

POST-GAZETTE

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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE)

Reveals Wasteful Spending

(U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is Largest Offender

by Patti Sartori

As Elon Musk and newly confirmed Cabinet members with Republican Congressional leaders continue to audit federal government agencies, their efforts have been revealing billions of dollars in government spending and waste. Despite Democratic opposition, DOGE enjoys full support and backing of President Trump. U.S. Senator Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, the Senate DOGE Caucus Chairwoman, speaks with Musk a couple of times each week regarding spending cuts to projects and programs the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has funded for over the years.

Senator Ernst cited various examples of "wasteful and dangerous" spending by USAID, until DOGE stepped in, including spending \$20 million dollars to create a *Sesame Street* in Iraq. Under the Biden administration, USAID awarded \$20 million to a nonprofit called Sesame Workshop to produce a show named "*Ahlan Simsim Iraq*" in an effort to "promote inclusion, mutual respect and understanding across ethnic, religious and sectarian groups."

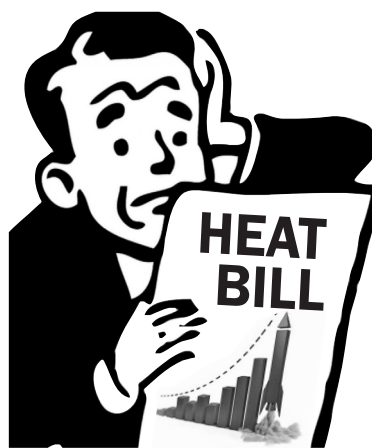
Another example of questionable spending of American tax dollars by USAID is the \$900,000 to a Gaza based terror charity called Bayader Association for Environment and Development, and a \$1.5 million program slated to "advance diversity, equity and inclusion in Serbia's workplaces and business communities."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the government's leader in distributing disaster-relief funding, gave over \$59 million to house illegal immigrants in New York City hotels just last week, according to DOGE. The spending was exposed by Musk last week in a post on X, "sending this money violated the law and is in gross insubordination to President Trump's executive order," which had put FEMA under review to improve the agency's priorities. Of the \$59 million, \$19 million was for direct hotel costs, while the remaining balance funded food and security, a New York City Hall spokesperson confirmed to Fox News. Department of

(Continued on Page 11)

Natural Gas Home Heating Rates are through the Roof

Governor Healey Calls for Immediate Relief



Governor Healey is not the only elected official to take aim at the rising utility rates. Many local lawmakers fired off letters demanding a probe into the aggressive rise in Bay State utility rates after receiving numerous complaints from their constituents. Eversource pointed to colder temperatures this winter for higher natural gas usage and increases in customer bills.

Eversource traditionally request increases twice per year, May and November, and were approved by the Department of Public Utilities this past November for a 20% to 30% increase to customers natural gas bills while National Grid was given approval for an 11% - 13% increase. Officials adjusted the rate on February 1st when the cost of gas purchased by Eversource increased significantly in January. "The dramatic increase in usage is coupled with recent rate adjustments that took effect on November 1st, which is also impacting customers' current bills," the company said in a statement.

the utility companies to do a better job educating and informing consumers about state programs available to help them keep the heat on. The Governor took the opportunity to remind consumers that during the cold weather the law protects them from having their heat turned off, regardless of how high their bills may be. "It is also imperative that energy consumers know their rights, including they that cannot have their utility service shut off during winter months. Staying warm is critical for everyone's health and safety," Healey said.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey called on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to immediately act on lowering energy prices. Massachusetts residents are dealing with unexpected rate increases sending their natural gas heating bills through the roof as so many continue to struggle with everyday necessities and essentials. "People did not plan for these extraordinary utility rate increases, and they can only do so much to stretch a budget. The DPU must act immediately to provide rate relief to customers in this heating season," Healey wrote in a letter to DPU chair Jamie Van Nostrant. The Governor is requesting something be done to "help consumers reduce bills and avoid future large, unanticipated price spikes like this."

Healey expects the agency to stabilize electricity rates similar to their actions in 2023, in addition to identifying ways to reduce future price increases and make any rate changes more transparent and predictable. According to Healey, it's incumbent upon

Massachusetts Public Schools and Universities Must Choose DEI or Federal Funding

by Patti Sartori

The Trump administration has imposed a February 28th deadline on all Public Schools and Universities in Massachusetts and across America to cleanse their curriculum of any Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies or face the potential loss of federal funding. According to a letter sent to education officials in all fifty states, from Craig Trainor, the Department of Education's Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, the federal government will now define regulations as any policy, "motivated by racial considerations" and will be considered non-compliant with the law.

"The law is clear: treating students differently on the basis of race to achieve nebulous goals such as diversity, racial balancing, social justice, or equity is illegal under controlling Supreme Court precedent. All students are entitled to a school environment free from discrimination. The Department is committed to ensuring those principles are a reality," the letter states.

The Trump administration will interpret the law according to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, which ended affirmative action.

Any school, at any level, accepting federal funds is required to "ensure that their policies and actions comply with existing civil rights law and to cease all efforts to go around existing laws in matters of admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, financial aid, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, discipline, housing, graduation ceremonies, and all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life." Basically, Trainor said "educational institutions may neither separate or segregate students based on race, nor distribute benefits or burdens based on race."

All educational institutions receiving federal funding have until February 28th to become compliant. Those who do not meet the deadline, will be subject to the Department of Education's actions as they

take appropriate measures to assess compliance with the law and will seek additional legal guidance. Trainor indicated the policy change is a result of an increase in discriminatory practices based on race, including against "white and Asian students" in recent years. "The Department will vigorously enforce the law on equal terms as to all preschool, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions, as well as state educational agencies that receive financial assistance," Trainor wrote.

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell recently joined a number of other state AG's in issuing DEI guidance of their own for companies doing business in their states. The Attorney Generals believe Federal law cannot prevent private entities from using diversity, equity, or inclusion goals in their hiring decisions or day to day practices. The question begs, will Campbell and her group band together and challenge the Trump administration on this mandate?

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Could NYC Mayor Adams be Exiting Gracie Mansion?

Four New York City deputy mayors have announced they are leaving their roles in the mayor's office. The departures follow the Justice Department's decision to drop bribery charges against Mayor Eric Adams. The mayor responded by saying, "I am disappointed to see them go, but given the current challenges, I understand their decision and wish them nothing but success in the future."

Some NYC officials have called on Adams to resign or be removed from office in the wake of these resignations. Adams could also be removed by Gov. Kathy Hochul who recently stated she hadn't ruled out removing him but wouldn't rush to judgement.

"Surf City USA" Embraces Maga Ideas

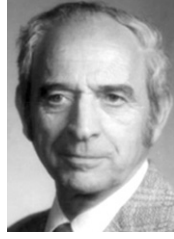
Move over MAGA. Here comes MHBGA. Trump supporters now constitute the entire membership of the Huntington Beach City Council after that community's most recent election. This group has coined the movement "Make Huntington Beach Great Again." All seven members wore red caps with the MHBGA slogan on it. There are now seven members in red caps including the

(Continued on Page 9)

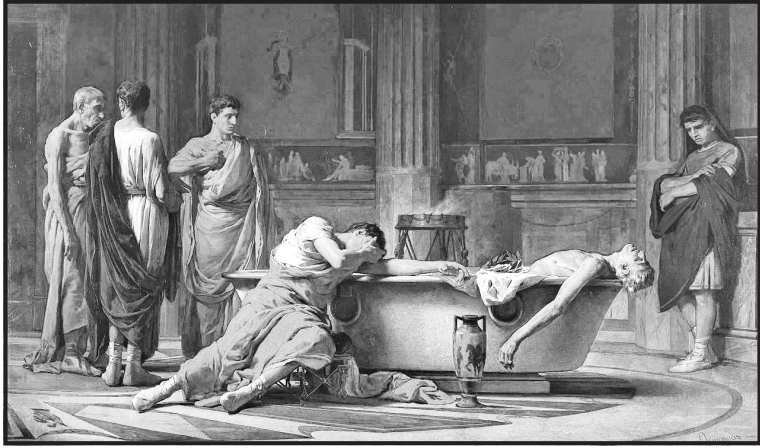
Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



SENECA



Manuel Domínguez Sánchez, *The Suicide of Seneca* (1871), Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain

Lucius Annaeus Seneca was more commonly called Seneca the Philosopher. He was born in Spain about 3 B.C., brought to Rome at an early age, and educated by some of the most eminent philosophers of the time. His enthusiastic acceptance of their teachings and life-style caused him to emulate their way of life. He also became a brilliant lawyer. The Emperor Caligula soon became jealous, and a severe critic of Seneca, and consequently marked him for destruction. Seneca was subsequently spared because of ill health, and also because of

rumors that he would soon die a natural death. Seneca surprisingly rose to great prominence under the succeeding Emperor Claudius, but he also made enemies of some powerful officials. After being accused of intimacies with a relative of the former Emperor Tiberius, Seneca was banished to Corsica for about eight years. Through the intervention of Agrippina (wife of Claudius), he was returned to Rome to tutor her son Nero.

Nero became emperor after the death of Claudius, and it is reported that during his early years, the only decent part of

his reign was brought about as a result of Seneca's guidance. This period was known as the "gold quinquennium" (golden five years). It soon became evident that Nero could not be controlled. He turned against Seneca, and in time caused him to commit suicide.

We are told that Seneca was one of the most brilliant figures of his time, and equal to the greatest intellectuals of the Silver Age.

His prose works were numerous and important. These included many speeches which were written for Nero, several treatises, a biography of his father, a panegyric (praise) of the famous Messalina, and a number of books of letters.

The greatness of Seneca probably stems from his narratives on morality. Many of his letters were written as sermons, while others attacked the vices of that time. He was one of the foremost Stoic philosophers of Rome. Much of his literary work greatly influenced Italian and French classical drama during the Renaissance period of many countries.

NEXT ISSUE:
Quintilian

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP, THE 14TH AMENDMENT

U.S. Supreme Court Showdown Inevitable

by Patti Sartori

The definition of birthright citizenship, by its very name, would seem fairly simplistic, the idea that all children born in the United States have the same rights, regardless of where their parents originate from. But that may not quite be the case. Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, Conservatives, Progressives or just about anyone with an opinion on this issue, should brace and prepare for an all-out battle on both sides.

President Trump's challenge to birthright citizenship will almost assuredly be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court and will undoubtedly follow passionate arguments from both sides.

The case most often cited is 127 years old, *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898), ruling the protections and guarantees afforded by the 14th amendment belong to citizens alike, "so long as they are permitted by the United States to reside here." Note key word, "permitted," which may actually support Trump's assertion.

On January 20th, not long after he was sworn in for his second term, President Trump declared through executive order that babies born to illegal immigrant mothers and lacking a father who is a legal U.S. resident, will no longer automatically receive U.S. citizenship. Beginning February 19, 2025, hospitals were prohibited from issuing U.S. birth certificates for these newborns, numbering approximately 250,000 each year. Trump also targeted birth tourism, ending automatic citizenship for the approximate 30,000 babies born each year to women who have entered the U.S. legally on temporary visas and give birth here. Regardless of how the mother arrives in America, all claim citizenship for their newborns under the birthright clause of the 14th amendment.

