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POST-GAZETTE

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North End Feast Societies Cancel All Scheduled 2020 Feasts and Processions

With no large public gatherings in the City of Boston being permitted this summer, city officials have consulted with the North End feast societies to cancel all of the scheduled 2020 feasts and processions.



St. Anthony's Feast
(Photo by Matt Conti, NorthEndWaterfront.com)

The cancellation of the festivals is an unprecedented event, as many have of the feast celebrations have continued for over 100 years through wars and depressions. St. Anthony's Feast celebrated its Centennial last year with Fisherman's and St. Agrippina now well past the 100-year mark. This year was to be the centennial feast for the Madonna Della Cava Society. Some members are discussing virtual events or video-streaming small tributes during the summer weekends. Stay tuned.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

What is Concerned Citizen Bobby Talking About?

Recently, the *Boston Herald* ran a full-page political advertisement signed by *concernedcitizenbobby.com*. It was your typical anti-Trumpster blaming President Trump for the fact that there are still 98 percent of Americans not tested. Yes, there are many folks with no symptoms who could still be contagious. I have no idea where this ad was coming from when it starts comparing testing to the fact that during WWII our federal government was building fighter planes every seven minutes.

This foolish advertisement is useless. We don't need a federally-run national testing program. Testing should be left to the states to decide what kind of testing works for each state and how many are needed to be tested to find out where we are in this COVID-19 fight.

As of May 12th, 9,724,879 have been tested state to state. We are finding out that many have tested positive with either no symptoms at all or mild symptoms like the ordinary flu. It appears that many have strong immune systems that are fighting off the worse this virus has to offer.

The real targets of this coronavirus are the elderly, especially those packed into large long-term health facilities and even more so are those with serious underlying health issues.

We don't need to test 328 million people and it is time for the Trump haters to stop telling the president to do his job. He's doing it. Tell our governors to do theirs.

Pataki is Right on Cuomo And NY's Nursing Homes

Democrats across the country are praising NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo but former Gov. George Pataki blasted his successor's nursing home policies and called Cuomo's nursing home policy a "disaster" that may have

(Continued on Page 11)

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Four-Phase Approach to Re-opening and Publishes Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards

New Standards Will Apply to All Workplaces When Phased Re-opening Begins

Four-Phase Approach to Re-opening Massachusetts



On Monday May 11th the Baker-Polito Administration announced a four-phase approach to re-opening the Massachusetts economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and published Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards that will apply across all sectors and industries once re-opening begins.

The goal of the phased re-opening, based on public health guidance, is to methodically allow certain businesses, services, and activities to resume, while protecting public health and limiting a resurgence of new COVID-19 cases.

• **Phase 1** will be "Start:" limited industries resume operations with severe restrictions

• **Phase 2** will be "Cautious:" additional industries resume operations with restrictions and capacity limits

• **Phase 3** will be "Vigilant:" additional industries resume operations with guidance

• **Phase 4** will be the "New Normal:" development of vaccine and/or therapy enables resumption of new normal

Businesses and activities that provided "COVID-19 Essential Services," per Governor Baker's March 23rd order, will continue to operate. Certain businesses and activities with a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission will open in earlier phases. Decisions and timing will be influenced by public health metrics for when the first phase of re-opening begins, as well

as when it is safe to move into concurrent phases.

Additionally, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the COVID-19 Command Center, in consultation with the Re-opening Advisory Board and based on feedback from industry, labor, and community coalitions, has developed Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission as employees and customers begin to return to workplaces during the first phase of re-opening. These Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards are applicable to all sectors and industries that will be open in phase one, and create new workplace requirements for social distancing, hygiene, staffing and operations, and cleaning. These standards are being released to give workplaces time to plan and prepare for re-opening.

For Social Distancing:

- All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces

- Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing

- Provide signage for safe social distancing

- Require face coverings or masks for all employees

For Hygiene:

- Provide hand washing capabilities throughout the workplace

- Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so

- Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site

For Staffing and Operations:

- Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols

- Employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to work

- Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work, and a return-to-work plan

For Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business

- When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed

- Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace

For more information about the Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards, go to mass.gov/info-details/reopening.

In addition to these Mandatory Standards which apply to all workplaces, the Re-opening Advisory Board is developing Sector Specific Safety Protocols and Best Practices that will detail how particular industries should operate upon re-opening.


The Re-opening Advisory Board is scheduled to provide its full report to Governor Baker on Monday, May 18th.

THE POST-GAZETTE SATELLITE OFFICE
343 CHELSEA ST., DAY SQUARE, EAST BOSTON
Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and Thursdays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM,
Call **617-227-8929** for more information

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



THE VESTALS

Nothing in Rome is said to be more ancient than the institution of a maiden priesthood. As was mentioned in a previous issue, the worship of Vesta goes back to the time when it was difficult but necessary to obtain fire. The sacred fire, the source of all Roman life and power, was kept alive in an edifice known as the Temple of Vesta, and it was constantly tended by a group of virgin priestesses that were known as the Vestals.

In Rome, their number started at four, and was increased to six about the time of the early Republic. During primitive times, the possession of fire was the greatest gain that man had yet made, and to lose it was the greatest misfortune for the community. The chief, or the so-called king, fulfilled a most important duty towards his people by keeping a fire always burning from which they could at any moment kindle their own. Nothing could be more natural than for the chief's unmarried daughters to be placed in charge of this precious hearth, under the protection of Vesta, the goddess of fire.



Vestal Virgin by Jean Raoux, The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia, between 1677 and 1730

The number of Vestals corresponds to the idea that they were originally the daughters of one family, and that they were the king's daughters is traceable to their position of honor in the Roman State. They have been compared with the nuns of the Roman Catholic Church, and the Atrium Vestae has been called their convent. There was a close resemblance in their vow of chastity and the cutting of their hair.

They were dressed entirely in white, with a coronet-shaped headband (infula), ornamented with ribbons (vittae) suspended from it, and also a white veil or hood (suffibulum) made from a piece of white woolen cloth with purple border.

It is here that the resemblance ended for instead of poverty and obedience, the Vestals enjoyed great independence and luxury. They were exempt from the common law, and not even subject to the censor's authority. They enjoyed a most conspicuous freedom, having the right to hold property and make a will. These rights alone exceeded those of the average female of the times. The Vestals also enjoyed great political importance, often interposing to save a life, to restore harmony at critical moments, or even to carry out the provisions of important wills. Death was the penalty for injuring them, and anyone whom they escorted was also protected from assault. Meeting them by chance in the street also saved any criminal who was being led away to punishment.

NEXT WEEK:
More about the Vestals

2020 Census

The Census is critical for the City of Boston to receive funds in a variety of different areas. I have also provided the core information to share as well. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

- **Boston depends on your household to respond so that our communities get their fair share** of federal funding and representation for the resources we need.
- **Much of the funding that comes from the Census count helps the most vulnerable among us.** It provides, for instance, health care (Medicare and Medicaid), public education (grants for special education and Boston Public Schools), food and nutrition programs (SNAP and free school breakfast/lunch programs), affordable housing (Section 8 vouchers), and child care (Head Start) for low-income families.
- **The Census has never been more accessible.** You can respond to the 2020 Census online (my2020census.gov), over the phone, or by mail. You can respond to the 2020 Census online or over the phone in 13 different languages.
- **Responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law.**

Your answers can only be used to produce statistics and cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. The Census Bureau can't share your personal information with DHS, law enforcement, or your landlord until 72 years have passed. It won't affect any public benefits you receive.

- Whether you rent or you own your home, whether you were born here or you just got here, whether you are a senior citizen or a newborn baby, **you count equally in our democracy and we need to make sure you and everyone in your household is counted in the 2020 Census.**

The 2020 Census is a way to directly increase community power. It will impact our daily lives for the next 10 years. **Many of Boston's communities are**

at risk of an undercount. We need a complete and accurate count because all of Boston deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in.

John Romano, North End, Waterfront, and West End Liaison for Mayor Martin J. Walsh Office of Neighborhood Services, 617-635-4987.

Res Publica

by David Trumbull




Bristol County Jail Incident has Democrats Salivating, Launching Multiple Investigations

Massachusetts Republican Party Chairman Jim Lyons weighed in May 6th on a Bristol County jailhouse riot allegedly sparked by illegal alien inmates refusing COVID-19 testing, after Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson quickly became the target in several announced investigations.

"On one hand, you have our Democrat Attorney General Maura Healey, who cannot resist an opportunity to use her office to go after anyone and anything remotely connected to President Donald Trump," said Lyons. "And on the other hand, you have the Democrat-dominated Massachusetts state Senate Post Audit and Oversight Committee, also announcing an investigation."

Lyons believes that both investigations are driven by Democrats with a political agenda, who are salivating over the opportunity to go after someone like Sheriff Hodgson for enforcing the very laws enacted by Congress. He points out that Healey's office has previously called out Massachusetts U.S. District Attorney Andrew Lelling for daring to prosecute a Newton District Court judge for helping an illegal alien facing drug charges evade immigration officials.

Healey submitted a brief on behalf of the state last September claiming the charges "represent an extraordinary and unwarranted attack on the independence and integrity of our courts." Meanwhile, a chorus of federal lawmakers, led in part by Massachusetts U.S. representatives Ayanna Pressley and Joseph Kennedy III, have also demanded investigations.



Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson

"What all of these demands for investigations have in common is that they have been made by Democrats who obviously have it in for Sheriff Hodgson," Lyons said. "It's all too telling that when a group of inmates runs amok and causes \$25,000 worth of damages, while putting everyone in that situation in danger, the radical Democrats' reflexive impulse is to go after Sheriff Hodgson."

It's also telling that when a Salem District Court judge actively put people's lives in danger by releasing a parade of dangerous felons, one of whom went on to murder a cop in Maine, the same Senate Post Audit and Oversight Committee was nowhere to be seen.

These actions were committed by illegal immigrants inside a prison who refused to cooperate during a public health emergency, deciding instead to destroy the place and try to trigger a riot, and the knee-jerk reaction from the Democrats is to investigate Sheriff Hodgson.

BOSTON ITALIAN RADIO

Itali-Echo with *Viviana Dragani*

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12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 539A, that on **May 29, 2020 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2008 NISSAN PATHFINDER
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Robert Lynch
24 Stonebury Way
Tewksbury, MA 01876

2009 HONDA CIVIC, RED
Vin: 2HGFA165X9H326365
Sofia DeMacedo
186 Mill St.
Burlington, MA 01803

2016 VW JETTA, GRAY
Vin: 3VW4T7AJ5GM267146
Donlan Trust
3000 Lakeside Dr.
Bannockburn, IL 60015


2006 TOYOTA COROLLA, RED
Vin: 1NXBR32E36Z685603
Charles Burke
1 Coffins Field
Edgartown, MA 02539

2004 BMW M3, GRAY
Vin: WBSBR93494PK08000
Julius Clemente
35 Beacon Pk.
Brockton, MA 02302

2012 HONDA ACCORD, GRAY
Vin: 1HGCP2F66CA181105
Steven Xigoros
50 Wentworth Ave.
Lowell, MA 01852

Run dates: 05/08, 05/15, 05/22, 2020

North End Feast Societies Raise Over \$6,000 For Local Charities



The North End Religious Societies joined forces to benefit the neighborhood's food insecurity programs run by ABCD and NEW/Health Center. The group designed and sold the special edition shirts to fund neighborhood efforts addressing the ongoing public health crisis. The money will also purchase PPE products for the North End Nursing Home and other health care providers.

