

Only in South Boston Easter Sunrise Service at Castle Island

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

This coming Sunday, Easter Sunday, is the day when most Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. As has long been tradition in South Boston, along with all the Churches in the neighborhood celebrating the traditional Masses and Services at their locations, Castle Island

will be the site of the very special annual Sunrise Mass/Service. All are invited to attend this moving and sacred gathering that will take place outdoors, on the green with Fort Independence as the backdrop and the ocean as the setting. This Service is sometimes attended by thousands of people who get up early and make the

trek. Some walk, some drive to Castle Island to be part of a very beautiful, inspiring and holy event. Over the years people have come in from as far away as New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine and even New York for this Easter gathering. It continues to gain in popularity with each passing year. A portable altar will be set up on the walkway to the left of the Fort as you come onto the Island from the parking lot. There, the Mass will begin at exactly 6:28 am as

the sun begins to rise out of the east. The traditional Catholic Mass will be celebrated and Communion will be given to those who wish to receive. The Service lasts approximately one hour once it begins and provides a time for the faithful to gather together and be part of this unique Easter Tradition. It's recommended that folks arrive early as parking fills up quickly. You may want to bring your

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Easter Issue
This Week's Poll On Page 4




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Editorial “It Ain’t Beanbag”

There’s an old expression “Politics Ain’t Beanbag”. When a person enters a political arena, rightly or wrongly, your life becomes an open book for public scrutiny. Experience would indicate that it should be expected. An already elected official, for better or worse, can be judged on their existing record and what their positions have been and what action was taken on issues like drugs, housing, development, education, etc. What is their work ethic and reputation? As for an unelected candidate, what is their position on those issues? Where do they stand? The criterion for those candidates usually boils down to what is their record on being involved in the community. Have they been a presence or a voice at community meetings on important issues or are they involved now because it’s politically advantageous? Where do they stand?

Hard questions, but people have a right and a duty to ask hard questions. They have the right to know if their top political leader has the knowledge to protect the community from the overdevelopment threatening to choke our town, or a plan to fight the scourge of drugs throughout the community and the crime that comes with it.

We have to know because, if they don’t, they have no business representing us. We need a leader not a popularity contest winner. We’ll continue asking the tough questions to find out. After all “It Ain’t Beanbag”.



“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.” – John Quincy Adams

Last week’s poll results:

Last Week’s Poll asked the Question:

Should the Dept. of Public Works self perform snow plowing or continue to contract it out?

It is clear that residents want the Department of Public Works to self perform this important service.

| Answer | Votes |
|----------------------|-------|
| Public Works Plowing | 63 % |
| Contract Plowing | 37 % |

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A Correction: Issue 20 - Southie’s Own Story

“Southie’s Own” incorrectly named Grace and Thomas Walsh as the parents of Bridget. The loving parents of Bridget are Grace Walsh and Thomas Nee. Also while the natives of the island of Montserrat do speak Gaelic Bridget Nee did not attend art school there. Instead it was the Montserrat School of Beverly, Mass. South Boston Today apologizes for the errors.

  www.southbostontoday.com

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The Information Center



Is It Spring Yet? They Spent Our Money On What?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

The weather people are playing it safe. They are, as they put it, “cautiously optimistic” that there will be no more ‘major’ snow storms whacking us this season. Funny how they get paid so much whether they are wrong or right. It’s sort of like the people who bring us these endless political polls. But at least for the foreseeable future, it looks like we are out of the danger of having to drag out the snow shovels again. And to most, that’s good news. To quote my next door neighbors: “we’re done with shoveling.”

So now that the good weather could be blessing us with plenty of opportunities to go out and play in the great outdoors, or at least hang out on the beaches, parks and recreation areas, that we in South Boston are so fortunate to have, we should take advantage of them. For a neighborhood that is part of a major city, we are pretty lucky to have the natural resources we do.

Some comments on statements that recently made the news. Mayor of New York, Michael ‘Nanny’ Bloomberg’ was back in the headlines when he finally admitted something that we all know he has always believed. He says government has the right to infringe on the rights and the freedoms of Americans. Oh really Nanny? His own courts in New York see it differently. They overturned his ridiculous ban on large size sodas. He’s furious and vows to try again. This mini dictator thinks

that because he has many billions of dollars, he has the right to tell the rest of the people what they can eat, drink and ahem, carry for protection. He also wants to ban whole milk drinks, salt, buttered movie popcorn, baby formula at hospitals in an effort to force mothers to breast feed their newborns longer and an ever growing list of other things HE does not approve of. Did we mention that he tried to have people right out of major surgery denied pain medicine? A little pain never hurt anyone is his theory. Along with the nick name of ‘Nanny’ that New Yorkers have given him, he’s now being called Mayor BANberg. History is full of little tyrants who feel they should have the power to regulate the lives of everyone else.

This guy should read his history books and find out what happened to other people who craved that power. Napoleon comes to mind. Once again, Herald columnist Peter Gelzinis couldn’t resist salivating over what he says is the possibility that South Boston could lose political clout. By the tone of one of his silly columns last week, if he had his way, the District 2 City Council seat held by South Bostonian Bill Linehan, formerly held by the late Jim Kelly would go to a Chinatown resident in the next election. In the old classic rock song called ‘Bye Bye Miss American Pie’ there is a line that says “...I saw Satan dancing with delight, the day the music died..” Can’t you just picture Gelzinis dancing around

with delight, hysterically, jumping for joy if South Boston ever were to lose that council seat, or ANY political seat for that matter? Quite an image. Some ask me why I even read anything Gelzinis writes. Well, like most of you, I don’t make it a habit. But when a few of you, upset about his Southie bashing ways,

keep sending me what many feel is garbage, I feel an obligation to at least look at it out of respect for the time you took to email it to me. But It’s ok, you can stop now. I’d rather read the label on the back of a can of bug spray.

The Sequester is still causing
CONTINUED On page 11

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Collins Calls For Preservation of South Boston Landmarks Files Legislation To Preserve Buildings Built Before 1920

Rep. Nick Collins filed legislation earlier this week to institute a process for protecting iconic properties, built before January 1 1920, such as Saint Augustine's Church and the Mansion at 928 East Broadway.

Collins' legislation would prohibit the issuance of a building permit without a developer first abiding by a public hearing process that allows the local residents the opportunity to make the case as to why the structure is of local significance to South Boston. Collins has also sent a letter to the Boston Redevelopment Authority asking for the agency to institute a South Boston Landmarks Designation Process.

"The Landmark Commission regulations that are in place do not allow for discretion in considering the value and significance of properties that are not situated in a designated historic district," Collins said. "In order

for our community to have influence over the preservation of its community landmarks, historic or iconic, the City of Boston permitting process has to be a partner in this effort," Collins added.

At recent community meetings held to discuss the plans proposed for both Saint Augustine's Church and the Broadway Mansion, Rep. Collins publicly opposed their demolition. Collins will also attend and publicly oppose the Mansion demolition at the Boston Landmarks Commission hearing at 5:30PM on April 9th.

"The need for a legitimate public process for real estate development at all levels, but especially for those properties built before 1920, is crucial to preserving the physical fabric of our community. I will continue to work, as I always have, to put the community first on matters affecting our quality of life," Collins further stated.



This Week's Poll

The Boston Landmarks Commission designated the Fort Point section of South Boston a landmark district in 2009 which provides stricter protections from building demolition and major façade changes. Should other areas of South Boston be considered for Boston Landmark District designation?

Yes / No



Easter Sunrise... CONTINUED FROM page 1

own chairs and since it is such an early hour and it's still the month of March, it would be wise to dress warmly. It has often been said that attending Sunrise Service at Castle Island on Easter Sunday Morning is very special indeed and adds to the spirit of the season. Again, all are welcome and it begins at 6:28 sharp.

Easter Sunday Mass and Service Schedule:

This coming Sunday is Easter. Below are the Mass and Service schedules for South Boston's Churches.

Castle Island Sunrise Mass: 6:28 am. (This is an out door Mass at Castle Island - dress warmly)

St. Brigid's Church: 8: am, 9: am, 10:30am

Gate of Heaven Church: 9: am, 12 Noon

St. Monica Church: 9:30am, 12:30pm (Spanish)

St. Vincent's Church: 10: am

South Baptist Church: 10:30 am

Fourth Presbyterian Church: 10:30am

New Covenant Church: 8:30am

Blessed Hope Tabernacle Church: 12:00pm

The Greek Orthodox Churches will celebrate their Easter on May 5th.



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weekly poll.