The original intent of the clause was proposed to guarantee citizenship to children born to former slaves, but in 1866 Congress expanded it to

children of any race or ethnicity born in the United States, however Congress never debated whether offspring of people in the country illegally were guaranteed citizenship. There were no immigration laws or illegals in 1866, and the U.S. did not impose numerical limits on immigration until 1921.

Immediately upon President Trump signing his executive order, twenty-two states filed lawsuits, along with San Francisco and a number of non-profits. Days later, federal judges blocked the implementation of the order, with Judge John C. Coughenour of the Western District of Washington state calling it "blatantly unconstitutional." There is absolutely no way to determine how the Supreme court will rule on this explosive topic. The only justice on record offering his view, is Samuel Alito, stating during his confirmation hearing in 2006 that birthright citizenship "may turn out to be a complicated question."

There has only been one Supreme Court ruling on this topic in the past 160 years, which referenced the 14th amendment protections extending to all people who "are permitted by the United States to reside here." Justice Horace Gray wrote in support of the decision by citing an earlier Supreme Court ruling, *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* (1886), stating the 14th amendment's equal protection clause applied to people of all races "who have the right to temporarily or permanently reside within the United States." Not people who are here illegally.

Illegal border crossings are down 90% since President Trump resumed office, but executive orders are temporary and can be nullified by the next President. Regardless of how the court rules, Congress has the power to act by imposing stricter limits on our borders and halt financial incentives to those entering the country illegally. If Congress closes our border, birthright citizenship will cease to be an issue.

U.S. Drowning in Debt, While Democrats Fight Spending Cuts

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the federal government is facing an \$838 billion dollar cash shortfall just for the first four months of the fiscal year, an amount that stands 15% higher than last year's October through January budget. Yet Democrats are feverishly and ferociously fighting President Trump's efforts, through the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and budget cuts, to scale back on spending.

Last month the CBO estimated almost \$2 trillion in overspending this year or about 6.2% of gross domestic product vs. just 3.8% on average over the past fifty years. Add that to the nation's \$36 trillion in IOU's and you're looking at America's debt to GDP ratio exceeding its World War II peak. Interest on

debt alone now tops military spending.

Over the past decades, Washington bureaucrats and elected officials have done nothing to curtail aggressive spending that has steadily increased and instead has witnessed Democrats blocking any type of spending cuts or attempts to constrain the budget.

As President Trump begins his second term and Elon Musk overseeing DOGE, the entrenched DC elites better prepare to witness some serious cuts to the entire federal budget. No one will be safe or exempt. Their goal is to scale back on the number of federal employees,

rollback foreign aid and other nonsense earmarks and even go so far as to dissolving various federal agencies, such as FEMA.

Rather than welcome an opportunity to review the budget and find savings for American taxpayers, the Democratic Congress has instead declared war to stop the Trump team. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, (D-NY) urged fellow Democrats to push back against Trump through investigations, litigation, legislation and messaging. Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ) warned Republicans not to count on any Democrats to pass a budget or avert a government shutdown in March unless Trump closes DOGE.

When was the last time Democrats made any effort to get a handle on spending? Why would Democrats or anyone with common sense or the taxpayer's best interest in mind, resort to such apoplectic behavior over attempts to save money? Evidently, they still are not grasping the results of the recent election and if they continue to turn a blind eye to the voter's choices, they may pay an even bigger price going forward.

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The Goodyear Blimp Celebrates 100 Years

The Goodyear Blimp, one of the most recognizable aircraft in the world, is celebrating its 100th birthday. Since its debut in 1925, this floating icon has been a staple in advertising, sports, broadcasting and aviation history. Over the past century, the Goodyear Blimp has evolved from a simple promotional tool to a beloved cultural symbol.

By the middle of the 20th century, the Goodyear Blimp had transitioned from military service to a new role as a marketing and broadcast symbol. Goodyear began using the blimp to provide arial coverage of major sporting events, including college football games, the Super Bowl, and golf tournaments. The blimp's presence in the sky became synonymous with major televised events, providing astounding

arial views. With its unmistakable shape and logo, the blimp became a n American fixture, appearing in movies, television shows, and music lyrics.

Today, Goodyear flies three airships in the U.S., each providing arial coverage for major sports events, promotional appearances and public rides as it continues to maintain the tradition for new generations. As the Goodyear Blimp celebrates its 100th birthday, the company is marking this milestone with special events, commemorative merchandise, and a nationwide tour. Fans will have the opportunity to see the iconic airship up close and honor one of aviation's most enduring symbols. As it embarks on next century, we trust the Goodyear Blimp will continue soaring through the skies.

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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, February 21, 2025

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.

Wu and Kraft at Odds on Housing Plan

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu took issue with her challenger Josh Kraft's proposed housing plan, claiming it is a "fake rent control" pitch and nothing more than a proposal to minimize affordability requirements for new housing developments. Kraft's plan strongly critiqued Wu's policies, which he suggests have stymied housing production and increased affordability issues.

"The proposal is that this sort of fake rent control would be implemented. What we saw today has been a distraction because underneath all this, is to dismantle affordability requirements, and in fact take us back to a time when it was anything goes for developers making money at the expense of affordability," Wu said on GBH's Boston Public Radio.

Kraft's plan calls for the production of more than 26,000 housing units that have already been permitted by the city but are not yet built, which his campaign estimates would bring in approximately \$120 million dollars in new tax revenue. Kraft's proposal centers around an inclusionary housing development policy previously in place under former Mayor Marty Walsh, omitting the modifications put in place by Mayor Wu this past fall. Kraft's proposal

would also kick start the city's inclusionary zoning policy for market rate housing developments with ten or more units, instead of at least seven, and require a smaller percentage of income restricted units at 13%, from the current 17-20%.

Wu also shot back at Kraft's claim that her policies stalled construction of approximately 26,000 housing units, instead referencing a \$110 million dollar housing accelerator fund she proposed and was passed by the City Council. The goal of the fund is to ignite the production of permitted units that have been delayed due to lack of financing. Wu believes her opponents proposed opt in rent control plan, incentivizing landlords to cap rent increases for a ten-year period in exchange for an annual property tax break, "is not going to capture or protect against the worst offenders," stated Wu.

"The groundswell of support from all corners of the city for Josh's candidacy is clearly concerning Mayor Wu, and today's comments are a weak attempt to change the conversation away from her failure to create housing and real pathways to affordable homeownership. We need a mayor focused on solutions," the Kraft campaign offered in a statement.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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Carol Ann Fabiano

October 13, 1942 – February 12, 2025



Carol Ann (Russo) Fabiano, 82, of Boston's North End, passed away on February 12, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Fantasia) Russo. Loving wife of Anthony P. Fabiano. Dear sister of Louis Russo and his late wife June Marie of Plymouth and Maria Agrippino and her late husband Robert of the North End. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in the J.S. Waterman Langone Chapel, 580 Commercial Street, Boston. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston. Services concluded with interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Donations in Carol's memory may be made to either: St. Leonard Church or Joslin Diabetes Center, 1 Joslin Place, Boston, MA 02215.

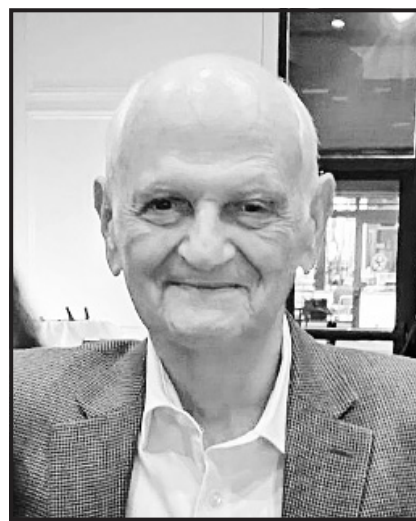
Nicholas "Buddy" Micelli

Nicholas "Buddy" Micelli, age 82 of Wakefield, passed away on Friday, February 14 at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

He was born in Boston on September 1, 1942 and was the son of the late Frank and Gloria (Medugno) Micelli.

He was the beloved husband of Susan (Alunni) Micelli. He was the brother of Frank Micelli and his wife Kathleen of North Reading. He was the brother-in-law of Concetta Alunni of Medford, and Donald E. Alunni and his wife Joanne of Peabody. He was the uncle of Donald Alunni Jr. and his wife Allison of Peabody, Paul Alunni and his wife Laura of Middleton, and Jeanna Posteraro and her husband Carmen of Peabody. He was the great uncle of Gianna, Ava, Lucia, Dylan, and Anthony. He was predeceased by his nephew Anthony Micelli. Buddy also leaves behind very close and dear friends of the North End.

Buddy grew up in the North End of Boston. He went to barber school and worked as a



barber in the North End and Brookline for 10 years. Buddy played football for 2 years with the North End Athletic Association (NEAA). He joined the National Guard from 1964-1970. He worked for the department stores Zayre and Lechmere as a department manager in consumer electronic/appliance sales, and also worked for Direct to Retail in sales until his retirement. Nick was a resident of Medford for 36

years, and had been a Wakefield resident for the past 21 years.

Visitation for relatives and friends will be held on Friday, February 21 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the McDonald Funeral Home, 19 Yale Avenue, Wakefield, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, 173 Albion St., Wakefield. Services concluded with interment in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park, Peabody.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's research Hospital, Shriners Children's Boston, or American Lung Association.

"Helping Others in Need DURING LENT"



St. Leonard's Parish, Fr. Michael Della Penna, John "JR" Romano along with his family and friends will be running and event to help and support the Rita A. DiMento Women's Clinic at Arch St. Church. The clinic is a walk-in clinic that provides comprehensive medical care and services for Boston's most vulnerable population, homeless women. A team of female medical professionals works alongside a licensed drug and alcohol counselor and recovery coach to bring women off the street to provide medical and recovery services, case management, connections to housing services, mental health referrals, shelter navigation and victim services and support. It offers women a safe place to relax, shower and unwind from the chaos of their daily lives. Many of these women are reluctant to seek care at co-ed clinics, where privacy and comfort can

be compromised. Street outreach is done to meet women where they are at. You will find the team underground in the T, bus and train stations, the Boston Common and anywhere homeless women might be. The clinic serves as a refuge, offering a calming and confidential environment tailored to their unique needs.

The event will be held on **Saturday, March 22nd, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's Hall at St. Leonard Church, 31 Prince Street, Boston, MA.** We will be collecting items needed by our most vulnerable members of our society, homeless women.

Items we will be collecting - **ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW:** Women's Sweatpants, Leggings, Sports bras, Women's socks, New or gently worn women's sneakers, women's T-shirts, Individual sunblock packets, Summer baseball hats/sun hats, Fanny packs, Water bottles (refillable) or pouches, Body wipes, Small bug sprays, \$10 gift cards to Dunkins or McDonald's, (gift cards are used to incentivize goals and/or medical tests, also allow use of a restroom).