The several societies formed "All Saints" in the spirit of comradely and community and will continue the fundraising campaign to benefit other neighborhood charities and organizations.

Sales of the All Saints shirts are sold online only and will be shipped directly to the purchaser. A second run is taking place, so you can still order a shirt by visiting the Bonfire website to purchase your special edition shirts: <https://www.bonfire.com/northendfeasts/>

POST-GAZETTE

Pamela Donnaruma, Publisher and Editor
5 Prince Street, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113
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James V. Donnaruma 1896 to 1953 Caesar L. Donnaruma 1953 to 1971 Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990

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Friday, May 15, 2020

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

Costa Fruit & Produce Donates Thousands of Fresh Nutra-snack Kits to Healthcare Workers



An Industry leading produce and specialty foods purveyor based in Boston, Costa Fruit and Produce is donating Fresh Nutra-Snack kits for local hospital workers in the Boston area.

The Nutra-snack kits are produced at Costa's onsite, SQF certified processing facility, Fresh Ideas and then sent to area hospitals to help keep their staff nourished during these unprecedented

times. The contents are washed, sealed and ready to eat for workers on the go.

"Healthcare workers are putting themselves at risk every day fighting the COVID-19 virus. In appreciation of their heroic selfless effort we are happy to help where we can." Said Manny Costa, CEO, Presidents Costa Fruit & Produce

The Nutra-snack kit contains fresh fruit, juice and yogurt. Costa is also providing their drivers with Nutri-snack kits for a healthful snack option as they service essential workers throughout New England.

About Costa:

A privately owned company, Costa is a produce and specialty foods purveyor serving fine dining establishments throughout New England.

In addition to offering a complete line of fresh products that include fresh fruit and produce, dairy and value added fresh cut produce; Costa works closely with local farmers and producers bringing a wide variety of local artisan items such as cheese, meats, and hors d'oeuvres to their diverse customer base.

Costa is a sustainable business leader certified by the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts and has been a recipient of the Boston Green Business Award for their support of local agriculture and green initiatives.

For more information about Costa Fruit & Produce go to freshideas.com or contact Costa at sales@freshideas.com.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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.

Northern Avenue Bridge: "People First" Design Presented to Wharf Council

by Steve Vilkas, www.NorthEndWaterfront.com



Overview of new design for Northern Avenue Bridge

City officials gave a design preview of the new Northern Avenue bridge to the Wharf District Council in a presentation entitled "Boston Bold: A People First Experience."

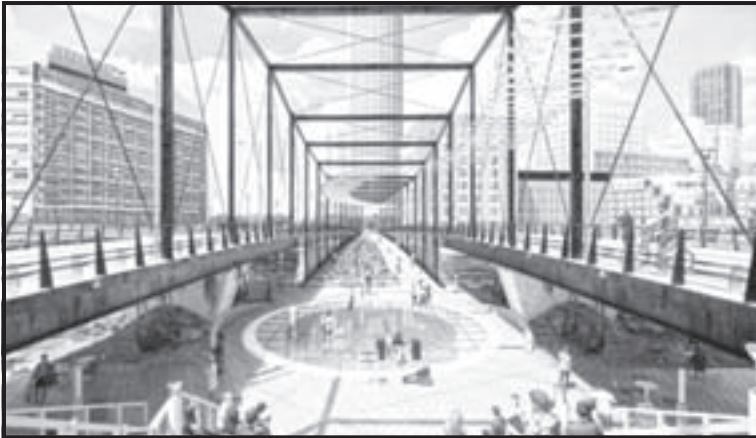
The old Northern Ave. bridge was deemed a navigation hazard by the USCG (United States Coast Guard) and closed in 2014. After preliminary meetings, officials said the bridge would be rebuilt with a "people-first approach," limiting usage to pedestrians and cyclists. That decision has since been revised to include emergency vehicles and dedicated bus/shuttle service.

Appearing via Zoom, Chris Osgood, the City's Chief of Streets and Joseph Fleury, Principal Bridge Engineer, described the project's history and design principles. Acknowledging the current state of the bridge from a structural standpoint (referring to certain parts of it as Swiss cheese), Osgood outlined rehabilitation efforts and drew comparisons to work done on the nearby Congress Street Bridge.

The newly chosen design makes use of what are referred to as "ribbons" dividing bridge traffic in two. The harbor-facing side will be exclusively for pedestrian use, while the second side facing the Moakley bridge will serve a single bus/shuttle line as well as cyclists and emergency vehicles.

Choosing to place cyclists in the bus and emergency vehicle lane was a decision reached with pedestrian safety in mind, according to City Engineer Para Jayasinghe.

Referencing the debate revolving around the exclusion of single-use vehicles, Jayasinghe explained how ongoing civic engagement has shaped decision-making, along with the



City's evolving stance on shared transit.

With sentiment being gauged, residents polled and positions laid out by several organizations, the cost factor associated with accommodating full vehicular traffic attracted its fair share of controversy, with prior estimates for a 42ft one car-lane costing between \$56-100 million, while a 56ft option with two available motor vehicle lanes costing upwards of \$110 million.

Jayasinghe was challenged by the WDC on whether enough

bus lane on Atlantic Avenue would help to prevent potential gridlock.

WDC member Joanne Hayes-Rines asked whether a new traffic light would need to be installed on the Atlantic Avenue side. Jayasinghe replied that a signal warrant analysis had been performed, with current data indicating that a new light is unnecessary. Sublevel work is being performed in case the situation changes.

Possible directionality issues were highlighted, with many



modeling had been done to fully account for potential impacts to everyday commutes especially in and around Atlantic Avenue. The need for clearer differentiation regarding the designated lanes was put forward, and it was asked if a dedicated

wondering whether there had been enough analysis performed to measure results in terms of emergency traffic.

Officials anticipate construction to begin in early 2021 with a ribbon-cutting slated for 2022.

North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) Announces New Members

The North End / Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) has announced six new members, each who will serve a two-year term as part of the volunteer community organization. The newly appointed/re-appointed members, in alphabetical order, are: **Kevin Drew, Joel (Jody) Faller*, Kevin Fleming, Rory Harrington, Brett Roman*, Marie Simboli***

No election will be held this year because there are only six open seats on the council so each candidate is automatically appointed. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, NEWNC previously revised the normal nomination plan and loosened the signature requirements given social distancing protocols.

The six new members join the current six members, each with one year remaining in their terms (**Damien DiPaola, Tania Green, Carmine Guarino, Ashley Leo, Tina Natale and Michael**

Salvati). Leaving the council this year by not running for re-election is longtime member and past President **John Pregmon**.

Instead of the usual candidate/new member introductions, NEWNC intends to distribute relevant biographies for the new and reappointed members in the near future. We will post these write-ups on NorthEndWaterfront.com. Officers for the upcoming term will also be determined as well as committee heads.

NEWNC advises the City of Boston on issues affecting the quality of life in the North End / Waterfront area including, but not limited to, land use, development, clean streets, parking, public safety, residential & commercial expansion, and food & beverage licenses.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact newncboston@gmail.com.

*incumbent

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Springing into Holiday Fun

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

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



It is hard to pinpoint when I first came under the spell of holidays. The folklore, customs and traditions of festivities have inspired me since I was young. I think this passion first blossomed inside me when I looked at brand-new calendars and encountered unfamiliar holidays, like Candlemas and May Day. As I began to investigate these holidays, I found that they brimmed with unique traditions that offered indelible glimpses into cultural traditions, like the Spanish custom of eating twelve grapes on New Year’s Eve to the Swedish practice of building bonfires on Midsummer. My love for holidays also coincided with my rediscovery of my Italian heritage and with the help of my father, I explored how Italian celebrations revealed the mindset of my ancestors and contributed to my identity. My year is now peppered with many holidays to celebrate and many traditions I hold dear, from major feast days like Christmas and Easter to smaller fetes like April Fools’ Day and St. Michael’s Day. I love celebrating customs from cultures all around the world, for I believe that holidays are reminders of the traditions that make us individually proud and the universal desires and hopes that unite us all.

There are several reasons as to why I love holidays so much. One is that they force us to take time out of our busy schedules and really focus on the world around us. During holidays, everything actually feels different. The ordinary somehow seems extraordinary and a mystical force field pushes us into the company of our family and friends, into gatherings of good

food and laughter and tradition. Another important aspect of holidays involves the way they connect us to people all around the globe. The customs and folklore that people hold dear, no matter how diverse, all reflect universal dreams and collective desires, ranging from warmth to harvest to communal protection. The winter feasts of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa all emphasize the theme of the rebirth of light shattering the darkness, while spring festivals such as Easter, Passover and May Day celebrate the resurgence of nature and the importance of fertility in crops. Finally, holidays provide a window into the fascinating customs of world cultures. Holidays in my Italian household are synonymous with *panettone* for Christmas, giant chocolate eggs for Easter and *zeppole* for St. Joseph’s Day. These tidbits of folklore make the holiday experience so much richer because they connect me to a long line of history and ancestry.

On May 21st, the people in Italy will celebrate Ascension Day, or *Festa dell’Ascensione*. Part of the Easter festivities, this holiday falls 40 days after Easter and commemorates the day Jesus ascended into Heaven. Like all Italian holidays, Ascension Day is associated with a number of folkloristic traditions. According to some of my father’s research, the customary food of Ascension Day is milk, because it is believed to absorb the magical properties of the day and acquire purifying abilities. This reminds me of a Jewish spring holiday, Shavuot, which honors the day God gave the Torah to Israel and is also

celebrated with eating dairy-based foods. Ascension Day is also the time for the *Festa del Grillo* or Cricket Festival, in Florence. During this festival, children buy cages with pictures of crickets or toy crickets inside. As symbols of spring, the cricket is thought to bring good luck. Another popular saying in Italy warns against doing any sort of work on Ascension Day, as it is considered a day too holy to be marked by labor. All of these folk customs, therefore, offer a view into the values that characterize Italy during spring. The use of milk and crickets speak to a sense of gratitude for the coming of spring and the health of livestock, while the ancient prohibition against work signifies the importance of Easter as a time of hope and renewal in Italian culture. Italian Ascension Day traditions encapsulate why I love holidays so much, as they offer a respite from everyday life, celebrate the universal enthusiasm for spring and vibrate with unique folklore.

