

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER 19, 2014

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44th Annual North End Christmas Parade



The Shriners



Santa with The Pallotta Family with John Romano, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Kathy Carangelo, Ted Tomasone, and City Councilor Sal LaMattina.

(Photo by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

The Christmas season officially arrived in the North End last Sunday, December 14th when Santa Claus made his annual trip by helicopter to pay neighborhood children a visit before his official trek on Christmas Eve. The 44th annual North End Athletic Association (N.E.A.A.) Christmas parade once again

made its way through the streets of the North End and waterfront with Santa in tow on a Boston Fire truck, Antique cars and marching bands along with costumed cartoon characters led the way as families gathered along the parade route. The parade was dedicated to the memory of James "Jimmy" Pallotta.

(Additional Photos on Page 9)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani



Swastikas Not Really a Good Hallmark Moment

Hallmark Cards Inc., has removed blue and silver gift wrap after a customer noticed she saw a swastika embedded in its design.

The design wrap was found in a Hanukkah display area. A company spokesperson stated the offending gift wrap wasn't for Hanukkah presents and Hallmark added it never intended to offend anyone. This certainly wasn't a Hallmark moment for Hallmark, was it?

Doesn't Context Matter Anymore?

Is waterboarding torture? What about enhanced interrogation techniques? How about those secret prisons that housed terrorists without charging them with anything? Back in 2006 in an interview with Matt Lauer that I recently heard the

(Continued on Page 13)

In the Spirit of Christmas



In the spirit of the season, visit this astonishing Nativity scene, which can be viewed at Saint Rose of Lima School on Broadway in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

THE POST-GAZETTE SATELLITE OFFICE IS NOW OPEN AT 35 BENNINGTON STREET, EAST BOSTON

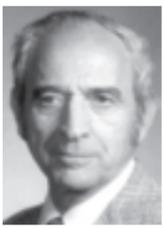
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Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



CHARON

During the past weeks we have examined the legends about Hades, the god of the Underworld, and also Hades, the land of the Underworld itself. This week the spotlight falls upon Charon, the mythological ferryman from antiquity, who conducted the souls of the dead in a boat, across the River Acheron, in the infernal regions.



A 19th-century interpretation of Charon's crossing by Alexander Litovchenko.

At the moment of death the eyes of the deceased were closed by one of those present, an "obolus" (coin of low value) was placed in the corpse's mouth and then the mouth was closed. This coin was intended, symbolically, to be used as payment for Charon's fare. The body of the dead person was then washed, anointed with perfumes, and clothed in rich white garments. A wreath of flowers was also placed upon the head of the corpse. The body was laid out on an ordinary bed with a pillow that supported the head and back, and the feet were turned toward the door. Special vases containing perfumes were placed beside the body, and were usually buried with the coffin. A honey cake was also placed in the casket, and intended, symbolically to be used as a reward for "Cerberus," the three-headed dog that guarded the gates of Hades. Any ghosts that had not been honored with a

proper burial were not permitted to enter the infernal regions without previously wandering on the shore for a hundred years.

Ancient poets have represented Charon as a stern and robust old man, with eyes glowing like flame, white bushy hair, dingy clothes that were stained with the muck of the river, and holding a long pole which he used to propel the boat.

Probably the most interesting portrayal of this subject is in the lower right hand corner of Michelangelo's "Last Judgment" on the wall of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. This painting (fresco) is considered to be the largest and most comprehensive fresco in the world. It shows that terrifying moment at the end of the world when the remorseful condemned are being drawn down to the depths of the lower world by taloned demons. Then there is Charon the boatman, forcing

the reluctant souls to disembark, while other demons are pulling them off the boat with grappling irons. Finally, Hades, the ruler of the infernal regions is standing in the extreme lower right hand corner with a serpent coiled around his waist.

Many persons are familiar with the story that tells how Michelangelo painted the Sistine Wall showing all the characters in the nude except the Virgin Mother. "Scandaloso," cried Cardinal Biagio DeCesena when he first inspected the masterpiece and caused clothing to be painted over certain critical areas. The furious Michelangelo claimed that the Cardinal was a fool and was completely devoid of artistic feeling. Revenge came to the master when he painted the Cardinal's likeness onto the face of Hades, but with the ears of a jackass. The Cardinal immediately complained to the Pope, who replied, "If you had been painted up above in the heavenly scenes, I could have used my influence to have you removed, but I have no power in Hell so you'll just have to remain there." Finally, if you'd like to know where the serpent's head is located, and what it is doing — well, you will just have to take a trip to Rome.

Next Week: Poseidon

Res Publica

by David Trumbull



The Gospel According to Barack

According to news accounts, President Barack Hussein Obama, in a speech earlier this month, said that his illegal executive order rewriting immigration law is worthy of support based on an analogy of illegal immigrants to Mary, Joseph, and the Babe Jesus sheltering in a manger because there was no room at the inn. The meme of the Holy Family as homeless strangers is one that has been circulating for years among liberals. The same liberals who cry "separation of church and state" if a conservative so much as mentions God in passing, love to quote two verses of the Nativity Narrative.

In this case the passage they latch onto is —

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

— Gospel According to Saint Luke Chapter 2 Verses 6-7.

What they conveniently omit is that the reason Mary is traveling at all in her delicate condition is that one of the biggest governments the world has ever known, the Roman Empire, had imposed the burden that they go, not to a strange land as immigrants, but to Joseph's hometown to pay his taxes. As Paul Harvey used to say, Here's the rest of the story —

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the City of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the City of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."

— Luke 2:1-5.

The Bible has much to say about justice and compassion toward the alien among us. For example: "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."

— Exodus 22:21.

What it does not provide is a detailed manual for governing and you should be wary of any politician claiming that some Bible verse supports his specific policy. And that applies equally to Republicans and Democrats.

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

Invite you to attend the fourth public meeting on the

CENTRAL ARTERY RAMP PARCEL STUDY

Thursday, January 8, 2015

6-8 PM at the BRA

(Boston City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room)

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

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

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

If you have any specific questions, please contact:

John Romano

Legislative Liaison, MassDOT

email: John.Romano@state.ma.us

Lauren N. Shurtleff

Senior Planner, BRA

email: Lauren.Shurtleff@boston.gov

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

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Friday, December 19, 2014

OUR POLICY: To help preserve the ideals and sacred traditions of this our adopted country the United States of America: To revere its laws and inspire others to respect and obey them: To strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty: In all ways to aid in making this country greater and better than we found it.

GUEST EDITORIAL

When Did "Xmas" Become a Four-letter Word?

by Sal Giarratani



This year due to construction in Quincy Square, the city's Nativity display needed to be relocated and the Church of the Presidents stepped up and the citizens of Quincy were quite thankful to them for doing so.

Don't know about you, but this entire multicultural %\$@* is getting to me. The diversity crowd is all about diversity as long as it is to their liking. Take the War on Christmas and it is a war. Each year folks are required to take battle sides over the birth of the Prince of Peace. It was never like that growing up, was it? Christmas was Christmas. Some folks enjoyed the holiday more than others, but it was universally recognized as a legitimate holiday season.

No one threw it into the face of our Jewish friends and neighbors. Christmas wasn't about beating down others who didn't have the same belief. Everyone simply celebrated as they chose or chose not to. Businesses celebrated with "Christmas" sales and "After Christmas" sales. In Downtown Boston, the old Jordan Marsh once had a larger than life Nativity display above the street level shop windows. On the Boston Common, there was a large Nativity set that was a tourist attraction in December. Christmas music was everywhere. Remember visiting Santa Claus as a child at the Enchanted Village, a holiday must for area families.

Today things have changed as the diversity multicultural crowd has gone Scrooge Humbug on Christmas. These anti-Christmas folk and that's what they are, remind me of the old Puritans in Massachusetts who banned the celebration of Christmas.

Latest example is the banning of the term "Christmas Vacation" for public school systems. First it was changed to "Holiday Break" but even that wasn't good enough because it referred to some unnamed holiday out there. Now, it is simply "Winter Break" like the "Spring Break."

Latest news is reportedly from Marshfield down on the South Shore where apparently a sign display put up by the Marshfield Department of Public Works stating "Merry Christmas to All and God Bless America" had to be removed from a public area in the town because it offended some anti-Christmas people. One would think the D.P.W. employees had committed some kind of hate crime.

Every year these stories grow and it is time to stand

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Mass Badge and the DiDomenico Foundation

Collect Hundreds of Toys for Local Children

Mass Badge and The DiDomenico Foundation hosted their annual Holiday Bash and Toy Drive this past weekend. Guest came from throughout the area to celebrate the season and give back to our children. Governor-elect Charlie Baker and his wife Lauren were also in attendance.

The organization first hosted this event as a way to celebrate Christmas and the concept was soon changed to a toy drive for children. Eric "DJ Littles" Palmariello, a Mass Badge member, was the person who wanted to start this tradition and whose passion drove others to make a difference. Sadly, Eric was diagnosed with cancer and passed away months later at the age of 32. "Continuing with this yearly toy drive was his dying wish," said Raoul Goncalves, a Everett police officer and the organization's founder.



Senator Sal DiDomenico, Lauren Baker, Governor-elect Charlie Baker and Foundation President Tricia DiDomenico.



Senator Sal DiDomenico, Santa and Mass Badge President Raoul Goncalves.

Senator Sal DiDomenico is very supportive of the community work done by the Mass Badge Organization and he understands how difficult this time of the

year can be for many families as we approach the holiday season. The DiDomenico Foundation was started to fund scholarships for local students and purchase toys

for children during the holidays. This was a natural partnership with Mass Badge to continue this wonderful tradition of reaching out and make an impact in our community during this time. The hundreds of toys that were collected were given to children throughout our communities including: local parishes, domestic violence shelters, non-profit organizations, public housing, community-based organizations, as well as families in need. "We are happy to make the holidays a little brighter for children in our community," said Senator DiDomenico. "The response has been amazing!"

Mass Badge, an organization comprised of local police officers and selected members of the community, was founded in 1998 by Raoul Goncalves. The organization has received numerous acknowledgements in the city and state level for its tireless work in building a bond between law enforcement and the community.



Some of the hundreds of toys collected by Mass Badge and The DiDomenico Foundation.

(Photos courtesy of Mass Badge/DiDomenico Foundation)

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Christmas, A Time of Tradition

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

We now find ourselves in that unique and mysterious season known as midwinter. December 21st marks the winter solstice, the shortest night of the year. As this date approaches, I can definitely feel the darkness closing in like a worn blanket, shrouding the Earth in its dusky glow. I do not bemoan this darkness, however, because it forms a necessary and beautiful component of the year's cycle. On frosty nights, the stars appear brighter and sharper in the inky black mantel of the sky — my husband and I even witnessed a huge shooting star the other night! The short nights are also significant because they enhance the meaning of the winter solstice; after this date, the sun will gradually stay longer in the sky, bringing hope and light in its path. It is no coincidence that Christmas, with its emphasis on candles, burning yule logs and light decorations, occurs during the darkest time of the year. Religiously, the Christmas story represents light coming to the world in the form of Jesus, while symbolically the many sources of luminous decorations represent the return of the sun after the solstice. Because of the holiday's profound meaning and symbolism, I relish traditional Christmas celebrations that highlight these elements. From food to gifts, I enjoy Christmas most when surrounded by tradition and the love of family.

