

Christmas Has A Curious History



Christmas is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for coming together with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. Christmas, the Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term Christmas (“mass on Christ’s day”) is of fairly recent origin. It was this love for which Jesus came to this world and sacrificed his life.

Though originated by the Roman Catholics who commemorate December 25th as the day of the birth of Christ Child, it has gradually come to be celebrated by the non-Catholics as well. Much of the world was already well into Christmas celebrations by the time the United States began to wake

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MERRY Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Next Edition of SBT will Publish 1/9/20

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*W*ishing Everyone
in our GREAT Community
A Joyous & Meaningful
Holiday Season, And a
Bright & Happy New Year!

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EDITORIAL

Truly a Special Time of Year, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah

There is no other time of the year that even comes close to being similar. To children, the Christmas season is magical. It's a time in their lives when memories are made that will live forever. Even when we become adults, those Christmas memories; especially if they are caught in photos or video will bring smiles to our faces. It's one of the good things in life; happy times to cherish forever and pass on to new family members as they grow.

The brilliantly lit Christmas trees and neighborhood homes, the gifts, the pageants, the music, the movies we look forward to year after year, the time spent

with family and good friends and the image of Santa everywhere you turn, adds to the tradition that so many people hold so near and dear to their hearts. That it was all started with the birth of the Baby Jesus more than 2000 years ago is the reason for the season and makes this time of year not only festive, but also sacred to more than 2 billion people around the world and certainly to the people of South Boston.

From all of us here at South Boston Today to our friends and neighbors, have a Merry Christmas. May this year bring good tidings to one and all. And of course, to our friends of the Jewish Faith, Happy Hanukkah.



"For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?" - Jesus Christ



Left to right: Harry Brett, Jim Brett, State Senator Nick Collins, Bill Brett.



Left to right: State Senator Nick Collins, Dr. Olivia J. Liff, Jim Brett.

State Senator Nick Collins of South Boston was the recipient of the 2019 John "Jack" Brett Champions Award at Special Olympics Massachusetts's Celebration of Inclusion on Monday at the Seaport Hotel. Each year, an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary contributions to the disability community is given this prestigious recognition. The award is named for Jack Brett, the oldest brother in Dorchester's Brett family.



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Deadlines

917 East Broadway • 617.268.4032 • Office hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm

Press Copy - Monday at 6:00pm • Advertisements Space Reservations - Friday at 6:00pm • Ad Material - Monday at 4:00pm • Camera Ready Ads - Tuesday at 6:00pm



The Information Center



The Lyrics in 'Baby it's Cold Outside' Offend but Rap Songs Don't? Really?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

As has been reported, the anti-Christmas types were at it again this year but with new tactics in their efforts to spoil the season for everyone else. The efforts to ban Christmas trees have for the most part subsided. People have had enough of this and rebelled against it all around the country. Yet, this year as previously reported, in Durham, New Hampshire, complaints by three (3) people who said they were 'offended' by the annual Christmas tree lighting in the town square prompted cowardly elected officials there to eliminate it and rename the event 'Frost Fest'. The reaction by the majority of residents was swift and it is said that those officials who buckled to the disgruntled Christmas haters will be looking for new jobs next election.

Last year saw a change in tactics by the anti-Christmas types as their new target was Christmas music – even of the non-religious kind. Astonishingly, the song that was and still is the main target is the Classic written by the late singer Dean Martin called 'Baby it's Cold Outside' because it supposedly contains 'sexist lyrics'. Ironically, many of those who demand radio stations stop playing it or rewrite the lyrics; including some media and Hollywood celebrities, have no problem with Rap songs that refer to women as the 'B' word and glorify violence against them and advocate killing police.

When this silliness first started over a dozen years ago, the reaction by the public was at first outrage. Why, most people wanted to know, can't these grinchers just leave Christmas alone? Don't

like Christmas, don't celebrate it- pretty simple right? Wrong. Some people live to spoil cherished traditions for others. Because they personally don't like them, they must be banned for everyone else. But as the years went by and the anti-Christmas Crusaders were losing in court and their actions were often thwarted when people stood up to them, the anger directed at those waging the 'War on Christmas' in the form of backlash kind of turned to amusement as the public realized that these people were crackpots and desperately seeking attention. They became laughingstocks and the targets of ridicule because what they were doing was so ridiculous. But now, even the laughter is subsiding and the anger that turned to amusement now seems to be turning to pity. The efforts of the Christmas haters have become so absurd that many people are starting to actually feel sorry for them because they are obviously disturbed and so consumed and obsessed with hatred and disdain for what to most Americans; Christians and non Christians alike, look forward to and consider special, that it is believed there is clearly something wrong with these sad, miserable people. And let me add this reminder once again, to those who demand that Christmas decorations must by law be banned from public buildings and grounds: Christmas is a federal holiday as officially designated by the government of the United States of America back in 1870 and remains so to this day.

So this year, rather than waste time letting those waging a War

on Christmas get to us, why not show them a bit of compassion for they know not what they do and anyone who is so miserable that they would put so much time and effort into trying to ruin something so beautiful for everyone else must have serious problems and short comings. Oh, don't get me wrong, we can't let them get away with it or allow them to ever succeed in their goals, but they apparently have issues and are in need of a 'Time Out' and perhaps Safe Spaces

of their own and a little professional counseling might not hurt them either.

So, as we humor or ignore those whose lives are so shallow that they devote their efforts to spoiling Christmas for others, let us all enjoy this beautiful season has to offer. This is a time that children look forward to and it truly makes them happy. It's also a time when fond memories that last a lifetime are made among family and good friends. Merry Christmas to all.