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Reading Between The Lines

“The Mansion”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com

When I was a child, at “F” and “3rd, it was a big event when we would go all the way up to visit my great-grandmother (Nana), who lived on 3rd between O and P Streets. In those days, Checker cabs had jump seats and there was no such thing as seat belts. So my mother and about 8 of the 10 of us would pile into the cab and drive all the way up Broadway to that “giant” hill (M St.) and then down to P for the turn to 3rd. When we passed the white mansion someone would always say “There’s Nana’s house.” You see my older brother Jackie had told us youngsters that Nana had been very rich, that used to be here home but she had lost her fortune in the depression, which as kids just meant to us the time when everybody was poor.

Of course, we believed this story which didn’t have an ounce of truth. I used to imagine I would become rich, buy the house and move everybody back in. Whenever I go by it I get a quick flash of all the memories that I associate with it. I would bet that many people, resident and visitor alike, have seen this beautiful mansion and wondered about who lived there or how it would be to live there. It’s impossible to pass this structure and not notice or think about it.

We have a number of truly picturesque areas of our town - West Fourth between E and F, Thomas Park, Broadway between P and Farragut. There are more, so please don’t be insulted if your area wasn’t listed.

It’s natural and right that we do whatever is needed to preserve what is important and, perhaps, change what is not. And if there’s one thing

everyone can agree on, “change” has become Southie’s middle name these last 15 years.

Today the mansion is empty and if I had four or so million dollars I could probably realize my dream and move in. Of course Nana would be 146 years old. Some things can’t be changed. So we deal with reality.

At a community meeting Wednesday, March 20 at St. Brigid’s the reality of the future of the mansion was faced head on. Residents wasted no time in stating their reality. This is one of the most beautiful and significant properties in South Boston, if not the City. To remove it from the scene is unthinkable. Among the 100 or so residents in attendance was Rep. Nick Collins, who opposed the demolition and asked the developer to withdraw his proposal. To underscore the seriousness of his request, Rep. Collins earlier this week introduced legislation to amend the Boston Landmark Commission enabling act of 1975. In addition, Sean Regan representing the Mayor’s office and Mark McGonagle representing Councilor Linehan attended and both are opposed. Ironically, the developer has publicly stated he agrees with them about preserving the mansion. So where is the problem? There is an expression “sometime the law is an ass.” This is one of those times.

According to my research the land that the mansion sits on would allow 11 units. However, big as it is, the mansion is too close to abutters, as it is presently sited, to allow that many units. One solution the developer has considered is the demolition of the mansion and constructing the units in the middle of the land. This proposal is, of course, unacceptable

to neighbors and probably most South Boston residents, including this column.

Mr. Scippa, when interviewed, stated that he “would gladly preserve the building but needed the cooperation of the neighbors to do so in a financially feasible way.” He did, however, point out he has received city approval to build 11 units. A public records check reveals that his permits are in order and the process has been followed so far. Presently, the landmarks commission has put any action on hold until a hearing is held. Prior experience indicates the commission will probably agree this is a significant building that should be preserved. At this hearing, the commission usually requires that those wishing to preserve it must present a viable financial plan, complete with pre-approval from a lender, to restore and maintain the building. So unless someone has a plan or Warren Buffet decides to move to Southie, that is the present situation.

There is, perhaps, a possible solution. The developer has proposed

as an alternative, to build a wing on either side which would require zoning relief. Questions, never the less, remain over what height would these wings be? What would they look like? Obviously the whole purpose is defeated if an 1850’s mansion is joined at either hip with 21st century looking condos. The developer has agreed to continue meeting with neighbors and states he recognizes the importance of this structure to the entire South Boston community. Some residents have expressed an interest in forming a working committee with the developer. Others are just adamantly opposed. Residents, who wish to remain anonymous, stress that they are not NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard) but demand their quality of life not be sacrificed for profit.

To their credit, the neighbors of this area have taken on their role as protectors of one of our town’s treasures. It’s up to the rest of us to give whatever support needed.

We’ll keep you posted. Remember it’s our town. Stay tuned.

Take care till next week.



MASSPORT THOMAS J.

BUTLER MEMORIAL



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South Boston graduating seniors interested in applying for the scholarship must have community service experience and must submit a 1,000-word essay. To be considered, all academic and residency criteria must also be met.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013. For eligibility and submission information, please visit www.massport.com/scholarships



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Councilor Linehan Works to Preserve Historic Properties

Currently there are two developments being proposed, on both ends of South Boston that are of important significance. They are the Saint Augustine's Church as well as the James Collins Mansion located on the corner of P Street and East Broadway. Councilor Linehan has been working for months with neighbors, community groups and preservation organizations to see that these important pieces of our neighborhood remain for future generations of South Bostonians.

Councilor Linehan recently

the process to try to get this property designated as a Landmark and save it from demolition. Councilor Linehan's Office will also be present at the Landmarks Commission hearing on April 9th to ask for a ninety day demolition delay on that project as well. Councilor Linehan has met with the City of Boston Landmark's Commission and the Boston Preservation Alliance to take the appropriate steps from a City level to avoid demolition. Linehan's Office is currently working with neighborhood groups and residents



met with the owners of the Saint Augustine's property on behalf of the neighborhood and the owners committed to the Councilor that they will not demolish the church. He is also advocating for a ninety day demolition delay period for the Saint Augustine's School site in order to slow the process so that the community can continue to give input. It is important that a thorough community process is adhered to in all development projects and all are encouraged to continue to express their views as this process goes forward.

In regards to the Mansion on the corner of P Street and East Broadway, Councilor Linehan has signed the petition to the Landmarks Commission to begin

on circulating petitions and it important that those who would like to see this property saved from demolition sign this petition to show neighborhood solidarity.

Councilor Linehan added, "When I was first made aware of these development projects, I reached out to the developers and let them know that my position is to preserve these important pieces of South Boston's history. Since then I've been meeting with neighbors and the appropriate agencies to take the necessary steps toward that end. Both the church and the Mansion have historic value to our neighborhood and I will use my position as your City Councilor to ensure that they are not demolished."



Brian's Beat

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
 Brian Wallace

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bwallace@southbostontoday.com

March Madness

I wrote an article in this edition about the NCAA Tournament which is called March Madness. It is something I love and wait for each year. This March Madness has nothing to do with basketball and is something that I hate. It's about a kid who grew up in the Old Colony project, with five sisters, and one bathroom, and who went to High School with us and then followed his dad into the Ironworkers Union. That could have been the end of the story, but it's just the beginning.

He continued his education at night at Wentworth and then went nights to Law School. He did all this while working high above the city and rising in the ranks of the Ironworkers Union. He graduated from Law School and was elected as President of Local #7 where his dad worked. Once again, that could have been the end of the story and it would have been a pretty good story as well, but it wasn't.

This Union President and Lawyer decided to get into politics. He beat a two term incumbent state representative and then was elected to the state senate when Bill Bulger decided to leave in 1996. Again, not a bad story, but there's more. When Joe Moakley died in 2011, he ran for Congress and got beat up pretty badly in the press, but he won nonetheless.

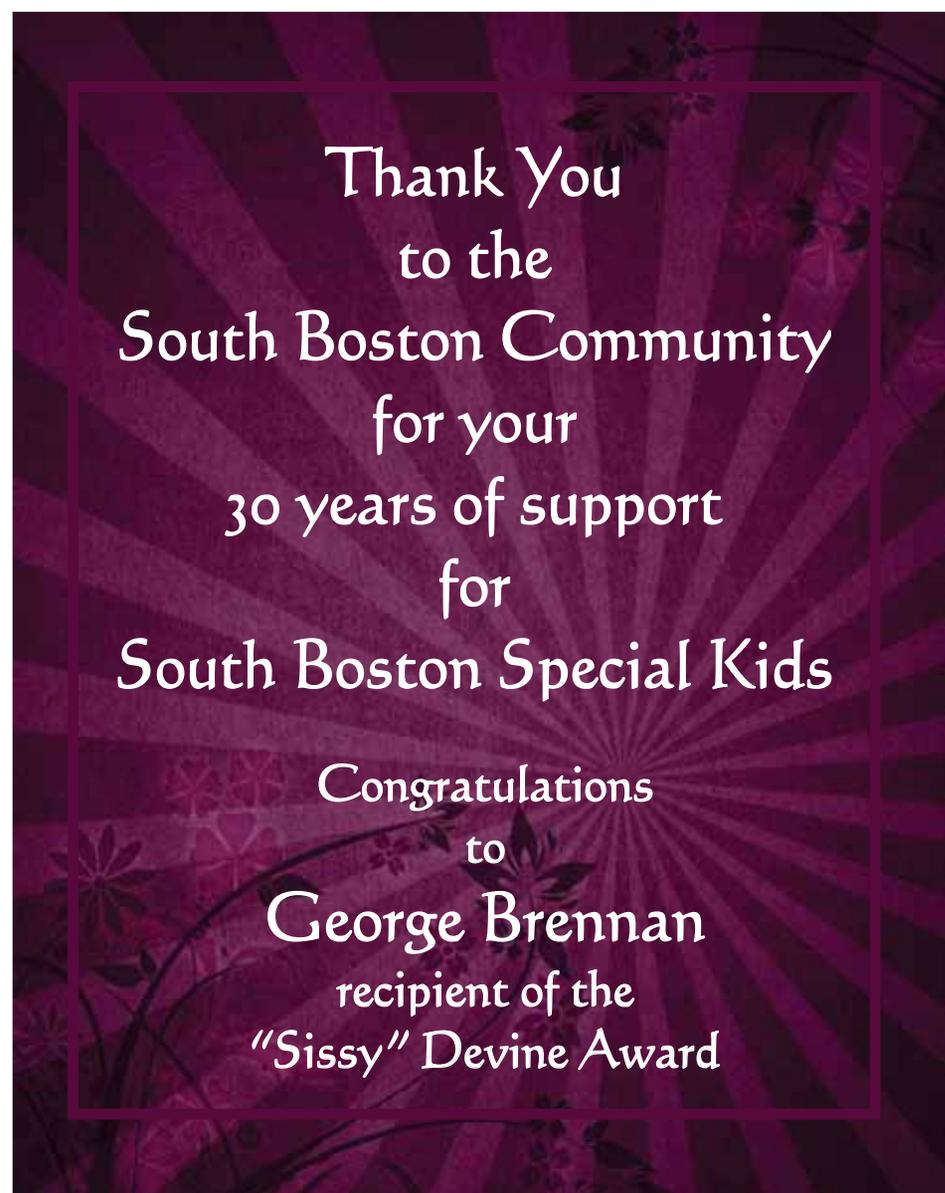
I remember him saying in a packed Union Hall a couple of days before the election, "If I go to Washington, then you go to Washington," And we went, in bus loads. Now this son of Labor, who is the highest ranking union card holding member in Congress, is being denied some major union endorsements to a guy who has skated his whole life, but who has done exactly what he has been told to do.