One way in which I honor the holiday customs passed down in my family is through food. Food forms an integral part of the Christmas Eve feast in my home, which is known as *la Vigilia di Natale*, or "the Christmas vigil" in Italian. According to Italian lore, *la Vigilia* is traditionally a meatless meal, stemming from the days when Christmas Eve was considered a fast period in preparation for the birth of Jesus the next day. As such, many Italian families may prepare seafood-based dishes for *la Vigilia*. I am always excited to see what fish plate will be served each year at *la Vigilia*; last year, my mother cooked a tender sole with shrimp stuffing. This



year, she plans on making a smoked salmon quiche, while my uncle will be preparing a variety of seafood. However, my favorite part of holiday cooking involves desserts. Several traditional Italian desserts have become inextricably associated with the Christmas season, and form an indispensable part of my holiday celebrations. I remember my father always bringing home a cylindrical box of *panettone* right before Christmas. *Panettone* is sweet bread studded with dried fruits and candied peel, and its name literally means "great bread." I actually do not really like the taste of *panettone*, but I appreciate its inclusion in my holiday dinner as an indicator of a time-honored tradition. I have great love and passion for *struffoli*, a dessert my grandmother has been making since I was little. *Struffoli* are deep-fried dough balls soaked in honey, arranged into a wreath or tree shape, and sprinkled with colored nonpareils. They are a fun and whimsical way to revel in the brightness of the holiday season. I have also made a lemon tart every Christmas Eve for several years now, to showcase the citrus fruits now in season. So on the dark nights leading to Christmas, you will most likely find me in the kitchen, preparing recipes of yore.

However, I believe that the most important part of my Christmas celebrations is family. The holiday derives so much of its meaning from the love and comfort that surrounds a person, emanating from the company of loved ones. I cannot imagine celebrating Christmas without my family. All of our Christmas Eve traditions — *la Vigilia*, playing board games, opening presents at midnight — reinforce the bonds of family.

When we play a silly board game, our shared laughter and merriment forms a barrier against the darkness and the chill air outside, filling the room with the special kind of warmth that can only be felt when sharing special moments with those you love. Opening gifts, which

my family does at midnight huddled under the honeyed glow of the Christmas tree, provides me with yet another opportunity to relish my family. I love the looks of delight when family members and friends unwrap a gift selected or crafted with thoughtfulness and love. Truly, that is what gift-giving is all about, not material gain. No matter what your Christmas traditions are, it is important to approach them with love, compassion and a sense of wonder. In fact, midwinter celebrations like Christmas developed their traditions as a response to the dark, cold days of the winter solstice. At a time when all seems frosty and barren, the convivial feasting and merriment not only honors the abundance of the past harvest but demonstrates the resilience of community and familial bonds, offering hope that life will continue its vibrant path as surely as the sun is reborn on the solstice. An old Italian dictum states that no one should be left alone on Christmas, which is why we should do good deeds for those who are lonely or separated from their families during the holidays, such as the sick, the poor and those in the military. The Christmas spirit of generosity, kindness and family — and "family" is not necessarily synonymous with "blood relations," as friends and the larger community definitely form part of your family—is too joyful to keep hidden away.

This Christmas, I will continue to honor the family traditions woven into the fabric of holidays past. Whether they involve eating *struffoli* or exchanging gifts at midnight, these traditions provide me with an indelible link to my ancestors and their values, spirituality and wisdom. However, I will also pay special attention to the meaning behind the traditions. Lurking behind all of these customs — and, indeed, all customs of Christmas, no matter what the culture — is the sense of love. Love shared within a family, love for the traditions of our forbearers, acts of love toward the community, the love of Jesus and the Nativity, the love for the sun which rises again — all of this love comprises the complex and special holiday of Christmas. So on Christmas, as you honor your own traditions, take note of the bonds of love which surround you, or which you can pro-

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"COACH DOM"

WAS A YEAR ROUND CHRISTMAS GIFT



Usually around Christmas time folks start anticipating things like getting and giving Christmas presents. The North End community recently lost a great gift to the community going back to 1937 when Dominic Campochiaro was born. Dominic was one of those pillars most communities today remain in need of for its own well being. For his family, friends and neighbors his loss will be greatly felt. There's an old saying, "When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure."

Like so many who loved Dom over his lifetime, for me his dedication to the community that nurtured him was an overwhelming example of someone who doesn't just reside somewhere, but truly lives in it and for it.

I was at his wake and funeral Mass and I saw him resting their silently, which was so un-Dom. He was always on the move. Always with that infectious smile of his. One always felt better after coming into contact with him if just for a few minutes. He was my friend and someone I highly respected. I remember seeing him driving all over the neighborhood with that "D&S electrical truck of his. Once, a long time ago, I mentioned to him what the "S" stood for and he told me, it was his deceased brother's name, which was Sal. I remember telling him my deceased brother's name was Dom. I guess if I could do anything electrical, my truck could have been "D&S" too. However, he told me he owned the "D&S" not me.

Dominic was a great baseball person. Loved the game his whole life. In high school across the High Bridge in Charlestown, he played the infield and enjoyed himself. When he joined the U.S.

Army, they sent him to Germany to join up with the Army's baseball team. Talk about serving your country, huh?

His baseball mentor was little Dominic DiMaggio who played at Fenway for the Red Sox. He was nick-named many things over the years. He was "Coach Dom" to generations of North End kids. When they dedicated the field at Langone Park in his honor, I remember taking a photo of a little kid, his father and grandfather, he had touched all three generations with his very being there.

A few years back, I helped Dominic on Saturday mornings with the smallest of kids just learning baseball by trying, and I say trying, to knock a plastic ball over a tee and running to first. He had the patience of Job in the Bible. Nothing bothered him when he was coaching them. Always a smile and lots of encouragement. I enjoyed that summer with him at the baseball field and trying to learn from him about how to make learning baseball not a chore but just lots of fun. Whether he was teaching tee ball players or older little leaguers over the years with the North End Athletic Association, his job seemed to develop not just baseball skills but skills to live life too.

During the Mass for him, the homily from the altar spoke to everyone present in the pews. All of us end up dead but many of us unfortunately lived our whole lives dead. We contribute little, help few and live this world unfulfilled. That wasn't Dominic; he left this world, his North End world so much better than when he found it at birth.

None of us are saints. We all leave our impact but some of us are less imperfect like Dom. He was a good player in life. St. Paul before he died said that for him, he had finished the race and did the best he could. Dom's marathon to use another sports term has been finished. He did the best he could which is all that can be asked of all.

Someone once said, "Finally, God, if fate seems to uppercut me with both hands and I'm laid on the shelf in sickness or old age

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Pamela Donnaruma honored by The Friends of the North End



Friends of the North End with Publisher/Editor of the Post-Gazette Pamela Donnaruma.

Pamela Donnaruma, publisher and editor of the *Post-Gazette*, was honored recently by the Friends of the North End at their bi-monthly dinner at the Sons of Italy in Winchester, Massachusetts. Victor Passacantilli welcomed Pamela by giving a brief history of the news-paper recounting its beginning over 100 years ago by her grandfather, James Donnaruma who immigrated to this

country and established an Italian newspaper in Massachusetts, *La Gazzetta del Massachusetts*. *La Gazzetta* proved to be a valuable asset to the Italian immigrants who were struggling to acclimate to a new country, culture and language. Pamela was honored for continuing on her families ancestry being a genuine voice and advocate for the Italo-American community at large.

ITAM Post 6 Holds Toys for Tots Fundraiser

by Sal Giarratani



Members of ITAM Post 6 in East Boston recently held their annual Toys for Tots fundraising party on Friday, December 12th at the Post headquarters just off Meridian Street and this year the veterans from this Post came through in a big way making both Santa Claus and the U.S. Marine Corps quite happy. This year there will be many happy children on Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of the guys and gals from ITAM Post 6.

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

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Saint Adelaide of Italy

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Adelaide was born in 931 in Burgundy. She was the daughter of Rudolph II, King of Burgundy, who at the time was at war with Hugh of Provence for the crown of Italy. The rivals concluded a peace in 933, by which it was stipulated that Adelaide should marry Hugh's son Lothaire. The marriage took place fourteen years later, by that time Berengarius, the Marquis of Ivrea, came upon the scene, claiming the

Kingdom of Italy for himself. He forced Hugh to abdicate in favor of Lothaire, and is believed to have afterwards put Lothaire to death by poison. He then proposed to unite Adelaide in marriage with his son, Adalbert. Refusing the offer, Adelaide was placed in almost solitary captivity, in a Castle on Lake Garda.

Adelaide was rescued by a priest named Martin, who dug a tunnel, by which she escaped, and remained concealed in the woods. Soon however, the Duke of Canossa, Alberto Uzzo, who had been advised of the rescue carried her off to his castle.

While this was taking place, the Italian nobles, weary of Berengarius, had invited King Otto of Germany to invade Italy. He met with little resistance. Otto then went to Canossa where he met Adelaide, and married her on Christmas day, 951, at Pavia. The marriage was greeted with the enthusiasm of the people for Adelaide, whose romantic life had appealed to them, making Otto's work of subjugating the peninsula easier.

In Germany she was the idol of her subjects, while her husband lived. After Otto's death, during the reign of her son Otho II, her troubles began, chiefly owing to the jealousy of her daughter-in-law, Theophano, and possibly also because of her generosity in her works of charity. It resulted in her withdrawing from court and taking up residence at Pavia, but reconciliation was effected by the Abbot of Cluny, St. Mayeul. The same troubles broke out when her grandson came to the throne, the jealous daughter-in-law being yet unreconciled, and Adelaide was again forced into seclusion. After Theophano's death, Adelaide was recalled to assume the burden of a Regency. Her administration was characterized by wisdom. She took no revenge upon her enemies; her court was said to be like a religious house. Adelaide passed away in the year 999 at Seitz in Alsace on a journey to Burgundy to reconcile her nephew Rudolph with his subjects.

Saint Adelaide was canonized in 1097 by Pope Urban II. Her Feast day is December 16.



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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

The History of Animation: The Looney Best



Chuck Jones

Warner Bros. had their most glorious year's right after WWII, which each of the stars evolving into the icons we know today and, like Disney's cast, often finding specific directors to fit their style. Some of these directors are legends in their own right. A few greats established their name at Disney, most notably Jack Hannah who directed some of the funniest Donald Duck shorts and even pushed the Disney mold into Tex Avery territory, but the auteurs of animations golden age propped up mostly at Warner Bros.

Bob Clampett was the first true discovery there, not counting Tex Avery who, despite being considered the father of Bugs Bunny, is really immortalized by his later work at M-G-M. After sending off Porky Pig, his first established creation, Clampett unleashed his wacky genius to the fullest, even his elasticity character designs were a novelty, and a case could be made that there was never a more creative animator than Bob Clampett with the exception of his former colleague Tex Avery. With Bugs Bunny he did wonderful things, taking the rabbit through new locations and enemies in *Bugs Bunny Gets the Boid*, *Falling Hare*, *What's Cookin' Doc?*, *Hare Ribbin'*, and *Buckaroo Bugs*. The two cartoons in which he paired Bugs with his arch enemy Elmer Fudd are considered to be masterpieces of the genre, *The Old Grey Hare* (1944) and, his last cartoon at Warner Bros., *The Big Snooze* (1946). Clampett also did more to develop Daffy Duck than any other director, molding the duck from a zany lunatic to a hot-headed sort of everyman. *Draftee Daffy* and *Book Revue* are delights, but *The Great Piggy Bank Robbery*, his spoof of Dick Tracy with the use of Daffy

("Duck Tracy"), is a milestone in cartoon history.

While Clampett pushed the boundaries of cartoon physics, Robert McKimson preferred a softer less gag-driven approach and domesticated several established characters, giving Sylvester a son and a new rival in Hippety Hopper the kangaroo (who the lispng cat always mistakes for a giant mouse), and created others like Foghorn Leghorn and the Tasmanian Devil. Friz Freleng, by then a veteran animator, followed along the same lines and, arguably, fathered more Warner Bros. characters than anyone else including the explosive Yosemite Sam (he thought Elmer was an inefficient nemesis for Bugs, a more aggressive foe was needed), Tweety and Sylvester in the academy award winning short from 1947 *Tweetie Pie*, and Speedy Gonzalez, as well as a number of limited appearance wonders such as the jiving version of the Three Little Pigs. When Warner closed its animation studio in the late 50s, Freleng found a new niche as the animator of the *Pink Panther* cartoon shorts.