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Holiday Spirit of Volunteerism:

State Rep. David Biele at Cradles to Crayons to Help Address Clothing Insecurity

State lawmakers representing the City of Boston volunteered at Cradles to Crayons to help provide clothing for children living in poverty. The Boston delegation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives volunteered in support of the organization's goal to help 42,500 kids with warm, winter essentials in Massachusetts this year. The elected leaders spent their time in the Cradles to Crayons "Shopping" station, filling customized orders of clothing, shoes, books, and more for local kids—some of them right in their own districts. They later sat down with Cradles to Crayons Founder and CEO, Lynn Margherio, to talk about the hidden crisis of Cloth-



From left to right: Pictured at Cradles to Crayons are State Representative Aaron Michlewitz; State Representative Kevin Honan; State Representative Chynah Tyler; Cradles to Crayons CEO and Founder Lynn Margherio; State Representative Michael Moran; State Representative David Biele

ing Insecurity and what that looks like for the one-in-two kids in Boston that live in low-income or homeless situations. Cradles to Crayons has just finished year one of its Predictable Service Pilot, which concludes that providing at-risk children with

clothing three times a year, and school supplies before the school year starts, reduces the number of children considered at-risk when reevaluated. Among the lawmakers who volunteered was 4th Suffolk District State Representative David Biele of South Boston.

MCCA Selects Colliers International to Sell Hynes Convention Center

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) has selected Colliers International to market and sell the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center. The sale of the Hynes will be a complex, high-profile transaction that the MCCA anticipates will draw global interest due to the site's size – 5.8 acres – and premier location in Boston's historic Back Bay neighborhood.

Colliers has assembled an experienced team with a deep understanding of the Boston market. Their response to the MCCA's RFP demonstrated a clear understanding of the MCCA's priorities relative to the sale while showcasing the global reach and key industry relationships that will be needed to successfully complete a transaction of this scale and value.

"We appreciated, and were impressed by, the talent and diversity of the team Colliers' assembled for this project," said David Gibbons, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. "The MCCA was purposeful in its goal to be diverse and inclusive and

Colliers proved their commitment to exceeding the high bar that was set."

"We are proud to be selected to advise the MCCA on the redevelopment of the Hynes. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a new vision for this multi-dimensional asset in the Back Bay," said Frank Petz, Colliers International, Managing Director of Investment Sales. "We have assembled a highly-qualified, diverse team -- from Janey Construction, Pinck & Co (now Anser Advisory), Shepley Bulfinch and InkHouse Media – with local expertise and knowledge to guide the process. We look forward to working with the city and neighborhood on a project that will be a catalyst for future development as well as continue the legacy of the Back Bay as an economic engine for the region."

The sale of the Hynes was approved by the MCCA's board of directors on September 19 to finance, in part, the expansion of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston as well as transfer approximately twelve acres not needed for BCEC expansion back to the City of Boston. A bill to ap-

prove the same was filed on October 21 and is currently under consideration by the Massachusetts Legislature.

As a venue, the Hynes continues to underperform with annual occupancy rates of around forty percent as customers choose the newer and larger BCEC for their Boston events. In addition, to maintain the Hynes in its current condition will cost the MCCA \$200 million over the next decade to merely stand still in a transitioning convention marketplace.

Ultimately, the future use of the Hynes property will be informed by the City of Boston's community process, BPDA's Article 80 review, the buyer, and stakeholders in the Back Bay. The outcome will provide myriad benefits to the community, city and state.

The potential to further extend the neighborhood will deliver long term benefits to the community including direct impacts on hotels, restaurants, retail stores, transportation carriers, and local attractions, as well as indirect impacts on the production of goods and service, and induced economic impacts from spending by employees and visitors.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU19P2707EA

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Estate of: Lyn E Ackerly

Date of Death: 10/01/2018

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has

been filed by

Michele Granda of Jamaica Plain 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:

Michele Granda of Jamaica Plain

MA be appointed as Personal

Representative(s) of said estate to

serve **Without Surety** on the bond

in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a

copy of the Petition from the

Petitioner or at the Court. You

have a right to object to this

proceeding. To do so, you or

your attorney must file a written

appearance and objection at

this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on

the return day of 01/10/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but

a deadline by which you must

file a written appearance and

objection if you object to this

proceeding. If you fail to file

a timely written appearance

and objection followed by an

affidavit of objections within

thirty (30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without

further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE

MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM

PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A

Personal Representative

appointed under the MUPC in an

unsupervised administration is

not required to file an inventory

or annual accounts with the

Court. Persons interested in

the estate are entitled to notice

regarding the administration

directly from the Personal

Representative and may

petition the Court in any matter

relating to the estate, including

the distribution of assets and

expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,

First Justice of this Court.

December 06, 2019

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

December 19, 2019

Chairman Lynch Seeks Info On Foreign Entities Accessing U.S. Mobile Application Data

The Subcommittee on National Security sent letters to Google and Apple following recent reports that foreign companies and developers could be providing sensitive data belonging to U.S. citizens to their host governments.

Rep. Stephen F. Lynch, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, sent letters to Google and Apple seeking information related to whether they require mobile application developers to disclose potential overseas affili-

ations before making their products available to U.S. users. “Congress has a responsibility to protect the privacy of American citizens and the national security of the United States while foreign entities and governments invest in economic and technological advancement,” wrote Chairman Lynch. “Deliberate, thorough, and transparent oversight of foreign operated mobile applications promotes these goals.”

