

Add more filling to the top of your Italian Christmas cake and then decorate the way you like with fruit on top.

When finished, use a sieve sift icing sugar on top of the dessert so it looks like a touch of snow!

Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at [nonnasrecipebox@gmail.com](mailto:nonnasrecipebox@gmail.com)

## LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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



# THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

## The Cuban Revolution



Perhaps no other 20<sup>th</sup> century event best demonstrates the dangerous faith in revolts than does the Cuban Revolution of 1959. The effect it had on Cuba is best described thus: Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and their cohorts displaced the often brutal government of Fulgencio Batista in which the divide between the wealthy American-backed industry executives and the starving populace was stark and replaced it with another brutal dictatorship where everyone was poor...except for the Castros and their minions.

Throughout his first presidency, lasting from 1933 to 1944, Batista maintained a good relationship with the United States and other foreign governments that saw Cuba as the tropical paradise for investments. For some on both sides of the equation this partnership proved highly profitable and Cuba became a new land of opportunity. As long as the money was rolling in, Batista had little desire to regulate and such an environment ultimately led to corruption. Havana became the playing field for American mobsters, casino magnets, and hustlers who found the island just over the clouds from Florida provided a good shield from the eyes of the feds.

Hostility was rising among the peasants, especially as those who protested the government were often violently done away with. By the early '50s a band of violent revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara were making themselves known, rising both the wrath of Batista and the United States feared that its interest sites in the island would be lost.

To the Cuban poor, however, Castro was a hero and a liberator. Who could blame them, really? Whatever prosperity was

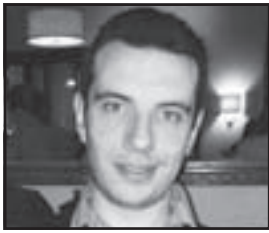
brought to their homeland had shut them out. Batista often showed them no mercy when they spoke up and some didn't live to tell about it afterward.

Both Castro and Guevara knew how to talk the poor and could easily paint themselves as the heroes they sought and make the folks believe whatever they needed them to believe.

In December of 1956 an attempted coup failed to unseat Batista who had returned to power in 1952. What the coup did accomplish, however, was convincing the United States that it was impractical to continue to support Batista. The solution was to find another president that would either snuff out the radicals or at least quell their bloodlust.

It would prove too late. On January 1, 1959, Castro and his cohorts launched their second coup, far more violent and organized than their attempt just over two years earlier. Batista and his cabinet fled Cuba for the Dominican Republic. Back home, Castro took over Havana six days later and became the island's dictator for almost six decades. His lackeys took no prisoners, taking many representatives of the former regime or of the establishment and executed many without a trial. Businesses (mostly American owned) were looted and burned and Cuba was changed forever. It became a Communist autocracy.

What was once a fenced dream for a few, became a wasteland for almost all but the Castros and their immediate connections. Castro wasted no time in cozying up to the Soviets as a final statement to where he was heading. In 1961, the United States, hoping to regain its foothold and re-establish business on the island launched the Bay of Pigs



Invasion in the hopes of unseating Castro but the mission failed. As a last resort, President Kennedy severed all ties with the island nation and imposed a trade and travel embargo.

The politics and logistics of such a move, especially its continuance to this day (though restrictions have been loosened), are beyond the scope of this article. It does, however, make one wonder what could have been with, perhaps, a less myopic view of the suffering that was happening all around those glitzy casinos and nightclubs.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

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**2005 CHEVROLET MALIBU**  
Vin #2G1WF52E659349524

**2005 FORD FREESTAR**  
Vin #2FMZA52255BA10704

**2020 TAOTAO PONY 50**  
Vin #L9NTCBAE7L1009367

**2006 VOLVO VNL**  
Vin #4V4NC9TH76N431129

*The above vehicles will be sold at public auction at*

**TODISCO TOWING**  
**94 Condor Street, E. Boston**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2020**  
at **9:00 AM**  
Run dates: 11/27, 12/04, 12/11, 2020

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. M120P5238EA

Estate of

**MARY L. HOGAN**

Date of Death: February 23, 2020

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Brian R. Hogan** of North Attleboro, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Brian R. Hogan** of North Attleboro, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 17, 2020.