The most prolific cartoonist, however, to come out of Warner Bros, was Chuck Jones, who has become something of a patron saint to animators and cartoon buffs alike. It's impossible to over emphasize his legacy at Warner Bros. alone (which started with 1938's *The Night Watchman*) and continued well into the TV era. He created his own characters, Pepe Le Pew and the most famous team in cartoon history Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote, who were created as a spoof of the predator vs. prey mold loved by the early cartoonists and ended up becoming golden age pillars themselves. The cartoons follow a simple formula. In the American Southwest, a scrawny and scruffy looking coyote tries various attempts to catch the only apparently available food source, the Road Runner that is seemingly indestructible not for his own cunningness (like Bugs) but by the coyote's overconfidence in his own genius and ignorance of how complicated gadgets work. What's unique to Jones's approach of the formula is the sympathy he always mustered for poor Wile E. Coyote, a starved soul whose sole existence revolved around failure at his one aim. The end of Warner animation studio was not the end for Chuck Jones, so high was his reputation. He gave Tom & Jerry a new lease on life with a short-lived revival series at M-G-M and then moved onto television where he would revisit the Looney characters he helped make famous years ago at Warner Bros. in several retrospective TV specials featuring the gang. Jones career was long and expansive, but reached its zenith at Warner, birthplace not only to some of the most enduring cartoon stars ever, but the starting point of some of the greatest animators ever.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

for the Italian Home for Children

The Italian Home for Children is in need of NEW coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for the many kids they serve. Although the Italian Home is located in Jamaica Plain, it holds a special place in the hearts of East Bostonians as it was where our beloved Anthony Albano called home as a child, as well as one of Mayor Menino's favorite charities.

In memory of Anthony Albano and Mayor Thomas Menino, a coat drive will be held to bring warmth and smiles to many children in need.

Please bring NEW coats, hats, gloves, and scarves (for **AGES 4-14, BOYS & GIRLS**) to the Adrian Madaro Campaign Headquarters, 105 Por-

ter St., East Boston during the following times: Friday, December 19th, 6:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, December 20th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

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Remember ME Always

by Freeway Simboli



Everyone knows me as Freeway, who writes a column in the *Post-Gazette*. For this special column I want to write about my friend Dominic (the Electrician) Campochiaro.

This past week has been very sad for me and many others because our friend passed away. I attended his Funeral Mass because I had known Dom since I was a puppy. The service was beautiful and his friends spoke of all the good he had done for the neighborhood and especially for the kids of the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) in which he was so proud. His life seemed to be geared around baseball. I even had my own shirt and baseball cap made so I could be with Dom on the baseball field. As the kids played, I was his mascot and proud of it. The funeral was very moving and the military salute was so touching to see Dom honored in such a way. I have so many memories of Dom, the times he and I would sit on the step of the *Post-Gazette* and he would smoke that \$2.00 cigar and he would put me on his lap to protect me from any big dogs that came by. I can see him now walking up the street with his workboots and his pants cuffed and rolled up — that was his style. My ride in his truck was another story as he wanted to go see his friend Teddy at the Somerville Court ... if you could find a spot to sit you were lucky, I ended up on a pile of *Post-Gazette* newspapers. How could I ever forget Dom? We celebrated our birthdays together, which fell on the same month, only a few days apart and I could hear him say, "you want me to share my cake with a dog?" He loved me don't let anyone kid you.

Our best time together were our catnaps in the office of the *Post-Gazette*, I would be on one chair and Dom would be on the other with his feet up on the desk sound asleep, that was our special time. As my human companion would say, "life is short." Time passes quickly, where has the time gone? Appreciate what you have and never have any regrets, never look back. Today, I can say as my paws are hitting the keys on the keyboard writing this article, I look back and remember the good times with my pal Dom and I appreciate how gentle and kind he was to me. Now I sit alone in that small room and look at that empty chair. I'll miss you my pal, you were "Forever My Friend."

Love you,
Freeway

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Mrs. Murphy . . . As I See It

T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the night not a creature was stirring, it was quite a sight. Snow is falling softly, the ground is blanketed in white. Santa is on his way to Eastie's pure delight! Homes are all aglow with Christmas lights, just waiting for Santa to make his flight. Mobs are forming in the street for Santa's meet and greet. The sleigh is descending and all you can hear are people yelling "Santa is here!" As he struggles out of his sleigh and his boots touch the ground, he can feel the love all around ... Santa bows his head and makes the sign of the cross to remember his dear friend, Mayor Tom Menino and Boston's loss ... His first stop is the East Boston Social Centers to give the seniors a kiss, it's an opportunity Santa wouldn't miss. Director John Kelley is there to wish Santa, some Holiday Cheer, and give him a goody dish. Seniors line up under the mistletoe waiting for Santa to make them glow ... Santa spots the three Amigos, Carlo Basile, Sal LaMattina, and Anthony Petrucci who give Santa a gift certificate to some hot spots in Eastie, and Santa thanks them a lot ... Frank Santarpio and his daughters Carla and Joya are there to present Santa with a prized 10 foot pizza and an iced beer ... Santa trots over to the YMCA to speak with the girls on how to lose weight. Santa admits it's time he

wants to look great, but Santa realizes it's a little too late ... Santa wants the feast to begin so he glides over to Ecco Restaurant for a vodka and gin. Joe McNamee from J&M Mechanical is at the bar sipping a martini, waving to Santa from afar ... Santa soon hops over to Kelly's Pub to visit pals John Sr. and Jr., before he flops. Kelley's Pub treats Santa to a full course dinner, and Santa admits it's a winner... Santa with his belly so big decides to jog down to Spinelli's because he ate like a pig. Rita, Louie and Anthony Roberto are at the door to present Santa with trays of take-out goodies and Italian cookies ... Walter of E.B. Diamond & Gold gives Santa a watch that's elegant and top notch ... His next stop is Elite Donut where he is greeted by Joe, Paula and the crowd, with a huge grin Santa admits Elite's Christmas decorations are bright and showy and their X-mas lights guided his sleigh through the night. Joe has plenty of presents for Santa, a jar of vinegar stuffed peppers and cherries in brandy that Santa confesses will come in handy. Elite regulars Paul and Doug give Santa a homemade pie, and Santa cries "You're my kind of guys" ... Santa has money to invest and goes into First Priority to build his nest ... Santa spots Joe Mario of Century 21 and wants his card, Santa wants a house with a yard ... Santa sees Liz Jones, president of the Everett Co-Op in the crowd, and with a wink, he makes

Liz think he will deposit big money in her bank, and quickly assures her it's no prank. Liz quickly seals the deal, and takes Santa out for a meal ... Dressed for Santa all in red, Sandra Caggiano, Karen DeSpirito and Linda Faretra have bought Santa a brand new sled ... Eastie's popular former State Rep. Gus Serra is there, and the crowd gives him a huge cheer. Santa asks Gus to run for office in the North Pole because his country needs a goal ... Santa announces he has an award to give to Boston's finest East Boston Police Department that keeps East Boston safe and sound as Santa can see when he looks around. Santa has an Ice Oscar for Sal Giarratani for his two roles in the Whitey Bulger movie, that Santa said is quite groovy. Lisa Cappuccio is there to give Santa a membership to Italia Unita ... Santa is now ready to make his way home, but his sleigh isn't there and neither are the reindeer. Santa hunts for them and finds his crew at Jeveli's Restaurant having some brew. The sleigh is packed with fresh Italian bread given by Mike and Lisa of Cucchiello's Bakery ... Santa thanks everyone, and boards his sleigh, he belches and burps, and hauls in his sack and yells it's time to be heading back. With a hand in the air and a belly so full, he raises his sleigh up towards the air and shouts *Merry Christmas Everyone and a Happy New Year!*

Simple TIMES . . .

by Girard A. Plante



Just before the return to school every August, a sort of tax amnesty is trotted out by State officials to ease the cost burden for parents buying school supplies and myriad of other necessities for their children. It is a grand scheme because items costing more than \$175.00 are taxable.

Let's extend the worthy event for the entire final week in August, along with the first week of September. That way families returning late from summer vacation can also partake in the savings. And then loose the tax break beyond the regressive \$175.00 limit like the oil industry is gifted by American taxpayers.

We are witnessing a welcome and dramatic drop in gasoline prices the past few months. Each time I pass by my neighborhood's busy gas station on my way to Star Market in Newton, I have

seen the prices steadily but surely drop to below three dollars a gallon. What a relief, right? I know the fat cats producing our oil and gas can do better.

In 2012, the oil industry earned a whopping \$120 billion dollars! And the oil barons receive subsidies by us — the taxpayers. It's akin to freely giving candy on Halloween. In the past decade alone, \$1 trillion dollars gushed into their pocket-books! That industry includes the Big Five: ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, BP, and ConocoPhillips.

As a result, I hereby proclaim with all the legislative likeness I harbor for our democratic government at the Local, State, and Federal levels a gas amnesty for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I know you're bewildered at my citizen proclamation. Yet such a move merits serious consideration and action. Put gas at one dollar a gallon from the week of Thanksgiving through the day after New Year's.

Laugh all you want at my proposal. I believe it's full of merit. Even though middle-

class consumers, and people living below the poverty level, rightly harbor no faith that the oil barons and fat cats on Wall Street are generous to no one but themselves. Imagine the extra cash Americans would have to enjoy the holiday season?

Miles-long visits with family won't be a burden. Buying a few more gifts for others would happily help ease the bank account. Donations to organizations aiding homeless population and poor folks would increase. Everybody gets something.

Plus, it's only once a year, so the oil barons would be asked to share their largesse. And despite their generosity, they'd still rake in billions of dollars in profits. It's ok to possess Christmas wishes that Americans be given a break by the greedy oil and gas industry barons.

The spirit of giving is real. Merry Christmas!

Editor's Note: The above figures are culled from the February 5, 2013, online edition of Taxpayers for CommonSense.

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2014 NORTH END CHRISTMAS FUND LUNCHEON

Honors Teddy Boyle and Dom Campochiaro Posthumously



North End Christmas Fund Luncheon Committee

The Annual North End Christmas Fund Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 11th at Filippo's Ristorante. This annual fundraising tradition permits the Christmas Fund Committee to give out several hundred checks to North End seniors and families in need during this Christmas season. Mayor Marty Walsh and State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz were in attendance along with many dignitaries to celebrate and honor those who serve the North End community.

Receiving the honors for 2014 were Officer Frederick "Teddy" Boyle of the Boston Police Department, who received the Uncle Fred Carangelo Humanitarian Award and the Private Ernest J. Natale Community Service Award was given to Dom Campochiaro posthumously. Both individuals are well-deserving of these awards.

The Christmas Fund Committee is led by Robert "Ted" Tomasone and James Luisi of North End Waterfront Health. The committee includes members from local non-profit agencies: North End Athletic Association, North End Against Drugs, Nazzaro Community Center, North End Waterfront Health, North End Seniors, ABCD Head Start Program and North End / West End ABCD Service Center.



Ted Tomasone, Aaron Michlewitz, Mayor Marty Walsh, Kathy Carangelo and members of the Boston Police Department with honoree Officer Frederick "Teddy" Boyle.



Dominic Campochiaro accepting the Private Ernest J. Natale Community Service Award for his father Dom Campochiaro posthumously. L-R Jim Luisi, Mayor Marty Walsh, Dominic Campochiaro and Ted Tomasone.



So Mayor Walsh, I'd like to tell you a thing or two ...



Gisella DiPaola, Assistant Vice President Eagle Bank, Pamela Donnaruma, Post-Gazette Editor and Joseph Giangregorio of the Green Cross Pharmacy.

(Photos by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

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• 44th Annual North End Christmas Parade (Continued from Page 1)



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Facts ON wax

by bob morello
reviewing the best... forgetting the rest

FRANK SINATRA - SINATRA: LONDON UMe/Frank Sinatra Ent.