Recent reporting suggests that foreign companies and developers could be providing sensitive data to their host governments on U.S. citizens via their mobile applications, such as TikTok, Grindr, and FaceApp, creating significant national security risks. “By collecting personal information on U.S. government personnel who have access to classified information, foreign adversaries may attempt to expose them to blackmail, tailor intelligence spotting or recruitment activities to specific targets, or exert undue foreign influence in U.S. policymaking,” continued Chairman Lynch. “In addition, artificial intelligence could



enable foreign adversaries to manipulate user-provided data to create profiles on average U.S. citizens that could be leveraged in future military conflicts or diplomatic disputes.”

In November, in response to a letter from Minority Leader Charles Schumer, the FBI wrote, “The FBI considers any mobile application or similar product developed in Russia ... to be a potential counterintelligence threat, based on the data the product collects, its privacy and terms of use policies, and the legal mechanisms available to the Government of Russia that permit access to data within Russia’s borders.”

Under U.S. law, mobile applications may collect massive amounts of personal, possibly sensitive infor-

mation with their users’ consent as a condition of service. In the United States, the data that mobile device users voluntarily share with applications is protected under the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable government searches and seizures. However, when mobile applications are owned, operated, or developed by a foreign entity, there is a risk that foreign governments might be able to access that information, irrespective of whether the data is stored on servers in the United States or abroad.

“Given the pervasiveness of smartphone technology in the United States, as well as the vast amounts of information stored on those devices, foreign adversaries may be able to collect sensitive information about U.S. citizens, which presents serious and immediate risks for U.S. national security,” Chairman Lynch continued.

Chairman Lynch asked Google and Apple to provide information relating to whether they require mobile application developers to disclose their potential overseas affiliations before making their products available on their platforms.

SEN. COLLINS & REP. BIELE VOTE TO FUND SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AT MASS. AND CASS

This month, Senator Nick Collins and Representative David Biele joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts State Legislature passing the year’s final supplemental state budget, signed by the Governor last week.

The spending bill includes funding for a wide variety of programs, such as grants for public health services, homelessness prevention, gun violence prevention, and substance abuse programming. The law specifically allocates \$1 million to the City of Boston Office of Recovery Services to support public health, recovery, and homelessness prevention initiatives in and around Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. State funding will increase mobile street teams and rapid response services to better connect individuals impacted by substance use and

homelessness with community providers.

“As substance abuse and homelessness contribute to a growing public health crisis in Boston and the region, it’s vital that we support city and state efforts to provide quality programming,” said State Senator Nick Collins. “Everyone knows someone affected, and many have seen firsthand the tragic and unsustainable situation around Newmarket Square. These funds will be critical in supporting efforts there and across the city.”

“These investments will support on-going efforts to provide lifesaving services to individuals suffering from substance use and homelessness on our streets by extending the reach of those services,” said Rep. Biele. “Additionally, this budget also makes important investments in pub-

continued on page 10

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT MASSPORT

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season!

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TEAM UP for Children Initiative Adds South Boston Community Health Center

1 in 4 children using Massachusetts federally qualified health centers will benefit from important transformational model to better integrate behavioral health services

TEAM UP for Children (Transforming and Expanding Access to Mental Health Care in Urban Pediatrics), a model of integrated pediatric behavioral health care, recently expanded its program to four additional federally qualified health centers in Massachusetts. South Boston Community Health Center is excited to have been included in the expansion. TEAM UP seeks to improve early identification of behavioral health problems and provide a full complement of preventative and treatment services to

children and their families.

In addition to South Boston Community Health Center, health centers joining the initiative include Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, DotHouse Health, and Greater New Bedford Community Health Center. The expansion builds off the success and best practices developed since the launch of TEAM UP in 2016 by the initial cohort of three health centers, Codman Square Health Center, The Dimock Center and Lowell Community Health Center, each of which will continue as TEAM UP health centers under the expanded initiative.

Across the country, 1 out of 5 children experience a behavioral health issue, yet most children, nearly 80%, do not receive an adequate treatment. It can take 8 to 10 years to receive an accurate diagnosis of mental health conditions and initiate treatment in children, and delays in treatment over those vital years can lead to lasting impacts on development.

“Achieving true parity between physical and mental healthcare delivery in our society is something most of us agree is not only a priority, but also common sense. Despite progress made towards this goal, however, the reality is that these two healthcare systems still operate in many ways that are essentially siloed from



one another: the left hand not always talking to the right. The back and forth between these worlds can be clunky and confusing, with long wait times for appointments or complicated insurance limitations. It’s the children and families we serve who all too often get lost in the process.” said Dr. Kevin Coughlin, Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist at South Boston Community Health Center. “Meeting children and families ‘where they are at,’ in this case by literally bringing mental and behavioral healthcare into the medical home that families are already accustomed to working with, is just common sense. The TEAM UP model provides an exciting and promising roadmap with funding support to get us closer to achieving parity for our children’s physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health.”

An on-going evaluation of TEAM UP’s efforts by Boston University

School of Medicine researchers has shown that participating community health centers in the first cohort have greatly improved their capacity to provide integrated behavioral health care in their pediatric clinics. Additionally, TEAM UP has proven to be transformative for health centers’ internal operations, with evidence of greater satisfaction by medical providers and increased reimbursement to the health centers for services. A focus on continuous quality improvement has helped guide the health centers’ program management and refinement, and findings from Phase I will help shape program rollout at the newly added health centers. Through a collaborative, family-centric, data-driven approach, TEAM UP will continue to improve access and advance the growing field of integrated behavioral health for children and families across Massachusetts.