We will also be collecting **SPARE CHANGE!!!!!!** Join Fr. Michael and all our helpers at the 5pm Mass following this act of love. The Second Collection at this mass will be dedicated to this mission as well. If you have any questions or want to make a donation before the event, please contact John at 617-750-9749 or jromano45@gmail.com. We will also take donations by Venmo.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

A Celebration of Cinema

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



It is that wonderful time of the year again. The time of watching movie stars glide through the red carpet, as graceful as paper swans, wrapped in jewel-hued gowns. It is the time when television channels replay Oscar-winning movies of the past, with iconic images of sultry *femme fatales* and tight-jawed heroes and conniving villains flashing across the screen. During the past few weeks, people have devoted many moments to recognizing the artistic achievement in a medium which often goes unappreciated, being synonymous with lightweight popcorn fare. Now, however, people are in full recognition of the powerful force that movies play in our lives. Which film of the past year, they ask, best crafted a story that transported us to another time or place? Which director imbued his or her project with the most love and passion? Which actress or actor best delved into the complexities of their role? Yes, it is the time of the year when the Academy Awards are announced, granted, celebrated and debated. As a long-time lover of film, I will spend the evening of the Oscars glued to my television, shivering with anticipation as the little gold statuettes are distributed. While I am watching, I will also pay tribute to the significance of movies to my life and heritage.

Movies have always comprised an integral part of my soul. Indeed, film has contributed to the collective

subconscious of people around the world. Much of our notions of good and evil, achievement, love and longing derive from the celluloid world. When I think of selfless romance, for example, I think of cynical café owner Rick Blaine from *Casablanca* letting his true love Ilsa depart on a plane on a foggy Moroccan night, all for the higher cause of stopping Nazism. Han Solo from *Star Wars*, on the other hand, forever stays in my mind as the epitome of the rascal with a heart of gold, the guy everybody knows who tries to be tough but cannot conceal his soft side for long. When he reappeared at the end of the film to save Luke Skywalker from the clutches of the evil Empire, I felt a cheer swelling up inside me. That is why I appreciate films so much, because they are little stories that encompass the spectrum of emotions that give meaning to our existence as humans. During Oscar season, I try to catch as many of the Best Picture nominees as I can, though busy work and school schedules make it hard. I hope to watch many of the nominees as soon as I am able, perhaps on a cozy movie night, snuggling with my husband and a big bowl of buttered popcorn. From dramatic biographies to quirky indie flicks, the year's Oscar-nominated films encapsulated a rich tapestry of the human story, and I want to soon add them to my repertoire.

The Oscar season also reminds me of the tremendous

achievement that Italians and Italian-Americans have made in the field of cinema. Stateside, directors like Francis Ford Coppola and Martin Scorsese have become icons of American filmmaking. My father was always quick to remind me that Italian-born movie makers have supplied the world with many indelible masterpieces. World cinema stands all the richer because of directors like Federico Fellini, who brought whimsy and absurd satire back to silver screen or Vittorio De Sica, who gave a voice to Italy's working-class citizens or Sergio Leone, whose revisionist Westerns reshaped the myth of the American frontier. Italian film even forms the backbone of an interesting story repeated among my family. When my grandmother was a young and sophisticated student in Rome, she was courted by the studio bigwigs of Cinecittà, the Italian version of Hollywood, to become an actress. Though one of her old-fashioned relatives put an end to this, the story speaks to the splendor of Italian cinema and its ability to inspire dreams in young people just like the fictionalized Hollywood of legend. In honor of Italian contributions to movies, I often serve star-worthy Italian dishes for my Oscar-watching events. A few years ago, I made a delectable mascarpone cheesecake drizzled with chocolate sauce. It was such an appropriately decadent and creamy hit! This year, I plan to make either Nutella cheesecake squares or Nutella chocolate-chips cookies. The black and white color scheme of these desserts mimics both tuxedos and the Oscar statuettes, making them fittingly stylish plates for the most glamorous night of the year.

Films are a roadmap of hopes, dreams and values encourage everyone to watch at least a few of the Best Picture nominees before the Oscar ceremony in order to find one that resonates on an emotional level. Good movies enrich our lives, they provide us with visions of another world or new perspectives or characters so strongly written that they remain inside our mind long after the projector has stopped running. This month, I will revel in the Oscar journey in order to pay tribute to the films that have enhanced my life journey, and I will also pause to honor the Italian movies that have become milestones in my culture and heritage. After all, the ability to view films as more than just entertainment but as significant social art and artifacts is an achievement worthy of an Academy Award in itself.

Note: This year, the Oscars will pay special tribute to the resilience displayed after the devastating Los Angeles fires. Those looking to help with disaster relief can donate through <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>.

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 Giarratani



Would St. Michael Actually Want a Statue in His Honor Outside the New Police Station?

I have been reading all about the latest controversy in Quincy concerning the news of two new 10-foot statues to be placed outside the brand new police/fire headquarters still under construction. I lived in Quincy for over 25 years and even though I have been out of Quincy for 16 years now, I am currently working as a full-time substitute teacher at Quincy High School and keep up on all things Quincy.

I did see the comments that Quincy City Councilor Dan Minton posted about the two proposed statues. Dan is a retired QPD police sergeant who became a Quincy city councilor and thinks the statue of St. Michael seems ill-placed because it creates an "us" versus "them" image. I am also a retired police sergeant who was on the job 28 years in Boston for the state Department of Mental Health and while I have always worn a St. Michael's medal around my neck and I have prayed to him often for protection on the job and now into retirement, I think both statues seem ill-placed. Most cops already know who St. Michael is as do firefighters, both also know St. Florian. No need for statues to remind anyone coming and going through the doors of this soon-to-be new public safety building. I am sure it was never the intention of Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch to create controversy. I am sure his

proposal was well intended but with hindsight perhaps a real look at this proposal might be best for the City of Quincy. The city doesn't need a distraction like this. It is time for a little civil discourse on how to move forward together.

As I viewed the image of these statues, it seems more like something on display back during the Holy Roman Empire or at St. Peter's Basilica. Not a good optic to folks walking in and out a police station to see a huge angel holding a shield in one hand and a large sword in the other pushing it into an anguished Satanic-looking image down at his feet. Bad look and it can only end up dividing people over the imagery. The price for these two giant statues also seems awfully expensive at about \$475,000 apiece. However, the imagery will keep this controversy quite alive for some time and appears needless to me.

Depicting St. Michael outside police headquarters looks very counterproductive. I know who this saint is and what he represents. He's supposed to be one of the good guys in the spirit world protecting us but his menacing look will not help in bringing the police and community together. The optics are simply bad and there is no good spin to this idea. With hindsight, perhaps the mayor needs a Plan B going forward. Has he thought of a statue of Lady Justice?



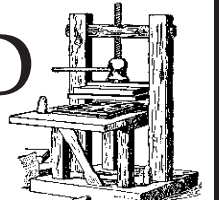
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Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing Announce 2025 Love Your Block Dates

City Celebrating 10 Years of Annual Spring Neighborhood Cleanups

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) announced the 2025 Love Your Block spring cleanups will take place on Saturday, April 5th and Saturday, April 12th. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Love Your Block, a program that has mobilized thousands of residents in community-led cleanups to beautify Boston's neighborhoods. Originally launched as Boston Shines and rebranded in 2015, Love Your Block has become a key initiative for civic engagement in Boston. Over the past decade, the program has empowered residents to take ownership of their public spaces, fostering community pride and connection through hands-on neighborhood beautification projects. These projects include street cleanups, park revitalization, planting flowers, and mulching.

The Love Your Block registration is now open for volunteers to sign up as hosts at civicorganizing@boston.gov. Alternatively, individuals who wish to join an existing neighborhood cleanup as a volunteer can pre-register at civicorganizing@boston.gov. After registration closes on March 3, 2025, the Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) will provide registered volunteers with a list of cleanup sites in their neighborhood that are accepting participants.

"Love Your Block cleanups have been a fantastic way of bringing communities together across Boston and one I have personally enjoyed taking part in," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "For the past 10 years, this program has empowered residents to take pride in their communities by giving them the tools to keep their neighborhoods sparkling. Together we celebrate the start of spring and take ownership of keeping our public spaces beautiful."

Love Your Block is a national grant program that funds resident-led neighborhood revitalization projects. In 2015, a three year Love Your Block grant was awarded to the City of Boston, which integrated the program as a permanent effort in 2018. Established and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Love Your Block is delivered by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. Since its founding in 2009, Love Your Block has reached nearly 50,000 community members who have

improved nearly 4,000 public spaces.

Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of two weekends. The 2025 dates are as follows:

Saturday, April 5th: Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown, Dorchester, Downtown, Leather District, Mattapan, Mid-Dorchester, North End, Roslindale, South Boston, West End, West Roxbury and Wharf District.

Saturday, April 12th: Bay Village, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Fenway-Kenmore, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roxbury, and South End.

"Love Your Block is a reflection of Boston's spirit, neighbors coming together not only to care for the places we call home but also to strengthen the bonds that connect us," said **Nathalia Benitez-Perez, Director of the Office of Civic Organizing**. "I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our volunteers who work closely with us to keep this tradition alive."

Love Your Block had record participation numbers last year, with more than 2,000 volunteers across 121 sites citywide. After last year's success, the Office of Civic Organizing is partnering again with Boston Public Library and Boston Centers for Youth & Families to serve as centralized locations where community members can conveniently pick up and return cleanup tools. All participating sites are listed on the Love Your Block page, along with tips on how to host your own Love Your Block cleanup site. Tool collection is scheduled from 9:00-10:00 a.m., with returns to the same location between 12:00-2:00 p.m.

On Friday, April 4, the Downtown Boston Alliance (DBA) will kick off this year's Love Your Block cleanups with its annual Friday beautification project, marking the official start of the citywide initiative. The DBA coordinates this cleanup, but people can sign up through the City as individual volunteers at civicorganizing@boston.gov.

"For ten years, the City of Boston's Love Your Block event has brought the community together to celebrate the emergence of spring and to take pride in our respective neighborhoods through an annual day of service. The

Downtown Boston Alliance congratulates the City on this milestone, and for the leadership of each city official who has supported the ongoing success of this treasured volunteer activity," said **Michael J. Nichols, President of the Downtown Boston Alliance**. "Further, our organization has been honored to host a volunteer site downtown since 2008, back when Love Your Block was known as Boston Shines, and we look forward to continuing to bring together residents, students and Downtown's business community in support of beautifying our shared neighborhood."

"The Codman Square Neighborhood Council and the BOLD Teens have participated in Love Your Block for all of the years that it has been Love Your Block and before that with Boston Shines. We truly appreciate the resources and energy this city initiative brings to our neighborhood," said **Cynthia Loesch-Johnson of Dorchester**. "It has helped us to take care of both Codman Square Park and the Dr. Loesch Family Park over the decades. Residents of all ages look forward to this event each year where they get to clean, paint, plant and beautify our neighborhood parks and have the support of the city in doing so."

The Office of Civic Organizing will provide volunteers with cleanup tools including trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, trash pickers and a Love Your Block t-shirt. Hosts leading a cleanup can request tools until **Friday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m.**, at civicorganizing@boston.gov.

"The Community Engagement Cabinet is thrilled to celebrate 10 years of our city's Love Your Block initiative," said **Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet**. "This initiative inspires Boston residents, community leaders, and volunteers each year to think about a street, local park, or neighborhood that could use some extra care. Together, we collaborate to beautify Boston, one block at a time."

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF CIVIC ORGANIZING

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.

North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) Monthly Meeting

It's been a fairly quiet winter in the North End/Waterfront community according to Boston Police Area A-1 Community Service Officer Frank Ciampa and Sergeant Crawford. In attendance for the first time was newly appointed Area A-1 District Captain Richard Driscoll. The captain took the opportunity to introduce himself to the neighborhood association and made clear he is looking forward to a close working relationship with the residents, business owners, elected officials and community representatives.