Celebrating holidays grants us all the opportunity to focus on the more important things in life, like family, love, food and the wondrous cycle of the year. Holiday festivities don’t have to be lavish or extravagant; in fact, the most meaningful celebrations involve the simplicity of being close to the Earth and close to loved ones. I encourage everyone to take time out of their schedules, even if just for a few minutes, to honor a special day. Make a recipe with spring ingredients like asparagus or strawberries. Drink a glass of milk on Ascension Day. Mix old traditions with new customs that hold special meaning in your life. It really does not matter how you celebrate holidays, but rather that you recognize that all of us, all the citizens of this world, share the same desires for sustenance and comfort and affection. More than anything else, that is the true lesson of holidays.

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

THINKING
OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani

Government Leaders Really Screwed Old People, Didn’t They?

I can not believe how badly our political leaders from the Oval Office to Capitol Hill to all our State Capitols, to city and town halls across America were asleep at the switch when we were hit by this train wreck. Everyone seemed to start off on a misstep and we have been playing catch-up since. Recently, Speaker Nancy Pelosi threw all the blame on President Trump when in fact Democrats like herself never saw it coming either. She was still running into San Francisco’s Chinatown telling everyone to enjoy the Lunar New Year celebration. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh did pretty much the same thing here. Now is not the time to play the blame game.

However, I do think that everyone in power and in the know should have known that the elderly and those with compromised health in long-term living facilities would be easy targets for the virus. Much more action should have been done to protect this population from what has become the terrible crisis we are seeing today. I already know five older friends who died from complications from COVID-19. Long-term care facilities needed help, so what broke down? Weren’t our leaders listening for the reported cries for help?

According to *Boston Globe* columnist Joan Vennoch, “Nationally, nursing homes and veterans’ homes are epicenters of COVID-19 contagion, accounting for one-third of related deaths. In Massachusetts, COVID-19 deaths in long-term care facilities account for nearly 60 percent of the state’s tally, and the deaths at the Holyoke facility currently rank as the highest in the country.

The number of deaths reported at the Chelsea Soldiers’ Home has increased to 36, with 29 of those deaths linked to the coronavirus, officials announced Monday.

A spokesperson for the facility said that 31 other veteran residents have tested positive and 57 employees have also tested positive.

New York State, as of April 19, concedes that 3,060 residents of nursing homes, rehab centers, and other long-term care facilities are known to have had COVID-19 deaths. This is outrageous.

The same thing is happening right here! Just look at the Holyoke Soldiers Home, a state-run facility where the death count is 74 thus far. If we are going to blame Trump, you better add NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo and our own Gov. Charlie Baker, too.

Where were all our so-called leaders back in early March when the first large outbreak of the virus in the United States was at the Life Care Center in Kirkland, WA attributing to 26 deaths to the virus before March 8th?

Crowded long-term care facilities were sitting ducks just waiting for residents to get sick and what strategy was being put into place to protect this vulnerable population from what has happened to them? There’s lots of blame to go around. I am angry and so should everyone else. I hope those reading this are just as angry as I am. There is no excuse for what happened to the most vulnerable among us. It was like putting folks on a slab of ice and sending them out in to the Arctic Sea and forgetting about them.

Richard Settipane

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Any questions regarding this matter, please contact **Export Towing, 50 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Telephone: 781-395-0808.**

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2003 NISSAN PATHFINDER
VIN #JN8DR09Y43W832267

1998 HONDA ODYSSEY
VIN #JHMRA3861WC011934

2007 KIA SEDONA
VIN #KNDMB233X76112681

Run dates: 05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 2020

Happy 81st Birthday
Nino DiAnni

Trying Time for Local Business Economy

by Sal Giarratani



Anna's Donuts still open for business

Over the past seven or so weeks with the State's economy shutdown as part of the larger national economic lockdown and stay in place and social distancing orders over 34 million Americans have lost their jobs including one million Bay State workers

When all is said and done, maybe between 25 to 40 percent of local businesses will never re-open and of those that



Creative advertising to draw in customers helps, too

thankfully do, it may also take a longtime to fully recover.

One little shop on Centre Street over in West Roxbury is heaven sent for many of the locals is Anna's Donuts.

This shop has been selling coffee and donuts since 1965, when someone actually named Anna owned the place. For the last 31 years Costa and Eleni Keskinidis have owned the place. During these past weeks when life changed as we knew it due to this virus this couple has been working hard and long to keep this business (their life) up and alive. What they have been doing has been replicated in many other places near and far.

My longtime friend in Quincy, Steve Obey has owned OB's Diner on Billings Road in the Norfolk Downs Business District in North Quincy. He opens up the place at 6:00 a.m. every day for take out orders and he too is surviving but with difficulty.

I tell him I am helping to keep his place alive one coffee at a time. I hope we will soon see the light at the end of the tunnel because the pain we are living through needs to end and quickly.

(Photos by Sal Giarratani)

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

Four Women "Quattro Donne"

subtitle, A North End Love Story

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

CHAPTER 21

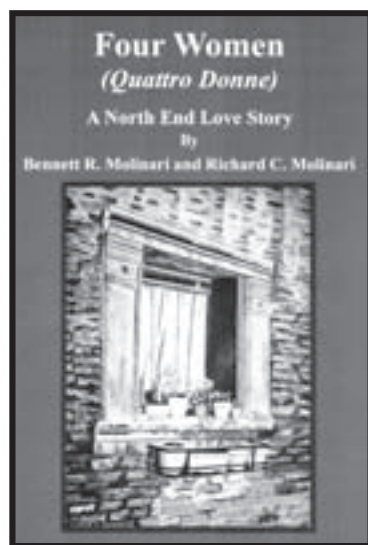
School Street Diner

School Street Diner was located in an alley very close to Scollay Square. It had the reputation for making some of the best éclairs in the city. When Grandpa was alive, he would often send Mom to the Diner to purchase pastry, always éclairs, which Grandma loved. You entered the Diner through a narrow doorway that led to a brightly lit basement cafeteria. The most prominent feature of its rather bland environment was the school chairs that filled the room. They were arranged in rows on a black and white tile floor. Each simple brown, wooden chair had an attached writing table, identifying it as a school desk, but instead of using the attachment for writing, it was used as a snack table.

Pietro arrived early and took a seat at the rear of the diner. Several days had gone by since he saw Carla, and he was feeling anxious about her arrival, if indeed she would come at all. Several minutes passed. He was feeling increasingly anxious when he heard the sound of footsteps rushing down the stairs. Carla, out of breath, tried to apologize to Pietro for being late, but before she could get the words out, Pietro took her hand and kissed it. Carla stroked his brown, wavy hair, lifted his head, and motioned him to sit, while she took a seat beside him.

"Carla, would you like an espresso?" Pietro offered. Laughing, Carla responded, "Pietro, this is an American cafeteria, they don't serve espresso, but I will have a cup of American coffee." Embarrassed by his mistake, Pietro agreed to try a cup. It was only a minute or two later when he returned with two steaming cups of coffee and two éclairs, all on a brown, wooden tray, which he set down on Carla's snack table.

Four Women "Quattro Donne" is available at R. Del Gaudio Gift Shop, 17 North Square North End (617-227-5915), adjoining Paul Revere House; Post-Gazette; Saint Francis Book and Gift Shop at Saint Leonard Peace Garden; Barbara's Bestsellers, South Station (857-0263-8737) ; lulu.com; molinaridesign.net; Greetings from Boston, Faneuil Hall; Amazon.com; BarnesandNoble.com; and Bookshop.org.



Pietro sipped the coffee, grimaced, and reluctantly choked it down. "Carla, how can you drink this American coffee? It has no flavor." Carla began to laugh, imitating Pietro's expression after tasting the coffee. "Carla, I didn't look like that." Carla responded, "Oh yes you did Pietro. You wrinkled your face up like a prune." Pietro took another sip as if to prove she was wrong. Once again, he couldn't help making the same expression, causing Carla to burst into laughter. Catching her breath, she teased Pietro by repeating in Italian, "Si guardi come una prugna," as she once


again compared his expression to a prune. Pietro began to laugh, made the face once again, this time without sipping the coffee. Pietro then tried the éclair which he thoroughly enjoyed. After taking a large bite, whipped cream gathered at the side of his mouth and chocolate was on the tip of his nose. Once again, Carla began to laugh. "Now, what are you laughing at Carla?" Pietro asked searchingly. "Pietro, you're a mess. You have whipped cream on your cheek and chocolate on your nose." She dipped her napkin into a glass of water and began cleaning his face. With each stroke of her hand, Pietro felt an unfamiliar excitement gathering within him. His emotions kept building as she continued to wipe his face, until he could no longer contain himself.

"Carla, I love you!" Pietro blurted out. Reacting to Pietro's confession, Carla drew her hand back and stood up. "Pietro, you mustn't say such a thing. We hardly know each other. I believe I love you also, but the situation is impossible." I'm not free to fall in love, my family needs me, and shortly you will be entering the seminary." "I need you Carla. I need you cara mia." Pietro's voice desperate as he reacted to Carla's words of caution.

◦ A Frank DePasquale Venture ◦

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Saint Walter of Pontoise

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Walter was born in the year 1030, in Andainville, Picardy, France. He was well educated in general, and a professor of philosophy and rhetoric before becoming a Benedictine monk at Rebais (diocese of Meaux).

Later in his career as a monk, because of his intellect, and the fact that he was fearless in speaking to those in power, he became much admired. King Philip I noticed his natural abilities and appointed him abbot of a monastery in Pontoise against Walter's will. Walter didn't have much choice, so he obediently accepted his new position. The honor that he received from his new position and the lack of discipline at the new monastery made him anxious. He had always desired a life of silence and prayer, so he fled to a distant monastery, hoping to escape his responsibilities. His monks found him, and brought him back to the monastery. He tried a number of other escapes as well attempting to live in solitude on an island, but

was found and was returned to Pontoise.

Walter eventually appealed to Pope Gregory VII asking to be relieved of his duties. The Pope counseled him to make good use of the talents God had given him and told him to never again run away from the monastery. Walter took that as a definitive answer and gave up on looking for a way out of his public ministry.

After coming back to Pontoise, Walter worked hard to combat corruption and the lack of discipline among his monks and the clergy of the region. This angered many who captured and imprisoned him. He was eventually released and resumed the work he began, devoting himself more to prayer, asking God to grant him the strength to persevere.

As he aged, he increased his devotions and disciplines. It is said that he rarely sat down while praying in Church; he would lean on his staff instead. He would often be the last man to leave the monk's night prayer, lost in contemplation, and sometimes would fall asleep there to be discovered in the morning in a heap on the floor.

Walter passed away on Good Friday in 1095. Miracles at his tomb and by his intervention approved almost immediately by Bishops of Rouen, Paris and Senlis in France.

He was Canonized in 1153, by Hugh de Boves, the Archbishop of Rouen. The Feast Day of Saint Walter of Pontoise is March 23rd.

He is a patron saint of prisoners, and of those who experience job-related stress.