Christmas Story continued from front page
up. By 1893 all the states and territories had made similar acknowledgements.

Here is a story of the Birth of Christ Child offering a short tour across the world to know the way Christmas is celebrated in different parts. The whole world goes into the celebration mood during the mid-winters. Long back even before the arrival of Jesus, Europeans started celebrating the light in the gloomiest days of winter.

Norse celebrated Yule from December 21 in Scandinavia. To celebrate the magic of sunlight, fathers and sons used logs and set them on fire. People around enjoyed these 12 days until the logs were not burned out completely. It was their belief that each fire spark represented a new pig or calf that

would be born in the coming year.

Mesopotamians used to celebrate 12 days long New Year festival before 4000 years. This festival was called Zagmuth. The Mesopotamians, believers of multiple deities, started the celebration to honor their chief deity, Marduk. They used to believe that Marduk fought against the monsters of chaos at the onset of each winter season. It was believed that this was the festival where from the 12 days long Christmas had originated.

During mid-winter, German people honored the time-honored Pagan God Oden. People of Germany were afraid of the nocturnal sky flights. They used to think that the Almighty had created that to observe and monitor his people of this world. They had also thought that the Almighty had the power to decide who would

live and who would perish. Many of them decided to stay inside due to his presence.

Saturnalia Rome celebrated holidays in honor of the God of agriculture, Saturn. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice was a special period when residents had bountiful food items and drinks to celebrate with. The month-long celebration had the charm to convert slaves to even masters. Peasants used to control the city. To celebrate the time with fun and frolic all the schools and business organizations had decided to close their shutters.

Juvenalia, the feast honoring the Children of Rome, celebrated during winter solstice, was a prime carnival for Roman people as well. On December 25, the upper class of Rome used to celebrate the

birthday of the infant God of the unconquerable sun, Mithra who was born of a rock.

By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religions. On Christmas, believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today’s Mardi Gras. Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned the “lord of misrule” and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined “debt” to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.



WALSH SIGNS TRANSFER FEE ON REAL ESTATE PETITION

Following months of collaboration with the Boston City Council, Mayor Martin J. Walsh signed a home rule petition that would give Boston the ability to implement a transfer fee of up to two percent on the purchase price of any private real estate sale over \$2 million in the City of Boston, as a means to generate additional funding to create and preserve affordable housing in Boston.

“Housing is the biggest economic challenge facing the residents of Boston and people across our region. That’s why it’s critically important that we do everything we can to support the creation of homes that are affordable, while also preserving our existing housing stock,” said Mayor Walsh. “I am proud to sign this home rule petition that is a significant step forward in our work, by giving Boston the ability to impose a modest fee on the sale of private property, which will collectively do a world of good towards our efforts to make Boston a more affordable place to live.”

The Home Rule Petition would authorize the City of Boston to impose a fee of up to two percent of the purchase

price upon the transfer of property valued at over \$2 million, with one percent paid by the seller and one percent paid by the purchaser. The funding generated would be dedicated to the Neighborhood Housing Trust or appropriated through the annual budget process to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the City.

The proposal will now move to the Massachusetts Legislature for approval. If approved by the state, the City would have the ability to determine the final rate for the fee, collection method and any exemptions that would exist. The Home Rule Petition was passed by the Boston City Council on Wednesday, December 11.

According to an analysis conducted by PFM Group Consulting, real estate sales in Suffolk County have ranged from approximately \$3 billion to over \$12 billion in the last decade. The City of Boston accounts for the vast majority of the county’s population (86%) and real estate activity. From 2009 through year-to-date, total private real estate sales have averaged \$8.4



billion. Based on average sales in Suffolk County, estimates show that a 1% fee on all private-market sales would have raised \$84 million per year over the last decade, and a 2% fee would have generated over \$168 million, a significant increase on the City’s existing robust affordable housing investments. This analysis assumes inclusion of all properties sold, and not just those with a value in excess of \$2 million.

Mayor Walsh’s 2019 housing security legislative package focuses on expand-

ing upon the work that Boston has done to address the region’s affordable housing crisis and displacement risks for tenants by proposing new and strengthening current tools to leverage Boston’s prosperity and create sustainable wealth opportunities that make Boston a more inclusive and equitable city. The housing security bills proposed seek to help existing tenants, particularly the elderly, remain in their homes, and creates additional funding for affordable housing.

Happy holidays!

Warm wishes for the season, from our house to yours.

DAVID M. GIBBONS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MASSACHUSETTS
CONVENTION CENTER
AUTHORITY

Twitter: @MassConvention
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massconvention.com



The Wine Guy

The Happiest Time of the Year



Year. The word “toast” actually comes from an Old German word meaning “to cleanse”. So, if you’re bringing a cleaning agent anywhere on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, make sure it’s tasty! Here are a few suggestions:

Westport Rivers, 2013 Blanc de Blancs, South Coast, Massachusetts, (\$33.99), is the newest vintage from this incredibly beautiful vineyard and winery right here in Massachusetts. My friend Marco Montez, a very talented winemaker says this, “Our newest vintage of Blanc de Blancs begins with a hint of brioche and soon youthful fruits emerge. This is a rich, delicious wine, bursting with young apple and citrus flavors, giving it a fruity start with great long-term potential”. Store it away for that special occasion! Enjoy it with oysters, triple-creme cheese, aged cheddar or even chips and dip. Anything, really... a wonderful traditional method reserve sparkler.