District 1 City Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata her 2025 initiatives, highlighted legislative achievements and answered questions from NEWRA members. Coleta Zapata acknowledged her pride in representing District 1 in the Boston City Council and noted it

is an honor to serve as their representative in city government.

There were a few zoning and licensing items up for a vote, including a petition from LoConte's at 114-116 Salem Street to replace an existing Malt and Wine License with an All-Alcohol license, Lupoli Companies at 240-246 Commercial Street proposed to change occupancy from restaurant and offices to 8 residential units and roof decks for the exclusive use of units 7 and 8, and Modern Skin Brow Studios at 155 Endicott Street seeks a change of use to permit beauty services consisting of permanent make up brows and lips. All petitions were supported by NEWRA voting members.

The next meeting will be held at the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street, March 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

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U.S. Senate Confirms Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Two more Trump administration nominees have been confirmed by the Senate. Former four term Democratic Congresswoman from Hawaii, Tulsi Gabbard was confirmed as the Director of National Intelligence while Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., was confirmed as Health and Human Services Secretary. Both of these nominees were met with criticism by Senate Democrats, but it was Kennedy's nomination that garnered the toughest fight, with even some Republicans hesitant to support his initiatives.

Gabbard passed the Senate 52-48, with Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) joining all 47 Democrats in opposition. President Trump congratulated Gabbard stating, "she will eliminate corruption, restore honesty, integrity and trust to the national security state. There's nobody like her for this job. This was a very easy one for me. She was recommended by some of the top people in that world."

Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath of office to Gabbard in the Oval Office. "Unfortunately, the American people have very little trust in the intelligence community, largely because they've seen the weaponization and politicization of an entity that is supposed to be purely focused on ensuring our national security. I look forward to being able to help fulfill that mandate the American people delivered to you very clearly in this election, to refocus our intelligence community by empowering the great patriots who have chosen to serve our country in this way and focus on ensuring the safety, security and freedom of the American people," Gabbard stated after the swearing in.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., was also confirmed by the U.S. Senate last week and will serve as President Trump's Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), bringing a contentious confirmation battle over Kennedy's skepticism on vaccines to a victorious ending. Similar to Tulsi Gabbard's vote, Senators voted along party lines, with only Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) joining the Democrats in their opposition to Kennedy.

The son of the late U.S. Attorney General and Senator from New York has consistently questioned the safety of vaccines for polio, measles and Hepatitis B, founding the non-profit Children's Health Defense, which has sued the government and pharmaceutical companies over vaccines.

In his initial confirmation hearing, Kennedy stated he is pro-vaccine and drew attention to the rise of chronic disease and obesity over the years. "When my uncle was President, 3% of Americans were obese. Today, 74% of Americans are obese or overweight. Epidemics are not caused by genes. Something is poisoning the American people, and we know that the primary culprit is our changing food supply."

From the oval Office swearing in, Trump congratulated Kennedy, saying "Bobby created a nationwide movement made up of millions and millions of mothers and fathers and young people and concerned citizens of every background to end this horrible chronic disease crisis that exists in America. He's absolutely committed to getting dangerous chemicals out of our environment, and out of our food supply, and getting the American people the facts and the answers we deserve after years in which our public health system has squandered the trust of our citizens."

Kennedy offered his thanks to President Trump for having "kept his word in every promise he's made to me" since endorsing Trump for President. "For 20 years, I got down every morning on my knees and prayed God would put me in a position where I can end childhood chronic disease in this country. On August 23 of last year, God sent me President Trump." Kennedy chose Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch to administer the oath of office to him at the White House, in front of his wife, actress Cheryl Hines and his children.

East Boston Chamber of Commerce Commemorates President's Day



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce placed a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming President's Day on Monday, February 17, 2025 at the Daniel H. Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street. President's Day is a celebration of United States' Presidents. It is a day to remember the founding of our nation. Did you know George Washington was the only president unanimously elected?

Saint Owen of Rouen

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

St. Owen was bishop of Rouen, France in the 7th century. He was born in Sancy, near Soissons, about 600 AD to a wealthy Frankish family. While he was still a child, his family housed and entertained the exiled St. Columban, who greatly influenced his early education. In his youth Owen was sent to the court of St. Clotaire II where he became an outstanding student. He gained the favor of the King and his son, who appointed him chancellor.

Owen, the nobleman, at a corrupt court, began to see the size and shape of the struggle to keep the light of Christianity burning. He became a monk and a monastery builder in 636. Owen, who in 634 founded the Abbey of Rabais, was ordained priest by Dieudonne, Bishop of Mâcon. Sometime later his virtues and great ability marked him out for the archiepiscopal see of Rouen, left vacant by the death of



St. Romain. Elected in 639, he was consecrated at Rouen, May, 21, 640, with his friend St. Eloi. He was made bishop of Rouen in Normandy in 641, and built monastery after monastery, for he clearly saw that only through these centers of Catholic living and learning could Europe be saved from darkness. He kept up his court connections, advising the weak Merovingian kings.

As a layman, St. Owen, with his zeal, piety and learning, was considered equal to any of the bishops. He gained a reputation for assisting the poor and homeless and ministered to widows and orphans throughout the kingdom.

He passed away on August 24, 684, and is buried near the main altar of St. Owen Church in Rouen. The feast day of Saint Owen of Rouen is August 24th.

A Collection of Stories

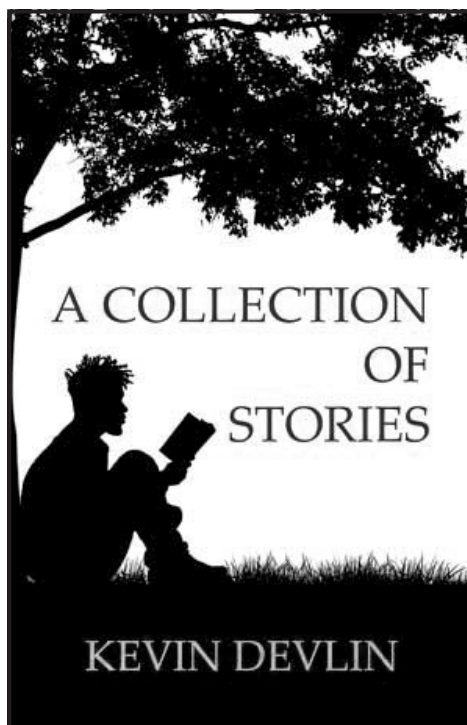
BY KEVIN DEVLIN

Book Review by John Joseph Fahey

Local author Kevin Devlin can trace his origins back to an area which many in the city are familiar; indeed, the neighborhoods in Dorchester were (and to an extent still are) often identified not only by their official names but rather by the parish in which the local church was situated. With Devin's early years, it was the Savin Hill section of Dorchester and its two popular parishes, St. William and the church of St. Margaret's in close proximity. Devin can boast as having connections to both Dorchester and South Boston since his childhood was spent in Savin Hill and then moving to South Boston once married.

Readers might have read the author's other works: a trilogy about South Boston with its initial volume *The Southie Pact* published in 2017 and subsequent sequels *Hope and Despair* and *Death and Redemption* released in 2020, or his science fiction story (and perhaps more of an admonition) *Freedom Park*, published in 2023.

However, *A Collection of Stories* is a relatively short book but rich in content. Certainly, as with many concise stories, the reader is treated to a pithy narrative but substantial in substance. The collection consists of nine stories — several only a few pages but others longer with more plot development and suspenseful elements; and notwithstanding that the storylines can be linked to universal themes that also transcends time regardless of where the particular location in the story happens to be. The selection "Dark Days in America" is a case in point. Its setting is provincial but the story's theme can occur anywhere — in fact, one realizes that as severe as the story's content is — with banal actions inflicted by malevolent forces — the chances of certain



life's foibles is comprehended and can be finally amended. As the saying goes *food for thought!*

Several of the book's succinct chronicles, namely "The Wedding Proposal," "The Southie Monolith," and "Our Christmas Tree Ritual" definitely transports the reader to a mindset where philosopher Aristotle's Rhetorical Appeals is almost tangible. The audience is treated to Devlin's use of pathos when evoking not only neighborhood events but other celebrated locations, such as Fenway Park where the author relates an almost O Henry type of tale of an engaging couple attending America's favorite pastime event. And in his "Christmas Tree Ritual," the author allows for the reader

a glimpse into a custom which occurred every Christmas season — a tradition what many can fondly remember now in memory as if it were yesterday — decorating the holiday tree with family and friends.

And, the literary genre of fantasy is not lost in this eclectic compilation. "*The Magical Golden Dust*," offers the audience an excursion into a world where transformation is the operative word — a transforming however into a future world predicated on the actions of a young man deemed to be imbued with an almost prophetic power — all against the backdrop of ominous powers.

A Collection of Stories is recommended, and not only for those who enjoy short narratives, but for individuals who like a work consisting of a variety of genres; genres that enlighten and entertain — and also at the same time, addressing the challenges characteristic in the human condition.

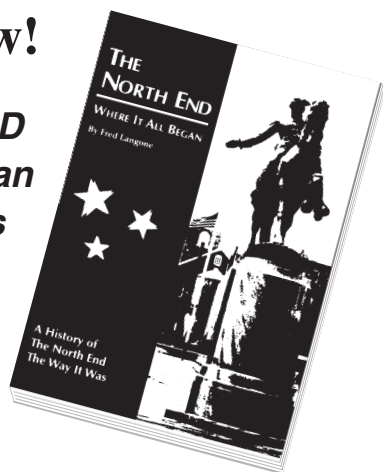
A Collection of Stories is published by Y42K Publishing Services and is 137 pp.

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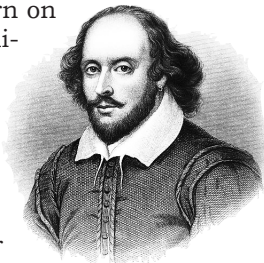
Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was probably born on about April 23, 1564, the date that is traditionally given for his birth. He was John and Mary Shakespeare's oldest surviving child; their first two children, both girls, did not live beyond infancy. Growing up as the big brother of the family, William had three younger brothers, Gilbert, Richard, and Edmund, and two younger sisters: Anne, who died at seven, and Joan.



Their father, John Shakespeare, was a leatherworker who specialized in the soft white leather used for gloves and similar items. A prosperous businessman, he married Mary Arden, of the prominent Arden family. John rose through local offices in Stratford, becoming an alderman and eventually, when William was five, the town bailiff—much like a mayor. Not long after serving as town bailiff, however, John Shakespeare stepped back from public life; we don't know why.

Shakespeare, as the son of a leading Stratford citizen, almost certainly attended Stratford's grammar school. Like all such schools, its curriculum consisted of an intense emphasis on the Latin classics, including memorization, writing, and acting classic Latin plays. Shakespeare most likely attended until about age 15.

A few years after he left school, in late 1582, William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. She was already expecting their first-born child, Susanna, which was a fairly common situation at the time. When they married, Anne was 26 and William was 18. Anne grew up just outside Stratford in the village of Shottery. After marrying, she spent the rest of her life in Stratford.

In early 1585, the couple had twins, Judith and Hamnet, completing the family. In the years ahead, Anne and the children lived in Stratford while Shakespeare worked in London.