The reason Ed Markey is in Congress is because in 1976, then Speaker Tom McGee was fed up with Markey's antics and had the court officers move Markey's desk and chair from his office into the corridor. The very next day Markey hired a photographer to take a picture of the desk and chair in the State House corridor. Soon there were billboards all over his Congressional district which read, "I'm Ed Markey and they can tell me where to sit, but they will never tell me where to stand." He was a back bencher in the Mass Legislature and I am sure Tommy McGee went to his grave upset that he gave Markey his only issue, or should I say slogan. Markey has been in Congress ever since and he has enjoyed the trappings of power so much that he rarely comes back home. His slogan now should be - They elect me Congress every two years, but

they can't tell me where to live.

While Ed Markey was enjoying the beautiful people in Washington and Hollywood, Steve Lynch was putting on a hard hat and strapping on his boots and earning a real days pay. Markey is a guy who is getting union endorsements over a guy who grew up in the union, who fought for union rights and union benefits.

Now, this is the real March Madness. Any union who endorses Ed Markey over Steve Lynch ought to turn in their union cards. How they can look Steve Lynch in the eye and say that he hasn't earned their endorsement? When I was in the Legislature, I was one of two reps who had a 100% union voting record every year I was a member. Now, I wonder why?





The South Boston St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Committee
& City Councilor Bill Linehan



*Want to thank the
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who helped make the event
a great success!!*

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Parade Aftermath

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

By most accounts, the parade itself was wonderful, entertaining, plenty of units and not too many gaps or long delays. However, many report that the crowd itself seemed more out of control and violent than ever. Not so much during the parade or on the route itself, but on adjoining streets and following the parade.

A column headline in a local daily, "City Tells Southie to Get Tough on Drinking", had one resident shaking their head. "We have 33,000 total residents. If we gave everyone a machine gun we wouldn't have enough bullets to control the 1 million people and they want us to get tough?"

It was noted that virtually every drinking citation was issued to a non-resident. The violence associated with that drinking seems to have been widespread. At F Street and Bolton Street, four residents had to physically defend and successfully respond to an attack by visitors. On

West Second, a brawl caused by beer cans and urination from a roof deck party into a neighbor's yard was narrowly averted. On East Sixth Street, two brothers assaulted two BPD officers responding to a loud party call. At L and Marine, an uninvited guest left a house and began smashing its windows from outside. This led to a scuffle on the street, until police arrived and placed the guest (who only spoke French) under arrest. A constant frustration, voiced by interviewed residents, was that a resident forced to defend himself, family, or property wound up being portrayed as the "bad guy". After all, they did live in South Boston.

There was almost a unanimous consensus that even more limits be put on package stores and bars and police expect stricter measures and arrest policies on public drinking and rowdy behavior. All voiced the opinion that the present situation cannot continue.

Wounded Warrior Project Update

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

staff report

If you've been following South Boston Today since we first began publishing several months ago, you know that this newspaper and many local residents are big supporters of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). We feel this is a very worthy cause to get behind because it helps and serves those who have laid their lives on the line to protect and serve the American people by enlisting in the military and came home injured; whether it is a physical wound or traumatic wound or in some case both.

South Boston Today will, from time to time, use some of its space to give updates on how the WWP is doing in its campaign to aid and assist those wounded veterans and their families who are in need of help in their difficult efforts to lead productive and happy lives once

again. The WWP is expanding its efforts to every part of our nation and reaching out to help an ever increasing number of our disabled veterans. WWP is now working with Country Music celebrities like Trace Adkins and others to bring awareness to the problems our wounded vets face when they return to civilian life. Their efforts help provide extra medical care that may otherwise not be available to them. Counseling to those in need is given by professionals. There are artificial limbs using the most updated technology that are helping those who lost their natural limbs given as well. All of this takes money, of course. And that is why a strong emphasis on fundraising is constantly going on.

But it's not just help with raising money that is needed. Volunteers

are also sought to help with the many projects and organized events that are being sponsored by the great people at WWP. There are now outreach programs in nearly every state in the country and it's expanding constantly. But there is a growing concern among the people at WWP as well as the wounded vets in need themselves. That concern is that, in time, the sacrifices that so many of them made will fade from the public's awareness. It's often felt that the greatest casualty of all is being forgotten. With injury reports from Afghanistan and Iraq no longer prominent in the news, wounded service members feel that they could be out of sight and out of mind in the near future. And this would be a shame. These are people who have suffered from burns, amputations, traumatic brain injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD), all in the cause of fighting for our country.

The Wounded Warrior Project cannot and will not allow them to feel like they have been forgotten. But they need our help. If you can help with a financial donation or even a donation of time you can contact the Wounded Warrior Project at 489 Belfort Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32256 - at their main office or log onto their website at www.woundedwarriorproject.org and find out how you can help this worthy cause.

The words our service members live by are "duty, honor, courage, commitment, integrity, country and service". These are words they have lived by in support of all of us. Now they need our help, they should never be forgotten and helping the Wounded Warrior Project is one of the best ways to make sure that never happens.

Thank you to South Boston

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Edward Flynn, Chief Marshal – 2013 Evacuation Day Parade

It was an honor to have served as the Chief Marshal of the 2013 Evacuation Day Parade. Participating in so many civic events during the month of March, reminded me of the special town that we are fortunate to live in. My goal in being Chief Marshal was to recognize and welcome home our young military veterans, while representing our older veterans and giving them the thanks, dignity and respect they deserve. Thanks to the wonderful people of South Boston, we were able to achieve these two objectives. To the members of the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, the M.B.T.A. Police, the Massachusetts State Police, Boston Public Works and Transportation Department, and other city and state employees, thank you for your professionalism and hard work.

My thanks to my fellow veterans for the honor they bestowed on me and my family. I will always be grateful for the honor. But a special thank you to all those hard working people who made our historic parade and civic events such a big success. From the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council to the South Boston Citizens Association, you have earned the appreciation of all of us. To all the volunteers who made the 2013 Evacuation Day Parade/ St. Patrick's Day civic events a big success, our gratitude. And most of all, the people of South Boston for receiving all the parade marchers with such a warm reception and welcome, including my wife Kristen and our children Caroline and Stephen.

We have a proud and distinguished history here in South Boston and it has never been on display better than it was these past few weeks. Thank you to the people of South Boston.