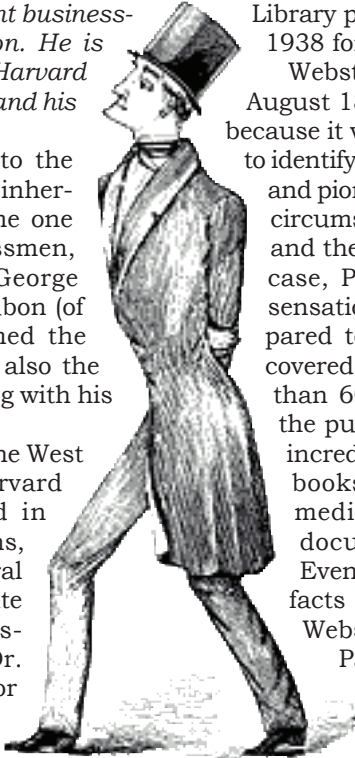
George Parkman

Prepared by West End Museum Director Sebastian Belfanti and Adam Tomasi

George Parkman was a prominent businessman and philanthropist in Boston. He is best known for donating land to Harvard Medical College (now part of MGH) and his murder in that very location.

Parkman was born in 1790 into the prominent Parkman family. After inheriting his father's estate he became one of Boston's most visible businessmen, landowners, and benefactors. George was a friend of John James Audubon (of the Audubon Society), who named the Parkman Wren after him, and is also the namesake of Parkman Street (along with his father, Samuel).

George gifted Harvard lands in the West End for the construction of Harvard Medical College, which opened in 1846 (only the foundation remains, now part of Massachusetts General Hospital). That building was the site in 1849 of George's murder, dismemberment, and disposal by Dr. John Webster, the Erving Professor of Chemistry at Harvard. The murder took place in the Harvard laboratory that Webster worked in, and parts of a body, including false teeth, were discovered at the site, disposed in a furnace, a tea-chest, and a privy (a bench with holes, serving as a toilet). A rough sketch of the laboratory was offered as evidence in Webster's trial, with each of the disposal sites marked. The Harvard Medical



Library purchased a copy of the drawing in 1938 for its collections.

Webster was convicted and executed in August 1850. The case was unprecedented because it was the first time a jury was asked to identify a body "beyond reasonable doubt", and pioneered new ground in scientific and circumstantial evidence. For this reason, and the general intrigue surrounding the case, Parkman's murder was the most sensational case for its time. Often compared to the O.J. Simpson Trial, it was covered in the entire Western world. More than 60,000 spectators rotated through the public gallery every ten minutes. An incredible media blitz generated many books in response, and present-day media about the case includes new documentaries and an iPhone app. Even now, some are still debating the facts of the case, and whether or not Webster was actually guilty.

Parkman's home now serves as the Mayor's Office Reception Hall in the Beacon Hill neighborhood. The home is said to be haunted due to a plumbing issue that occurred years after the murder, and is featured in a tour led by the Boston Ghosts company.

Read more about the Parkman Webster Murder Case at <https://thewestendmuseum.org/the-parkman-webster-murder-case/>

Sourced from PBS – The Parkman Family; Wikipedia; Parkman Genealogy; Boston Ghosts; The West End Museum; Center for the History of Medicine

NEMPAC Moves its 2020 Perform-a-thon Online to Benefit Music Scholarships

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will host its 6th annual Perform-a-thon for Music Scholarships and Educational Programs on Saturday, May 30th, ALL DAY online through Zoom. NEMPAC will schedule back to back performances throughout the entire day and are encouraging every student to participate. Using the same platform as their successful Online Open Mic Community Nights that was launched in early April, they aim to have thousands logging in throughout the day to catch and support their favorite performer. This Perform-a-thon online event is open to the public and will include raffles, silent auctions and special hosts.

Executive Director, Sherri Snow, says "NEMPAC is here for our community during these uncertain times. We will ensure that every child receives an equal opportunity to participate in high-quality artistic programming or experiences next year. Whatever we raise from the Perform-a-thon, we give right back in need-based youth scholarship awards or use to provide low-cost or free program opportunities at our school partnership sites. We're very excited to continue this event — and especially showcase all that our wonderful students have been learning at home."

Students and faculty participants of the Perform-a-thon are collecting pledges through the "Pledge Me" campaign. Students had already begun collecting pledges in February and early March before the campaign was put on hold due to COVID-19. NEMPAC will officially relaunch the campaign on May 3rd. Students are suggested to collect at least five pledges to support the NEMPAC Scholarship Fund and educational programs. To support your musicians, please visit www.nempacboston.org/performathon.



The NEMPAC Youth Scholarship Fund provides need-based tuition assistance to students from North End, Charlestown, and surrounding neighborhoods of the City of Boston. Students are given awards to pursue artistic studies in private music lessons, summer programs, or an after-school program of their choosing. NEMPAC strives to reach families regardless of financial status through free or low-cost private lessons and class programs. An August 2019 study determined that NEMPAC's private instruction rates are 30% lower, on average, than comparable music schools in surrounding areas. This year, due to their expanding programs and school partnerships, the need for scholarship support has never been greater. All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the NEMPAC Youth Scholarship Fund; help retain exceptional faculty; expand and sustain our programs; and maintain tuition costs that are lower than any other community music school in and around the City of Boston.

For more information about this event, please contact Allie Meek-Carufel, Educational Programs Director, at ameek@nempacboston.org or call 617-227-2270. To learn more, please visit www.nempacboston.org.

About NEMPAC:

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is a 501(c)(3) community music school and a professional performing arts center with a strong focus on serving the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding neighborhoods of the City of Boston by making quality music and arts programming accessible for all.

As a music school, NEMPAC reaches over a thousand students per week, offering music education programs across several art disciplines including dance, movement, and theatre. As a highly-respected performing arts center, NEMPAC presents public concerts and professional performance projects each year involving hundreds of local Boston artists.

NEMPAC believes we are all musicians and performers and prepares individuals to be the best version of themselves through music education programs and transformative artistic experiences.

Social Media:

Follow us on social media for real-time coverage at professional performances, music school updates, and content curated especially for artists: Facebook: [@NEMPACBoston](https://www.facebook.com/NEMPACBoston), Instagram: [@NEMPACBoston](https://www.instagram.com/NEMPACBoston), Twitter: [@NEMPACBoston](https://twitter.com/NEMPACBoston), LinkedIn: [North End Music & Performing Arts Center \(NEMPAC\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NEMPAC)

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Mrs. Murphy . . . As I See It

Big news! Coronavirus is alleged to be manmade! The White House is investing the allegations ... We've learned that between 2014-2019, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a portion of \$3.7 million to EcoHealth Alliance, a global environmental health nonprofit organization, helped fund research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China, now believed to have created the coronavirus pandemic. Yes, our taxpayer money went to aid the creation of the coronavirus. According to allegations Doctor Anthony Fauci maneuvered millions of our tax money to China. Fauci, the nation's top infectious expert, again dismissed the idea that a lab in Wuhan was the original source of the virus, and insists the virus originated in an animal and then transmitted to humans. However, he maintained over the years that a pandemic would be coming. The truth is the experimenting for viruses in the Wuhan lab got out of hand. According to sources, scientists in Wuhan were injecting bats with the virus at the Bio-weapons Lab when horseshoe bats got loose, and was never reported. One wonders if this was done intentional to halt our economy. After an investigation President Trump pulled money from the World Health Organization. His next move should be to fire Fauci!!! Wonder why the media hasn't reported this news???? ... The good weather is here, and people will be out in full swing letting down their guard! Continue to be aware of the dangers the virus can bring. Just be mindful and take precautions ... Mother's Day has come and gone without celebration, this quarantine has gone this far!!! People need to let their immune systems kick in ... Our dear Governor Charlie Baker announced he will lift the ban May 18th. Other states sick of restrictions have already opened ... The Mayor of Somerville, Joe Curtatone announced there will be a \$300 fine for anyone caught not wearing a mask. It's surprising to learn the ultra, ultra liberal Mayor of Somerville made this

decision because he was the one that declared his city to be a "Sanctuary City." One can assume Curtatone made this decision because he's aware many of Somerville's illegal population have not been vaccinated making them susceptible to the virus, and passing it on!!! Also the Mayor of Lowell imposed a \$300 fine, another city with mucho illegal people ... Let's revue welfare and food stamp abuse. There are so many people on Welfare allowing their debit cards to be used for anything and everything of pleasure other than what the card is meant to be used. Selling food stamps is popular among recipients of Welfare. What is the taxpayer to do???? Especially when they have to stand by and witness the abuse ... There is plenty of free food donated by different organizations for the needy, elderly, or people stricken with the virus, but like anything else, there are those who don't need the help, but are there in line with their car to cash in on the freebies ... Kudos to The Salvation Army who are always there to help people. Besides the Red Cross, The Salvation Army is one of the best organizations this country has today ... Most complaints from consumers during the pandemic! Not being able to reach vendors during this pandemic? ... Channel 7 investigative reporter reported recently that a lot of organic produce sold at Whole Foods is from China. This brings consumers to realize that we need to read labels and find out where our products are coming from ... Joe Biden's health advisor Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel stated that he doesn't anticipate life fully returning to normal for another 18 months, based on guidance from health professionals in the Trump administration. The kind of normal where we go traveling, we go to restaurants, we go to concerts, we go to religious services, we go on cruises, until we have a vaccine that protects everyone. That's 18 months, it's not going to be sooner," Emanuel told ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl and Political Director Rick Klein ... *Till next time. Stay Healthy.*



On the Aisle

THEATRE NOTES

BY BOBBY FRANKLIN

An Interview with Author Len Abram

Hi Len, thank you for speaking with us at The Boston Post-Gazette.

Post-Gazette: You have written three novels — *The Medallion*, *Debris*, and your latest, *Empty Doorways*. While *Debris* is a historical novel, how would you describe *The Medallion* and *Empty Doorways*? Is *Empty Doorways* a sequel to *The Medallion*?

Len Abram: Thanks for this opportunity. *Debris*, *A Novel of Love, War and the Lusitania*, required research: from the politics and strategies that shaped World War I, to the ship designs that made the *Lusitania* so fast, to the German submarine U-20 that sunk the ship, killing 1200 passengers and crew. I learned that spies on the New York docks targeted the ship for attack. I fictionalized who those spies were, how they got there, and what happened to them.

The Medallion and its sequel *Empty Doorways* are contemporary detective stories. Like most people, I get my information from reading newspapers or watching TV news about crimes in metropolitan Boston. I did take several courses in gun use and gun safety, how to operate and fire the Glock my detectives carry. A .357 pistol plays a role in *Empty Doorways*. The bullet can go through an engine block. I learned to load and fire one.