In June 1962, Frank Sinatra traveled to the U.K. to record *Sinatra Sings Great Songs from Great Britain*. Recorded over three consecutive nights at London's CTS Studios, *Great Songs from Great Britain* would be the only album Sinatra would ever record outside of the United

States. On November 25th, Universal Music Enterprises & Frank Sinatra Enterprises released *Sinatra: LONDON*, a deluxe 3-CD/DVD and digital audio collection presenting the remastered original studio album with a treasure trove of other London highlights from Sinatra's career. The expansive set's more than 50 previously unreleased recordings include session material from the album, a 1962 BBC *Light Programme* radio special with introductions to each song by Sinatra himself, a 1953 live session for BBC Radio's *The Show Band Show*, and a Royal Albert Hall concert from 1984. The collection's DVD features a previously unreleased filmed 1962 concert from Royal Festival Hall, plus a 1970 concert appearance from the same venue with a never before released performance of the classic song *A Foggy Day*. The sleek book-style set includes a 60-page booklet with the album's original liner notes, newly-written track notes, details about Sinatra's many visits to the U.K., and several photos of Sinatra in London: onstage, in the studio, and about town. The collection also has two exclusive art print reproductions of original London concert posters, and a unique studio panorama from the 1962 recording sessions for *Great Songs From Great Britain*.

THE WHO - QUADROPHENIA: LIVE IN LONDON Geffen/UMe

In 2012/2013, The Who embarked on the *Quadrophenia and More Tour*, performing their landmark rock opera in its entirety, marking the fortieth anniversary of the original 1973 release of this double-album masterpiece. The critically acclaimed and highly successful tour closed at London's Wembley Arena, with the cameras rolling, to record the closing night of this historic anniversary tour. Filmed on July 8, 2013, *Quadrophenia: Live in London* features The Who in peak form, performing *Quadrophenia* from front to back, in its entirety, along with a special set of some of their all-time greatest hits. *Quadrophenia: Live in London* is available in various configurations including an expanded 5-Disc Limited Collector's Edition Metal Box which includes the High Def Blu-Ray™ and standard DVD of the concert film, both in 5.1 Surround Sound audio; a two-CD soundtrack of the show; and for the first time, a 5.1 Surround Sound mix of the entire 1973 album release of *Quadrophenia* on a Blu-Ray Pure Audio™. Extras include a 6" Mod Headlight sticker, a Mod Headlight button, and a 32-page booklet, in a 10" metal container embossed with the movie-inspired, iconic, Mod bull's-eye logo painted on a Vespa SG scooter headlight.

NICKI MINAJ - MYXOTICA

Rapper Nicki Minaj has stepped outside the music box to introduce MYX MYXOTICA, the Limited Edition Nicki Minaj signature bottle from MYX Fusions. MYXOTICA is an exotic fusion of premium Moscato wine and the finest juices from select fruits. The effervescent Moscato, infused with all-natural flavors, is draped in Nicki's signature pink hue and topped with a white "champagne" capsule. Nicki personally met with the production team and provided her input on the flavor and the packaging, suggesting tweaks to both until they were perfect. "MYXOTICA's delicious fruit juice-infused Moscato is perfect for those who prefer fun and flavorful wines," said MYX Co-Owner and Chief Marketing Officer Mona Scott-Young. "Hitting the shelves just in time for the holidays, MYXOTICA will definitely make celebrating with friends and family that much sweeter and more

ONE DIRECTION - FOUR

Syco Entertainment/Columbia

Britain's pop superstars One Direction are definitely exceptions to the norm. Take for instance the fact that the fearless five some have charted a mind-boggling 94 number ones, and sold over 46 million records in a mere four years. The boys are poised to add to those numbers with the release of album number four, aptly titled *Four*. The excitement begins with the first single, the proclamation *Steal My Girl*, followed by the crescendo building *Ready to Run*, the questioning *Where Do Broken Hearts Go*, reaching legality with *18*, the guitar-laden gusto of *Girl Almighty*, and hit the midpoint with the polished *Fool's Gold*. Second half happenings have the noir of *Night Changes*, plus the non-stop drive of *No Control*, and the searing sound of the first song released from this album *Fireproof*. The heavy bass thump drives *Spaces*, trailed by the upbeat pump of *Stockholm Syndrome*, and the closer is titled *Clouds*. No question, One Direction is going in one direction — infinitely sky-high!

The time has come, the walrus said,

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

by Sal Giarratani



Al Marando with his daughter Linda Spadorcia and granddaughter Cardine at the Annual Giunta Family Christmas Reunion held at the K of C Hall in West Roxbury on December 7th.

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM

As someone who graduated from sister school back in the day over at St. Francis de Sales in Roxbury, I remember those Sisters of St. Joseph and not one of them was a crazy nun.

I am curious about this play up in Beverly at the Larcom Theatre on Wallis Street in the downtown section by the name of *Sisters Christmas Catechism*. Sounds like a lotta good laughs for us old parochial kids back from the '50s and '60s.

Check it out by calling 617-531-1257 or online at larcomtheatre.com. It runs now through December 31st.

WANNA ITALIAN CHRISTMAS DONKEY?

They are selling those Italian Christmas Donkey tee-shirts again. They're not for me, but if it's your cup of tea get more information on them at 888-9-GRAZIE.

PLANS FOR

ROXBURY RECOVERY SITE NIXED

City officials last week cancelled a planned proposal to house recovery programs displaced from the closing of Long Island to the former 200-bed Radius Specialty Hospital in Roxbury due to an outcry



Sonny Mirabella of "Dead Man Dying" movie guy with Ralph "The Hawk" D'Elia waiting for Black Hawk Santa to land.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day and by the 8th day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered. A.T.P.



The drop in the price of gasoline at the pumps keeps dropping. At ALFA in Roslindale Square, it is now down to \$2.45, a huge dip since it was \$3.95 per gallon just a few months ago at C & S Service on L Street in Southie.

from area residents afraid of its impact on them.

MASSHEALTH \$35 MILLION IN VIOLATION

According to an audit by the State Auditor's Office, MassHealth reportedly provided millions of dollars worth of coverage to both legal and illegal immigrants that violated state and federal guidelines. The audit uncovered that the state's Medicaid agency paid some \$35 million in claims over 18 months that did not fit the scope of its "Limited Program," which covers emergency care for non-citizens who met specific income requirements, including illegals who make up 89 percent of the 45,000 Limited Program members.

MAYOR LINKS HOUSING TO T

Mayor Marty Walsh recently announced that City Hall plans to spur construction of moderate priced housing on underused land along the MBTA's Orange and Red Lines in Jamaica Plain and South Boston by allowing developers to think about building larger residential buildings with fewer parking spots. In his speech to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, he proposed that sections near the MBTA rapid transit lines be designed transit-oriented growth zones.

A B.R.A. task force will examine parcels of land and recommend zoning changes if necessary. It's all about lower rents and retail investment. The targeted areas include Dorchester Avenue between Andrew and Broadway stations on the Red Line and between Forest Hills and Jackson Square on the Orange Line.



Last Thursday, December 11th, City Councilor Michael Flaherty held his annual Christmas Party and Toy Drive at the Lincoln on West Broadway in South Boston. The place was jammed with folks in the Christmas spirit. Shown in photo are Cathy Flynn, Ray Flynn, Nancy O'Doherty, little Braeden and Mike Sheeran wearing their holiday cheer.

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U2 is heading to Boston on their must see iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE Tour taking place this summer at TD Garden. See MUSIC section for further details.

MUSIC

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NEIL DIAMOND — March 23, 2015. Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Neil Diamond will release his new CD "Melody Road," on October 21st. "Melody Road," his first album of new songs since 2008. Come March, Diamond will embark on a North American concert tour that includes dates in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Diamond's career began in the 1960s and continues on today with such fan favorites as: "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue," "Longfellow Serenade," "I've Been This Way Before," "If You Know What I Mean," "Desiree," "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," "America," "Yesterday's Songs," "Heartlight," "I'm a Believer" and Red Sox Nation's anthem "Sweet Caroline." A show not to be missed! Tickets are now on sale.

U2 — July 10, 11, 14 & 15, 2015. Join U2 on their iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE Tour 2015. The band are heading out on the road again, playing indoor arenas for the first time in a decade. The iNNOCENCE + eXPERIENCE Tour will see U2 play 19 cities worldwide next year, with pairs of shows in each city. Special shows are being planned for Dublin for the end of next year to benefit the U2-initiated Music Generation project and details will follow once they are finalized. "We are going to try to have a completely different feeling from night one to night two," said Bono, "and have some fun playing with the idea of innocence and experience. More to be revealed!"

GARTH BROOKS & TRISHA YEARWOOD — January 22-25, 2015. Since 1989, Garth Brooks has been one of the biggest country artists, with six Diamond-certified albums. Brooks is currently on his first

major tour in over a decade. The electrifying return of America's most powerful concert force makes his first Massachusetts appearance on *The World Tour* and his first time in Boston in over 17 years!

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ITALIAN OPERA AND WHAT BROADWAY DID TO IT — Friday, January 23, 2015. Starring sopranos, Laura Hansen and Kristyn Taylor, and baritone, Frank Walker, singing arias, duets and trios from favorite Italian operas followed by Broadway's version of "drama, drama, drama!"

SANDERS THEATRE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY
45 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA
ofa.fas.harvard.edu/BoxOffice

VERDI UN BALLO IN MASCHERA — January 18, 2015. A semi-staged opera performance with Federico Cortese, Conductor and Edward Berkeley, Stage Director. This performance is a full opera, over 3 hours in length. It therefore is not designed for young children and recommended for audiences 10 years of age and older.

THEATER

SHUBERT THEATRE
270 Tremont Street, Boston, MA
617-482-9393
www.CitiCenter.org/Theatres/Shubert

DISHING WITH THE DIVAS — A MUSICAL COMEDY — March 27, 2015. The high-energy performance surrounds the final live studio broadcast of the hit talk show "GIRL TALK" on WPMS radio. The two radio hosts and their most popular regular guest, sex therapist Dr. Lauda (think Sofia Vergara), are going out in style! The

ladies love to dish about life, love, sex, marriage, relationships, friendships, motherhood, careers, food, alcohol, and, yes, men in any capacity. This show will have audiences dishing, dancing, laughing and singing from start to finish as these three talented ladies belt out hits by artists such as The Pointer Sisters, Jennifer Lopez, Carrie Underwood, Aretha Franklin, and many more!

BOSTON OPERA HOUSE
539 Washington St., Boston, MA
617-259-3400
www.BostonOperaHouseOnline.com

THE NUTCRACKER — Now through December 31. Following a lavish ball hosted by her wealthy parents in their well-heeled European townhouse, Clara, exhausted by the excitement falls asleep under the family Christmas tree with her new nutcracker doll. When she awakes, the tree has magically grown to over 40 feet high, and a mysterious prince who bears a striking resemblance to the doll greets Clara, and embarks with her on an adventure fighting life-sized mice, meeting beautiful fairies outlandish fairytale characters. Their journey to the Kingdom of Sweets includes the famous dance sequences: Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, Trepak, Miriltions, The Waltz of the Flowers and of course, the regal Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy (and her Cavalier). As they are waved off by the magical party, Clara settles back with her Prince and falls back to sleep. But is this just a dream or will she remember this adventure in the morning?

MOTOWN — January 27 to February 15, 2015. The smash hit *Motown The Musical* is making its way across the country in its first national tour! Featuring over 40 classic songs such as "My Girl," "What's Going On," "Dancing in the Street," "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." The true story behind the beat that changed minds, touched lives and took the world by storm. *Motown* shows how artists like Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations and more created the soundtrack that transformed America.

COMEDY

WILBUR THEATRE
246 Tremont St., Boston, MA
617-248-9700
www.TheWilburTheatre.com

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO — January 17, 2015. "What's Wrong with People?" asks Sebastian Maniscalco in his hilarious new hit stand-up special airing on Showtime and available on DVD nationwide on March 27th. In "What's Wrong with People," he brings his witheringly sarcastic and exasperated take on modern behavior and decorum, trying to bridge the gap between the Italian-American Old World he grew up in and the contemporary frenetic world we all live in today. The result is an original, highly relatable stand-up comedy tour-de-force that has Sebastian performing sold-out concerts worldwide. His self-deprecating comedy reminds fans of a young Jerry Seinfeld who constantly challenges his audience to recognize the absurdities of everyday life.