Shakespeare's only son, Hamnet, died in 1596 at the age of 11. His older daughter Susanna later married a well-to-do Stratford doctor, John Hall. Their daughter Elizabeth, Shakespeare's first grandchild, was born in 1608. In 1616, just months before his death, Shakespeare's daughter Judith married Thomas Quiney, a Stratford vintner. The family subsequently died out, leaving no direct descendants of Shakespeare.

For several years after the birth of Judith and Hamnet in 1585, nothing is known for certain of Shakespeare's activities: how he earned a living, when he moved from Stratford, or how he got his start in the theater

The first definite mention of Shakespeare is in 1592 as an established London actor and playwright, mocked by a contemporary as a "Shake-scene." The same writer alludes to one of Shakespeare's earliest history plays, *Henry VI, Part 3*, which must already have been performed. The next year, in 1593, Shakespeare published a long poem, *Venus and Adonis*. The first quarto editions of his early plays appeared in 1594.

For more than two decades, Shakespeare had multiple roles in the London theater as an actor, playwright, and, in time, a business partner in a major acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men (renamed the King's Men in 1603). Over the years, he became steadily more famous in the London theater world; his name, which was not even listed on the first quartos of his plays, became a regular feature — clearly a selling point — on later title pages.

Shakespeare prospered financially from his partnership in the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later the King's Men), as well as from his writing and acting. He invested much of his wealth in real-estate purchases in Stratford and bought the second-largest house in town, New Place, in 1597.

Among the last plays that Shakespeare worked on was *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, which he wrote with a frequent collaborator, John Fletcher. Shakespeare passed away most likely on April 23, 1616 at age 52. We do not know the cause of his death. His brother-in-law had died a week earlier, which could imply infectious disease, but Shakespeare's health may have had a longer decline.

The memorial bust of Shakespeare at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford is considered one of two authentic likenesses, because it was approved by people who knew him. The other such likeness is the engraving by Martin Droeshout in the 1623 First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays, produced seven years after his death by his friends and colleagues from the King's Men.

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Colorful Houseplants for Lower Light Locations

by Melinda Myers

Take your indoor garden to the next level. Include some colorful houseplants for some added interest throughout the year. Even those with low to moderate light in their homes can boost the color of their indoor gardens.

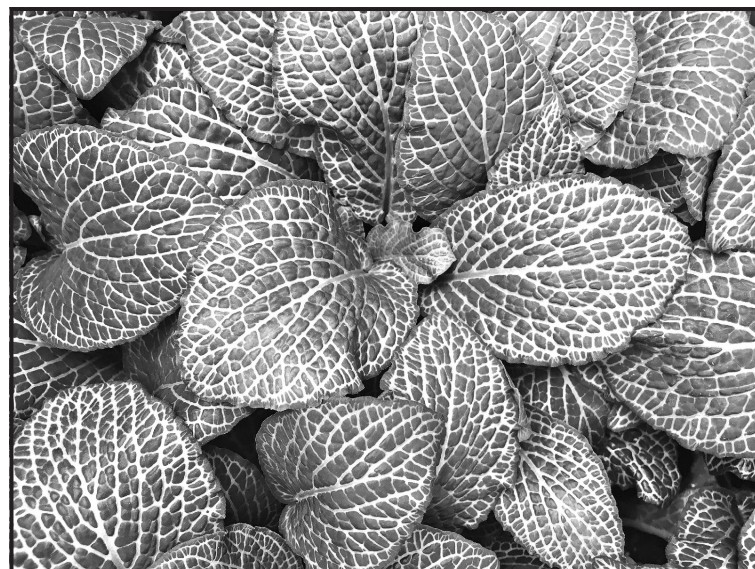
Philodendron has long been a favorite houseplant for low light situations. Update your collection with the bright chartreuse leaves of the trailing Lemon Lime philodendron or upright Pink Princess with splashes and streaks of pink on its dark green leaves.

Chinese Evergreens (*Aglonema*) are a good choice for gardeners who prefer low-light plants that tolerate drier soil. You can find Chinese evergreens with a variety of colorful leaf patterns. Siam Red has broad leaves with red edges, Red Valentine offers green leaves with pink and red blotches, and the white markings on its green leaves inspired Split Milk's name.

Nerve plants (*Fittonia*) on the other hand prefer consistently moist well-drained soil to keep their green leaves with pink, purple, red, or white variegated leaves looking their best. Regular trimming will help this plant look its best and starting new plants from these trimmings will keep your plant collection filled with these colorful but often short-lived plants.

Reduce maintenance and increase success with this and other houseplants by amending the potting mix with an organic and sustainable soil additive like Wild Valley Farms *wool pellets* (wildvalleyfarms.com). Research found this amendment holds 20% of its weight in water and slowly releases it into the soil when needed, helping keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy wet.

Prayer plants, including the *Marantas* and *Calatheas*, can be a bit more challenging but their unique foliage that folds up like praying hands at night makes them well worth the effort. These plants prefer moderate



Red nerve plant (*Fittonia*) adds color and interest to indoor plant collections. (Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

indirect light and can scorch in direct sunlight or pale when the light is insufficient. Like nerve plants, they prefer consistently moist soil and high humidity. Boost humidity by grouping houseplants together and placing them on gravel trays. The pebbles in the tray elevate the pots above the water kept in the saucer. As the water evaporates, the humidity level increases around the plant. Use rainwater or distilled water to avoid brown tips on prayer plants, dracaenas, and spider plants caused by fluoride and chlorine in tap water.

For those with a bit more light add a few spots of color with polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*). You may have grown this plant as an annual in your garden and containers, but it also performs well as an indoor plant. Regular trimming of the green with white or pink-dotted leaves keeps the plant full and compact.

Peperomias prefer bright indirect light, but some varieties will tolerate a bit less. Ripple Peperomia (*Peperomia caperata*) adds texture and a bit of color while watermelon peperomia (*Peperomia argyreia*) offers a nice contrast with its smooth leaves colored like watermelon rind.

Dracaena plants offer a wide variety of textures with narrow and broad leaves and various types and intensities of variegation. Dorado's leaves have

thin yellow leaf edges, Lemon Lime's green leaves are highlighted with white stripes and chartreuse leaf margins, and Limelight with its wide neon bright chartreuse leaves are just a few of the many colorful dracaenas now available.

If the colorful leaves of any of these plants tend to pale or fade to green you may need to increase the amount of light the plants receive. Try moving them closer to an east- or west-facing window or supplement those lowlight situations with artificial lights.

Consider these plants a piece of living art or a way to refresh your indoor décor. Not only do they improve the view, but they also help boost your mood, reduce stress, and improve focus when observing and tending these and your other indoor plants.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
BALVINA M. AGUILON, Plaintiff(s)
v.
ERVIN GONZALEZ, Defendant(s)

To the above named Defendant(s) Ervin Gonzalez

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s), Balvina M. Aguilon seeking a Complaint for Custody/Support/Parenting Time.

You are required to serve upon Balvina M. Aguilon or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is 9 Karal Dr., Framingham, MA 01701 your answer on or before 21st day of March 2025. If You fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of this Court at 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852.

Witness, TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq.,
First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of February 7th, 2025.

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court
Run date: 02/21/2025

Photo Submission Guidelines

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

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Facts wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best . . . forgetting the rest

JOHN LEE HOOKER – IT SERVE YOU RIGHT TO SUFFER (Vinyl)

(Impulse! 1966/Verve/UMe)
LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS –
LIGHTNIN' STRIKES (Vinyl)

(Verve Folkways, 1966/UMe)
Verve/UMe's Acoustic Sounds series kicks off its slate of 2025 releases with two immortal blues classics released in 1966 by two of the defining pioneers of the blues — John Lee Hooker's superb and sorrowful *It Serve You Right To Suffer* and Lightnin' Hopkins' rollicking and aching *Lightnin' Strikes* — shaking up the traditionally jazz-centric vinyl reissue series to start the year.

John Lee Hooker – It Serve You Right To Suffer (Impulse!, 1966)

Released on Impulse! in early 1966, *It Serve You Right To Suffer* is a masterful blend of new compositions and re-workings of songs John Lee Hooker had previously recorded. Performed with a trio of pedigreed jazz musicians, the session imbues Hooker's typically raw and stripped-down arrangements with sophistication, swing, and an improvisational spirit. Featuring Panama Francis on drums, Milt Hinton on bass, and Barry Galbraith on second guitar, this collaboration delivers some of the finest John Lee Hooker material ever recorded with a full band. Verve's Acoustic Sounds Series features transfers from analog tapes and remastered 180-gram vinyl in deluxe gatefold packaging.

Lightnin' Hopkins – Lightnin' Strikes (Verve Folkways, 1966)

Recorded in 1966 for the Verve Folkways label, *Lightnin' Strikes* may not have the notoriety as some of Lightnin' Hopkins' other albums, but this set backed by Jimmy Bond (bass), Earl Palmer (drums) and Don Crawford (harmonica) is classic Lightnin'. From the opener, "Mojo Hand" to the ballad, "Woke Up This Morning," *Lightnin' Strikes* showcases classic blues from one of the best there was. Verve's Acoustic Sounds Series features transfers from analog tapes and remastered 180-gram vinyl in deluxe gatefold packaging.

CLAIRE COPE – EVERY JOURNEY: ENSEMBLE C (CD)

Adhyaropa Records)

Claire Cope's musical voice is distinct and singular. The human voice is a vital element of her writing, courtesy the typically wordless vocals of Brigitte Beraha, who also contributes lyrics to the moving song "The Birch and the Larch." The album opens with the atmospheric "Every Journey (Has a Beginning)," which sets the tone for the sonic expedition to come, culminating in a quicksilver solo by guitarist Ant Law. The set is bookended by the tender "Home," highlighted by a captivating duo between Beraha's and Mike Soper on flugelhorn. The soaring groove of "Flight" pays homage to Bessie Coleman, the first woman of African American and Native American descent

to earn her pilot's license in the U.S. "Isabel" is named for one of the subjects of *Adventuresses*, Isabel Godin des Odonais, the first known woman to traverse the length of the Amazon River, and features percussionist Jack McCarthy along with baritone saxophonist Rob Cope, trombonist Anoushka Nanguy, and trumpeter Freddie Gavita. The four-piece horn section could threaten to overwhelm the balance of the ensemble, but Cope employs it nimbly, often using flugelhorn in one of the trumpet chairs and tending toward the lush rather than the powerful — as in the stirring, "The Light of the Dark." The horns can swell and ascend when needed, however, as they do to provoke the dramatic tenor extemporizations of Matt Carmichael on "Amboseli." The piece is named for a national park in Kenya set against the backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro, the contrast of immense heights and vast plains is breathtakingly captured in Cope's piece. The simmering rhythm laid down by Cope's bassist Gavin Barras and drummer Jon Ormston on "That Nabongo Feeling" paint a vigorous portrait of modern-day explorer Jessica Nabongo, who recently became the first documented Black woman to visit all of the planet's 195 countries.