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

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

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

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

Date: November 19, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 12/04/2020

# Winter Care for Trees, Shrubs and Perennials in Containers

by Melinda Myers



**Moving containers to a sheltered location and placing them close together for added insulation is one strategy to help them survive cold winter temperatures.**

(Photo by Melinda Myers, LLC)

As you prepare your landscape for winter don't overlook the trees, shrubs, and perennials you have growing in containers. These need a bit of extra protection to help them survive cold winter temperatures.

The small amount of soil in container gardens does not always provide sufficient insulation. The roots are more exposed to temperature extremes than those of their counterparts growing in the ground. Extremely cold temperatures can damage or kill the roots and even the plant.

Plants rated at least one zone hardier than your zone can usually survive when left outside for winter. Just make sure your containers will also tolerate the challenging winter weather.

Here are a couple strategies for helping your other containers through the winter. Select the one that best fits your landscape space and gardening style. Those in apartments or with limited space may need to enlist the help of their gardening friends.

Move containers to a sheltered location. Place them close together for added insulation. Then surround this with annual pots of flowers and vegetables to further insulate the roots. Wait until spring to empty and compost the annual plants. Or cover the pots with woodchips or surround them with bags of leaves, potting mix or bales of straw. Add another layer of insulation by piling snow that is free of deicing salt over the pots throughout the winter.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses How to Grow Anything DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her web site is: [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

Any plants growing in nursery pots or plastic containers can be overwintered in a vacant section of the garden. Sink the pots in the ground and make sure the pot is covered with and surrounded by soil. Water if needed. Then lift the plants in spring and set them in a decorative container to enjoy throughout the growing season.

An unheated garage also provides a suitable location for overwintering container gardens. Heated garages are usually too warm and plants will begin to grow. With a lack of sufficient sunlight, they usually struggle through the winter and often die.

Place the plants away from the overhead garage door. Add a bit of insulation such as packing materials, bagged soil, or other potential insulation you probably have in your home or garage. This protects the roots when the temperatures plummet. Water your stored containers whenever the soil is thawed and dry. A scoop of snow that is free of deicing salt works well. Just toss a scoop on each pot. When the temperatures rise the snow melts and waters the pots. Dry soil during a winter thaw is the usual cause of death when pots are stored this way.

If space allows, you may decide to plant those trees, shrubs, and perennials growing in containers into the garden each fall. You will eliminate this overwintering task and have a great excuse for buying new plants next spring.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

**2008 JEEP LIBERTY**  
Vin #1J8GP58K48W262862

*The above vehicles will be sold at public auction at*

**TODISCO TOWING**  
**94 Condor Street, E. Boston**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2020**  
**at 9:00 AM**  
Run dates: 11/20, 11/27, 12/04, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20C0633CA

In the Matter of  
**ELEANOR CAHILL WALKER**

CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Eleanor Cahill Walker of Burlington, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Eleanor Alice Cahill.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 14, 2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court  
Date: November 16, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run Date: 12/04/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Middlesex Probate and Family Court North**  
**Lowell Justice Center**  
**370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor**  
**Lowell, MA 01852**  
**(978) 656-7700**

Docket No. MI20P4481EA

Estate of  
**TIMOTHY ALLYN WHITE**  
Also Known As  
**TIMOTHY A. WHITE**

Date of Death: June 12, 2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Karen M. Rackliffe of North Billerica, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Karen M. Rackliffe of North Billerica, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 18, 2020.