CRAIG FERGUSON'S HOT & GRUMPY TOUR: WALKING THE EARTH — February 14, 2015. Craig Ferguson entered the world of late night comedy following a diverse and eclectic career that encompasses film, television and the stage. On December 19th, 2014, Ferguson concluded his nine-year run as the host of CBS's "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," which has set all-time viewer records and earned him a Primetime Emmy nomination during its run. Ferguson can currently be seen as the host of the new syndicated game show "Celebrity Name Game," from executive producers Courteney Cox and David Arquette. Ferguson recently lent his voice to the animated features "How to Train Your Dragon" and its sequel, "How to Train Your Dragon 2," as well as the Disney animated features, "Winnie The Pooh" and "Brave." Ferguson has become a huge success on the North American comedy circuit, having performed to sold out theaters all over the country, including Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall. Additionally, Craig has released three widely acclaimed stand-up comedy specials, including, "I'm Here to Help," which garnered him a Grammy nomination for Best Comedy Album. Ferguson is also a *New York Times* bestselling author, having released his first novel

in 2006, *Between The Bridge and The River*, and his memoir in 2009, *America On Purpose* — a book about why and how the late night funnyman became an American.

DANCE

WILBUR THEATRE
246 Tremont St., Boston, MA
617-248-9700
www.TheWilburTheatre.com

DANCING WITH THE STARS LIVE! — January 16, 2015. The all-new *Dancing with the Stars: Live!* tour will feature a cast of the television show's most popular competitors, treating audiences to exciting and romantic performances. Dancing with the Stars dancers will choreograph brand new never-before-seen numbers and re-create some of the show's most memorable moments. As announced during Monday's broadcast, Mark Ballas and Whitney Carson are the first two dancers revealed to be on the tour. Further announcements will be made throughout the season.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
100 Northern Ave., Boston
617-478-3100
www.ICABoston.org

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP: Italian Concerto, A Wooden Tree, Jenn and Spencer, and Words — January 21-25, 2015. Mark Morris returns to the ICA for the first time since 2007. Brooklyn-based choreographer will present four works: *Italian Concerto*, his interpretation of Bach's popular Italian Concerto in F Major; *A Wooden Tree*, a whimsical ensemble piece set to offbeat Ivor Cutler recordings; the passionate *Jenn and Spencer*, with music by Henry Cowell; and *Words*, a brand-new work set to Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words." MMDG Music Ensemble performs live.

THE CROSBY WHISTLE STOP
24 Roland Street, Charlestown, MA
978-884-7690
www.BostonSwingCentral.com

SWING DANCE EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT — Come and check out Boston's most exciting swing dance. Conveniently located in Sullivan Square less than a five minute walk from the T. Free parking is available. A killer line up of DJ's and live bands every Friday night. Beautiful 3,000 sq ft dance hall with exposed brick. A beginner lesson is included in the price of admission from 8:00-9:00 pm prior to social dancing from 9:00 pm-12:00 am. No partner or prior experience is required. All ages and dance levels welcome.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

STONE ZOO
149 Pond Street, Stoneham, MA
781-438-5100
www.StoneZoo.org

ZOOLIGHTS — Now through January 4, 2015 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. ZooLights is set to dazzle visitors of all ages. This winter wonderland attracts thousands of visitors each year who get into the holiday spirit by strolling along tree-lined paths lit by thousands of twinkling lights. Upon entering Stone Zoo, guests will visit Yukon Creek, which not only features dazzling holiday lights, but is also home to bald eagles, North American porcupines, Canada lynx (including three kittens born earlier this year), reindeer and arctic foxes. Guests of all ages will have the opportunity to meet Stone Zoo's reindeer up close during the nightly photo opportunities.* Children will want to make sure they visit with Santa, who awaits their arrival in Santa's Castle. Jolly Old St. Nick will be available for photos through December 23rd. After visiting with Santa, enter a magical holiday world filled with fairy tale characters and dancing plush animals.

LA SALETTE SHRINE
947 Park St., Attleborough MA
www.LaSaletteShrine.org

THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS — Now through January 4, 2015 from 5:00-9:00 pm daily. Dating back to 1953, when a simple but beautiful outdoor manger was the only attraction, the annual holiday show at La Salette Shrine has since grown into a spectacular display of more than 300,000 lights, inspiring displays, concerts, and other events during the Christmas Season. See for yourself

why so many families consider a visit to the shrine part of their annual holiday tradition.

SPECIAL EVENTS

NEWBURY HANDMADE MARKET
301 Newbury Street, Boston, MA
www.NewburyHandmadeMarket.com

POP-UP SHOP INDEPENDENTLY ORGANIZED BY ETSY ARTISTS. Shop runs now through Christmas Eve. Newbury Street storefront filled with artist booths. Products to include watercolor paintings, scarves, eco-conscious furs, cookies, salsa, jams, jewelry for men and women, handmade clothing, pottery, candles, home decor, vintage home decor, sea glass, photography, and hair accessories. New artists every Friday. Some artists working on-site and on-the-spot customization available. Open 11:00 am to 7:00 pm daily. Closes at 3:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Located between the Hynes and Copley Green Line T stops, and near the Back Bay Orange Line T and commuter rail stop.

DCU CENTER
50 Foster Street
Worcester, MA
800-653-8000
www.DCUCenter.com

PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS — February 7-8, 2015. The Professional Bull Riders announced that fans will again be able to watch the best bull riders and top bucking bulls when the PBR Touring Pro Division (TPD) returns to the DCU Center. Fans will witness thrilling 8-second rides and jaw-dropping wrecks throughout the adrenaline-soaked performance as the PBR's insanely brave cowboys risk it all against monstrous animal athletes that can weigh as much as 2,000 pounds. This year's event will feature a special opportunity for bull riding fans to get the ultimate in fan experience.

MONSTER JAM — February 13-15, 2015. Welcome to Monster Jam, an incredible family-friendly experience starring the biggest performers on four wheels: Monster Jam monster trucks. These twelve-foot-tall, ten-thousand-pound machines will bring you to your feet, racing and ripping up a custom-designed track full of obstacles to soar over — OR Smash through. Monster Jam provides a massive night's entertainment tailored perfectly for your family's budget, and these colorful larger-than-life beasts are sure to capture the hearts of both young and old.

MUSEUMS

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM
25 Evans Way, Boston, MA
Information (617) 566 1401
Box Office (617) 278 5156
www.GardnerMuseum.org

DONATELLO, MICHELANGELO, CELLINI: SCULPTORS' DRAWINGS FROM RENAISSANCE ITALY — Now through January 19, 2015. This groundbreaking exhibition examines the multifaceted relationship between drawing and sculpture in Renaissance Italy. Because sculptors worked primarily from preparatory models in wax or clay, drawing was not an essential part of their working practice. And yet, in his self-portrait now in the Gardner Museum's collection, the prominent Florentine sculptor Baccio Bandinelli points not to his most famous public monument, but rather to a drawing of it. The surprising gesture raises many questions about when, why, and how Renaissance sculptors drew, and provides clues about their training and their ambitions. Come and explore works by several Italian masters, many being exhibited for the first time in the United States.

POLLY THAYER STARR ARTIST SERIES: 3D Printing with Nadeem Mazen and danger!awesome — January 10, 2015 at 11:00 AM. Drop into the Studio to explore art-making processes alongside artists from the Boston community. Find connections between living artists and artworks in the Gardner collection while creating your own art to take home. Visitors under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Free with Museum admission. *danger!awesome* is an open-access studio, makerspace and learning center, offering laser cutting and 3D printing capabilities. Nadeem Mazen is a photographer, interactive video fabrication expert and former faculty of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

ITALIAN RADIO PROGRAMS

"The Sicilian Corner" — 10:00 am to Noon every Friday with hosts Tom Zappala and Mike Lomazzo and **"The Italian Show"** with Nunzio DiMarca every Sunday from 9:00 am to Noon. Go to www.1110wccmam.com.

"Italia Oggi" — Sundays 11:00 am to Noon with host Andrea Urdi 1460 AM. Go to www.1460WXHR.com.

"Dolce Vita Radio" — DJ Rocco Mesiti 11:00 am-1:00 pm; Sundays 90.7 FM or online www.djrocco.com.

"The Nick Franciosa Show" — Sundays from Noon to 3:00 pm on WLYN 1360 AM and WAZN 1470 AM.

"Guido Oliva Italian Hour" — 8:00 am-9:00 am Sundays on WSRO 650 AM and online at www.wsro.com.

"Tony's Place" on MusicAmerica WPLM FM 99.1 — Sundays 9:00 pm-10:00 pm on MusicAmerica. Host Ron Della Chiesa presents Tony's Place. Visit www.MusicNotNoise.com.

"L'Italia Chiamo Italian Radio Show" hosted by Stefano Marchese and Emanuele Capoano — Thursdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Visit www.zumix.org/radio or litaliachiamo.wordpress.com; email: litaliachiamoshow@gmail.com. Tel. 857-334-0868.

"Intervallo Musicale" — Sundays 10:00-10:30 am; Host Carmine Guarino on WUNR 1600 AM and online at www.wunr.com.

Ray Barron's 11 O'CLOCK NEWS

Achtung! A German trade association proposed making it illegal for bosses to call or email employees outside of working hours. Contacting workers after hours, said Labor Minister Andrea Nahles, "crosses a sacrosanct line in Germany between work and leisure."

A New Hampshire woman, 21, was arrested on assault charges after she slapped her boyfriend during an argument over a game of Monopoly. She did not collect \$200.

Ex-mayor in Mafia probe: Gianni Alemanno, the former mayor of Rome, was placed under formal investigation for corruption and alleged ties to the Mafia. His house was searched and some of his associates were among dozens of people arrested in a big anti-corruption sweep. Alemanno, who was mayor from 2008 until 2013 and is an ally of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's, said he was "completely unconnected with any wrongdoing!" Authorities said they had uncovered a citywide network of corruption that linked Mafia members, politicians, managers of public companies, and even neo-fascist groups. Rome's criminal underworld operates separately from traditional southern Italian Mafias such as the Cosa Nostra, and it has been connected with far-right groups since the 1970s.

What a stinking mess! A woman was booted from a U.S. Airways flight in Hartford, Connecticut, after her pig stunk up the cabin. Rachel Boerner, 29, was allowed to board the craft with the 70-pound pig because she had it classified as an "emotional support animal," that is owner needs to cope with stress. But as the flight prepared to take off from Bradley International Airport, the pig squirmed in the aisle and then pooped. The plane smelled "like a barnyard," said an irate passenger. The woman and her hog were escorted off the plane. "I guess pigs didn't fly today," said another passenger.

Meow, meow. The residents of New Castle, Pennsylvania, are struggling to figure out why their city suddenly reeks of cat pee. The mysterious stench was first detected in late October and has spread. "[it smells] like cat urine and potatoes, really putrid," said Mike Kobbe, assistant city fire chief. "It burns the mucus membranes." Investigators are trying to sniff out the source of the odor. "All trails," said Kobbe, "lead back to the sewer system."

In the past five years, law enforcement officers in Utah have killed 45 people — more than the number killed by gang members, drug dealers or child abuse. All the killings have been deemed legally justifiable.

Police in the U.S. make about 12 million arrests a year, and up to 80 percent are for misdemeanors such as loitering, public drunkenness and petty theft. Defenders rarely have lawyers and are usually found guilty or plead guilty, leaving them with a permanent entry in the FBI's criminal database.

Good news! For the first time since 2007, a slim majority of Americans (52%) say that things are going well in the U.S. right now, mainly because of the economy.

Asked which potential GOP candidate they support for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, 20% of Republicans said Mitt Romney, followed by Ben Carson (10%), Jeb Bush (9%), and Chris Christie (8%).

Pay Attention! Being in an unhappy marriage can break your heart — literally. A new study from sociologists at Michigan State University indicates that people in contentious marriages are much more likely to develop heart disease than their more happily wed contemporaries. Yes, marital stress is linked to heart disease.

Warning! Next time you use a hand drier in a public restroom, be warned: You may be dousing yourself with bacteria.

Households earning \$50,000 to \$75,000 will take an average of 2.6 months to pay off their holiday debt this year. That's longer than six-figure households, which will need just one month to pay their holiday bills, but also longer than low-income households than earn less than \$50,000, which will need an average of just two months.

Carlo Scosumato, says, "The time was when the perfect gift for a 16-year-old girl was a compact. It still is — if it has four wheels."