Over the last few years, there’s been a trend towards sweeter sparkling wines and one of the most popular names in that category is **Roscato. The Roscato Sparkling White Moscato, NV, (\$13.99)** is a popular choice for Bellinis and Mimosas as well as on its own. This wine is great for a toast before the meal or with desert. Its fresh fruit notes of melons and pears are a great compliment to virtually any kind of food and if any of your guests find it too sweet, you can cut down the sweetness with club soda and a twist of lemon.

Merry Christmas!

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

There are so many reasons that the title of this week’s column are true that it’s hard to single out any one reason, though I think everyone would agree that one of the biggest is the joy of giving.

And while you might not immediately think of hospitality as a “gift”, the giving of one’s home, food, drink and fellowship is among the oldest of good and generous human instincts. So, to all the givers of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals, “thank you”!

The custom of bringing a bottle of Champagne as a gift for the host and hostess really began in Georgian England, where tradition held that the “pop” of the cork would ward off negative feelings and provide a clean start to the New

Wishing You a Merry Christmas along with A Happy & Safe New Year 2020



3 Locations

106 Dorchester Street - South Boston

10 Commercial Street - Braintree

4252 Washington Street - Roslindale

(All Locations Closed on Christmas Day)



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Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

C. I. A.

Castle Island Association





WISHING YOU A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH PEACE & JOY



CONGRESSMAN & MRS.

STEPHEN F. LYNCH

and family



Paid for by Lynch for Congress Committee. Brian Miller, Treasurer

Nick Collins
STATE SENATOR

Merry Christmas
from my family to yours!

From Our Family To Yours, Wishing You A Merry Christmas & Joyful Holiday Season!

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn

(paid for and authorized by the Friends of Ed Flynn)

Warmest Thoughts and Best Wishes for a Joyful Holiday Season!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Safe and HAPPY NEW YEAR

David Biele
State Representative

(paid for by the David Biele Committee)



Christmas in South Boston 2019

SBT Staff Report

Well, there's no doubt now, Christmas is nearly upon us and as is the case every season at this time, it brings with it a feeling different than any other. To most people, it holds a mix of sensations. It's hectic yet there is a feeling of peace in the air. The rush of shopping, perhaps one or more special events and gatherings that tradition dictates we must attend. Yet in the middle of it all, if we're lucky, we are able to bring the rapid pace to a welcome slow down, even if just for a short time to savor the good feelings as we walk by a Nativity Scene or catch a children's choir singing carols at a school or church pageant which gives us a chance to catch our breath and bask in the warmth and the true meaning of what Christmas is all about.

For over 2000 years since the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, much of the world has considered Christmastime to be very special. Yes, there is also Santa Claus, reindeer and elves to entertain and fascinate the kids. Huge displays of bright and colorful lights bring smiles to the faces of most and all of it; the religious and non-religious combine to make it wonderful.

In South Boston, like most places, tradition continues especially at Christmas. Homes are lit up and decorated, our schools are festive, and churches are hubs of activity with caroling, Masses and Services featuring beautifully decorated altars. It may be cold outside, but there's always a warm glow and welcoming atmosphere inside of our Churches.

Like most, we here at South Boston Today cannot help but be impressed with all the special happenings that go on in our wonderful community at Christmastime. From the Christmas concerts at the St. Augustine's Chapel, to the Christmas caroling at Marian Manor. The children singing like Angels with all their hearts and Souls during their plays and pageants heralding the birth of Jesus.

There is not just one 'Toys for Tots' event where people are happy to drop off brand new toys for kids and families, who otherwise might not have any, but many drop off points hosted by several groups in cooperation with the US Marines. We have Christmas tree lightings in our public squares. The lamp posts along East and West Broadway display the wreaths that have been hung with great care on

them to add even more spirit to the season. And who can forget the annual Christmas Day Dinner held each year at St. Monica/St. Augustine Church where hundreds gather for a delicious home cooked meal served by dozens of dedicated neighborhood volunteers happy to donate their time to bring pleasure and great food to make sure that no one need spend Christmas alone?

South Boston at Christmastime is such a special place that not only are long time traditions passed on from generation to generation, but we even add new ones such as the St. Peter Academy Breakfast with Santa.

The happenings listed above are just some of the ways South Bostonians celebrate the Christmas Season together. Where everyone; no matter what our faith, is invited to enjoy. When you add to all of this, intimate gatherings all across our community of family and good friends to enjoy the closeness of one another's company at parties and dinner it really does explain why most people look forward to this time of year. As we said, Christmas is a very special season of the year in nearly every part of the world and that can certainly be said for Christmas in South Boston 2019.

Collins/Biele continued from page 5

lic transportation, local infrastructure, and education, while strengthening the state's long-term financial stability."

The budget bill proposed to deposit \$587 million into the state's "rainy day" fund, pushing the balance of the reserve account to \$3.45 billion, the highest it has been in history. This investment protects the taxpayers from potential recessions, and improves the State's borrowing abilities and bond-rating.

Additionally, the supplemental budget:

- Supports low-income households at the risk of eviction or facing foreclosure by investing \$7 million for a rental and mortgage arrearage assistance pilot program;
- Invests in early education efforts by including \$3 million for grants for early educator scholarships for school paraprofessionals; and
- Support the state's most vulnerable youth by investing \$2 million in a program to expand access for students to community-based mental and behavioral health services in schools; and
- Includes a \$10 million reserve for home health aides and personnel.

Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell and Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner
Serving dinner on Christmas Eve Day from 11:30AM – 1:30PM
St. Monica Parish at Old Colony Avenue & Prebble Street

If you are unable to get out and would like a meal delivered to your home on Christmas Eve Day...
Please call 617-368-0091 or 617-590-9922.