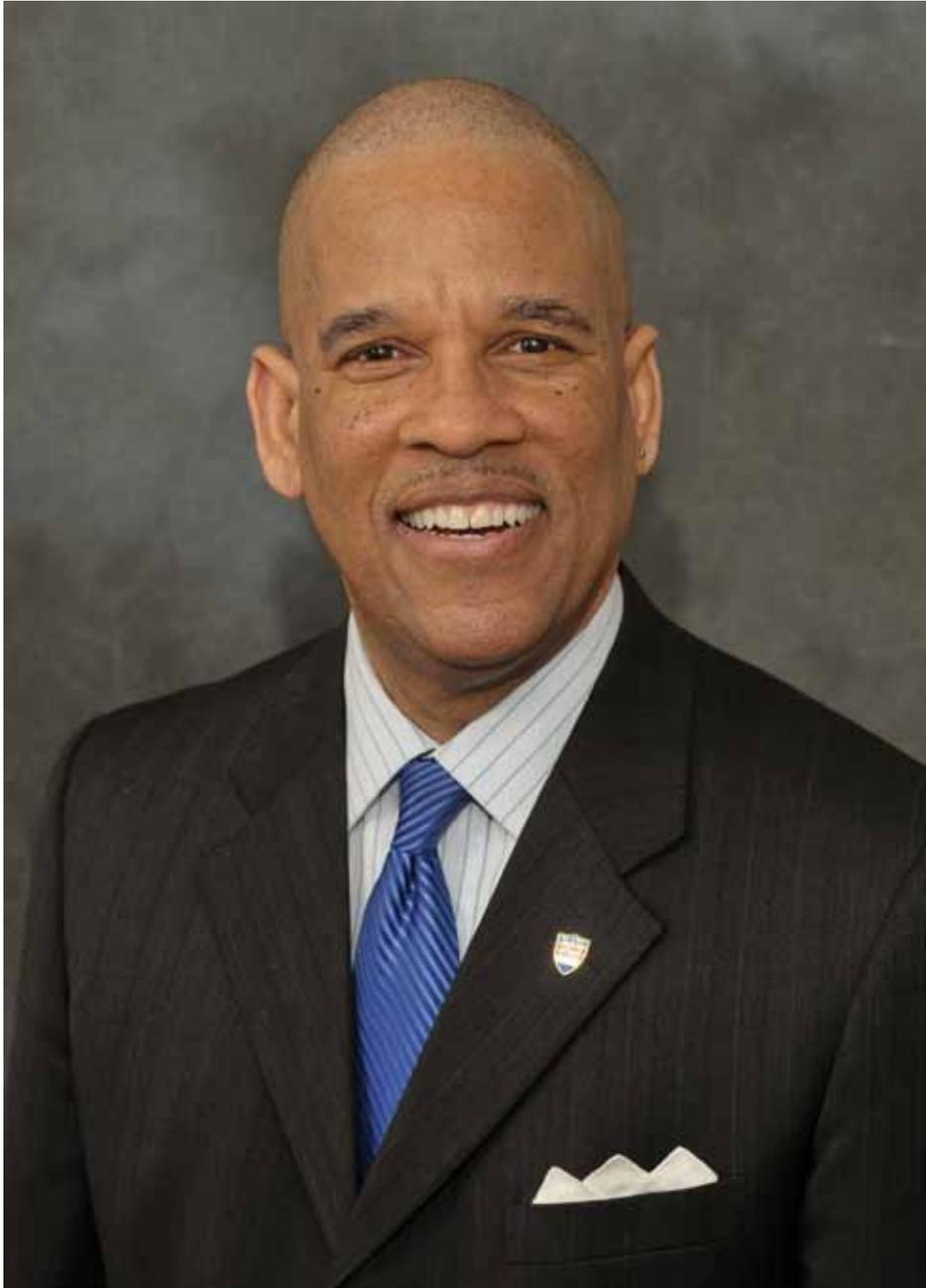
Respectfully, Edward M. Flynn, Chief Marshal.

2013 Evacuation Day Parade



José Massó to Head Massport's Community Relations

Civic Leader, Communications Expert Will Guide Massport's Relations with Neighbors



BOSTON -- The Massachusetts Port Authority today announced that José C. Massó III is the Authority's new Director of Community Relations. Massó has a long, impressive career in government, community affairs, communications and consulting and will be responsible for directing the development and implementation of programs designed to lessen the impact Massport facilities has on its neighbors.

"I am delighted to announce the hiring of José Massó," said Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn. "Having a skilled and strategic person as Director of Community Relations is critical to the success of Massport and our responsibility to be a good neighbor."

Massó, 62, lives in Boston and has a distinguished career in civic engagement and community activism. He began his public service career in 1983 in the Governor's Office of Community Services and has held key posts at the MBTA, Northeastern University, and the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration. He has had a successful career in broadcasting and was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2010. He is fluent in Spanish and skilled in cross-cultural communications.

"Massport is fortunate to have someone of Massó's caliber heading community relations," said Thomas J. Keady, Jr., who worked with Massó at Northeastern University and is now Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs at Boston College. "He has a great understanding of Boston and its neighborhoods and has a great attitude about helping people. He likes to get to 'yes' and in community affairs, it is all about getting to yes."

Massport's Community Relations Department is the first point of contact for the Authority with

Community groups and it responds to the public's information requests, concerns, and complaints; leads community meetings and makes presentations to organizations on Massport's policies, plans and programs and other complex subjects. The Director partners with community leaders to develop mutually acceptable solutions to issues of concern.

Boston Logan, 15 minutes from the intersection of Route 128 and I-90 and five minutes from downtown Boston, serves as the gateway to the New England region and offers nonstop service to 72 domestic and 31 international destinations and in 2012 handled 29.3 million passengers. Boston Logan is the Air Line Pilot Association's Airport of the Year for 2008 because of its commitment to safety. Over the past decade, the airport spent \$4.5 billion on a modernization program that includes new terminals, public transportation access, parking facilities, roadways and airport concessions, and has been transformed into a world-class 21st Century facility. The airport generates \$7 billion in total economic impact each year.

Massport owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field and Worcester Regional Airport. Massport is a financially self-sustaining public authority whose premier transportation facilities generate more than \$8 billion annually, and enhance and enable economic growth and vitality in New England. No state tax dollars are used to fund operations or capital improvements at Massport facilities.

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Tech Corner

Always Re-Evaluate Your Contracts

You may or may not know it but your cable company and your cell phone companies are only nice to you every 23 months because that is typically when your contract expires. During that time they are trying to sign you up for a new contact with a price locked for 2 years to ensure you will not leave their service, otherwise you pay a very high cancellation cost. Use the time leading up to your contract expiration wisely to shop around to get the most service for your money. One thing to note if you do not switch vendors on or very near your expiration you may notice a very high inflation of costs on your next bill. This is a sign the service provider is forcing you to call them up so they can lock you back in. Once you are fully out of contract even though they are overcharging you, you have the upper hand.

For the most part when comparing cable companies, TV is TV, Internet is Internet, and Phone is Phone. None of them really have a type of service that makes them a must have. All services are subject to outages and equipment failures all you are really doing is picking a preference or are subject to what service covers your area. You should evaluate each

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Peter Ostashen

service, do you need HBO/Showtime and would a service like Netflix or Hulu Plus fill those voids instead? Do you need the super fast Internet speeds if you only use email and mild Internet usage? Can you switch your phone data usage because you don't use all of your data currently?

When talking about cellular companies with T-Mobile now slated to get the iPhone 5 most of the carriers have the same phones what you have to watch out for is their coverage map. If you are someone that stays in mostly the same spots it will be easier to pick a carrier then someone who travels around the world. Do your homework and ask your friends and colleagues to get a sense of what they have. Ask questions to find out how the service or the speed of internet,, this is some of the best due diligence that you can do.

Do yourself a favor and shop around at the various competitors and do your best to negotiate with them using other vendors in their market as the competition, don't let service providers bully you around. If you have any questions or comments write me back at: peter@ostashenconsulting.com

John Ciccone... CONTINUED FROM page 3

people to shake their heads in amazement. As Washington continues to try to convince the country that the Sequester cuts eliminated much needed funding for government projects, folks are no longer falling for it, especially when what so much of our tax money is going to. Want some more examples? \$5000 to a library so it could host video parties. \$137,000 to a professor at Dartmouth College so he could create a recession themed video game called 'Layoff'. \$1.8 million for a museum dedicated to neon signs in Las Vegas, \$175 million for the government to maintain hundreds of buildings it no longer uses including a pink, octagon shaped monkey house. Yet, they insist they must raise our taxes even more because they spend it so wisely on, well, pink monkey houses.

In closing this week, as our Jewish neighbors observe Passover and most Christians observe Holy Week, this is to many the most sacred time of the year. Our Churches will be busy for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and then of course the celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus, when as tradition has it, the Churches will be even more crowded.

Whichever way you celebrate, this is a special time of year to most of us and we here at South Boston Today wish all of our friends and neighbors the best for this weekend.