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

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

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

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 01, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P5281EA

Estate of  
**RICHARD F. MORRIS**

Also Known As

**RICHARD F. MORRIS, SR.**

Date of Death: August 19, 2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Richard F. Morris, Jr. of Wakefield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Richard F. Morris, Jr. of Wakefield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 21, 2020.

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

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

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

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 23, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Middlesex Probate and Family Court**  
**Lowell Justice Center**  
**370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor**  
**Lowell, MA 02141**  
**(617) 768-5800**

Docket No. MI20P5241EA

Estate of  
**MARGARET ANN PERENICK**  
Also Known As  
**PEG PERENICK**

Date of Death: September 30, 2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kimberley Perenick of Winchester, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Kimberley Perenick of Winchester, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of December 17, 2020.

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

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

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

Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 19, 2020  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 12/04/2020



# EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani



## Hall of Fame Balloting Time Once Again

Curt Schilling, Roger Clemens, and Barry Bonds will be returning to the Hall of Fame ballots in a year without any favorites among the newest names on the ballot. These three guys are all making appearance Number 9 this year. Curt Schilling is a possibility, but the other two-suspected steroids players not so.

Voting will be announced on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and anyone

elected will be inducted July 25<sup>th</sup> in Cooperstown. Ballots by members of the Baseball Writers' Association must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Happy Birthday Time

Happy Birthday to Jonathan Papelbon, who just turned 40 years old. He was a great closer during his career and holds the franchise record for saves with the Red Sox and the Phillies ... Jonny Gómes also turned 40. He was on the 2013 World Champion Red Sox in his short stay in Boston.

## Mossy Thinks it's Time To let Pete Rose into H.O.F.

A long-time buddy and neighborhood newspaper journalist Mossy Martin from Mission Hill does a great column "HILL HAPPENINGS" for the *Mission Hill Gazette*. I read his commentaries all the time. For a couple of years, we both worked together at the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain. He recently penned in his column about how the Red Sox have reinstated Alex Cora as manager, who was barred for a year by MLB after the cheating scandal that hit the 2017 Houston Astros team.

Mossy says he believes in second chances. He thinks what Alex Cora was accused of was worse than what Pete Rose was

accused of, and thinks it is time for MLB to lift the lifetime ban on Rose and induct the all-time hit leader into Cooperstown, too.

I am starting to agree with Mossy. I only wish that Rose hadn't been so cocky during his days in the game. I never really liked him, but he has more than 4,000 hits, and that should mean acknowledgement.

## Quincy High Girls Volleyball Finish the Year Undeclared!

On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2020 Quincy High Girls Volleyball Team can look back on this season and its final game with pride. The game was almost over and time was running out, but the Quincy Presidents came back to win the game over Duxbury, 3-2, and finished the season glowing a perfect 13-0.

## Not a Great Season For the Pats But Forget About The Minutemen

The UMass Minutemen finished a quite horrible four-game football season, with a perfect 0-4 W-L record. They lost their final game on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> by 45-0, and for the dismal season being outscored 161-16. This football team makes the NY Jets look like Super Bowl contenders.

## • News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

### Did Anyone Out There Know This?

I just found out! Thank god for social media, we now know that 100 percent of 292 cities and towns currently use Dominion software in vote

counting. I say this news is very, very interesting. How about you?

### End Quote

"Certainly it's not going to be a pandemic for a lot longer."  
— Dr. Anthony Fauci

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## Billy Conn Had the Tools to Beat Ali

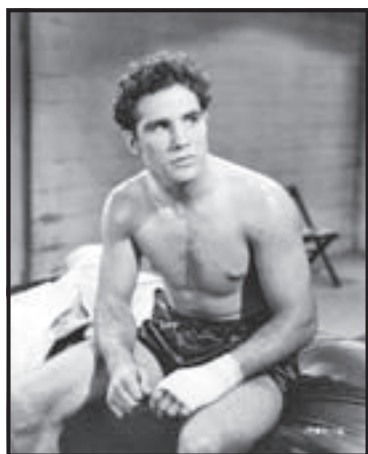
When thinking of dream matchups in boxing people usually think of pairings where the boxers have opposite styles. It is usually boxer vs slugger. And that makes sense, as these are the bouts that quite often provide the most fireworks. There is that attraction that is similar to the bull vs the matador.