SYLVIA COURVOISIER & MARY HALVORSON – BONE BELLS (CD)

Pyroclastic Records)

Pianist Sylvie Courvoisier and guitarist Mary Halvorson are revered among the most distinctive and innovative voices in modern creative music. Adeptly shifting between the realms of contemporary chamber music and avant-garde jazz. Over the course of a collaboration that has become vital in less than a decade's time, Courvoisier and Halvorson have merged those two remarkably singular voices into a single, dauntless vision. With *Bone Bells*, the pair affirms their place as one of the most thrilling and venturesome piano/guitar tandems in that pairing's relatively small pantheon. *Bone Bells* splits its compositions evenly between the two artists, alternating their contributions from one track to the next. On *Bone Bells*, Halvorson's eerily mournful title track is followed by Courvoisier's tempestuous "Esmeralda," named after a sculpture by the Dutch artist Cornelis Zitman, which veers from elegant to eruptive. The guitarist's "Folded Secret" is built on a labyrinthine, cyclical vamp punctuated by Courvoisier's percussive prepared piano, while the pianist's "Nags Head Valse" is a delirious *danse macabre*. Halvorson's mesmerizing "Beclouded" is redolent of both soaring flight and hazy consciousness; along with Courvoisier's madcap "Silly Walk." Dizzying unison lines unravel into probing improvisations in Halvorson's "Float Queens," while Courvoisier lifted the dynamic "Cristellino e Lontano" from one score and applied it to the starkly entrancing piece that concludes the album.

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

FIGHTING AGAINST ELDER ABUSE



Kudos to all the members of the Boston City Council who showed up for the hearing on February 13th, "Protecting Our Seniors from Elder Scams," which City Councilor Erin Murphy co-sponsored with Councilors Ed Flynn and Julia Mejia. The session was incredibly informative, shedding light on the pressing issue of elder fraud in our communities.

A special thank you to all the panelists from the Age Strong Commission, the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Boston Police Department and AT&T. Their expertise and insights are invaluable as the city works collaboratively to safeguard our seniors from fraudulent home repair schemes, banking scams and other predatory practices.

As Councilor Murphy stated, "Together, we are committed to strengthening protections for our vulnerable community members and ensuring they can live with dignity and security."

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Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
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Docket No. MI25C0202CA
In the Matter of
NATALIA GRACE VALLARELLI
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PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Natalia Grace Vallarelli of Arlington, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Natalie Grace Vrotsos-Vallarelli.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 12, 2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court
Date: February 12, 2025
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 02/21/2025

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"BOSTON'S WARMING CLIMATE LEADS TO MORE RATS, STUDY SAYS"

The above headline ran on Page B-1 in the Metro Section of the *Boston Globe* this past Tuesday morning. Once again we are being warned about the horrible implications of our increasingly warmer climate which is clearly leading to more and more rats among us. Remember those horrible rat movies like *Ben* back nearly 40 years? Of course, the ironic thing about reporting on a rat climate study just happened on what I considered one of the most brutally COLD days of this cold winter. The report on this climate study vs. rats study

should have been held for later this week when temperatures are predicted to get warmer. Just saying. We all know rats hate the cold. No study needed to tell me that. It is common knowledge among Bostonians. Rats like warmer weather, which is why we see more of them in our warmer months like spring or summer?

Listen, I do believe we need to take better care of our Earth but trying to scare folks with a spike in rat births isn't the way to go about the urgency over protecting our environment.

Listen, I do believe we need to take better care of our Earth but trying to scare folks with a spike in rat births isn't the way to go about the urgency over protecting our environment.



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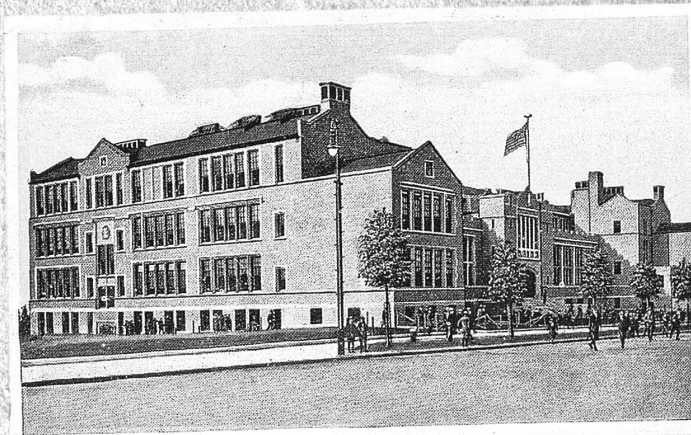
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True Short Stories

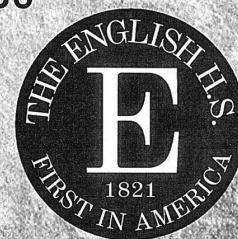
By Dr. John Christoforo

BOSTON ENGLISH HIGH



Ruminations of a 1956 grad who got away with just about everything!

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Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



President's Day was on the 17th, and this means that the public schools are on a week's vacation. Years ago, when I was a young teacher in Boston, I would plan to go on vacation during that period of time. There were several young single teachers that I had befriended and we all had the same idea ... as the Brits would say, "Go on holiday," so we all went on a vacation during that week off.

Many of the people I taught with liked to ski. I tried it once and decided to stick to warm weather sports and hobbies. If none of my colleagues wanted to head to a warmer climate, I would call my old friend, Sal Meli. He lived in East Boston and worked at Polaroid enjoying a rather flexible schedule that allowed him to take winter vacations.

When I told him that I was thinking of heading to Puerto Rico during the winter recess, he told me to include him in the plans. One teacher that I had become friendly with at Hyde Park High School, Tom Aylward, decided to join us and I headed to Colpitt's Travel Agency in Boston. I knew the vice president as he was a friend of Uncle Nick's and had taken care of his and Aunt Dorothy's vacation needs for many years whenever they decided to travel.

I've forgotten the man's name, but when I gave him our time frame and budget, he planned a trip for us that included Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, all in one week. We were booked to fly to San Juan at night on the last Friday before the week's vacation would start. We were to stay at the Hotel Normandie, an older, but fashionable hotel that, today, is classified as the oldest hotel in Puerto Rico. After being there for a few days, we were booked to fly to Charlotte Amalie, the capital of St. Thomas and check into the Gramboco Inn, a local hotel that was frequented by naval officers stationed on the island. When I told Babbonnonno about my plans, he fantasized that he could come with us, but it was impossible. He was too old but was satisfied when I told him that I would bring him back a bottle of homemade Puerto Rican rum.

That Friday night, Dad, Mom, Babbonnonno and I picked up Sal and we headed for the airport. My colleague from Hyde Park High was being driven to the airport by another teacher who had wanted to come along but had to care for his ailing mother and couldn't. It had begun to snow and Dad questioned as to whether we would take off.

Being young and positive about everything, I had him drop us off at the Eastern Airlines terminal and head back home. There was a lounge at the terminal that was owned by a former state senator, Mike LoPresti. I had campaigned for him when he ran for office and had also known one of his sons, Vincent, when we both attended English High School. When Mike spotted me, he came over to say hello and I introduced him to Sal and my teacher friend Tom who had arrived just as I did.

Mike told us to check in and then head back to the lounge for a drink. At check in, we were told that the flight was going to be delayed for an hour due to the weather. Our teacher friend who couldn't come had more than one drink, and when he headed back to the parking lot, couldn't find his car as they were all covered with snow by then. He wandered around aimlessly and then began to yell for help. A state trooper heard him and located him. He brought him back to the barracks and sobered him up before letting him continue the search for his car. The rest of us didn't know this part of the story but would find out a week later when we returned home. When the plane was ready to take off about an hour or two later, Mike LoPresti wouldn't let us pay for anything. I thanked him and we headed to the gate to board the plane and head south.

I don't know about Tom or Sal, but I fell asleep. A stewardess (now called flight attendant) woke me up as we were ready to land and I could see that it was almost dawn. It must have been around 5:00 or 5:30 in the morning when we landed. Just as soon as we deplaned, I could feel the warm tropical climate surrounding me, a climate that I've grown to love over the years.

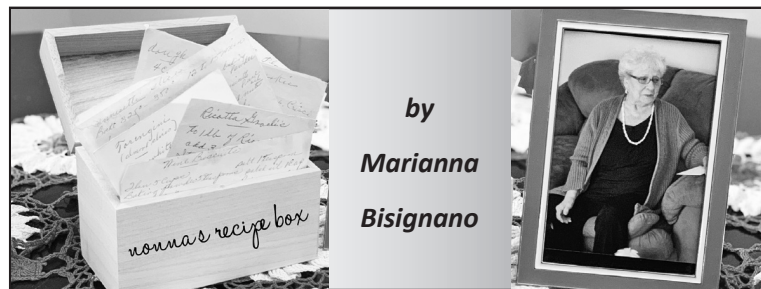
A Grey Line tour bus was waiting for us and brought us to the Hotel Normandie after we picked up our suitcases from the luggage area. The hotel was oval shaped with a large deck area in the middle and an Olympic-sized swimming pool in the center. The room we had booked was very large and had three good-sized beds which made us very happy. After check in, we changed into more casual clothing and headed to the hotel restaurant and breakfast. (Back then, we dressed in a suit and tie when we flew.) As we entered, I noticed a table with three or four very attractive ladies sitting around it. One of them waved

and as I approached, I discovered it was the flight attendant who serviced us on the flight from Boston. She and one of the other girls were from Puerto Rico and were destined to show us around San Juan. But that's another story.

We decided to head for the pool and enjoy the sun and water while we planned what we were going to do for the next few days. Sal had been to the island a couple times and knew where to go, so we left the planning up to him. Before we did anything else, I wanted to call home and let my folks know that I was safe. Back then, to save money, I would call home collect and ask for myself. Mom usually answered and would say to the operator that I wasn't home and I would leave a message giving a relative's name. This would let, especially Mom, know that I was safe. Her problem was that she would always respond with, "I'll tell John that you called, and don't forget to wear a sweater if it gets cold."

Later in the day, Sal, Tom and I headed for Old San Juan, the colonial section of the city. We joined a tour and saw the historic sites that amazed me as many of them had been there since around 1500. A fort and several government buildings had been constructed by the Spanish not long after Columbus landed on the island. Later, Sal brought us to a restaurant and we got a sample of local dishes. I loved the food and still do. Much of it is centered around roast pork marinated in garlic, olive oil and spices.

For the next few days, we headed to several beaches that were recommended to us, and at night, local clubs where the best in salsa music could be heard and danced to. We also spent time at several hotels, especially the ones that had casinos. Right after Cuba became off limits for American tourists, Puerto Rico passed gambling laws and several of the major hotels opened casinos to attract the tourists. It worked and the island became a destination for Americans who had gone to Havana in the past. I had only been inside a casino once (Havana, 1958) and must have maintained beginner's luck status. No matter what I tried, I won. I tried blackjack and won. I tried roulette and won. I tried baccarat and won. I made more money than what I had brought to spend on the entire trip. As a result, I was ready for some gift buying a few days later when we headed for St. Thomas. But that's a story for another day ... **GOD BLESS AMERICA**



by
Marianna
Bisignano

As February begins, Italy bursts into the festive spirit of Carnevale, a season of masquerade balls, vibrant parades, and elaborate costumes leading up to Lent. This period of indulgence before the solemnity of fasting is celebrated across the country with a rich tradition of sweets — most often fried or baked — to mark the occasion.