HAPPY
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TO YOURS

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BILL LINEHAN
and Family

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Sat Mar 30th
Chachi on guitar

HAPPY EASTER

Wishing You a Happy Easter
From The McDonough Family & Shamrock Staff

Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.
www.southbostontoday.com



Quick Fix Easter TableScape

Combine Treasured Heirlooms with Dollar Store Easter Themed Trinkets

To build a tablescape similar to the one pictured start with your table's surface. Choose your favorite spring color for the base tablecloth, layer an heirloom crocheted tablecloth over it and top with complimentary colored placemats. Build your dinnerware setting with three to four layers of vintage and contemporary china. Add a themed napkin ring and double layered quality linen napkins to top off the china tower. Vintage flatware, flower vase and cut glass candle sticks lend a note of tradition and importance to this special occasion table setting. Lighten it up with whimsical colored eggs and edible grasses, bunny themed figurines, some fresh flowers and candles – all available at neighborhood stores.

Not fortunate enough to have the family heirlooms passed down yet? Add the neighborhood vintage shops to your shopping stops – and hunt for your treasures – bet you succeed!

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Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

| | Price | Sale date | Rooms | Baths | Sq Ft |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 909 Condo | \$900,000 | 3/15/13 | 5 | 2.5 | 1763 |
| 91 N Street Single Family | \$800,000 | 3/15/13 | 10 | 2.2 | 2208 |
| 721 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo | \$632,500 | 3/18/13 | 4 | 2.5 | 1205 |
| 540 East Third St UNIT 1 Single Family | \$609,500 | 3/15/13 | 8 | 3.5 | 2000 |
| 594 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo | \$570,000 | 3/15/13 | 5 | 2 | 1167 |
| 9 Broadway UNIT 112 Condo | \$550,000 | 3/15/13 | 3 | 1 | 1191 |
| 594 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo | \$465,000 | 3/18/13 | 5 | 2 | 1150 |
| 3-4 Newhill Place Single Family | \$440,000 | 3/15/13 | 9 | 2.5 | 1948 |
| 322 West Third St UNIT 2 Condo | \$404,000 | 3/15/13 | 4 | 2 | 845 |
| 1 Pacific St UNIT 1 Condo | \$395,000 | 3/15/13 | 5 | 2 | 1185 |
| 159 I St UNIT 2 Condo | \$333,000 | 3/15/13 | 4 | 1 | 690 |

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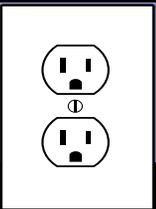
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In Your Corner

This week, to emphasize the importance of being involved in your community organization, In Your Corner provides a snapshot of activity reviewing a two week time frame of the entire community.

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

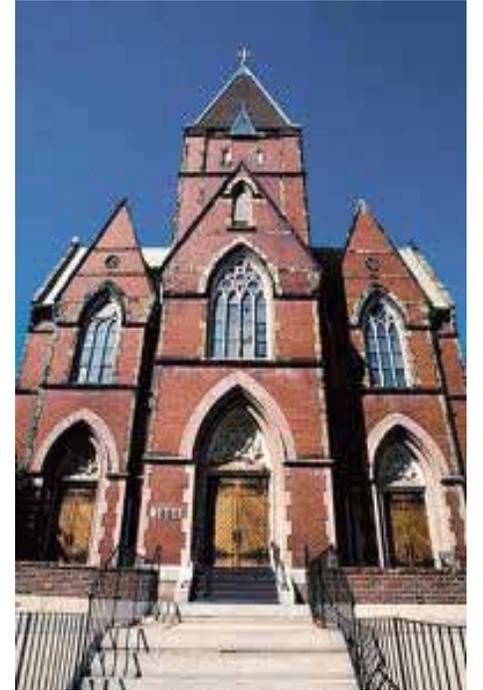
The “mansion” in the City Point organization is examined elsewhere in this issue. Last week, the Andrew Square and City Side organizations co-hosted a meeting to discuss a proposal for an entertainment license for the “Telegraph Hill” bar and restaurant.

The Fort Point and St. Vincent’s organizations had a quiet week only having to discuss two hotels proposed for their area. Of course this proposal will actually affect every resident.

This week the City Side organization had an especially unwieldy situation. For reasons best known to them, the BRA is holding a proposal for 18 units on West Fourth between E and F Streets. On the same night, City Side organization is attending a hearing on the landmark status of St. Augustine’s Church. This requires half the organization to attend one, while the rest attend the other. This hardly seems like an attempt by the BRA to provide a legitimate community process. This paper depends on information supplied by South Boston organizations to get the word out. Why the BRA chooses not to post announcements of meetings in the only paper that is delivered to resident’s doors is a question best asked by residents to the BRA.

Moving on, the Dorchester Heights Association is anxious to see what impact the development at Old Harbor and Telegraph Streets will cause. The Fort Point organization has been wrestling with the 11-story State Street project. The West Broadway association has had the “Quiet Man” development rising to eight stories, Stephanies Restaurant and 37 units over Dunkin Donuts in various stages of development.

Finally, the most community changing event since the BCEC construction has been proposed in the form of least two hotels between First and Summer Streets along D Street. The community comment period to weigh in on the hotels ends at 5 P.M. April, 8.



*Wishing you and your family
a Happy Easter and Spring!*



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The Artist's Studio

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Deb Putnam

It is with a heavy heart that I finish writing this artist profile on Josie Lawrence, a friend and fellow artist, who inspired all with her gentle spirit and beautiful paintings. Josie passed away unexpectedly on March 6 and will be greatly missed by those who knew her. An accomplished artist, Josie bravely began attending college nights at the age of 47 for 10 years until she received her BFA from Massachusetts College of Art at age 57. At her death, at the age of 81, she had accumulated 42 fine art credits towards her masters along with painting daily in her art studio, actively belonging to several art associations and exhibiting her oil paintings in local galleries.

As a representational oil painter, Josie's paintings include still life, landscapes and portraits from travels to different parts of the world. These are not busy works. They are carefully planned where every brush stroke is placed with care and forethought. All that is left for you to do, as the viewer, is to sit back and take pleasure in the serenity as you enter the quiet peaceful world created with Josie's brush and palette knife. During one past summer, Tom Carr, her professor at the Escola d'Arts Plastique I Disseny in Barcelona, Spain (Barcelona's Oldest Art Academy) told her, "I can see in your paintings that you like quiet and stillness." This gave her pause to reflect. As one of eight children in a family whose parents were born in Italy, she remembered the many times she retreated to the bedroom she shared with two sisters to draw in solitude. Was she still creating her own serenity?

Maria Josephine Gentile, nicknamed Josie, may have been born in Carbondale, PA a small coal mining town in the Appalachian Mountains and most recently was residing in Milton but she took great pride in her son-in-law's exclamation "You are a Southie

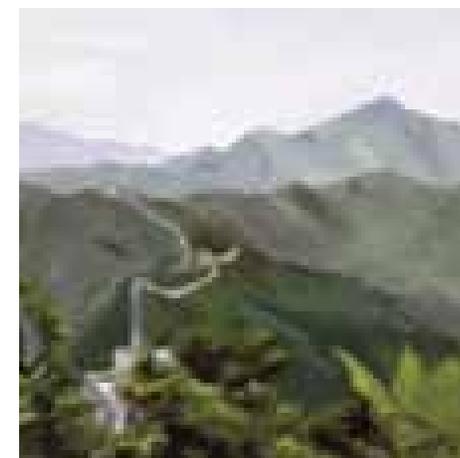
chick." Her family relocated to South Boston and became the second family moving into the government project when she was 10 years old. By the time she was 11 she knew she wanted to become an artist and began art lessons with the Minneapolis Minnesota Correspondence School as their youngest student ever. However, much to her mother's dismay, she never completed the courses. She graduated from South Boston High School, where she was a cheerleader, with a minor in art and thought she would study art in college, but with a family of eight kids, it just wasn't financially feasible.

After graduation Josie worked as a secretary at the John Hancock Insurance Company and married John Lawrence at St. Augustine's Church. The couple went on to become the proud parents of three wonderful daughters. Even while raising her family art was always there for her in some way or another. "I would arrange my siblings' homes because they were never satisfied until my approval was given." Her husband John was a Boston police officer and World War II veteran, who was inducted into the Army at age 18 while still in his senior year at Southie High. For Josie's 80th birthday she was thrilled when her kids took her to dinner at the Jury's hotel on Berkeley Street that once was the Boston Police Commissioner's office where her late husband worked as a Sergeant. Although she couldn't attend college Josie took classes at a local high school and "became hooked on oil painting." Until he died in 1977, her husband would help her set up in different places to sell her art.

As a pioneer at the Massachusetts College of Art's newly implemented part-time continuing education degree program in 1979, Josie took art courses at night and worked days at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. After receiving her BFA in 1989 she used

summer vacation time to pursue her graduate studies in England, Italy, China, Greece and Spain and also with travels to France, Ireland, Egypt and India. Josie's art has won numerous awards and has been included in dozens of publications including American Artist, Art in America and "How to Grow as an Artist" by Daniel Grant. She has exhibited her work internationally and locally, most recently at the United South End Artists Open Studio and the Artists Crossing Gallery in downtown Boston. Her art work can be found in private and corporate collections in the United

her Master's degree at 81. To see more of Josie's paintings visit her website <http://www.4thfloorartists.org/lawrence.html>



States, Europe and Asia as well as the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the Castle Island Association Logo.