Did you hear about the wife who lamented, "My husband once showered me with gifts, but lately there's been a long dry spell?"

Now hear this! Male CEOs with deeper voices manage larger companies, keep their jobs longer and earn more — up to \$187,000 more per year — than their higher-pitched peers, according to a speech pattern analysis of nearly 800 chief executives.

The noted executive Steven Sebestyen offers some good advice. "Do what you are told to do and then some. It's the 'then some' that gets your salary raised."

How to beat winter blues! Physical activity such as a 15-minute walk is beneficial on busy days. Laugh it up! Sharing a few jokes with friends will lighten your mood and help you forget the freezing weather.

Bad relationships can drive you nuts! Science has confirmed that stressful relationships are bad for cognitive thinking. A study shows a decline in verbal memory. Those who reported more negative aspects of close relationships tended to have more rapid cognitive aging.

Junk food fat won't just make you gain weight ... it could make you lose memory. Adult men who ate large amounts of trans fats demonstrated a 10 percent reduction in ability to recall words during a memory test, according to a recent study.

Reminder! More than 1.5 million Italian Americans served in World War II. Italian Americans constituted more than 10 percent of the might of the American forces in World War II.

Some useless information. Assuming Rudolph was in front, there are 40,320 ways to re-arrange the other eight reindeer. Eight-two percent of the world's population believes in afterlife. August is the month when most babies are born. More than 50 percent of Americans believe in the devil. One more time! The word *samba* means to rub navels together. The word *constipation* comes from a Latin word that means "to crowd together." The *Bible* is the number-one shoplifted book in America. Mrs. Claus's first name is Jessica in the movie *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*. The North Korean dictator ordered party officials to make a list of all citizens named Kim Jong Un and "train them to voluntarily change their names."

We collaborated with the stately musicologist Albert Natale to remind you the music scale, do re me, fa, so, la, ti, do, was created by an Italian. A sign in Philadelphia honors the father of jazz guitar Eddie Lang, born Salvatore Massaro. Lang played for Tommy Dorsey, Paul Whiteman and others. He was also Bing Crosby's accompanist. Italians gave birth to jazz! It began in the 1880's in New Orleans by Sicilian immigrants, who came to New Orleans with their musical instruments. New Orleans was also the home of many talented Italian American musicians such as Wingy Manone and of course, Louis Prima. Prima wrote *Sing, Sing, Sing*, which was first performed by Benny Goodman at Carnegie Hall and featured a young drummer Gene Krupa. And it was Joe Venuti of Philadelphia who introduced the violin to the world of jazz. East Boston produced many, many, great Italian American musicians from 1920 to 1960. Of course, one of the most famous of all was Geraldo Graziano ... Jerry Gray. Jerry is a native of East Boston.

Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle has her first boyfriend — at 53. Boyle met her unidentified beau — a doctor from Connecticut — during her recent U.S. tour and described him as a "perfect gentleman." She says the relationship is in its "early days" but hopes he will soon be visiting her at home in Scotland.

AMERICA IS A BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN NAME



Recipes from the Homeland

by Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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CASSATTEDI

"ka-sa-ted-dee"

A Sicilian Christmas Ricotta Cheese Turnover

1 pound container ricotta cheese
2 cups flour
1 tablespoon orange rind
3/4 cups water
1 tablespoons red wine
1/4 cup shortening or margarine

1/2 teaspoon sugar
Pinch of salt
Pinch of cinnamon (optional)
2 cups cooking oil
Additional granulated sugar
10-inch Teflon skillet

Place ricotta cheese in a colander to drain.

Put flour in ten-inch bowl. Cut in shortening with knife and fork. Add sugar and salt. Mix while adding water slowly. Before using all water, work red wine into mixture. (Wine causes dough to bubble when fried). Continue mixing dough until it holds together and all flour is used. Knead dough to a smooth consistency. Separate into three portions. Roll each into a long piece. Cut roll into smaller portions approximately one-inch thick. Place in bowl and cover.

Transfer drained ricotta into bowl. Add orange rind, cinnamon and mix thoroughly by hand. With rolling pin, roll each piece of dough into paper-thin rounds. Place a tablespoon of ricotta in center of dough. Fold over (like turnovers). Press lightly around filling to allow inside air to escape. Then seal edges with crinkled pastry cutter or press edge with fork. Set aside on pastry cloth or a flour-dusted tablecloth. Makes about twenty-four Cassattedi.

Pour enough oil in a ten-inch Teflon skillet to cover bottom. Prick top of 6 Cassattedi at a time (with a pin) before placing in hot oil *top down*. When frying, turn each one with spatula until golden brown on both sides.

When any ricotta or fluid escapes into the hot oil, the liquid will splatter and burn. Remove Cassattedi from oil. Clean skillet. Add and heat new oil and continue frying remaining Cassattedi.

Place fried Cassattedi in a serving platter layered with granulated sugar. Sprinkle additional sugar on each one. Serve hot or cooled.

Leftover Cassattedi must be refrigerated.

Note: While I fry my Cassattedi each year with my daughters, my mind wanders back to the many times I stood with my cousins at Zia Marianna's black Glenwood stove on Charter Street. We waited patiently to sprinkle granulated sugar over our favorite Christmas treats. Then we served them to the relatives who gathered at the round kitchen table where we later enjoyed our Christmas Eve supper.

• Editorial (Continued from Page 3)

up and be proud of Christmas. America is not an anti-religious nation. Our founding fathers created a system of government where its citizens had a right to practice their faiths. It wasn't "Freedom from Religion, but "Freedom of Religion."

Celebrating Christmas is an American right established by our Founding Fathers, many of whom didn't even celebrate the holiday. America is large enough to celebrate all religions, but America cannot return to the days of Puritanical America

• L'Anno Bello (Continued from Page 4)

vide. This feeling will warm your heart in spite of the frosty winds outside, and will stay with you as the vibrant festivities of Christmas give way to a New Year.

Merry Christmas! Buon Natale!

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

when religious bigotry ruled government actions.

Banning Christmas because you don't like it is un-American. Short and simple! So, I say "God bless the U.S.A." and all it stands for since its birth.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU14P2733EA

Estate of
SUSAN IVY LEVINE
Date of Death May 24, 2014

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Amy C. Baker of Park City, UT, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Amy C. Baker of Park City, UT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 12/19/14

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Christmas was for us kids. This meant a visit to Santa Claus and there was only one true Santa Claus and he could be found in the toy department of Jordan Marsh. New York had its Macy's and Gimbels located on 34th Street, but we had our own version of these two rivals on Washington and Summer Streets: Filene's and Jordan Marsh. At Christmastime they both went overboard preparing for December 25th. Filene's had the best window displays I had ever seen, mechanical mannequins with moving parts dressed for holiday cheer, American Flyer trains chugging away at their feet and lots of toys for kids of all ages. But, there was only one place to go to visit with Santa, the toy department at Jordan Marsh.

At one point in my life the toy department was located on the 4th floor and then it was moved up to the 5th floor. I don't remember the sequence or the years when this took place, but I do remember the toy department and that's what is important. Mom and Grace Manfredonia would plan to bundle me and the then three Manfredonia kids up, take the MBTA from Maverick Station in East Boston and exit at Park Street Under. Once upstairs and outside, we could see the trees of Boston Common all decorated with colored lights. A short walk across Tremont Street and a peek at the goodies in the window of S.S. Pierce, a specialty market back in the day, and then a short walk down Winter Street to the corner of Washington and Summer Streets and there they were, Filene's and Jordan's. John Manfredonia and I would push our ways through the people lined up in front of Filene's windows to see their displays. His sister, Adelaide and brother, Fred, were younger and stuck closer to Grace and my mother. Our observations were brief, as this was only the antipasto preparing the way for the delights that were forth coming.

The elevators were always crowded with waiting lines, and once inside, the operators would call out, "Floors, please." In unison, we kids would yell out, "The toy department."

Once outside the elevator, we were in one of America's largest toy departments and we kids would drag our parents to the biggest electric train display ever created to hypnotize a bunch of pre-teens. A display table that was about 50 feet by 50 feet would be in set up like a small suburban town, complete with down town buildings, small colonial homes, a pond with ice skaters, a waterfall at the head of a river, the local church and especially the local train station with a nearby freight yard. In constant movement

around the perimeter of the display table would be the local trolley and several trains all passing each other, heading through tunnels, going up and down hills, and as they passed one another, they sounded their horns, whistles and bells. We would spend almost a half hour with our eyes glued to the movements of the Lionel passenger and freight trains that came our way. When the freight trains stopped at the freight yard, many of them had mechanical parts that were operated to allow them to be loaded or unloaded and as the passenger train pulled into the open air stop in the middle of the town, we heard the constant clang of the bell that informed the tiny warmly dressed toy people that it was pulling in. What I also loved were the cars that were parked in the lot adjacent to the station. I loved cars even then. There were examples of cars from the '30s and the newest cars that arrived after WWII.

When we had enough of the trains, I would head to an area where they sold model airplanes, most of which were examples of the fighters and bombers we flew during the war. Models made by Strombecker were of hard wood and had to be sanded, assembled and finished. Other manufacturers made their models out of balsam, a soft wood that required some carving before the assembly process. I was a model-maker and would point out to my mother the planes I didn't have.

From there I would head to the Gilbert display. Gilbert made the Erector Set. These were pieces of metal in all forms and shapes that were screwed together to represent machines. All came with an electric motor that would cause an assembled design to function. I already had one of these from Christmas a year or two earlier, but needed things added to it to make it more advanced. The second to last stop was to the display of chemicals that accompanied a youth version of a microscope. I loved looking at things through Dad's microscope and this might be my version of Dad's if I asked for it.

The last step of the annual pilgrimage was the visit with Santa. Grace and my mother would round us up and get us squared away in the line that awaited the visit. Once it was my turn, I would stand next to Santa; answer the usual question, "Have you been a good boy this year?" and then begin to list the things I wanted him to bring for Christmas. I always had quite a list: more cars for my trains, a few model planes, additions to my Erector Set, an array of chemicals, slides for my microscope and maybe a Daisy Red Rider lever action

BB gun and/or a set of Roy Rogers cap guns, western revolvers housed in real leather holsters. I always received the same response regarding the BB gun, "I don't know about the BB gun, if you're not careful, you could shoot your eye out."

When I heard this dialogue in the film, *A Christmas Story*, years later, I knew that response must have been universal.

After the Manfredonia kids and I had visited with St. Nick, our mothers would tell us that it was time for lunch. We could have gone to several different places on Washington Street near where the movie theaters were located or we could have walked back toward the North End and indulged in Italian food that we could identify with, but this was a special occasion. The visit to Santa happened only once a year, so our mothers would march us back to Tremont Street and we would have lunch at the Thompson Spa, a rather upscale restaurant back in the day. Once seated, I prided myself on being the little proper Bostonian. Uncle Nick's first wife, Aunt Ada, made sure I had the social graces that she felt I would need in my life. As a result I knew how to order without anyone's help and, when the food arrived, which utensils to use as I ate.

Once we arrived at home, Nanna and Babbononno would ask me what I said to Santa. I was always a storyteller and would comment in detail on my conversation with the man. Babbononno would memorize what I wanted and later tell my father and uncles. I was the first born male in the family and this meant that whatever I wanted, I would probably get. Babbononno would instruct me to leave Santa a glass of wine before I went to bed on Christmas Eve. He intimated that most little kids would leave Santa cookies, but the ride in an open sleigh would have made him very cold, and a glass of wine would do the trick. I guess Babbononno's suggestions always worked. I would leave a glass of wine and a note for Santa, and lo and behold, on Christmas morning, just about everything I had asked for would be under the tree. Gotta go ...

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

other day, he said his job was to protect every American from acts of terror. In the aftermath of 9/11, President Bush stated that while the rest of the world saw September 11, 2001 as a bad day, America saw it as a day that changed everything in a new way of thinking. That is context. We had a bull's eye put on our collective backs.

America stopped waterboarding back before President Bush left office, but today President Obama still strongly supports droning our enemies from afar. Sometimes we hit our intended targets, but sometimes innocent people get droned along with them.