From North to South, each Italian region boasts its own signature Carnevale treats. Ancient Rome is credited with *Chiacchiere*, delicate, crispy ribbons of fried dough dusted with powdered sugar. Sicily is renowned for *Sfingi*, light and airy fried pastries, while Naples is home to *Migliaccio*, a baked semolina and ricotta cake. With a texture reminiscent of baked pudding and a flavor akin to the beloved *Sfogliatella* Napoletana, *Migliaccio* is a must-try for any festive table. This old family recipe is both easy to make and delightful to eat. *Buon Carnevale!*

MIGLIACCIO (Italian Semolina and Ricotta Cake)



- 500g (2 cups) ricotta
- 250g (1 ¾ cups) semolina
- 1 liter (4 ½ cups) milk
- 350g (1 ¾ cups) granulated sugar
- 6 whole eggs
- 2 packets vanillina (or 2 teaspoons vanilla extract)
- 50g (4 tablespoons) butter
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 organic orange (half peeled, half zested)
- 1 organic lemon (half peeled, half zested)
- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Note: To flavor, some also add Millifiore, Limoncello or Strega, raisins and/or chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease a 32cm (12-inch) cake pan or two smaller pans. Line with parchment paper and set aside. In a large stockpot, combine the milk, salt, butter, orange peel, and lemon peel over medium-low heat and bring to a gentle boil.

Reduce the heat to low, remove the citrus peels, and slowly whisk in the semolina, stirring continuously to prevent lumps. Cook until smooth and creamy, then transfer to a bowl and allow to cool.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs, then add the sugar, citrus zests and vanillina (or vanilla extract).

Gradually mix in the ricotta, a little at a time, until fully incorporated.

Once the semolina mixture has cooled, add it gradually, mixing well between additions until the batter is smooth and lump-free.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan(s) and smooth the top with a spatula.

Bake in the preheated oven for about 60 minutes. If the top browns too quickly (after 40–50 minutes), cover it loosely with foil and continue baking until golden.

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

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

three newest council members just elected. They've banned the gay flag from flying over city hall and on January 21st declared their California city a "non-sanctuary city" too.

The *Wall Street Journal* published a Page 3 story on this community on February 18th headlined "City is Lab for Trump-Style Government."

Across the President's Day Weekend
A number of cities across the country held anti-Trump

rallies and gathered in Washington, DC and at state capitols across America. Many holding signs that state "Not My President's Day" or "No King's for Presidents' Day." Organizers of these events said they were speaking out against "the anti-democratic and illegal actions of the Trump Administration."

End Quote
"We have a Republic if we can keep it."

— Ben Franklin, 1776

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THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso



The Mystery of the Mysterious Stranger

In December of 1916, more than six years after the death of Mark Twain, his final novel was published. Whether it was published in full remains a matter of mystery but what is known is that it had appeared throughout his later years in fragments and different versions. In its final (if not "finished") form, *The Mysterious Stranger* is among Twain's most exasperating works, painfully reminiscent of Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill* and Lewis Carroll's *Sylvie and Bruno*. It is, however, a revealing look into the mind of a grieving genius who had endured the loss of his wife and daughter and its release makes a valuable addition to Twain's cannon.

Like the works by Kipling and Carroll it is an episodic telling of encounters with a supernatural being visiting our world, in this case Satan, though not Satan himself...but Satan's nephew who shares his name and arrives in 16th century Austria and tantalizes a group of young boys with shocking and often nihilistic teachings on the meaning of life.

Not surprisingly, it's an angry, unrelentingly cynical, work. Evidence of Twain's state of mind during composition could be seen in such short works as *What Is Man?*, here unleashed in a larger uninhibited platform.

Curiously, however, *The Mysterious Stranger* started out in far more colorful, teasingly naughty spirits. In its first incarnation, appearing in the fall of 1897, the work was known merely by its working title "The St. Petersburg Fragment" which evolved over the next few years into *Chronicle*

of *Young Satan*, the story at this point set in the 18th century. The most promising state of the work came in the fall of 1898 under the title *Schoolhouse Hill* and featured an encounter with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

After that, the work disappeared beneath the small and sporadic works released during Twain's last decade and the status of the novel was not known until after his death.

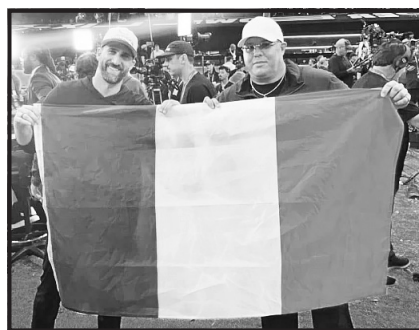
After more than five years sorting through Twain's manuscripts his biographer and estate executor, Albert Bigelow Paine, reintroduced the work in what he called its finished form, now titled *The Mysterious Stranger*, though elements in earlier versions were evident throughout. It was published with much fanfare as Twain's last novel.

Indeed, *The Mysterious Stranger* was accepted as such for almost fifty years. Then, in 1963, Twain scholar John S. Tuckey examined Twain's manuscripts and found that what was published as *The Mysterious Stranger* was really a hybrid of Twain's notes with a lot of cosmetic and outright

padding by Paine and associate Frederick Duneka. To be sure this has happened before. Jane Austen's unfinished *Sanditon*, for instance, has been published with a conclusion tagged on to the work Austen left behind and also in an edition dismantling what Austen had laid down and building up from scratch. In both cases, however, the editors came about the published work honestly.

Nonetheless, the work as it was released was an insight into Twain's bleak view of humanity and religion, though his *Christian Science*, one of his last works is a far better read. But perhaps Twain is not to blame for the punishing darkness of *The Mysterious Stranger*. As is evident from the fluidity of its earlier versions it suffers both from expansion into novel length and its presentation in a narrative structure. Ideally, *The Mysterious Stranger* would have come to us as an essay but could have also stayed afloat as a short story. Paine and Duneka gave us a valuable glimpse into Twain's increasing animosity in his twilight years, but robbed it of its power through inflation.

Italian Roots Embedded in Super Bowl Victors, Philadelphia Eagles



Nick Sirianni, Head Coach of the 2025 Superbowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, makes no apologies for displaying his emotions, after all, he is a proud Italian American, even going as far as personalizing his visor and shirt with an embroidered Italian flag logo. Following the AFC game, propelling the Eagles into

the Superbowl, Sirianni questioned his lack of emotion, and then quickly realized, he needed one more win if he was to fully display his Italian passion. He got that final win last Sunday, when the Eagles dominated the Kansas City Chiefs to win Super Bowl LIX, and Sirianni was not afraid to let the tears of happiness flow freely.

With deep Calabrian roots, and an old-fashion Italian upbringing, Sirianni brings La Famiglia leadership style, an old-school relentless work ethic and a family-first ideology, that has solidified and resonated throughout the locker room and franchise. Passion, loyalty and a family first approach defines Sirianni's leadership style.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that the Eagle's longtime Chief of Security, Dom DiSandro, is also a proud Italian-American. "Big Dom" as he is affectionately referred, takes his responsibility to the players very personal, creating an environment of protectiveness and supportiveness, just as his Italian family taught and would expect of him.

Throughout the Eagles franchise, the "Italian roots and connection" are on display and are a fundamental part of the team's ability to persevere and embrace the resilience needed to succeed during the season. There is no doubt, the embodiment of La Famiglia mentality has helped drive the eagles to their success!

Don't Miss "Celtics City" Docuseries on HBO

A nine-episode series showcasing the NBA Champion Boston Celtics seventy-five-year history will debut on Monday, March 3rd at 9 p.m. on HBO. The following episodes will be released weekly, with the finale to air on Monday, April 28, just as the first round of the 2025 NBA playoffs are set to begin.

Each episode is to feature never before seen footage and almost one hundred interviews with past and present Boston Celtic legends, opponents, coaches, general managers and ownership. The trailer tease for episode one begins as the Celtics celebrate the 18th NBA title, the tracing of the franchise origins to legendary coach Red Auerbach, his vision for success, his history making upon drafting Chuck Cooper as the NBA's first black player, the powerhouse teams with Bob Cousy and Bill Russell.

Progressive episodes will highlight Larry Bird's arrival, the Lakers/Celtics rivalry, the Danny Ainge formed trio of Paul Pierce, Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett and their 17th Championship banner, along with the present Tatum/Brown era.

It should prove to be a historical and nostalgic series.

Red Sox Reel in Houston Astro's Rival, Alex Bregman

In what was a back and forth volley the past month or so, turned what many would say is a homerun for Red Sox Nation. Longtime Houston Astros third baseman, Alex Bregman, is heading to Fenway, with a three-year, \$120 million contract.

It's actually a full circle moment for the Sox and Bregman, as Boston was the first club to draft him in the 29th round of the 2012 MLB draft. At the time, Bergman was a high school second baseman, who chose to honor his commitment to LSU. After a successful college career, he was drafted 2nd overall by Houston in the 2015 MLB draft. The current signing will reunite Bergman with Alex Cora, who served as the Houston Astro's bench coach in 2017.

Bergman was quite instrumental in leading the Astro's to two world series championships, in 2018 and 2022, and was awarded his first Gold Glove this past season. In 131 career plate appearances at Fenway, Bregman hit .311/.458/.660 with nine homeruns and seventeen RBI's.

Team USA Skates to Victory After U.S. National Anthem Disrespect in Montreal

Team USA is a tough group of hockey players and not easily intimidated, so when they took the ice last week ahead of their match up against Finland in the 4 Nations Face-Off, amidst jeers and boos by the Canadian fans, they shook it off. But when the booing continued during the "Star Spangled Banner", as fans blatantly disregarded requests from the announcer asking fans to show respect for the United States anthem, the team was not happy about it.

"I didn't like it," Team USA member Matthew Tkachuk made clear, using the Canadian fans disrespect as motivation in scoring two goals to assist in the USA 6-1 blowout against Finland. At a recent visit to the White House, for a Victory celebration with President Trump and the Florida Panthers Stanley Cup Championship team, Tkachuk spoke about how grateful he is to be an American, "Thank you Mr. President, for having us here today. We greatly appreciate it. Being one of the few Americans, who loves this country so much, it's such an incredible day for myself. You wake up every day really grateful to be an American, so thank you."

Since President Trump's threat to impose tariffs on Canada, it has been common for Canadian fans to boo during the U.S. national anthem. Team Canada and Team USA were scheduled to meet this past Saturday on the ice in the 4 Nations Face-Off in Montreal. Given the competitive hockey rivalry between the U.S. and Canadian teams, there is no doubt the booing during the "Star Spangled Banner" will be heard all the way to Boston!



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To _____

From _____

We at the BOSTON POST-GAZETTE are very pleased to add your name to our family of subscribers by virtue of a Gift Subscription for one year. We believe that you will find this a very special gift, which continues to be given throughout the year as you receive each issue of the BOSTON POST-GAZETTE.

Pamela Domaruma, Publisher

• **Wasteful Spending** (Continued from Page 1)

Homeland Security Secretary (DHS) Kristi Noem, immediately pulled back the full payment that FEMA holdovers from the Biden administration gave to NYC migrant hotels," a DHS spokesperson announced. Shortly after, Trump posted on Truth Social that FEMA should be abolished, "FEMA spent tens of millions of dollars in Democrat areas, disobeying orders, but left the people of North Carolina high and dry. It is now under review and investigation," President Trump declared.