On a personal note, Josie has been an inspirational figure for me as an artist. Her life demonstrates that age is only a state of mind and that it is never too late to follow your dreams. The next time I suffer from a little self pity I will picture Josie painting and pursuing



Southie's Music Men: Cat Tunes... Where Have They Gone?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Mike Quigley and Brian P. Wallace

Cat Tunes may very well hold historic accreditation as being the band that has been together the longest in South Boston history. This band has spanned the years from 1982 to rare appearances even now in 2013. I was a founding member of the original band, my name is Mike Quigley and I was the original bass guitarist of the original band called Cat Tunes. The other original members included four local residents of Southie - Mark Morris on Lead Vocals, Greg Bodell on Lead Guitar and Vocals, Gussy Wright on Keyboards, Guitar, Flute, Saxophone and Vocals, Mike Quigley on Bass Guitar and Vocals and Bernie Nania on Drums and Vocals.

Gussy Wright was attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston where he met up with Greg Bodell who was also attending Berklee. The two hit it off and decided to form a band. They started to practice together but decided a front man would be the best way to proceed. Enter, Mark Morris, a much younger aged 'kid' from Southie, but very charismatic and full of raw talent. Mark had a way to communicate with everyone around him and had a natural born talent to attract people. Still, the band needed a bass player and drummer. I can't remember who it was, but someone mentioned that Gussy Wright was looking for a Bass player and Drummer and looking for possible prospects to audition. Bernie and I looked at each other and said, "What do you think?" We auditioned for the parts and were both immediately approved and accepted into the band. This was the summer/fall of 1982.

All of us were approaching thirty years old and Cat was 21. Yet even in the early days, Gussy would guide Mark into the realm of rock band guidelines and expectations. Mark was dealing with two future Berklee graduates and a seasoned bass player and drummer with years of experience. The driving force that the rest of the band could clearly see was that Mark had the talent and the confidence to be the band's lead front man. The most prestigious band at that time was called Newsboys, which had



a huge following. We were still in our infancy stage, but getting stronger with each practice. We did notice, as we left each practice, more and more younger kids hanging around out front to listen to us practice.

The band name came after a few months of practices. Mark Morris always had the nickname of Cat. I'm not really sure why? That Band name, "Cat Tunes", has now been around for almost 30 years and the name is known to at least three generations of fans. Our first gig was at a local Southie Club called Street Lights. After that night, we started to make a name for ourselves and the word spread quickly. Soon, we had regular gigs on a monthly basis at Street Lights, as well as clubs - Triple O's Lounge, The Bayside Club, Florian Hall in Dorchester, and The Beachcomber in Quincy. Each night we played to a full house. We started playing at Pete's Sake in Abington and Richard's Pub in Malden. However, there was one club in Boston we were dying to get into and kept getting denied. The club was called "The Pier" which was by Ray McCarthy, and it was one of the biggest night clubs in Boston with a capacity of 1300 people. Many famous stars had performed there over the years and we were begging to have a chance to play there.

In the summer of 1983, we played a concert at Marine Park in South Boston in front of a crowd of 15,000 spectators. The band was a hit. Channel 7 News was there with a film crew as well as a

photographer from the Boston Herald. The Channel 7 News had video of the band that evening on the 6:00 pm TV News. There was also an article in the Boston Herald the next day on page 4 with a picture of Cat Tunes with the heading under the picture 'Feline Fury'. Ray McCarthy could no longer deny that Cat Tunes could fill the bill as a featured act. Within less than a year, Cat Tunes was considered the 'house band' at The Pier and always had sold out shows. Ray paid for some TV commercials that were filmed for and shown on MTV and Cat Tunes was in all three of these commercials. By the end of 1983 Cat Tunes was booked on a regular basis playing six of seven nights a week.

In the fall of 1984, Greg had decided to leave the band. It was fortunate for Cat Tunes that their biggest band competitor, The Newsboys, was breaking up at the same time. Leo Stapelton, lead guitarist from Newsboys took over the position as the new guitar player in Cat Tunes. This was a big plus for the band. Leo, not only being a native of South Boston, was also a Berklee College graduate and a well-known musician all over the Boston area. Leo changed the future approach of how Cat Tunes would evolve to the next level. The transition was smooth and the band was back playing six nights a week on a regular basis.

The spring of 1985 was when Gussy Wright left the band and was replaced by Kenny Morrell and

John Baker. Kenny and John had a successful Duo act called The Odd Couple, but felt by joining forces with Cat Tunes the musical expression would complement a joint venture. Kenny was an accomplished keyboardist, including synthesizers, and John played lead guitar, flute and saxophone. Both were also lead vocalists. It could have been called the ultimate band.

At this point, there was literally nothing that Cat Tunes could not do musically or instrumentally. Mark was still the Lead Front Man, but could rely on an entire backup band to fill in on any lead vocals whenever needed. In 1985, the 'new' Cat Tunes was featured on a Boston TV Show called 'Rising Stars'. And the world opened up to us, but all good things must end someday and in 1985 it was my turn to leave the band. My wife of 10 years and our 4 children had decided to sell our house in South Boston and move to Maine. A move I have never regretted.

I was finishing up college and we wanted to move to a different area and school system for our children. I stopped playing for about 20 years, but, in 2006, I went down to what was supposed to be the 'Final' Cat Tunes Concert at The Beachcomber in Quincy, Mass. It was a great chance to reunite with Mark, and Leo also showed up for the concert. I started playing again in 2008 and have been doing so ever since in a three piece power trio rock band up here in Maine and New Hampshire. Our videos can be viewed on You Tube by searching the word 'Quigfest'. You can also see some of the early videos of Cat Tunes that I posted under the search of 'Cat Tunes, Southie, and Quigley'.

I am hoping Mark Morris will continue the History of Cat Tunes to fill in the years and decades since I had left the original band. I would also like to thank Jake Trainor who did some of the original Cat Tunes promotional artwork. Also, a thank you to the original fans and those who have followed the band for decades later. And thank Brian Wallace for giving us the opportunity to reminisce.

South Boston Around the Globe



“The Foster Family”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

This week South Boston Around the Globe will reach back through the mists of time, back to the very beginning of settlement of our town to bring you to the Foster Family. Captain Hopestill Foster and his wife Patience settled on an estate that stretched from Dorchester Street to B Street from Sixth to First Street on the Harbor. In 1676, Captain Foster built the first house in what was still part of Dorchester at E and Silver Streets.

His son John became Boston’s first printer. In the next generation the Widow Foster became famous during the Boston Tea Party. While it seems far away today, in 1770 it was ocean from First Street to the British tea ships at anchor. When the “Indians” dumped the tea, at least one chest floated to the area around F Street. A workman on the Foster estate dragged the chest to a barn, lit a fire and tried to dry it. Widow Foster discovered him and made him burn the tea, chest and all. The Foster Estate sat on a slate ledge which runs between Perkins Square and “E” Street bordered by Broadway and Third. By 1635 this ledge was the main quarry for nearly all slate gravestones that are found in the oldest cemeteries in Boston and around New England. Finally, an item from the Dorchester Town Annals states that Captain Foster’s grandson James Foster designed the original Mass state seal featuring the American Indian speaking the words “Come Over and Help Us” widely believed to be a plea to the Almighty.

To conclude this family’s intertwining with history, the battle for Boston took place on Nook Hill which was alternately known as Foster’s Hill due to it’s location on the Foster estate.