Hosted by: South Boston-Seaport Catholic Collaborative and Elected Officials representing South Boston

DINNERS WILL NOT BE SERVED ON CHRISTMAS DAY



South Boston Special Kids and Young Adults Celebrate The Season With Santa and A Rocking Christmas Party!





Mass and Service Times for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day South Boston

(Note: This Thursday, December 19th, St. Peter Church will have an Advent Evening of Prayer at 6:30pm)

Christmas Eve * Tuesday, December 24th

4pm: St. Augustine Chapel

4pm: Gate of Heaven Church

4pm: St. Brigid Church

4pm: St. Peter Lithuanian Church

4pm: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Seaport

5:30pm: St. Monica/St. Augustine Church (English)

6pm: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Seaport

7pm: Fourth Presbyterian Church

7pm: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Seaport

7pm: St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral. Christmas Eve Vigil

8pm: St. Monica/St. Augustine Church (Spanish)

10pm: Gate of Heaven Church

Midnight Mass: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Seaport

Christmas Day (Wednesday, December 25th)

8am: St. Brigid Church

9am: Gate of Heaven Church

9am: St. Peter Church-(English)

9:30am: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Waterfront

10am: Holy Trinity Albanian Orthodox Church (D Street)

10am: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Seaport

10am: St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral (E. Broadway)

10:30am: St. Monica/St. Augustine Church (English)

10:30am: St. Brigid Church

10:30am: St. Peter Church (Lithuanian)

11:30am: Our Lady of Good Voyage Shrine at the Waterfront

12:30pm St. Monica/St. Augustine (Spanish)

NOTE: At St. Brigid and Gate of Heaven churches, there will be no

Noon or 6pm Masses on Christmas Day and no morning Masses on

Thursday, December 26th.



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Our Christmas Tree Ritual

By Kevin Devlin

I always knew when it was time to go out and buy our family Christmas tree, the one that would play a special part in our lives over the holiday season, when I saw the red and green tree holder lying on the parlor floor. My father, along with my brothers and I, would walk up to Dorchester Avenue to purchase that perfect tree.

In the sixties and seventies, up and down the avenue, there were always empty lots that were seemingly transformed, in seconds, into temporary open-air Christmas tree outlets. My father would take his time and proudly choose what he considered, a flawless, symmetrically shaped, wholesome holiday tree

My father would let my brothers and I help him decorate the tree, but he made sure we all clearly understood that this was his project, and we would follow his lead and instructions throughout the entire operation.

The lights and ornaments were stored away down the cellar, and would be cautiously brought up into the living room, and placed carefully on the couch. The ornaments, preciously maintained for years, were all individually and carefully wrapped in old newspaper and tissue, to safeguard them against being broken.

The lights would be the first to be strung up on the tree. Six, eight and sometimes as many as ten sets of lights would be put on the tree. He would start from the bottom, and go up and around the branches of the tree to the top. My father would then check each individual light and make sure every light was tightly in the socket, and in good working order. He would then replace whatever bulbs necessary.

Blue, red, green, white, yellow, and orange lights were now in place, and would eventually light



up the tree like fireworks on the Fourth of July.

The ornaments came next. Beautiful, bright and shiny ornaments depicting the glory, excitement, and enthusiasm of the Christmas celebration. Each ornament was carefully selected and hung in its designated area. Each ornament complemented the other, like the musical sounds of instruments in a symphony orchestra; and would magnify the tree light effect through their brilliant and distinct reflections.

The garland, along with the glittering, silver tinsel, would then be placed on the branches of the tree. This was my favorite part of the entire undertaking. Shining brightly, the stringy tinsel would hang down from the branches like chilling icicles, visibly and strikingly pointing downward from the rooftops on a frigid, wintry day.

The final phase, the piece de resistance, was to place the beautiful, snow-white angel on top of the tree. An Angel of God overlooking the safety and security of the family during this season of peace, love and giving.

After spending the better part of the day slowly and painstakingly piecing together (with our limited assistance) his masterpiece, our Dad would sternly warn us not to touch or go too close to the tree, lest we cause a disturbance that would alter the delicate balance of the finished product.

So, with his tree complete and his message conveyed, we would have our own tree lighting ceremony.

And without failure, throughout those (now) cherished years, we would all simultaneously nod in silent, happy recognition, that Dad had indeed again captured the essence of the holiday, and produced yet another glorious and stunning Christmas tree.

(This Christmas Tree Story first appeared in SBOL in December 1998)



Who were the Shepherds at that first Christmas?

Who were the shepherds that were present at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem has long been a story that has fascinated the masses over the centuries? Even today, in 2019, it remains a topic of discussion with theologians and historians.

Over 2000 years ago, some of the most notable people present after the Baby Jesus was born were the humble shepherds tending to their flocks. These shepherds of the time were considered to be of little importance; almost lowly as far as most people living then were concerned. The shepherds were wandering nomads thought to not even have dwellings to live in but rather

actually lived out in the fields with their flocks. This was a lifestyle that existed long before the birth of Christ and still to this day, in parts of the Middle East, nomadic shepherds can be found living pretty much the way they did at the time of the birth of Jesus..

These shepherds have traditionally been without means or influence yet God chose them over lawyers and scribes and wealthy landowners and other people of great wealth to send a group of Angels to announce that the Son of God had been born in a manger in the town of David.