But an interesting and intriguing fight isn't necessarily that between two polar opposites. Matching two smart boxers against one another can make for a very interesting fight. It can also show that one of the boxers who were considered highly skilled may not prove to be as talented in the scientific aspect of boxing when faced with a better ring technician.

The dream fights involving Muhammad Ali usually have him facing the great sluggers of the past such as Rock Marciano or Joe Frazier. Joe Louis, though more than a slugger, is often mentioned as well, and this is because of his tremendous punching power. Seeing that Ali was never kayoed (his bout against Holmes certainly doesn't count), I believe the interest in these hypothetical matches lies not just in whether or not these greats of the past could beat him, but rather in whether they could knock him out.

I think it is more interesting to look back and try to find boxers from years past who could outbox him. In the past, I have discussed the possibility of Jersey Joe Walcott and Gene Tunney doing so. There is another who would give Ali fits. That is Billy Conn.

Many will say Conn was too small and didn't punch hard enough to beat Ali. Two things should be remembered; Ali had some of his toughest fights against smaller fighters while Conn actually showed more



Billy Conn



Billy Conn lands a right on Ali

power when he stepped up and took on heavyweights.

Ali had difficulty in his fights with Doug Jones, Henry Cooper, Billy Daniels, and was floored hard by Sonny Banks. Later in his career, he was given fits by the light punching Jimmy Young. None of these men were large heavyweights, though they all would have a few pounds on Conn.

Ali did better against the big heavyweights; men like Sonny Liston, George Foreman, and George Chuvalo. Clearly, he had

more difficulty with fighters who were light and fast as compared to powerful but slower. Joe Frazier would fit into the category of small and fast though he was a slugger, though he deserves more credit than he gets for his boxing ability.

Ali is overrated when it comes to his technical ability in the ring. This does not take away from the fact that he was a great fighter. The thing with Ali was he was not a greatly schooled fighter. Joe Frazier was actually a better ring technician. Ali was an ad-libber in the ring. He had

phenomenal instincts, amazing reflexes, blinding speed for a man his size, and an iron chin, not to mention endless stamina. He did have a problem adapting when faced with a fighter who gave him problems. In three fights against Ken Norton, certainly nowhere near an all-time great and a one-dimensional fighter, Ali was never able to improve over his previous performance. Contrast that with someone like Joe Louis who always did much better in rematches against fighters who gave him a tough fight.

Jimmy Young was another puzzle for Ali, and one I very much doubt he would have been able to solve if they fought a second time. Young, like Norton, was far from an all-time great, but he was a cunning boxer, what used to be called a "cutie" in the ring.

If Ali were to face Billy Conn, he would be facing a pro with far more tools than Norton and Young. Not only was Billy fast, he was brilliant boxer. Unlike the slow moving targets like Foreman and Liston, Conn would have been all over the place while matching, and I believe out performing Ali when it came to both hand speed and footwork.

Ali would have had fits with Billy, and I think it is very likely that the Conn of the first Louis fight would have out pointed Muhammad. This is another case of styles making fights, and Conn had all the tools to beat Ali.

I know this is a fight that is never mentioned when thinking about who from the past could have beaten "The Greatest", I think it is a very intriguing matchup. My money would be on "The Pittsburgh Kid."



Billy and Muhammad. Who would win?

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



When the Boston Celtics face the Brooklyn Nets on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the TD Garden in a preseason game, it will be a welcome homecoming for a team that has literally been away for over nine months.

When we last saw the Celtics in the Garden, it was early March and the stretch drive that led into the playoffs was under way. But as we all know there was an unprecedented "intervention" that caused the NBA to shut down for several months before action resumed.