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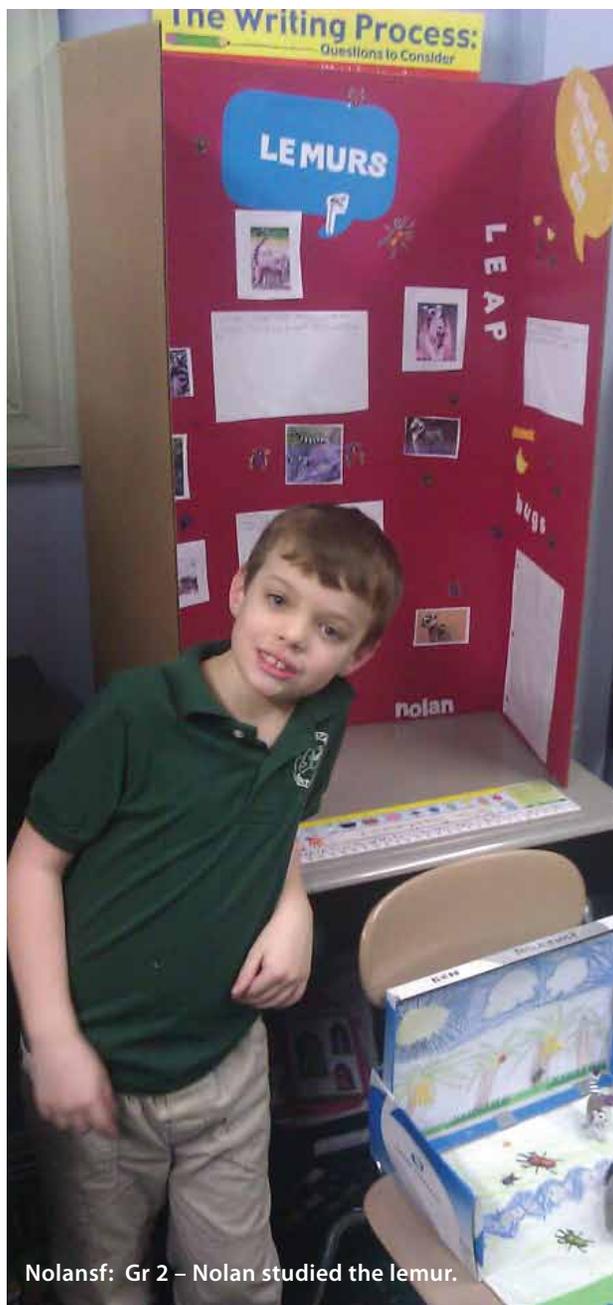
St. Peter Academy News

The month of March is only half over and it has been a whirlwind of events at St. Peter Academy, with history and science being the highlighted subjects of the month. On March 5th, Grades 3-8 took a trip to the Commonwealth Museum in Dorchester, the state museum of Massachusetts' history and its people, where they reenacted the Boston Massacre and the trial that followed. They also visited the Treasures Gallery where rare historical materials are displayed and explored interactive exhibits.

Our annual Science Fair was held on March 6th and as usual, the students did not disappoint. Students in K2, Grade 1 and Grade 2 chose topics to explore and present, while students in Grades 3-8 used the Scientific Method for their projects. Teachers in PreK-B, PreK-A and K1 displayed science materials used in the classroom for the little ones to explore. With Evacuation Day fast approaching and despite the snowstorm, we were lucky to be visited on March 8th by the South Boston Historical Society and their "History Slam".

Historical characters such as Phyllis Wheatley, Henry Knox, and Paul Revere spoke to the children about the events of Evacuation Day. Our students entered art work and essays into the Evacuation Day contest and we had three winners. Victoria Coakley took 2nd place in the poster contest with her drawing of the Admiral Farragut statue. Jack Mersereau and Lukas McCarthy placed 2nd and 3rd in the essay contest. Congratulations to all!

On March 14-15, Miss Chapin, Miss Noonan, three parent chaperones, Karen Anastas, Christina Correia and Mark Callahan and students in Grades 4, 5 & 6 participated in a sleepover at the Museum of Science. This is a trip that the children look forward to every year and they had a blast. We at St. Peter Academy would like to wish you all a very blessed Easter!



Nolansf: Gr 2 – Nolan studied the lemur.



Peytonsf: PreK-B – examining shells



Mollysf: Gr 3 – Which Popcorn pops the best?



The whole crew



Phyllis Wheatley talks to the patriots.



Thomassf: K2 – Thomas loves the red panda.



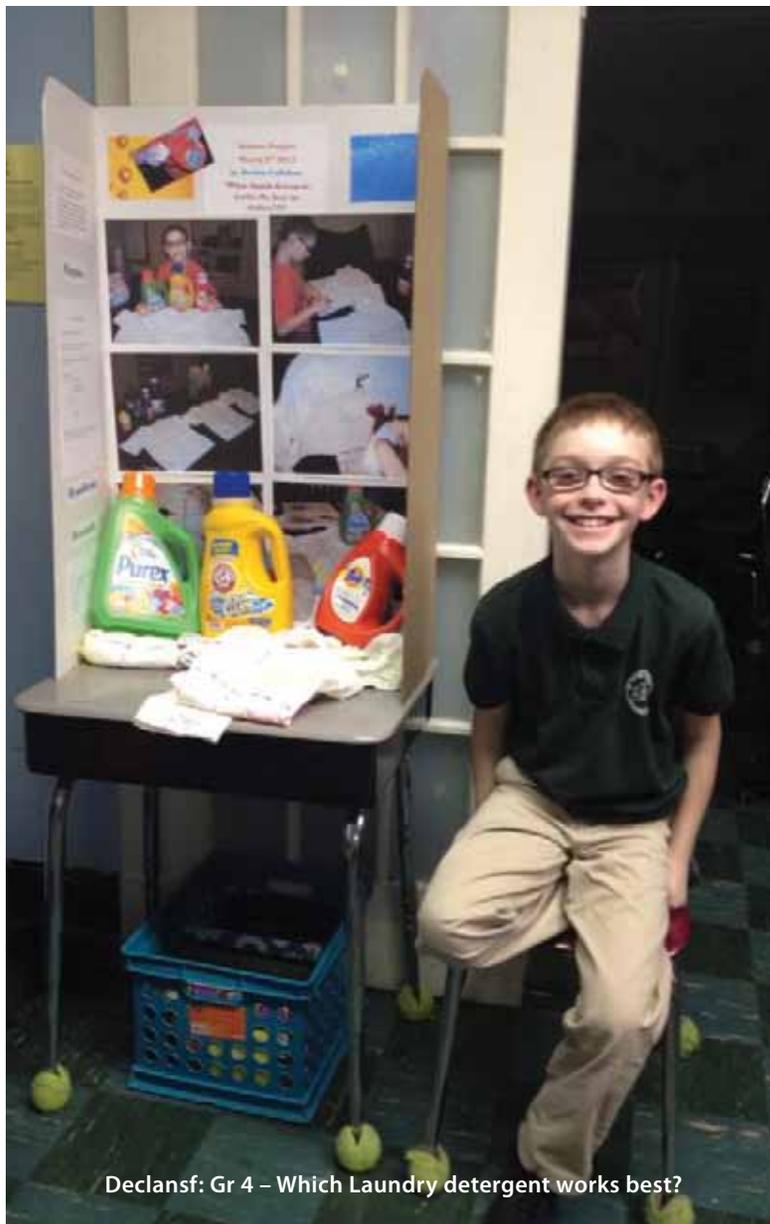
Henry Knox and our patriots.



Miss Chapin is ready for a great sleepover.



Zachsf: Gr 1 – Zach researched kangaroos.



Declansf: Gr 4 – Which Laundry detergent works best?



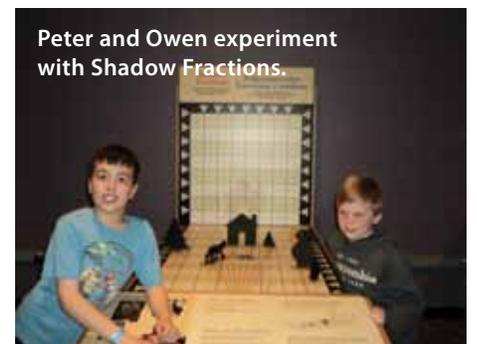
Searching for places on the map



Balancing at the Science Museum



0416 – Lukas experimented with floating ketchup packets.



Peter and Owen experiment with Shadow Fractions.

Brian Wallace To Speak To L St. Runner's Club

Brian Wallace will be back home on Thursday April 11th, five days before the Boston Marathon, to speak about his book "Night Runner" which takes place in South Boston.

"It really is only fitting that my talk before the actual Marathon on April 15th will be to these runners who inspired the book and who are a part of the book. I really look forward to speaking to and meeting the members of the Club and I want to congratulate Mac Moran for his tireless work over the years with this and other running groups. I hope you'll come down the L on that night." stated Wallace
With runner's minds and training schedules starting to point toward the Boston Marathon, what better way to celebrate the event, the runners and a good novel all packed into one little package. It's called "Night Runner" and it is now in both paperback and Kindle editions at Amazon for the marathoner as well as the weekend warriors or just fans of a good book. Look at the reviews that Night Runner has already received and get your copy now. The race is just ahead

When Brian Wallace's first book, "Final Confession" hit the bookstores, Dennis Lehane wrote, "You will marvel at Wallace's breathless narrative as it takes you at light speed through a Boston and an America that is fading fast from our mind's eye." Newsday reported that "Final Confession" by Brian Wallace is both a convincing and fascinating read."

Although the subject may have changed from true crime to the Boston Marathon, the first reviews about "Night Runner" on Amazon, have not. *
 "I laughed. I cried and this continued from beginning to end of this brilliant work by Brian Wallace. His characters are so vivid and pure that as a reader you feel like you have a front row seat for the Boston Marathon. An extraordinary storyteller." said one reviewer.