Where is the liberal outrage over droning? I guess as long as those liberals who support droning get to keep their white gloves pristine, they don't feel guilty. They're not like those bad old CIA guys whose gloves sometimes need to get dirty in our defense.

As a Gitmo prisoner, given the choice, would you want to be waterboarded or droned?

Eric Garner And His Bootleg Cigarettes

If you haven't seen the whole Eric Garner video, you need to see it. During a police stop, reportedly started by a call for police to chase away a guy selling cigarettes outside a store, it ended in a terrible takedown and death on a Staten Island sidewalk. Did you know that

the State Legislature passed a law to make it a crime to sell bootleg cigarettes without a tax? Who would have thought that one day someone would be given the death penalty for doing such?

The job of the police is tough enough without politicians giving them another law over cigarette taxes to enforce. In New York, cigarettes are highly-overtaxed at \$5.95 per pack, which results in a black market almost instantly.

Lots of liberals got upset when U.S. Senator Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, said the bigger issue in the Eric Garner killing was high cigarette taxes. He meant no disrespect and wasn't minimizing the killing of Eric Garner, but only trying to point out an issue that got police to the sidewalk on that fateful day.

Quote To Note

"I was so much older then; I'm younger than that now."
- The Byrds

My Guy is Never One of the Bums

I read a great quote from a Boston Globe columnist named Michael A. Cohen that went, "For all the anti-incumbent attitudes among the electorate, polling indicates that while Americans want to see the bums in Washington get thrown out, a majority believes their member of Congress deserves to be re-elected."

I presume this is why the bums never get the heave-ho up on Capitol Hill.

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NEWS BRIEFS
(FROM ITALIAN
NEWSPAPERS AND
OTHER PUBLICATIONS)
Compiled by Orazio Z. Buttafuoco

EXPO 2015 - MILANO, ITALY. SPECIAL INVITATION EXTENDED TO PAPA FRANCESCO. The general manager of the Expo, Giuseppe Sala, has personally extended a solemn invitation to Papa Francesco to attend the forthcoming world event officially set to start on May 1, 2015. The Pontiff recently received a delegation led by the Archbishop of Milano, Angelo Scala, also present at the meeting with the Pope was the director of the Italian pavilion Diana Bracco. Cardinal Scala met the Pope first personally handing the Pope the special invitation along with director Bracco. The Pope quickly went over the invitation and was pleased to find on the invitation the theme of the Expo: "Expo Laboratory," which emphasized "food," a topic so dear to the Pontiff. The Pope also underlined the participation of the State of the Vatican at the Expo with a special "corner," the Holy See's pavilion. In fact the general message of the Expo will be: To Feed the Planet, Energy for Life. With regard to the visitors, Sala outlined the initiative that Expo 2015 will offer an opportunity to school children from all parts of the planet to visit the Expo during the six months of its operation. The participation of students will surely occur during the summer months when all schools are closed. It will provide a myriad of experiences to all children who will surely enjoy the rich life of a city like Milano.

A NEW ITALIAN PHENOMENON: LESS MARRIAGES ARE BEING CELEBRATED. As males continue to live with their parents, people in Italy are getting increasingly reluctant to tie the knot, unless it is late in life, and after age 30. The data has been made public by the statistical Italian agency ISTAT, which has also made known the fact that males seem to act very prudently: they want to keep their assets "for themselves," which in the South has a long tradition! They are less eager to leave Mom and Dad to have a family of their own.

The present trend began in 2012 when late marriages, about 15% of the total, were 30,724, or less than 4,000 than the previous years, more so in 2008. The mixed marriages, with a foreign-born partner, were 20,764 (2012), while marriages with an Italian spouse diminished (2012: 153,311), a trend that began in 1972. The age of men at their first "I Do" is now 34 as compared to the brides whose age averages 31, seven years more than in 1975. Lately the tendency to keep the individual's patrimony's assets separate is rapidly and increasingly going up. The separation of the assets after the marriage between the newly married, was higher in the Center-North of Italy. In 2012 the separation of assets went up significantly in the 'Mezzogiorno' (South). The boys' persistence to live with their parents has delayed a future marriage. How sad!

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

or something, help me to take that as part of the game too. Help me not to whimper or complain that the game was a frame up or that I got a raw deal. When in the falling dusk I get the final bell, I ask for no lying, complimentary tomb stone. I'd only like to know that You feel that I'd been a good player."

The annual North End Christmas Parade wasn't the same this year. Mickey Mouse is gone. Even Santa

wept for Coach Dom and for the gifts of Dominic's life gave each and every day he lived amongst us.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said so eloquently, "When you were born you were crying and everybody else was smiling. Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everybody else is crying."

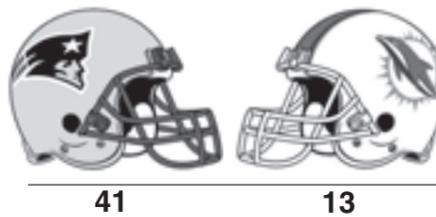
Good bye my friend "Coach Dom." Long live his memory as a lesson for all of us.



Fish Squished and Guttled In Patriots Divisional Feast

The more things change throughout the rest of the NFL, the more things stay the same in the AFC East Division. For the sixth straight season, and 12th in 14 years, the New England Patriots secured yet another division title in their 41-13 conquest of the Miami Dolphins at Gillette Stadium.

The Patriots used all three phases of their team in the win. With the offense once again struggling in the first half, for the second consecutive week it was the special teams unit that jumpstarted the team. The Dolphins were looking to culminate a success-



was an ineffective 3-for-16 on third downs. The Patriots defense continued to be stingy in the second half by not allowing any second half points. In fact, over the last five games, they have conceded only 16 points after halftime

without allowing a touchdown. The unit got an added boost with the return of Chandler Jones, who picked up right where he left off. Jones registered 1.5 sacks, 7 tackles while forcing a fumble in his first game since injuring his hip versus the New York Jets on October 16th.

Leading up to Sunday's game, Dolphin players were still boasting about their 33-20 opening game win over the Patriots. Similar to their Dolphins counterparts who live in the past (yes, I'm talking about Mercury, Larry and Coach Shula) the Dolphins brought up past accomplishments in an attempt to intimidate the Patriots.

Before the rematch, Belichick had his players read the quotes from a screen to remind them of the loss and how far they have come since then.

"It was a lot of talk," said Darrelle Revis. "The Dolphins were chirping this week about how they should have beat us by 50 and all of those type of things in the first game. If that's what they want to do, that's what they want to do. The one thing you've got to understand is you get a second stab at it because we're in the same division, so you might need to watch what you say."

We're moving on to the Jets ...



Collins in full Beast Mode on kick block.

ful opening drive with three points, when Jamie Collins blocked Caleb Sturgis' 41-yard field goal attempt and Kyle Arrington returned the ball 62 yards for a touchdown. "Jamie was able to shoot the gap with his athleticism and length and was able to time the kick and get his hand on the ball. It was really well executed all across the board." Said Head Coach Bill Belichick.

Aside from a sputtering first half offense, a low point of the game for the Patriots was clock management at the end of the first half. Leading 14-6, the Patriots had the ball with 40 seconds on the clock. But Belichick and Coordinator Josh McDaniels seemed more concerned with having Miami use its three timeouts rather than pick up a first down or push for a quick score before the half. "Well, I'd say you can just put the whole sequence on me — bad coaching," Belichick said. The Patriots did have the ball deep in their own territory, but the sequence of uninspired play calls, three runs totaling 2 yards were executed terribly by an underwhelmed group. When Miami got the ball with 17 seconds left, Quarterback Ryan Tannehill and Wide Receiver Jarvis Landry made the Patriots pay by connecting on a 32-yard touchdown pass that cut the Patriots lead to one at the half.

The offense got going in the second half, exploding for 27 unanswered points. The spark seemed to be the integration of Tight End Rob Gronkowski into the passing game, as he was used primarily as a run blocker in the first half, and a 17-yard run by Quarterback Tom Brady to setup a first and goal on the opening drive of the half. With a chance to avoid contact and slide after picking up a first down, Brady attempted to go for the touchdown. He lost that battle being slammed to the turf by Miami rookie Safety Walt Aikens, but would prove victorious by invigorating his team. "I could have slid, but I wasn't in the best mood at that time," said Brady, who isn't exactly the most graceful runner in the NFL.

Running Back Jonas Gray finally got out of the doghouse that he's been in since his 201-yard output in Indianapolis. Gray finished with 11 carries for 62 yards and was another reason for the offenses second half success.

The offensive line smarted from their week one debacle by not allowing Brady to be sacked.

While Dolphins Quarterback Ryan Tannehill passed for 346 yards, his team



"Patriots Run the East" Brady and Jones celebrate Division title. From Jones' instagram page @chan95jones.

AFC playoff seedings as of week 15

Ranking	Team	Record
1	New England Patriots	11-3
2	Denver Broncos	11-3
3	Indianapolis Colts	10-4
4	Cincinnati Bengals	9-4-1
5	Pittsburgh Steelers	9-5
6	Baltimore Ravens	9-5

Having defeated them during the regular season, the Patriots hold head-to-head tiebreakers over the Broncos, Colts and Bengals.

Is "Well done better than well said?"

This week, the Patriots received the ultimate in bulletin board material from Terrance Knighton of the Denver Broncos.

"It doesn't matter what happens. At the end of the year, we're hoisting that trophy (Lombardi). I don't care if New England doesn't lose again. I don't care where we have to play. I don't care who our opponent is. We're not going to be satisfied until we hoist that trophy. So if we've got to go to New England (in the playoffs) and win somewhere we're not used to winning, we're going to make it happen. Write that. And put a big period after that one. Exclamation point!"

Brady responded to Knighton, also known as "Pot Roast," in typical Patriots fashion. "There is a lot of football left to be played. They (Broncos) have their chance and we'll have our chance, we will do our talking on the field."

January should be fun.

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

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 - 1997 TOYOTA CAMRY**
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 - 2008 CHEVY MALIBU**
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VIN # 1MEHM59S31G614377
 - 2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**
VIN # 1J4GW48N8YC158286
- The above vehicles will be sold at auction online only at*
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at 10:00AM at towlot.com
Run dates: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 2014

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
Docket No. MI14P6367PM

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

In the matter of **Juliette Randolph of Medford, MA. RESPONDENT** (Person to be Protected/Minor).

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Courtyard Nursing of Medford, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Juliette Randolph** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Marie Carter of Medford, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 AM** on the return date of **January 7, 2015**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, HON. EDWARD F. DONNELLY, JR.,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 10, 2014

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/19/14



EXTRA Innings

by *Sal Giarratani*



Red Sox Suddenly Have a Full Rotation

After losing out on getting Jon Lester back, the Sox acted quickly using slugger Yoenis Cespedes as trade bait in picking up Rick Porcello from the Tigers. Last year, Porcello went 15-13 with a 3.43 ERA. The Sox also added Justin Masterson on a \$9.5 million, one-year deal. Last year, the former Sox pitcher went 7-9 with a 5.88 ERA splitting time between the Indians and Cardinals. Also added to next season's starting rotation is Wade Miley who won 16 games in 2012 but went 8-12 this past season.

Add Joe Kelly and Clay Buchholz who had a rough 2014 and you have your starting five guys.

Yankees' Robertson Signs Up with White Sox

Closer Dave Robertson has joined up with the White Sox and agreed to a 4-year, \$46 million contract. He went 4-5 with a 3.08 ERA for the NY Yankees this past season.