As Musk and DOGE continue to wade through frivolous federal spending, some agencies have set up their own inter-departmental task forces to conduct their own investigations and assist DOGE. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lee Zeldin, announced he had "cancelled a \$50 million environmental justice grant to an organization called Climate Justice Alliance, claiming climate justice runs

through a free Palestine. I think the American taxpayer would not want \$50 million going to this left-wing advocacy group. It's canceled," said Zeldin.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth also committed to cooperating with DOGE to slash wasteful spending at the Department of Defense. "We will partner with them. It's long overdue. The Defense Department's got a huge budget, but it needs to be responsible," Hegseth stated.

This is just the beginning for DOGE and Elon Musk in what should prove to be quite fruitful financially for the Federal government and a massive headache for USAID and other federal agencies who are literally under President Trump's microscope.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI25C0161CA
In the Matter of
ADELYN MARIE BELLAN
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Addelyn Marie Bellan of Watertown, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Addelyn Marie Sturtevant.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 07, 2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court
Date: February 07, 2025
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI25P0718GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
LIAM M. ZARSOL
of Wakefield, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/11/2025 by **Marlon H. Martinez** of Wakefield, MA **Tabitha C. Clark** of Wakefield, MA will be held 04/30/2025 08:30 AM **Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 **Judge Gargas Session, Courtroom 4**
2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: February 11, 2025
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI25P0485EA
Estate of
HERBET M. GANN
Date of Death: November 18, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Rita E. Gann of Newton, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Rita E. Gann of Newton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Run date: 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970, under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 10, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2007 MAZDA MAZDA3
VIN #JM1BK343471606494
2015 YAMAHA YW50F/ZUMA 50F
VIN #RKRSA43A9FA120649
2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN #JTNBE46K673067037
2005 SATURN VUE
VIN #5GZCZ63445S816708
2014 FORD EXPLORER
VIN #1FM5KB81EGB33538
2008 TOYOTA CAMRY SOLARA
VIN #4T1CA30P78U137669
2005 CHEVROLET ASTRO VAN
VIN #1GCDL19X55B131032
2010 NISSAN SENTRA
VIN #3N1AB6AP2AL677622
2015 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN #2T1BURHE1FC341004
2022 HONDA PILOT
VIN #5FNYP5H22NB036124
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 02/14, 02/21, 02/28/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970, under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **March 03, 2025** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.
2004 TAOTAO BK
VIN #L9NTCBAEXL1009332
2007 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
VIN #1J8HR58237C634657
2009 GMC ACADIA
VIN #1GKEV23D09J198768
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 02/07, 02/14, 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

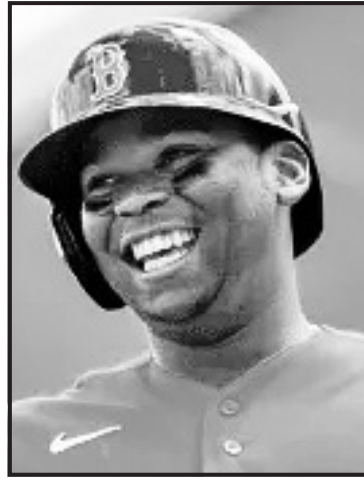
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24D1863DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
CONNIE NEANG vs. RITHY THACH
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Connie Neang, 197 School St., #2, Lowell, MA 01854** your answer, if any, on or before **March 21, 2025**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 07, 2025
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

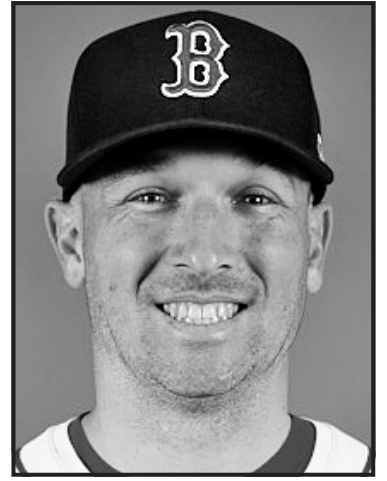
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI25P0544EA
Estate of
WILLIAM T. GILMARTIN
Date of Death: December 20, 2009
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Ann L. Gilmartin of Burlington, 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 **Ann L. Gilmartin of Burlington, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 12, 2025.**
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. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 12, 2025
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/21/2025



Who's on Third Devers or Bregman?



Rafael Devers



Alex Bregman

The latest baseball battle in BOSTON STRONG concerns the movement of Rafael Devers to the DH spot now that the Red Sox have signed Alex Bregman who is a golden glove third baseman and a pretty good slugger too. When the news apparently hit Devers, he was not a happy camper. He spoke out against the idea of moving him off the hot corner and into the role of the team's designated hitter. He still thinks he has miles to go playing third base and says he was promised that third base was his to play. However, the promise apparently was made by someone no longer with the Red Sox.

Devers is a great player and has been since coming up through the Red Sox farm system. Many of us thought the Red Sox would be building this team around him but now both he and Red Sox fans don't seem that sure anymore. With the signing of a big name third baseman like Bergman is John Henry saying time to rethink poor Rafael who makes a salary that is so huge it would take most of us ten lifetimes to earn OR MAYBE MORE?

Alex Cora was sounding like a player caught in a rundown between second and third. He empathizes with Devers but said the issue at hand isn't between Devers and Bergman. It is about what is best for the entire Red Sox team.

Did Henry go for Bergman who is one of the best third basemen in the business today to play him at second base? I would find that difficult to believe. This turf battle will be solved as they always are. Baseball today spends far too much time trying to heal bruised egos. This is what happens when you give players more money than God. They think they are the best forever. Not true, is it? I am truly sorry if Dever's pride has been hurt. He'll get over it. The team is more important than any one or two players. What do you think about this out there? Send me your opinions. I want to hear from you. sal.giarratani@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24P0443GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
ISAIAH A. REID
of Lowell, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 01/26/2024 by **Angel R. Reid** of Lowell, MA **Angelina M. Depaulis** of Lowell, MA will be held **03/12/2025 09:00 AM Review Hearing** Located 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor **Lowell, MA 01852 - Courtroom 11**
2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: December 11, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/21/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI24P0440GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
NASHAWN MITCHELL
of Lowell, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 01/26/2024 by **Angel Reid** of Lowell, MA **Angelina Depaulis** of Lowell, MA will be held **03/12/2025 09:00 AM Review Hearing** Located 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor **Lowell, MA 01852 - Courtroom 11**
2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
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Date: December 11, 2024
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/21/2025

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN



The Ladies Lace 'Em Up!



Ace Hudkins and Dancer Helen Tamiris



Joan Crawford lands an uppercut to the chin of Dorothy Sebastian



Clara Bow showing her winning stance



Shelley Winters with some unusual boxing shoes



Mamie Van Doren buckles the knees of Ray Anthony



Boxing trainer taking it on the chin from swimmer turned movie star Annette Kellermann



Alice Faye scoring a knockout with her smile



Audrey Trotter and Robert Ryan on sparring between scenes of *The Set-Up*

HOOPS and HOCKEY IN THE HUB

by Richard Preiss



It is good to be back. It has been quite a while since your faithful correspondent took to the keyboard — early November to be a bit more precise.

Where has he been since that interval? Well, it started with a couple of falls that eventually saw me wind up in Massachusetts General Hospital for about five weeks.

It was then off to a rehab facility on the North Shore. It was there on Christmas morning that I was able to get out of bed without assistance for the first time in about seven weeks. I am now in an assisted living facility (at least temporarily) near my home where I continue to make progress. With a physical therapist by my side I recently was able to walk with just a hiking stick for a considerable distance for the first time in over three months — leaving the walker back in my room.

All of this will hopefully lead me to going back to the TD Garden to cover events and be with game night friends I have made over the past 30 years.

I should also say I have a renewed appreciation for those who work directly in health care — especially nurses. If anyone reading this works in hospital administration, I want it known that I support their wishes for future salary increments.

I want to thank the staff of the *Post-Gazette* for the get well wishes that were posted in this space during my absence. I also want to thank all those who signed the get-well card that I received from those who work on Celtics game nights. Both were much appreciated.

Throughout my career, I always have worked with words. I was a journalism professor at Suffolk University in Boston for 43 years. So, I reminded myself that there are two words in the English language that differ by only two letters — victim and victor. I refuse to play the victim (or “why me”) card. I keep telling myself that I will meet this challenge with fervent dedication and emerge from this total experience a victor. I have set my mind to that and believe that I will achieve that outcome over a period of time.

I hope that this positive outlook will encourage others facing medical challenges to do the same.

HONORING JEFF TWISS — Jeff Twiss, now the Vice-President of Media Relations and Alumni Relations for the Boston Celtics, will always occupy a special place in my mind. He was the person to issue me my very first pass to a Boston Celtics game way back during the 1991-1992 season.

Jeff has been with the Celtics for over four decades. It seems like he has been with the Celtics forever. We thought he might have been on hand for an NBA milestone moment back on the Opening Night of the 1979-1980 season when Chris Ford scored the first three-point basket in NBA history. That game also marked Larry Bird's first game as a member of the Celtics.

But Jeff said that he had not — that he was still up in his home state of Vermont. A couple of years later, while earning a graduate degree at UMass-Amherst, he worked as an intern for the Celtics.

As one who assists media members in their duties in disseminating news about the Celtics, Jeff found himself making headlines earlier this month when he was named the 2025 recipient of the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award—the highest award that can be bestowed on a person below enshrinement — by the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield.

As Jeff told one of my Suffolk classes years ago, one of his assignments as an intern was to sometimes drive coach Red Auerbach to various destinations. Red had a driver's license but apparently did not want to drive in the Boston area. During the season he lived in the Prudential Center.

One of these excursions involved driving the famous coach to a preseason game in Providence in 1981, Red asked Jeff if he would like to work for the Celtics. Of course, Jeff said yes and Red's reply was “eight o'clock Monday morning.” As they say the rest is history.

Jeff has been with the Celtics ever since in a number of capacities. In his present capacity as the Vice-President of Media Relations and Alumni Relations he is a perfect fit since he knows so many people across the generations. His lengthy career has encompassed 40 post season appearances, nine trips to the Eastern Conference Finals, seven appearances in the NBA Finals and four NBA Championships (1984, 1986, 2008 and 2024).

He is the fourth member of the Celtics organization to be honored with the Bunn Award. The others include Thomas “Satch” Sanders, Bob Cousy and Red Auerbach.

Twiss will be recognized during the Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend in Springfield slated for Sept. 5-6.

COMING DOWN THE STRETCH — As both the NBA and NHL resume regular season play following their respective pauses things appear to be going pretty much to form for the Celtics.

The Celtics are currently second to the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference and appear ready for a long playoff run as they defend their NBA Championship. They should make the Conference Finals. Most feel they will make the NBA Finals and win the whole thing again.

The Bruins, of course, are another matter. The top three teams in each division of the Eastern Conference will make the playoffs with the final two wild card slots going to the next highest teams. The Bruins are right in the thick of things for a wild card slot being only one point out as this is written — a placement that will undoubtedly change daily as the league approaches the end of the regular season.

If they make it a world of opportunity will be open to the B's for it is in hockey that initial placement in the playoff field means nothing. The Bruins themselves are proof of that. They set a number of records during their historic 2022-2023 regular season only to be upended by Florida — the eighth-place seed in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Plus Florida won all three of its games played at the TD Garden. So much for home ice advantage.