And while the Celtics played in Florida, it didn't quite feel the same. It was essentially the squad that had played in early March — but in a way, things were different. We knew they were not coming back to the Garden until the NBA powers that be declared that preparations could commence for the new 2020-2021 season.

And so here we are. At the start of preparations for that very season — with some teams having played into the fall and eight others not having taken the floor since that March night when all games were halted around the league.

The Celtics will be back on the court by the time you read this — holding preseason practices prior to playing their first exhibition game on December 15<sup>th</sup> against the 76ers in Philadelphia.

That will be a reunion of sorts since former Celtics head coach Doc Rivers will be at the helm in Philly, a good coach who immediately found another position after being let go by the Los Angeles Clippers when they lost in the second round of the 2020 playoffs.

The Celtics will also be seeing a bit more of another member of the Rivers family during the regular season since Austin Rivers, the son of Doc Rivers, recently signed a contract with the New York Knicks.

The Knicks and the Celtics have a long rivalry since they are the only two original NBA franchises still playing in their original cities. It is also interesting that when Austin Rivers takes the floor in New York this season, he will be following in the footsteps of his father. Doc Rivers played for the Knicks from 1992 to 1994.

In addition, Austin played for his father from 2015-2018, when his dad coached the Clippers. While Austin played in California, Mike Woodson was one of his father's assistant coaches. Woodson is now an assistant coach with the Knicks.

Plus, the Knicks head coach will be Tom Thibodeau, who served as the Celtics associate head coach under Doc Rivers from 2007 to 2010. That includes the span when they won the NBA championship (2008) by defeating the Lakers and then later lost to the Lakers in the NBA Finals (2010).

And, by the way, if you can locate the Knicks game day notes on the internet they are a pleasure to read. The section

called "Knicks Notations" is like going on a historical tour of the NBA. Every day something different is cited — whether it be an interesting statistic, a key game from the past, a memorable trade, or an accomplishment by a player or coach.

That second preseason contest with Brooklyn could also prove interesting since the Nets have a first-year coach in Steve Nash — the former NBA All-Star. The New York media have focused quite a bit on the reaction to his hiring — especially follow comments by Kyrie Irving that he, teammate Kevin Durant and Nash might well act as some sort of collaborative.

The way Irving envisioned was that the Nets might not really have a head coach — though Nash would have the title.

"I don't really see us having a head coach," remarked the former Celtics player when he appeared on Durant's podcast. "You know what I mean. KD could be the head coach. I could be the head coach."

Irving even threw Knicks assistant head coach Jacque Vaughn into the mix, adding "It's a collaborative."

Those are certainly interesting comments to consider, especially coming from Irving, who signed a four-year, \$141 million deal with the Nets in the summer of 2019. In case you are wondering, that works out to an average of \$35.2 million per year over the 48-month span — or the impressive sum of \$96,575 every day for the duration of the contract.

Durant, for his part, saw the hiring of Nash as a positive step. "His insight for the game, his communication — how he communicates the game of basketball — is definitely going to help me as a player develop and it is going to help the rest of the team."

But Irving's comments are certainly a less-than-positive way to go into the new season. We assume that over the past couple of months there have been some attempts to iron out this whole thing.

Of course, whether there will be any fans on hand to witness the 2020-2021 NBA season remains the big question. Although more than half of the NFL teams currently allow some fans to attend, the vast majority of those games are outdoors.

Most states currently have different rules for outdoor and indoor activities, with the requirements on indoor events being more stringent. Since all NBA games are indoors, the number of fans on hand may range from none to only a few as the season gets under way.

There won't be a bubble — but does that spell trouble? We hope not. It will be a long season — right through the NBA Finals in July. By then something called normal may have returned — as in how the league was able to conduct its games up through February, 2019. May we witness those days again sometime in 2021.



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