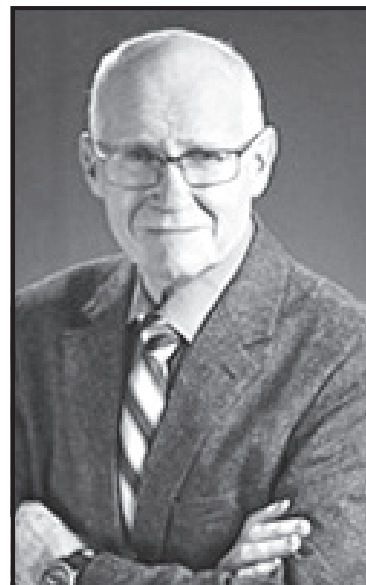
Post-Gazette: Is Boston important in your stories because you live in the area and are familiar with it or is there something special about Boston that adds to the flavor of your books?

Len Abram: The cabbie Sasha Denisov gets many of his fares at South Station, one of two major Boston transportation centers. Not far from the station is the Boston Police headquarters at Government Center, where Detectives Schwartz and Di Natale work.

As realtors say, Location, location, location. Like lives, stories have a context. Boston appears in all three books. Even the historical novel *Debris* focuses on a distinguished Boston family of the early 1900s. The Lindseys built the chapel on Newbury Street in memory of their daughter Leslie and her husband Stewart, drowned when the ship sank. To this day, weddings are performed in the chapel.

The Medallion and *Empty Doorways* are set in today's Boston, its neighborhoods, such as Mattapan, and its surrounding cities, such as Cambridge. The two books mention shared events, but can be read in or out of sequence. Major and minor characters reflect the ethnic and cultural varieties that make up the communities of the city — and add vitality and richness to life here.

From the Boston Common, when we look up Beacon Hill at



the State House, we might see its golden dome as our highest ideals we climb to reach. If beyond our grasp, we continue to try.

Post-Gazette: Tell us a little about the characters that are common to both books. How did you come up with the names for them? Their personas?

Len Abram: My three major characters are taxi driver Sasha Denisov and Detectives Ben Schwartz and Al Di Natale of Boston PD Homicide.

Immigrant Sasha Denisov grew up in the Ukraine, as did my parents and cousins. They served in the Russian army like Sasha, but the cabbie was in the Special Forces Spetsnaz, after which he names his cab company. Sasha's name I drew from Ivan Denisovich, the everyman character in Solzhenitsyn's novel of the Gulag, the Soviet Union's concentration camps. Like so many, Sasha fled his native land for a better life.

Ben Schwartz, an outstanding detective, is in his 50s, a couple of decades older than his partner Al Di Natale. Originally from New York, Schwartz is Jewish, not observant like his wife Evie, but each year he goes to a synagogue to pray for a murder victim, one of his cold cases, which he is determined to close in *The Medallion*.

Schwartz's partner Al Di Natale, with the lyrical Italian name, is a former Catholic altar boy from Woburn. Di Natale is a decorated Army combat veteran, who distinguished himself as a patrolman to become a young detective. Di Natale is very handsome, an asset and a curse. His vanity may ruin his marriage.

In *Empty Doorways*, Schwartz and he join the rest of Boston searching for a missing 12-year-old boy from Mattapan.

Post-Gazette: Why this topic, these characters?

Len Abram: Many years ago, I taught eighth grade in an inner-city Boston school. I told one disruptive boy to stay after school as punishment. He couldn't. He had to meet his parole officer. On parents' night, the mother of one of my black students, tall like the missing boy in *Empty Doorways*, said to me, "Mr. Abram, please learn my boy," By that she meant teach and maybe lead or influence her son. I think of all those parents and grandparents, who want the best outcome for their children — and what they are up against

in some of our neighborhoods. I think I speak for them in my writing.

Post-Gazette: Tell us a little about your journey to becoming a novelist.

Len Abram: I love reading stories and I learned that I love telling stories too. I have a PhD in literature and taught for seven years, four of them in the Far East for the U.S. Armed Forces education program. I ended up as a tech writer in computer networks when there were no teaching jobs.

I have always written essays and book reviews, along with my technical writing. One day I left work, which was next to South Station, and I noticed the cabs lined up for fares. I had an idea about a taxi cab driver, an immigrant from the Ukraine, who risks his life while pursuing the American Dream. I wrote a paragraph, and showed it to a friend. "Why don't you do something with this?" he asked. That started me writing novels.

Post-Gazette: Writing is a tough job that takes a lot of discipline. How do you structure your creative time?

Len Abram: I joked to another writer when my third book was published: the victory of tenacity over talent. Some truth in that. One of the characters in *Empty Doorways* is given a saying or motto for his recovery from a severe injury: Never Quit.

I've had many setbacks and many rejections about my writing. I don't know how much talent I have. Someone has said that talent is everywhere. Whatever success is, it takes more than talent.

When I am writing a novel, I work five days a week, three to four hours my limit. Right now, I am in between novels, and just finished a book review. That sharpens my skills while I am thinking of my next project.

Post-Gazette: Will there be another or will you move to another topic?

Len Abram: Whether these two detective books begin a series — we'll have to wait for the next novel on that score. But I am planning one.

Post-Gazette: This seems like something that could work quite well as a TV series. Any plans to adapt it into a screenplay?

Len Abram: An editor and friend is a professional screen writer. We are talking about a series based upon the cases of Detectives Schwartz and Di Natale.

Post-Gazette: In closing, why will people enjoy reading your *Empty Doorways*?

Len Abram: One of the characters in the novel says that if we cannot protect our kids, none of us is safe. If we cannot protect Gabriel Clay in Mattapan, how safe is any of us anywhere?

The cabbie, the teachers, the parents and grandparents, the clergy, and of course the police, like Schwartz and Di Natale, are fighting to save the kids, in effect, our future. That's worth writing about, and maybe reading.

Thank you, Len Abram.

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VIDEO
VIEWS... more than meets the eye

by Bob Morello

TOM CRUISE: TOP GUN – DAYS OF THUNDER – WAR OF THE WORLDS (4K Ultra HD Blu-ray) Paramount Home Ent.

Feel the need for speed when the blockbuster hit *Top Gun* arrives for the first time on 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray. The Digital and disc releases include a brand-new featurette that explores the film’s legacy and enduring popularity, plus new interviews with Tom Cruise, producer Jerry Bruckheimer and members of the cast of *Top Gun: Maverick*. Fans can also enjoy a retrospective segment from 2016 looking back at 30 years of *Top Gun*. Additional previously released bonus content on the disc includes commentary by producer Jerry Bruckheimer, director Tony Scott, co-screenwriter Jack Epps, Jr. and naval experts; *Danger Zone: The Making of Top Gun*; a look inside the real *Top Gun*; original theatrical promotional material; music videos, and more.

You can make it a Tom Cruise marathon with two more action-packed favorites arriving on 4K Ultra HD Digital for the first time: *Days of Thunder* and *War of the Worlds* (2005). Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2020, *Days of Thunder* reteamed director Tony Scott, producer Jerry Bruckheimer, and Cruise in 1990, following their massive success with *Top Gun*. Featuring some of the most spectacular racing action ever captured on film, the movie further cemented Cruise’s star status. The new 4K Ultra HD release includes a brand-new featurette looking back on the production with Bruckheimer.

Directed by Steven Spielberg, *War of the Worlds* (2005) celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2020. Cruise took on the starring role in this contemporary retelling of the H.G. Wells classic. The new 4K UHD/Blu-ray Combo Pack includes access to a digital copy of the film, along with over an hour of previously released bonus content, including multiple behind-the-scenes featurettes, production diaries, a look at the characters, and more.

CUNNINGHAM (DVD) Magnolia Home Ent.

Cunningham traces legendary American choreographer Merce Cunningham’s artistic evolution over three decades of risk and discovery (1944-1972), from his early years as a struggling dancer in postwar New York to his emergence as one of the world’s most visionary choreographers. Cunningham delivers his spirit through excerpts from 14 dances that highlight the dimensional relationships among performers and settings, as he visually communicates his groundbreaking concepts, deep-rooted passion and pure genius. Diagrams and drawings of Merce, and dancers, further unravel the intricate layers of the visionary’s mind to offer and unforgettable tribute to one of the world’s greatest modern dance artists, in a breathtaking explosion of dance and music, as this documentary immerses audiences in the power of dance, and equally transcends them into the essence of Merce’s

career — the one choreographer that defined 20th century dance!

FLASHDANCE (Blu-ray) Paramount Presents

Paramount Pictures’ new label *Paramount Presents*, steps up with their latest offering, the newly remastered, *Flashdance*. The hit movie that became a pop culture sensation, delivers an electrifying mix of music, drama and dance that dazzles the senses as it touches the heart. Jennifer Beals stars as Alex, a fiercely determined 18-year-old with one all-consuming dream to study at the Pittsburgh Conservatory of Dance. Working during the day as a welder, and at night as an exotic dancer, Alex bravely pursues her dream, undertaking an unforgettable journey that reveals the power of her convictions. Beals’ co-star was Michael Nouri as Nick Hurley. The film also features the Oscar-winning song “Flashdance ... What a Feeling.” Presented in collectible packaging that includes a foldout image and interior artwork of key movie moments. Special features includes anew ‘Filmmaker Focus’ with director Adrian Lyne, as well as previously released featurettes on the look of the film and the phenomenon it became.

VEROTIKA (Blu-ray) Cleopatra Ent.

Verotika is a creepy, surreal and bloody horror anthology told in three tales culled from rocker Glenn Danzig’s long-running edgy comic imprint of the same name. The first segment tells the story of a woman with eyeballs for nipples, who conjures a giant, murderous albino man-spider every time she falls asleep. In the second story, a disfigured dancer collects other women’s faces. The third and final segment is a take on the Elizabeth Bathory legend, about a countess who bathes in the blood of virgins in order to remain youthful. Presented by a mysterious woman named Morella (Kayden Kross), and inspired by classic horror cinematic anthologies such as *Trilogy of Terror* and Mario Bava’s *Black Sabbath*. Glenn Danzig’s *Verotika* tells three shocking tales on this three-disc set, each one more horrific than the last.

ELVIRA: MISTRESS OF THE DARK (Blu-ray) Arrow Video

She’s Back! *Elvira*, Horrorland’s hostess with the mostest, with this long-awaited, positively bursting-at-the-seams special edition of her big screen debut. *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark*! Having just quit her job as a Los Angeles TV horror hostess, Elvira receives the unexpected news that she’s set to inherit part of her great aunt Morgana’s estate. Arriving in the small town of Fallwell, Massachusetts to claim her inheritance, Elvira receives a less than enthusiastic reception from the conservative locals — amongst the, her sinister uncle Vincent, who, unbeknownst to Elvira, is in fact an evil warlock secretly scheming to steal the old family spell book for his own nefarious ends. Campy, quirky and stuffed to the brim with double entendres.

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



Harvest on Vine Food Pantry in Charlestown has seen approximately a 45% spike in people seeking the pantry’s services.

MAY BRINGS OUT MEMORIES FOR THIS ALMOST TOWNIE

I am quite sure many of my friends say, “I didn’t grow up in Charlestown, but always had strong family roots in this great community.” I did live in Charlestown for almost a dozen years between 1968 to 1984, and made friends with community leaders back in that period like Bobby Wallace, Dennis McLaughlin, and Joe and Maggie Kent to name just a few.