Dodgers Reportedly Get Rollins

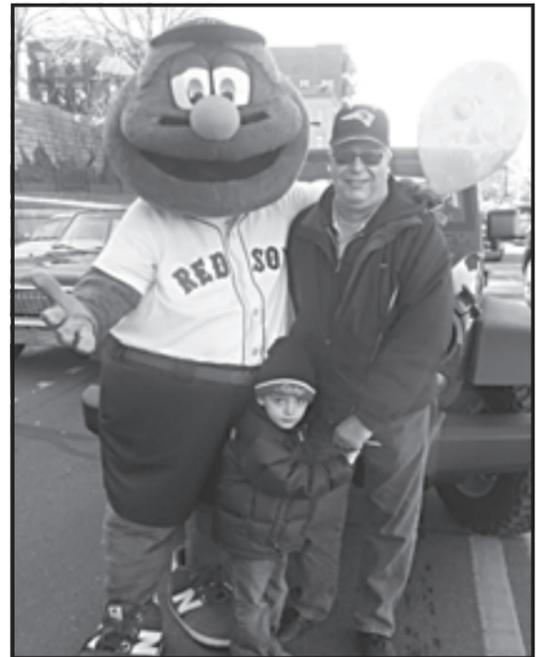
Jimmy Rollins has reportedly been traded to the LA Dodgers after 15 seasons with the Phillies. He is 36 years old, a three-time All-Star and won the NL-MVP back in 2007. A switch-hitter, he is the Phillies team leader in hits, at-bats and doubles.

The Dodgers were seeking a solid shortstop after losing Hanley Ramirez to the Red Sox in the free agency meat market last month.

Mossey Reunited with Tito

The Indians have acquired first baseman/outfielder Brandon Moss from Oakland in exchange for hot prospect Joey Wendle. Moss is a 31-year-old left-handed slugger who will bat in the middle of the lineup playing for his old Sox Manager Terry Francona.

Moss is a career .248 hitter with 76 homers in the past three seasons. He was an All-Star in 2014. Back in 2007 and 2008,



Peter "Papa" DeBilio with grandson Miguel Marin posing with Wally the Green Monstah at the North End Christmas Parade.

Photo by Sal Giarratani

Moss played in 49 games with the Red Sox before being traded to the Pirates.

Allen, Oliva, Tiant — All Miss Hall

Richie Allen, Tony Oliva and El Tianté all failed entry into the Hall of Fame in this year's Golden Era committee's vote. Others who missed were Jim Kaat, Maury Wills and my favorite Minnie Minoso.

Cubs Sign Hammel

Pitcher Jason Hammel has agreed to a \$32 million, two-year deal to return to the Cubs. Hammel went 8-5 with a 2.98 ERA in 17 starts before being traded to Oakland on July 5th.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for **MPA Contract No L599-C3, ELEVATOR HYDRAULIC PISTON REPLACEMENT, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 209S, Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128-2909, until 11:00 A.M. local time on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015** immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 10:00 AM LOCAL TIME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015.

The work includes **REPLACE THREE HYDRAULIC ELEVATOR PISTONS LOCATED IN TERMINALS C, E AND AMELIA EARHART TERMINALS.**

Bid documents will be made available beginning **MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014.**

Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

In order to be eligible and responsible to bid on this contract General Bidders must submit with their bid a current Certificate of Eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and an Update Statement. The General Bidder must be certified in the category of **ELEVATOR**. The estimated contract cost is **TWO HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$290,000.00)**.

Bidding procedures and award of the contract and sub-contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, Chapter 149 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid; when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and /or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of **ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00)**. Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

No filed sub-bids will be required for this contract.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in the Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action article of Division I, General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective sub-contractors of the requirement for such certification where the sub-contract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Run date: 12/19/14

The Friends of North End Winter Bocce Tournament Continues

by *Victor Passacantilli*



Left to Right: Sam Viscione, Charlie Marino, Richie Delliago, Angelo Di Girolamo, Frank Julianello, Victor Passacantilli, Pat Reppucci, Joe Blazo

The success of the Friends of the North End Christmas Bocce Tournament has inspired the competitors to continue playing at the indoor courts in the Stephen Steriti Memorial Rink. The spirited matches were won by team members: Victor Passacantilli, Angelo Di Girolamo, Pat Reppucci and

Frank Julianello. They soundly defeated the team of Sam Viscione, Charlie Marino, Richie Delliago and Joe Blazo in a rubber match taking two out of three contests. Special thanks go out to Charlie Marino who showed up early to groom the courts and clean the common areas adding an un-

usual ambience to the facility. The Friends of the North End also extend their gratitude to Sam and Steve of the manager's office at the rink for their hospitality and providing ease of accessibility to the bocce courts. The Department of Conservation and Recreation hopefully are proud of the job they do.



Reflections Over the Past Year



Tony DeMarco and Dan Cuoco

I have been writing this column for a little over a year now. When Pam Donnaruma asked me to step in and take over the boxing column at the *Post-Gazette* I wasn't sure I would be able to handle it. After all, I had never done something like this before. I told her I would give it a shot. Well, over 50 columns later I am still here. It has been a wonderful experience writing about the sport I love and having my words seen by so many. While it is no secret to those who follow this column that I don't think much about what has happened to the sport in recent years, I do still watch it, though it can be painful at times to do so. I prefer to revisit fights of the past and to do my best to keep the history of this once great sport alive.

Another important subject for me has been the welfare of those who step into the ring. Earlier this year many of us saw a terrible tragedy unfold on live television as heavyweight Magomed Abdusalamov took a terrible beating in a fight that should have been stopped by the fourth round. With six doctors at ringside, commissioners in attendance, a referee, and Mago's cornermen attending to him, it was criminal that no one watched out for the fighter. Today, he is still in a nursing care facility. This is the dark side of boxing. A human being ruined for life so fans can have less than an hour's entertainment.

When I have written about the brutality of boxing, and make no mistake, it is a brutal sport, I have gotten a lot of positive reaction from people who have suggested ways to make it safer. I have also gotten blow back from so called experts who tell me I do not know what I am talking about, that I am a bigot (odd epithet considering mine is a concern for the wellbeing of all boxers), and that since I hate boxing (not true) I should not be writing about it.

Boxing has been a part of my life since I was a little kid. There has always been a fascination for me in seeing two well-trained and skilled athletes square off in competition against each other. There is no bench for them to rely on. When that bell rings they are on their own. It takes incredible courage to climb between those ropes. I was thinking about this courage as I listened to an internet commentary during

the recent Manny Pacquiao/Chris Algieri bout. During this broadcast a former world champion boxer was strongly implying that Algieri lacked guts. Now I know that quite often fans will yell out that the guys in the ring are bums. One of my favorites is when some fan who has had a belly full of beer yells out, "He doesn't like to get hit!" as if that is some type of a human



George Benton

weakness. But in this case it was a former boxer making these remarks. I can't remember another instance where a former champ has impugned the courage of a fighter while that fighter was



Mike Silver and Gaspar Ortega

in the ring. I am chalking this off to another way the sport has lost its dignity and class. Oh, I have to tell you that after watching a tape of the bout, there is no question that Chris Algieri showed tremendous heart. He also showed great class in defeat, so there are still a number of fine young men out there who bring honor to the sport. I include Manny Pacquiao in that number as well. It is just sad to hear fellow boxing people make such terrible comments.

Enough of the negative. Because of the wonders of the internet and cable TV with networks like ESPN Classic Sports, I have been able to

look back in time and view many of the great fights and fighters of the past. Being able to sit back and watch these bouts carefully has allowed me to truly appreciate how great so many of these boxers were. Make no mistake about it; boxing was an art form. Watching champions like Robinson, Louis, Conn, DeMarco and so many others is like going to an art museum and seeing the works of the great artists of the past. Also, getting to see those who never won a world title, men such as Gaspar Ortega, Joey Archer, and George Benton reminds me of how many talented fighter were competing in that Golden Era. Each time I watch one of these fights I see and learn something new. That is the very definition of great art; the fact that it is timeless and always filled with something undiscovered.

I would like to close by thanking two people who have had such an influence on my view of boxing. First I would like to mention Mike Silver, the author of the finest book written on boxing "The Arc of Boxing." I have spoken with Mike countless times about a particular boxer or fight. Often I will call him up with some thought I have about a long ago bout, and he is always there with incredible insight. I have learned so much from Mike.

The other is Dan Cuoco. Dan is the leading boxing historian in the world. He is also the Director of the International Boxing Research Organization (IBRO). Dan meticu-

lously researches and updates the records not only of just former champions, but of any boxer who has ever stepped into the ring. The boxing world can never repay the debt owed to Dan. Without his work I would not be able to write many of my columns.

Both Dan and Mike represent the best in this often dark sport. They care about those who climb into the ring, and they honor those who have stepped through the ropes throughout the history of boxing.

Merry Christmas, and I look forward to another year of columns. Hope you do too.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



Perhaps it was just another game in a very historic series. One view might be that it was just another game between two teams that have fallen on hard times. Perhaps for many across America, it was just a game to overlook.

But when you stop to pause and think about it there always is something special about the only two original NBA teams still playing in their original franchise cities that has a ring to it.

Yes, pro basketball has changed a lot since the NBA came into existence in the late 1940s. But one thing you could count on over the span of all those years was that the Boston Celtics would play the New York Knicks several times during each and every one of those seasons.

And thus it was that the New York Knicks paid their first visit of the season to the Garden on the second weekend of December. It was the 456th game in the historic series that saw the Celtics enter the contest holding a commanding 278-177 lead in the head-to-head matchups. That translates into a .611 winning percentage in favor of the Green.

Last year the teams split the four games between them with Boston winning the first two and the Knicks taking the second pair. The meeting was the first since March 12 when the Knicks dominated the Celtics to a tune of 116-92 at the Garden. That win extended the Knicks winning streak to five at the time.

Fast forward nine months later and both teams came into the game in somewhat of a desperation mode. Although both franchises are both remembered for their glory years, this season is not shaping up to be one of them for either squad.

New York came to Causeway Street in the throes of a 10-game losing streak and the possessors of a very weak 4-20 record. The Celtics came out of the tunnel and onto the floor at 7-13, fresh off a three-game win streak that had ended four days earlier in a double overtime loss at Washington.

It was a game that both teams sorely needed to win. For the Celtics, it would be evidence that the ship was beginning to come around and starting to head in the right direction. Plus, it would also nudge the Celtics upward a bit for — believe it or not — they (as well as several other teams with less than outstanding records) are still in contention for a playoff berth in the very weak Eastern Conference.

But it was not to be for the C's as the Knicks came away with a 101-95 victory. It was only New York's second win of the season on the road to go with a previous 11 setbacks away from Manhattan.

This one was a little different in that the Celtics came back from an 11-point defi-

cit in the middle of the third quarter to come within two points at 75-73 with 11:15 remaining in the fourth.

But then the Knicks took off — like so many other visiting clubs this season — and poured in nine consecutive points and the Green found themselves trailing by 11. It soon became 15 with just under six minutes remaining.

Jeff Green tried his best to get the Celtics back into it by scoring 14 points of his game-high 28 points as the final minutes ran down but in the end the scoreboard told the tale of another sad Celtics setback.

Indeed, the Celtics led the Knicks in several categories, including points in the paint (48-36), second chance points (20-11), assists (28-26) and fast break points (16-15), but it is the big numbers on the Jumbotron that count the most and those are the ones where the Celtics came up short.

Part of the reason that occurred in this particular contest was that the Knicks took big-time advantage of the Celtics 18 turnovers — by scoring 19 points on such opportunities. Another was the fact that two key Celtics players — Jared Sullinger and Rajon Rondo — were held down by the Knicks. Rondo had only two points while Sullinger didn't score at all.

So, when it all was said and done, it was time to leave the parquet in silence once again.

"First of all, I always want to recognize that the other team played well," said Celtics Head Coach Brad Stevens in his postgame press conference. "We all know they are going to be better than their record when all is said and done because they've got good players. Plus, they were playing very urgent tonight."

And Stevens indicated that is the way the Celtics must play from here on.

"We have to play that way," he explained. "In basketball at this level or any level, the minute you feel sorry for yourself it is going to snowball on you. You have to earn things, you have to go out and do them. The next game is an opportunity and we have to go out and seize that. But if we don't play well, we won't. If we don't play well, we don't win."

Three nights later the Celtics went out and did seize the opportunity. It came on the road against the lowly Philadelphia 76ers, but it sure felt good as the C's posted a 105-87 victory on the strength of Kelly Olynyk's career-high 30 point performance.

It was the C's eighth win of the season putting Boston in 10th place in the conference standings — only a game and a half behind Brooklyn. Maybe, just maybe, there's more to this season than we thought.