As the story of the first Christmas goes, an Angel appeared to the shep-

herds who were at first terrified at the sight of the Angel. The Angel then said to the shepherds "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger". Then other Angels appeared and helped reassure the shepherds. When the Angels had left them, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see for themselves this event that had happened. And they did and found it to be true. They then went in all directions; far and wide to spread the story of the birth of

the Baby Jesus, the Son of God.

It has long been debated why it was shepherds that were chosen by God to be the first to receive the announcement of the birth by the Angels. But most believe that it is because God values all people, no matter what their status in life and chose the most humble and unassuming to be blessed with the good news first.



The West Broadway Task Force Enjoys Their Christmas Luncheon With Friends





Gatey Hoop Notes

By Kevin Devlin

Gate of Heaven CYO Hoop is alive and well on the weekends at the McDonough gym; which is located within the James "Stretch" Walsh Community Center.

Gatey CYO boys' cadet house league games are played on Sundays at 11 a.m. and noontime. In the first game on December 15, the Metro Energy Club took an early 11-3 lead. Later in the first half, the Boston Home Inspector's Club responded

with an 8-0 run to cut the deficit to two, 17-15, but trialed at the half, 24-20. In the second half, the Metro Energy Club continued to control the tempo of the game by dominating the glass at both ends of the floor, and went home with a 43-36 victory.

Metro Energy Club guard, Owen Donovan, was in the zone, netting 13 points, including one three-pointer. Joey Hamilton was once again active on the boards, hauling down a fistful of rebounds and scoring 12 points. Eddie Tirabassi and Ryan Shields came

to play, scoring five points apiece while Mullen "My Man" Byrne hit two treys from downtown; much to the applause of onlookers. For the Boston Home Inspector's Club, Chris Hosea was terrific, scoring 13 points, including one trey. Cormac Lafferty also had a great game netting 12 points, including two three-pointers, while Tristen Pecevich had 4 points.

The second game pitted the Jack McDonough Club against the Metro Energy Club. And Bob McGarrell's troops went home with the win, 56-53. For the McDonough Club, Robert Wisniewski netted 11 points. Lydon McGarrell and Aidan Young

each had nine points. Evan Markos had seven points. Ryan McGarrell had six points, while Finbar Kyne and Steve Flynn had four points apiece. For the PS Deli Club, James Buzzell had 19 points. Ryan MacDonald contributed 13 points, while Aidan Kineavy scored 13 points, including three three-pointers.

GATEY CADET HOUSE LEAGUE STANDINGS

JACK MCDONOUGH CLUB 4-1

BOSTON HOME INSPECTOR'S CLUB 3-2

METRO ENERGY CLUB 2-3

PS DELI CLUB 1-4



Pictured with Coach Chris DiMaggio are METRO ENERGY CLUB players, Owen Donovan (on left) and Mullen "My Man" Byrne



Pictured with Coach Jake Harrison are BOSTON HOME INSPECTOR'S CLUB players, Tristen Pecevich (on left) and Cormac Lafferty.



JACK MCDONOUGH CLUB coached by Bobby McGarrell. Players: Robert Wisniewski, Finbar Kyne, Ryan McGarrell, Lydon McGarrell, Aidan Young, John Hamilton, Steve Flynn, and Evan Markos.



PS DELI CLUB players, James Buzzell, Eddie Kinney, Ryan MacDonald, and Aidan Kineavy. PS DELI CLUB coach, Jimmy Geisel, game officials, James Donovan and Brad Hill, along with Gatey midget league commissioner, Sean Monahan.



Pictured is PS DELI CLUB coach, Jimmy Geisel, along with his stepson, Eddie Kinney.



DEDHAM SAVING BANK CLUB in the Gatey midget house league, coached by John Costello. The players pictured are: Sean Costello, Dimitri Markos, Ismal Ibrahim, Emmet Sheldon, and Robert McEachern. Also pictured is Gatey midget league commissioner, Sean Monahan.

Boxing Elites Ed Kelly And Mike Larkin Honored For 50 Plus Years Of Dedication

On Saturday night December 7th, Billy Higgins was on hand to present awards to Ed Kelly for 75 years in the Boxing World and Mike Larkin for 50 years in the Boxing World, working with the kids in South Boston promoting the highly regarded and nostalgic Saint Paddy's day fights for over 50 years.

The memories of their 'fight night' stay with

the young boys into adulthood and the stories of victories grow with every passing year. Ed and Mike have helped create this memory moment in young boys lives and do so with a passion that is evident on their faces and in their eyes each and every year. Billy said, "I was honored to make this presentation to great guys that donated a lot of their time all their lives to the sport of boxing."





This week, Danny gave "PIC'S PICKS" for Week 16 in the NFL:

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (-6.5) over Los Angeles Rams

-The 11-3 Niners are probably happy they don't have to wait until Sunday to try and bounce back from an awful home loss to the Atlanta Falcons in Week 15. This game is on Saturday night in San Fran, and while the 49ers are currently the No. 5 seed in the NFC, they still control their own destiny to get the No. 1 seed if they can beat the Rams in Week 16 and then the Seahawks in Week 17. But first, it's the 8-6 Rams, who are mathematically still alive in the playoff race. As of now, LA is on the outside looking in. They're a long shot to get the No. 6 seed, which is held by Minnesota. I don't think the Rams will get in, and I expect the 49ers to end their hopes on Saturday night. San Francisco bounces back big by ending the Rams' season, and setting up a Week 17 game against Seattle that'll decide the NFC West and the No. 1 seed. Give me the 49ers by 10 at home.