I believe the Harvest on Vine food pantry has become an essential food source for so many in need, especially since this pandemic changed our whole world. That is why I have been a volunteer at this pantry along with so many other great folks.

Last Friday was May 8th, and history popped into my head while I was exercising during a pantry break down at the high school track. I recalled another May 8th (1962) when the Charlestown Potato Shed Fire destroyed a good chunk of the neighborhood economy. May 8th will always be in my memory since my Uncle Jim owned F.J. Ward Potatoes down at the sheds near the bridge to Cambridge.

I will always be a part of Charlestown because I have the community’s DNA. Oh, by the way, I just had my birthday

on May 4th, and my Uncle Nealy would have been 112 on Mother’s Day.

Old memories are great to hold on to, but making new memories as we move forward means living your life for yourself and others.

WHEN BUSINESSES START RE-OPENING

Things will never be the same as we begin to open up the local economy. It won’t be like hitting a switch. It will take time. Eventually things will move on from the extreme measures we are now taking. However, I still fear that between 25 to 40 percent of all small businesses in our communities will never re-open. The hardest hit will be many minority businesses that will fade into oblivion.

Big business will survive as it always does. Government looks out for them much more than local shops owned by local owners who hire local employees. Was the cure worse than the disease? The answer to this question may take some time to answer.

HOWEVER, WHAT I DO KNOWS IS ...

None of us will come out of this time the way we entered it.

We will remain different people. Whether it will be a positive change is still not known and won’t be for some time. The fear will remain for a time to come. We will view each other differently. Social contact has been ruptured. Getting close to each other will stay a struggle until we settle down post-COVID-19. Too many died in nursing homes and all kinds of long-term care facilities. I lost five friends to this virus because of their age and health care issues. We as a society did not focus on those most likely to get this virus and succumb to it. Hopefully, we learned a good lesson!

No matter how long we live, we will not forget this period in our history. Nor should we.



SUPERMAN STRONG — Last week, North Enders noticed that the Tony DeMarco statue had some new attire on. Tony was sporting a Superman scrub top and facial covering. Looks like COVID-19 is the new Kryptonite.
(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800
Docket No. M120P1764EA

Estate of
JANET PATRICIA DAVID
Also Known As
JANET P. DAVID
Date of Death: February 22, 2020

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joshua M. David of Needham, MA, Petitioner Paul A. David of Bow, NH**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Joshua M. David of Needham, MA, Paul A. David of Bow, NH has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 05/15/2020

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TV

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(Solution on Page 9)

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Would you believe it, this column is 29 years old today. That means, I've written 1508 columns entitled "Nanna and Babbononno" (29 x 52 = 1,508). How it all started was because of an introduction to Pam Donnaruma, our editor and publisher, at a dinner party at Dean Saluti and Margie Cahn's home, roughly a month before I began the column. I knew about *La Gazette del Massachusetts*, this paper when it was printed in Italian, as Babbononno was a fan and, every week, used to read the articles and stories to me when I was a child, translating them into English as he read.

That introduction to Pam resulted in her mentioning that one of her writers was leaving the paper and she needed someone to take her place. I had been writing a column for the Musicians' Union magazine, *Prelude* for some time. My column, "A La Breve," was about the music scene in Boston, past and present. I was a third generation musician in my family and knew the inner workings of the business, hence my writing stories about the men and women who musically entertained locally.

After Pam gave me the offer, I spoke to Dad and Babbononno about my problem. What should I write about if I accepted the job? I told them that I didn't think the *Post Gazette* readers would be interested in stories found in my "A La Breve" column. Both Dad and my grandfather reminded me that I grew up Italian, in an extended family. They added in that *Post Gazette* readers, most of them Italian or Italian American, would identify with the antics of Italian grandparents, American born parents, Sunday diners and growing up in East Boston and the North End. So, I accepted the challenge and my first column appeared on May 15, 1991, and was about Babbononno coming to America in 1896.

Michele Angelo Contini, Babbononno, was born in Foggia, Italia, in 1875, the youngest son of Angelo and Maria Contini. My great grandfather passed away when Babbononno was young and

Maria, my great grandmother, feared that her youngest son was growing up wild. She sent him to the parish priest to straighten him out and he was taught two trades. The priest taught him how to make furniture and how to apply different finishes on the wood. The lessons were centered around using hand tools, as electricity hadn't hit Foggia as of yet. The priest also discovered that Michele had an interest in music and taught him drums and guitar.

Babbononno married at a young age, but couldn't make enough money to support his wife and young daughter, so, he auditioned for the national band that was part of the Royal Italian Marines. He lied about his age and height (4'-11"), passed the audition and became a marine.

There had been a tradition started by President Thomas Jefferson which ended after Truman was out of office. Each year, the Italian Marine Band would come to Washington and serenade the folks in the White House. Michele Contini was a drummer in the band that arrived in 1896. Not long after the band came to the U.S., Babbononno received a message that his young wife died in child birth. He was beside himself and resigned his position. After the band left Washington, he bounced around the east coast for a time. He headed first to New Orleans where there was a sizable Italian population, but the police chief was shot and the locals blamed the Italians. They began to beat up any they could catch and actually lynched 21 in one day, almost causing Italy to break off diplomatic relations with the United States. Babbononno got out of there in a hurry. Heading back up north, New York was too busy and overwhelming for him, and hearing about Boston's North End, he headed to our fair city.

After arriving, he found the North End and headed to a restaurant on Hanover Street for lunch and became involved in conversation with a man at the next table, Antonio Ceruolo. As the conversation progressed, Antonio revealed that he shared an apartment off Salem Street

with three other Italians and one was leaving soon. He offered Babbononno the slot and my grandfather accepted. Antonio found Michele work as a furniture finisher and Babbononno found work as a musician at night.

Antonio did well as a plasterer, and was bringing his siblings to America, one by one. The next one in line was his youngest sister, Giovannina (Nanna). When Babbononno saw her picture, he asked Antonio if he could accompany him to New York to intercept her when she arrived. When they were back in Boston, Michele and Giovannina began dating and eventually married. They Anglicized their names to Michael and Jenny, and with the birth of my mother, the family began to grow, next was Uncle Nick, then Antonio who died early on, and then Uncle Gino.

Nanna found out that Babbononno was widowed and had children living with his mother in Foggia. She sent for them, and soon the family included Grace and Paul. Grace and Nanna never hit it off, and she was soon gone from the scene. Paul accepted Nanna as his mother and all was well with the Contini family. Babbononno discovered none of his sons were interested in making or finishing furniture, but also discovered all were musically talented. As a result, Uncles Paul and Nick learned clarinet and saxophone, and Uncle Gino, drums. Paul would play a few nights per week and work as a printer by day. Uncle Gino's musical career would be interrupted by WWII, and he would give up playing once he was discharged from the Army Air Corps. Uncle Nick played day and night for the rest of his life.

My mother would meet a bass player, John De Cristoforo, who worked with Uncle Nick. She would marry him three years later. With a slight name change, I was born in 1938, as John James Christoforo, son of John and Anne Christoforo. We lived in Nanna and Babbononno's house on Eutaw Street in East Boston, eventually moving to an apartment two houses away, where we would stay until Easter of 1961, and then head out to Belmont. I'm going to hold the story here as I have a favor to ask.

The Committee for October is Italian Heritage Month and all other Italian organizations are asking for YOUR HELP. Our cause is "Boston For Italy Stay Strong." Our founders, including Lino Rullo, our president, Richard Vita and I, past Chairman of the Board, are asking for your financial support. Anything you donate will help the folks in the land of our birth or ancestors. Make your check out to **Lino Rullo for "Boston For Italy Stay Strong."** Send it to **Eagle Bank, 389 Hanover St. Boston, 02113, Attn.: Giselle DiPaolo** and it will be sent to the cause in Italy, the country most ravaged by the Corona Virus.

Thank you in advance, (Mille Grazie in anticipo)
GOD BLESS AMERICA



For centuries, one of the biggest food debates amongst Italian Americans has been whether their legendary Sunday *sugo* should be called "Sauce" or "Gravy." Sauce proponents claim the word *sugo* translates to sauce, and gravy is a term that has never even been used in Italy. Gravy supporters argue that sauce refers to a meatless marinara, and gravy is the result of tomatoes merging with cooked meat juices. In Italy, meat-based tomato sauce commonly served with pasta is not called sauce or gravy, it is usually referred to as Ragu. There are truths to both sides of this dispute, and several different views on how these terms originated. While opinions may vary, there is one thing we do know for certain; it was Italians from Italy that created them!



In my family, "Sunday Gravy" was much more than just a pot of delicious cuts of meat with tomatoes and spices. It was a recipe rooted in tradition, truly a labor of love. The process to make this gravy was timely and usually began early Sunday morning. The aroma of meats, tomatoes, cheese and spices filled the air as the gravy slowly simmered for several hours. Family would gather round the table and begin with antipasto, soup and bread. Followed by macaroni and meatballs in one platter, and sausage, spareribs, and braciola in another. Sunday dinner was a weekly tradition that began when my family first came to this country. It was a day to spend eating, drinking, and sharing laughter with those you love, and it wouldn't be complete without "Sunday Gravy"!

SUNDAY GRAVY *Domenica Ragù di Carne*

Gravy

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 4 - 6 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1 onion, minced
- 7 - 8 fresh basil leaves
- oregano
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 pounds sweet and hot Italian sausage
- 2 pounds spareribs (beef or pork)
- 1 recipe meatballs (see below)
- 2 (6 oz) cans tomato paste
- 3 cans (28 oz) ground peeled tomatoes
- 2 cans (28 oz) san marzano whole peeled tomatoes, crushed by hand

Meatballs

- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 1/4 cup minced onions
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 pounds ground meat (either a combination of beef, veal and pork or all beef)
- 1 1/2 cups fresh breadcrumbs (you can use seasoned)
- 3/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten with a little bit of whole milk
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large bowl combine garlic, onions, parsley, salt and pepper, breadcrumbs and cheese, mix well. Add ground meat, mix together with hands, add egg mixture and continue mixing. If mixture is too wet, add more breadcrumbs and cheese. Roll into even sized meatballs, set aside.

In a large frying pan over medium heat, brown the sausages in the oil, followed by the spareribs, and then the meatballs (recipe is above). Set meat aside on a large platter.

In the same pan, sauté the garlic and onions in the remaining fat until light golden brown. Add the tomato paste and cook for about 5 minutes stirring frequently. Transfer this entire mixture into a large saucepan and add the tomatoes, basil, oregano, salt and pepper, and mix well. Add all of the meats and bring to a simmer. Cook uncovered 4 hours, making sure not to boil and stirring often.

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



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Boston Public Library Presents The Grimm Escape

A Virtual Escape Room for Teens Presented by Puzzle Break



Back with more dates through May 2020 due to popular demand! Tuesday, May 19, 2020 (4:00–5:30 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 27, 2020 (4:00 –5:30 p.m.)

Registration is limited to teens ages 13-18; please DO NOT register for multiple dates, but please DO register on the event waiting list if your preferred date is full. All registrants will receive an essential confirmation email prior to the live event.

The Boston Public Library has partnered with the popular escape room company Puzzle Break to transport its teen patrons to The Grimm Escape, their 100% virtual escape room experience! A hardy cohort of up to 12 teens ages 13 through 18 will venture together to a fantastic land which has fallen under the spell of a sinister witch. Only by banding together can they hope to break her curse in the 60 minutes before the land is forever hexed!

This FREE, immersive experience will push participants’ problem-solving and collaboration skills as they navigate an entertaining tale with the help of Puzzle Break’s live storyteller host. Designed for both novice and experienced escape room enthusiasts alike, this virtual edition of The Grimm Escape has something for everyone!

Each participant must have access to Zoom videoconferencing software and an Internet browser in order to communicate and collaborate with others throughout the experience. Information to access the escape room will be sent via email prior to the event. The event will begin with a rules explanation and may not last the full 90-minute scheduled period. Please contact Teen Technology Coordinator Chris Jacobs at cjacobs@bpl.org with any questions.

Additional Details: This event will be conducted online, and requires the use of free Zoom videoconferencing software.

The Best Dahlias for a Backyard Cutting Garden

by Melinda Myers



For bright, energetic bouquets, grow an assortment of red, orange, and yellow dahlias.
(Photo courtesy of Longfield-Gardens.com)

Dahlias are bold and beautiful flowers that are easy to grow in any sunny garden. They are also spectacular in summer flower arrangements. With just a few dahlias, you can enjoy picking your own fresh-cut flowers every day from July through September.

These spring-planted tubers make gorgeous additions to flower beds and even the vegetable garden. If space allows, the very best way to grow dahlias for bouquets is in a cutting garden. A backyard cutting garden doesn’t need to be large. Even a 3’ x 6’ raised bed will give you plenty of space for 6 to 8 full size dahlia plants. Planting dahlia tubers in rows lets you get maximum productivity with minimal maintenance.

When choosing dahlias for a small to medium size cutting garden, start by narrowing your choices. Select colors that you can imagine looking great together in a vase. This will make it easy to create lots of creative combinations on the fly.

Choose red, orange, and yellow flowers if you like energetic arrangements that mimic the colors of late summer and fall. Blossoms in cool colors and pastels, such pink, lavender and violet, will be softer and more soothing. Include purple and burgundy flowers to add drama and help unify warm and cool colors.

Floral designers know that combining flowers with different shapes and sizes makes arrangements more interesting. Dahlias offer many options and it’s one of the reasons they are such a popular cut flower.

Ball dahlias have tightly curled petals and dense, perfectly round, 3 to 4" flower heads. Varieties such as Sylvia and Jowey Mirella are perfect for adding repeating bursts of color. Decorative dahlias have the classic dahlia look, with 4 to 6" wide, open-faced blossoms and orderly layers of petals. American Dawn and Great Silence are two reliable and versatile, decorative dahlias.

The flowers of dinnerplate dahlias can measure 8 to 10" across and these enormous blossoms make it easy to make stunning summer bouquets. Popular varieties for cutting include Café au Lait, Penhill Dark Monarch and Otto’s Thrill. Add texture and movement to your arrangements with cactus dahlias. Varieties such as Yellow Star and Nuit d’Ete have tightly rolled petals that give the flowers a spiky appearance.

Single and peony-flowered dahlias are seldom seen at the florist or even in farmer’s market bouquets because they don’t travel well. But home gardeners can enjoy growing varieties such as scarlet-Bishop of Llandaff or the melon and burnt orange flowers of HS Date. These plants tend to be compact and rarely need staking.

Don’t let the many options overwhelm you. Consider starting with an assortment such as the Flirty Fleurs Sorbetto Collection (longfield-gardens.com). It includes five varieties of pink and burgundy dahlias, specially selected by an experienced floral designer.

Most cutting garden flowers are picked before they are fully open. But dahlias should not be harvested until they are fully open and in their prime. To avoid crushing the stems, make your cuts with a sharp knife rather scissors.

If you want your dahlias to have nice, long stems, take a cue from cut flower farmers. When harvesting for market or removing spent flowers, they always remove the entire stem, cutting right back to a main stalk. Though this means sacrificing some buds in the short term, the next round of flowers will have noticeably longer stems.

When selecting plants for this year’s flower garden, be sure to include plenty of dahlias. These spring-planted, summer-blooming bulbs will take your homegrown flower arrangements to a whole new level.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses How to Grow Anything DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Celebrate Endangered Species Day



Northern Red-bellied Cooter

The 15th Annual Endangered Species Day will be observed on May 15, 2020 to recognize conservation efforts to protect our nation’s endangered species. Here are five things you might not know about endangered species:

1. **Endangered species live in Massachusetts.** The word “endangered” may conjure images of polar bears or rhinos, but there are endangered species right here in Massachusetts! The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act List protects 173 animals and 259 plants, including crawling *barrens tiger beetles*, whistling *upland sandpipers*, and beautiful plants like the *ram’s head lady’s slipper*. From the big to the small, we care about protecting all of them!

2. **The year 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA).** Over the past 30 years, a lot has been done for the native plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates that are either at risk, or may become at risk, of extinction. MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) conserves and protects the most vulnerable animals and plants in Massachusetts and the habitats upon which they depend. Many species have benefited from the protection afforded under MESA and the work of NHESP over the years, including the restoration and conservation

of several notable species such as the peregrine falcon and bald eagle. Currently, there are more than 400 native plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates that are officially listed under MESA as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in the Commonwealth.

3. **Endangered species are at risk of extinction.** Rare species face many threats, including habitat loss and degradation, climate change, disease, competition with invasive species, and pollution. Some rare species are only found in a few locations statewide with very specific habitat requirements, making them especially vulnerable. For example, the *eastern spadefoot* is challenged by the species’ very specific habitat requirements. First, as a burrowing animal, they need loose, sandy, or loamy soils that generally lack stone. Second, to breed and deposit their eggs, spadefoots rely on shallow basins that have a lot of sun exposure, fill with water as a result of surface flooding, and dry out in a matter of weeks following inundation. These conditions don’t occur in tandem in many places, and a number of sites that once supplied suitable habitat have been lost to development. MassWildlife’s NHESP is partnering with residents, municipalities, and land trusts to monitor and restore the last remaining populations of eastern spadefoot from inland areas of New England.

4. **NHESP staff are diligently working to recover rare species and their habitats.** NHESP’s conservation efforts including research, land protection, habitat management, education, and regulations, has paid off for many rare species. For example, the *Northern red-bellied cooter* is the focus of the longest and most intensive freshwater headstart program in existence. Each year, MassWildlife collects 100–150 hatchling turtles from the wild. These hatchlings are raised



Eastern Spadefoot

in captivity for 8–9 months, producing yearlings that at the time of release are approximately the size of a 3-year-old in the wild. The larger yearlings are significantly less likely to be eaten by predators and therefore more likely to make it to adulthood. Since 1985, over 4,450 headstarted turtles have been successfully released!

5. **You can make a difference!** Help MassWildlife monitor rare species by telling us when you see them. You can also make a big impact by donating directly to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Please consider making a donation today of \$4.32 to honor the 432 animals and plants on the MA Endangered Species Act List. Find out more about reporting rare species and donating by visiting mass.gov/supportnhesp.

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

MassWildlife is responsible for the conservation of freshwater fish and wildlife in the Commonwealth, including endangered plants and animals. MassWildlife restores, protects, and manages land for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy.

MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state, as well as the protection of the natural communities that make up their habitats.

LEGAL NOTICE

EXPORT ENTERPRISES
TOWING

NOTICE TO OWNERS

Notice is hereby given under the provisions of (M.G.L. c255 Section 39A) of the sale or disposal of the following motor vehicles to satisfy our garage keeper's lien for towing (M.G.L. c155b Section 6B) storage & expense for holding sale of auction.

Any questions regarding this matter, please contact **Export Towing, 50 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA**, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Telephone: 781-395-0808.

2014 CHEVY EXPRESS
VIN #1GCSGAFX0E1152649

2006 HONDA CIVIC
VIN #2HGFA16556H504260
Run dates: 05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P1750EA

**Estate of
JOHN F. TROUGHTON
Date of Death: November 05, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David S. Troughton of Chelmsford, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

David S. Troughton of Chelmsford, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 05/15/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P1913EA

**Estate of
DONG SUK RICE
Date of Death: March 19, 2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Maria Bergmann of Ayer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 02, 2020.

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

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

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

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: May 06, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/15/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **May 16, 2020 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2000 HONDA ACCORD
VIN 1HGCG1652YA037530
2003 SUBARU LEGACY
VIN 4S3BH635136303687

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

Signed
Gabriela Estrada, Owner
Run dates: 05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. SU20P0420EA

**Estate of
STEVEN RAYMOND BERKE
Date of Death: December 31, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

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

Richard D. Kahn of Waltham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 05/15/2020

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. SU20P0626EA

**Estate of
BRUCE FAULKNER WHITE
Date of Death: March 08, 2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 11, 2020.

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

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

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

**WITNESS, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: May 07, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/15/2020



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarattani



You Won't See Peanuts, Popcorn, Crackerjacks, Or Fans at the Ballpark

It seems like the powers-that-be in Major League Baseball really want to get going on plans to open up the 2020 season on the Fourth of July. They envision an 82-game season with regional games. For instance, the Boston Red Sox would only play against AL East teams and do interplay against NL East teams. The playoffs would have 14 teams in post-season play. It does seem all about revenue as in TV revenue. All the games would be held in fan-free stadiums. The DH rule would be extended into the National League and negotiations over revenue splits and pro-rated salaries which would be based

on basically a half season of play.

As for me, I really don't care if there's a 2020 season at all. This COVID-19 virus has sucked the joy out of me.

I Don't See Too Many Stolen Bases this Year

Looks like baseball is coming back because the sport needs revenue badly. However, I am not too sure about the future of stolen bases. It is going to be pretty difficult tagging out runners when you have to stay 6 feet away.

Sean Flaherty And The Great Al Kaline

A few issues back I wrote up a nice commentary on Hall of Famer Al Kaline who played his long career which started right out of high school for the

Detroit Tigers. I grew up with baseball through the late '50s, '60s and '70s when baseball was baseball.

I have many "Extra Innings" fans out there that like the column and sometimes contact me with ideas or just to talk baseball. Recently after Kaline's death, I did a commentary on him and got some feedback from Sean Flaherty of Charlestown who told me his dad liked Kaline too and Sean sent me a great 1970 Al Kaline baseball card.

Growing up my younger brother and I had a great baseball card collection starting in 1956, and going up to 1964. I had many Kaline cards. He was always one of the best of his era.

Thanks for the card Sean.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

caused the deaths of "thousands" of vulnerable elderly residents. Pataki has called for an independent investigation of Cuomo's decision to require under-equipped nursing homes to accept COVID-19 patients.