DALLAS COWBOYS (-3) over Philadelphia Eagles

-This game is Sunday in Philadelphia at 4:25 p.m. I'm only picking it because, at some point, we're

going to find out who wants to win the NFC East. That "some point" is this Sunday. Both Dallas and Philly are 7-7, but the Cowboys own the head-to-head tiebreaker, having already beat the Eagles this season. If the playoffs began today, Dallas would win the division and get the No. 4 seed in the NFC. The only chance either of these two teams have of getting into the playoffs is winning the division, so it's a must-win for both. But if the Cowboys win this game in Philly, they'll clinch that division, something that can't yet be said for the Eagles. I think the Cowboys will somehow find a way. And they'll cover. Dallas wins by a touchdown.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-5.5) over Chicago Bears

-The 10-4 Chiefs clinched the AFC West two weeks ago when they beat the Patriots at Gillette. They have to keep playing though, because a first-round bye is still possible. Right now, Kansas City is the No. 3 seed in the AFC. If they win out and the No. 2 seed Patriots lose one of their last two, then the Chiefs will jump up to the No. 2 seed because they own the head-to-head tiebreaker over

New England. So I don't expect any type of letdown from KC. The same probably can't be said for the 7-7 Bears who have been officially eliminated from the playoff race. This game is in Chicago on Sunday Night Football, but the Chiefs have won four straight and are 6-1 on the road this season. I'm taking Kansas City to win and to cover against a Bears team that no longer has anything to play for.

GREEN BAY PACKERS (+4.5) over Minnesota Vikings

-Both the 11-3 Packers and 10-4 Vikings will have something to play for on Monday night in Minnesota, maybe. Green Bay definitely has something to play for. If the Packers win, then they clinch the NFC North. If the Vikings win, then they clinch a playoff berth. But if the Rams lose to the 49ers on Saturday, then the Vikings will have already clinched that playoff berth before Monday night's game. I expect the 49ers to beat the Rams. And I also expect Green Bay to beat Minnesota and win the division. The Packers should feel disrespected to be anything higher than a 3-point underdog here. Give me the Packers by a field goal on Monday Night Football.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: HOUSTON TEXANS (-3) over Tampa Bay Buccaneers

-This game is Saturday at 1 in Tampa Bay. The 9-5 Texans can clinch the AFC South with a win or a Tennessee loss to New Orleans on Sunday. Tennessee will probably lose to New Orleans, but Houston has to go about its business as if the Titans will upset the Saints. So with the division title in their grasp, the Texans will go into Tampa and snap the 7-7 Buccaneers' four-game win streak. And they'll do it by more than three points. The Buccaneers allow the second-most points in the NFL, and so I don't see how a motivated Texans team can't win a shootout in Florida. They can and they will. For the second straight week, Houston is my lock. And for the second straight week, Houston will come through as my lock. Texans by 10.

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS CLINCH PLAYOFF BERTH FOR 11TH STRAIGHT SEASON

SBT Staff

What else is new. The New England Patriots are going back to the NFL Playoffs.

The Patriots clinched their 11th consecutive playoff berth last Sunday in Week 15, with a 34-13 win over the Cincinnati Bengals. If the playoffs began today, New England would get a first-round bye as the No. 2 seed in the AFC.

With a win this Saturday at home against the Buffalo Bills, the Patriots can clinch their 11th straight division title. If the Patriots win and the Kansas City Chiefs lose to the Chicago Bears on Sunday Night Football, then the Patriots will clinch a first-round bye.

The No. 1 seed is currently held by the 12-2 Baltimore Ravens, but New England is still mathematically alive for that spot. The Patriots will need to win their last two games — both at home, against Buffalo and Miami — and the Ravens will need to lose their last two — in Cleveland and then at home against Pittsburgh.

But if Baltimore wins either of its final two games, then the Ravens clinch the No. 1 seed.

For the 11-3 Patriots, Sunday's game against the 10-4 Bills will be no walk in the park. Buffalo is coming off a win over the Steelers on Sunday night, in which the Bills clinched a playoff berth.

The Bills still have a shot at the division, but they would need to win out and see the Patriots lose out in order for that to happen. Needless to say, Buffalo will be ready to go on Sunday at Gillette Stadium.



New England Patriots @Patriots · Dec 15
THE. BEST. CORNER. IN. THE. LEAGUE.

Tweet of the Week



REPORT: DODGERS AND RED SOX DISCUSSING BETTS TRADE

SBT Staff

According to Bob Nightengale of USA TODAY, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Boston Red Sox have “engaged in exploratory trade talks” about Mookie Betts.

The report suggests that the Dodgers' top priority is to acquire Cleveland Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor in a trade, but if the two sides can't agree to a deal, then LA will turn its attention to trading for Betts instead.

Nightengale also reports that the Dodgers have offered 25-year-old shortstop Corey Seager in their trade talks with both the Indians and Red Sox.

Betts, 27, enters his final year of arbitration in 2020, and is set to be an unrestricted free agent next winter.

Seager is arbitration eligible for the next two seasons before becoming an unrestricted free agent after the 2021 season. Considering the Red Sox just signed 27-year-old shortstop Xander Bogaerts to a six-year, \$120 million extension in April, it would make little sense to trade Betts for Seager.

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL Week 16

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Buffalo at New England (-6.5)
4:30 P.M. NFLN

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Baltimore (-10) at Cleveland
1 P.M. CBS

Dallas (-2.5) at Philadelphia
4:25 P.M. FOX

Kansas City (-5) at Chicago
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, DEC. 23

Green Bay at Minnesota (-4.5)
8:15 P.M. ESPN



WHAT: CHRISTMAS BOWL II

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

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