The NY Presidential primary on June 23rd is now back on after a federal judge in Manhattan ordered New York State to reinstate the primary after former presidential candidate Andrew Yang sued over its cancellation. Judge Analisa Torres ruled on May 5th, that the State Board of Elections' decision to cancel over pandemic fears was unconstitutional. This was a victory

for the democratic process and the state Democratic Party bigwigs should be ashamed of themselves.

Mass. Rep. Ted Speliotis Joins Growing List Of Retiring Incumbents

Ted Speliotis was first elected to the House in 1978, lost his seat in the 1986 Democratic primary to now-colleague Rep. Thomas Walsh, and was returned to the House in a 1996 election.

"I have been extremely fortunate to serve in elected office for nearly my entire adult life, first being elected as a Danvers Town Meeting member at the age of 18 and then entering

the House of Representatives at 25 years old," Speliotis said in a statement "I have enjoyed every minute of my time in office and am very appreciative of the support and assistance I have received from my family, friends, and constituents. Together we have accomplished a great deal over the years, both in my district and on substantive legislation that has affected every person in the Commonwealth."

End Quote

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within."

— James Baldwin

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P1941EA

**Estate of
ZEVART HOLLISIAN
Also Known As
ZEE HOLLISIAN, ZEVART M. HOLLISIAN
Date of Death: March 31, 2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that **Ara G. Hollisian of South Weymouth, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 05, 2020.

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

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

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

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: May 08, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/15/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P1816EA

**Estate of
ERNEST GERARD FIELDS
Also Known As
ERNEST G. FIELDS
Date of Death: March 12, 2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Gerard M. Weber of Merrimack, NH** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Gerard M. Weber of Merrimack, NH** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of June 09, 2020.

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

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

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

**Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS,
First Justice of this Court.**
Date: May 12, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 05/15/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Docket No. MI20P1796EA

**Estate of
ELAINE B. MONTAGUE
Date of Death: February 23, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

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

Richard B. Schafer of Natick, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

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

Run date: 05/15/2020

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Does a Heavyweight Have To Be Big To Be Great?

The argument never ends. Almost daily on boxing sites and social media there are the voices that can't stop insisting that today's huge heavyweights would have been too much for those of the past. Their size would have been too overwhelming for the little guys of previous eras. I have written about this on a number of occasions, and have pointed out how in the past there were huge heavyweights and they were chopped down to size by smaller opponents.

I have argued that, in fact, many of the great champions of the past actually had an easier time of it when facing men much larger than they were. I'm thinking of Dempsey vs Carl Morris and Jess Willard, Ali vs. Foreman and Liston, Louis vs. Simon and Buddy Baer, as well as Primo Carnera. In the case of Ali, Dempsey, and Louis; they all had a much more difficult time against men smaller than they were. Dempsey was beaten by Gene Tunney who spent most of his career campaigning as a light heavyweight. Ali was decked by the lighter Henry Cooper and given fits by Doug Jones and Jimmy Young. Who can forget the time Joe Louis had with Billy Conn in their first go around?



Braddock vs. Baer

I'll throw in one other. Max Baer at 209 pounds beat Primo Carnera at 263 pounds yet lost the title to Jimmy Braddock who weighed 194 Pounds. I could go on and on.

In the lighter divisions weight does make a difference, but once fighters weigh somewhere over 185 pounds the lighter weight can actually work as an advantage. I will save that for another column.

What I have done now is to take the heavyweight champions from James Corbett through Riddick Bowe and looked up each one's weight on the night he won the title (Ali won the title three times and Patterson twice). The heaviest was Primo Carnera at 261 pounds in 1933. The lightest was Bob Fitzsimmons weighing in at 167 in 1897.

In more recent times the two lightest men on their title winning nights were Floyd Patterson in 1956 and Ezzard Charles in 1949. Both men weighed in at 182.

Of the 32 winning title fights, a full 13 of the new champions weighed under 200 pounds while

another 7 were 200 up to 210. That makes 20 out of the 32 title fight winners and 20 out of 29 champions what today's experts would call small heavyweights, unable to compete against the modern dreadnoughts such as Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder. The average weight for the 32 fights is 204 pounds.

I also spent some time looking at various lists of top ten greatest heavyweight champions of all time. On most of these you will see the names of Louis, Ali, Dempsey, Johnson, Marciano, and Holmes rated very highly. There are a few I have found where the names Klitchko, Fury, and Wilder are mentioned, but I can't take these names seriously when ranking the all-time greatest, and I doubt any serious boxing historian does either. But, there is a large and vocal crowd out there who truly believes the greats of the past would have been chased out of the ring by today's lumbering behemoths.

So, if you are among the crowd that believes that you would most likely be among the crowd who favors having Gene Tunney, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Ezzard Charles, Jersey Joe Walcott, Sonny Liston, and many others compete in some junior heavyweight category in order to not be seriously hurt by the likes of Wilder and Fury. That is laughable.

You would also have to elevate to greatness status Jess Willard and Primo Carnera as they were both very big men and quite athletic as well as strong. Are they really the only champs from earlier times who could stand up to today's crop?

The problem with many of those who see size as the dominant force in the heavyweight division is they completely discount skill. Joe Louis was able to dominate huge men such as Abe Simon, Buddy Baer, and Primo Carnera because he knew how to neutralize their size with the skill he possessed. Same is true for Dempsey against Willard. It should also be remembered that in his prime Muhammad Ali weighed well under 215 and often under 210 pounds. Would he have been too small for Deontay Wilder? If you even have to think about that question you'd better go take a course in basic boxing theory.

If we are to remove the names of all the heavyweight champions from Corbett to Bowe who weighed 215 pounds or less on their title winning night from consideration from the all-time greatest list, that would leave just 8 champions who would be included. Those 8 would be Jim Jeffries, Jess Willard, Primo Carnera, George Foreman, Mike Tyson, Buster Douglas, and Riddick Bowe, and Ali (This would be Ali at 216 when he fought Foreman in 1974).



Ali vs. Foreman

Add into these eight names more recent champs such as Klitchko, Fury, Wilder, Anthony Joshua, and Andy Ruiz and do you think really think you are looking at a group of all time greats? The only one on the list who most would agree to be deserving is Ali, while you can argue about Foreman, Tyson, and Bowe. But it is clear Ali would have had a much more difficult time competing against those who preceded him rather than those who succeeded him.

One I have left out of this discussion is Lennox Lewis. I consider him the last of the champions who possessed some real boxing ability, but he was far from great. He was certainly above the talent that is out there today, but would not have done well against the best that preceded him. He also did not win the title in the ring. Rather Lewis was more like the last hurrah from a time when the heavyweight champions had real boxing skills.



Louis vs. Carnera

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



The words no one in the hockey world wanted to hear came roaring across cyberspace like a weather forecaster warning of a storm to come.

"After a lengthy review process the American Hockey League has determined that the resumption and completion of the 2019-20 season is not feasible under current conditions."

That was the first sentence in a press release distributed on May 12th by American Hockey League President David Andrews on behalf of the AHL's Board of Governors.

And one could not help wondering if the NHL would be next. After all, change just one word in that sentence — substituting "National" for "American" and you have the first sentence of a press release pertaining to the 31-team National Hockey League.

For the AHL that means that over 30 arenas across North America that saw the lights go out back on March 12th will remain dark until the start of the 2020-2021 season — if there is a new season in the fall.

We say that because the very same day that the AHL pulled the plug for good on the current campaign there was Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, one of the nation's foremost infectious disease experts, offering his remarks before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health and Education concerning the risks of society resuming normal activity too soon.

Thus the word from the AHL, headquartered just 90 miles from the Hub in Springfield, sounded a tad too close for comfort — like a weather forecaster on TV reporting that a big storm had just barreled through the Berkshires and was closing in on Boston.

The decision by the AHL's powers that be meant that the league standings plus individual and team statistics were forever frozen in place and would form the basis for determining postseason awards. And what becomes of the Calder Cup playoffs — the AHL's version of the Stanley Cup post season event? Well that was canceled — as in never to be played. So much for Calder Cup MVP, outstanding Calder Cup goalie, etc.

The decision wipes out a potential long playoff run for the Providence Bruins, who like their parents up on Causeway Street, were having an especially fine season.

Providence was leading the entire Eastern Conference with 82 points, and was second in the entire league behind Milwaukee, which had accumulated 90.

The AHL Bruins had played 62 games and owned a 38-18-6 record when league play ceased back on March 12. A big part of their fine season was goaltending — Providence led the entire league in fewest goals allowed with 154.

Dan Vladar was between the pipes for 25 games, earning a 14-7-1 record while putting together a stellar 1.79 goals against average and a .936 save percentage. He also had three shutouts. He has been in the

Bruins organization from the start, having been selected by Boston in the third round (75th overall) in the 2015 NHL Draft. A native of the Czech Republic, he represented that country in both the 2016 and 2017 World Junior Championships.

Max Legace also had a fine year, appearing in 33 games while compiling a 22-7-3 mark and five shutouts. He had a 2.37 goals against average and a .919 save percentage. Legace spent several seasons in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and was later signed by the Dallas Stars. Three seasons in the minors followed.

He then was signed by the Vegas Golden Knights in 2017, and played for their affiliate, the Chicago Wolves. He appeared in 16 games for the Knights during the 2017-2018 season, going 6-7-1. He was signed by Boston as a free agent last summer and assigned to Providence.

The permanent stoppage also brings to a halt a fine season for head coach Jay Leach and assistant coaches Ryan Mougenel and Trent Whitfield. Although it is a big if, the permanent cancellation did prevent Providence from a possible deep run in the playoffs. If they did manage to go all the way and claim the Calder Cup, that would have been the first cup-clinching team in Providence since the 1998-1999 season — a team coached by Peter Laviolette.

A man who only played 12 games in the NHL himself, he would later go on to win the Stanley Cup as the head coach of the Carolina Hurricanes in 2006. He also came close on two other occasions, coaching the Philadelphia Flyers to the Stanley Cup Final in 2010 and doing the same with the Nashville Predators in 2017.

But for now all remains dark across the world of sports in America as we enter the middle of May. Restrictions by a variety of states and the nation of Canada make it seem as though a resumption of play in the National Hockey League is far from a reality.

Plus, even if the NHL's "four rink proposal" does become a reality; it would seem unlikely that Boston would be selected as one of those sites.

As of May 12th, Massachusetts had recorded the fourth highest number of Covid-19 cases in America (over 79,000), behind New York State, New Jersey and Illinois. Does one really think that the league's powers that be would select a location in a state with one of the highest number of diagnosed cases?

In addition, recall that Mayor Walsh has canceled all public celebrations in Boston through Labor Day. We don't know if a Bruins game counts as a celebration, but it does bring around 18,000 people seated shoulder to shoulder together in one enclosed space. Playing without fans remains a possibility, something a number of other locations could offer — without the high caseload history. All in all, a steep step to climb for the Boston Bruins in the summer of 2020.