"As a Boston Marathon runner and a Boston resident, I found myself alongside Cliff Walker on a journey to conquer his inner demons. There are twists and turns along the way that make you wonder what the final outcome will be. You are never quite sure, and that is what makes this read one you will not want to put down." , stated another.

Others stated, "Night Runner" is a very moving, funny and inspirational story with great characters. Boston natives will recognize the locations and the quirky characters. Runners will love the Boston Marathon storyline." "I loved "Night Runner". You know a book is good when you don't want to put it down." "Phenomenal is a word one of the characters in "Night Runner" might have used to describe the author's ability to weave an intricate and interesting story."

"OMG the characters in "Night Runner" are unbelievable.....they come to life on the page."

Final Confession, by the way, will be re-released as a '10th Anniversary Special on February 12th to book stores and on Amazon. All reviews can be found on Amazon Night Runner page

Luminarium Dance Company Performance

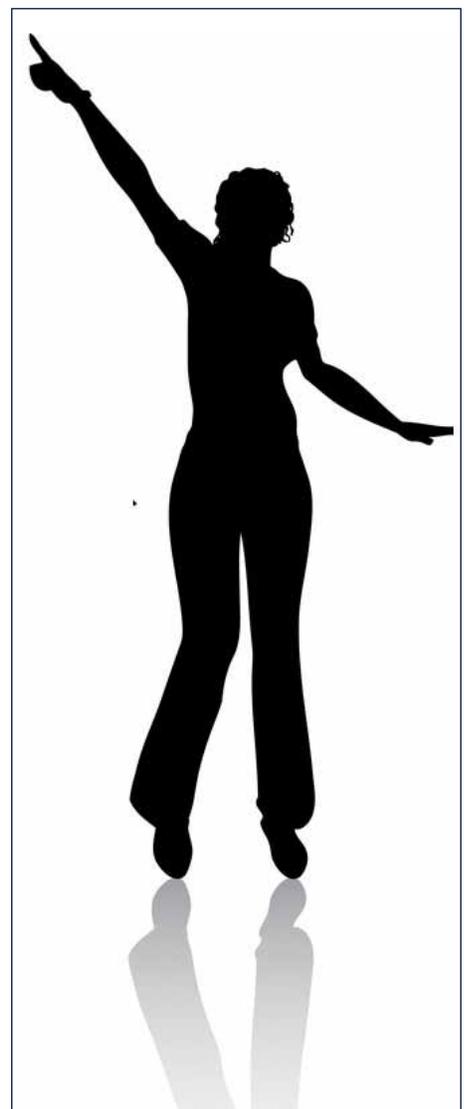
Please join us for a free performance of professional modern dancers from the Luminarium Dance Company at the South Boston Boys & Girls Club on Thursday March 28 at 7:00 p.m. The performance is a culminating event to celebrate Luminarium's community outreach

dance program that provided a six week series of master dance classes to youth from the South Boston Community Health Center's Young at Arts program and members of the South Boston Boys & Girls Club.

The youth enjoyed workshops taught by Luminarium Dance Company founders Merli Guerra

and Kimberleigh Holman along with other professional dancers from the company. A wide variety of dance styles were taught in the workshops including traditional modern, hip hop and dances originating from India.

To learn more about the Luminarium Dance Company and the many ways they share the gift of dance, please visit their website www.luminariumdance.org. We look forward to seeing you at the performance on Thursday!



Hail Mary Prayer

Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. Ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving Business, and 2 impossible. On the 9th day publish this article and your wishes will be answered even though you may not believe it. K. B.

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Red Sox Notes

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

As the 2013 Major League Baseball season commences in the coming weeks, the Boston Red Sox will have some final roster decisions to make.

In Sunday's game versus the Phillies, Red Sox centerfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, rolled his ankle when he jumped back to the first base bag on an attempted pick-off throw. Ellsbury and Red Sox Manager John Farrell believe the issue won't be a major one. Farrell said Ellsbury was taken out of the game for precautionary reasons only.

In the same game, Shane Victorino, who moved from right field into center, banged up his rib when he rammed into the outfield wall while chasing down a fly ball. These bumps and bruises make the timing all the more important of Jackie Bradley, Jr.'s rise. A first-round sandwich pick, Bradley was chosen 40th overall in the 2011 draft by the Boston Red Sox.

So far this spring, Bradley is leading the Red Sox in batting average (.444), on-base percentage (.523), slugging percentage (.667), hits (24) and walks (8). His defensive skills are also no slouch. Farrell is particularly impressed with Bradley's ability to read the ball off the bat. Don't be surprised to see Bradley on the big league roster.

In other Red Sox related news, club officials tell the Boston Globe, that they will be dropping the prices of concessions and beer. The price of beer will go from roughly \$7.50-\$8.50 to \$5 for a 12-ounce glass. Hot dogs will be 2 for the price of 1, and food will be free for kids. This will last for the month of April.

Red Sox officials is a move to thank fans for their loyalty throughout the last 793 games, which the club says have been all sold out. Many believe that streak will end this year.

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Happy Easter!

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**Every week, we will run an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin", which can be heard LIVE every weekday from 8-10 a.m. on 1510 NBC Sports Radio Boston, and BlogTalkRadio, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be read on Comcast SportsNet, and seen on FOX-25 every Friday night at 10 p.m.*

This week, Danny talked to Providence Journal Red Sox beat writer Brian MacPherson:

DANNY PICARD: On Sunday, Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a home run off Cliff Lee, but there was something about that home run that was maybe a little deceiving?

BRIAN MACPHERSON: Well, it was a little bit wind blown. They were playing in a jet stream, but the fact remains, if there was no wind, it's a line-drive double up the gap. And frankly, for Jackie Bradley, a line-drive double up the gap off Cliff Lee is just as impressive, especially to the opposite field. He showed a good approach. He went with a pitch on the outer half, got his fastball, and ripped it up the gap. Yeah, if the wind isn't blowing, it's probably not really a home run, but you'll take a double for a guy like Jackie Bradley off Cliff Lee, as you're trying to see what he can do off a really good lefty pitcher.

DP: As you watch Jackie Bradley Jr. down at spring training, how impressed are you? I mean, try and think back to the beginning of spring training and what you thought you would see out of this kid. Did you believe that he was going to be this good throughout an entire spring training, or is this a complete surprise to you?

BM: It's not a complete surprise. You know he's a really good player. His track record is of a really good

player with a mature plate approach, great plate discipline. But what you thought you'd see was, pitchers adjusting to him. You thought you'd see, at some point, he'd start to tail off. It wasn't surprising at all that he was really surprising for a week or two. I think that's the sort of thing young players like that tend to do. But you sort of thought you'd see it tail off. He started to see a little more breaking balls. Pitchers weren't just throwing fastballs; they were getting a little sharper with their repertoire. And you haven't seen him tail off. He hit a triple off a curve ball yesterday. It was a Double-A pitcher throwing that breaking ball, but still, he's been able to look and take breaking balls from really good pitchers. He hit a single yesterday after working a good at-bat against Pedro Strop, one of the Orioles' hard-throwing set-up men. So you haven't seen him tail off, I think that's been the biggest surprise, even for a player as good as Bradley.

DP: And as we try to really get a vibe as to what type of player he'll be at the Major League level, we look at spring training, and there will be some people that say, "Well, you have to take spring training numbers lightly because you can't put too much into great success, and you can't put too much into extreme failure in spring training, because guys are working on

certain things." And when you talk about pitching maybe not being able to adjust to Jackie Bradley Jr., do you think that says more about pitchers still trying to find their game in spring training, or does that say more about Jackie Bradley Jr. improving as a player that could succeed at the Major League level?

BM: Oh, he absolutely could succeed at the Major League level. I don't think there's any doubt about that. You're right; you have to be careful with small sample sizes. Last year, the best hitters in spring training for the Red Sox were Pedro Ciriaco and Darnell McDonald. They both had terrific spring trainings. Two years ago, Cesar Crespo was legendary for his spring training. But Bradley has the track record. That's the difference. He's a guy that's hit a lot. He's not a guy that's just come in and had an out-of-nowhere hot streak. He was tremendous last year at Single-A Salem in his first pro season. He got up to Double-A Portland and was slightly less tremendous. People talked about him slumping, but all he was good instead of great. And that was even with the fatigue of his first pro season. So he's a great player, there's no question about that. But I guess we shouldn't get carried away, he's not a superstar. Xander Bogaerts is still the better prospect, long term, in the Red

Sox. Bradley is not going to win MVP awards. He's going to be -- one of the comparisons you can hang on him is a Denard Span sort of a player, a really good core player. But not an MVP-caliber player. He gets on base a lot, plays tremendous defense, gets a lot of extra-base hits, but doesn't hit a lot of home runs necessarily. But he's absolutely a really good player. I guess the question is, when that's going to start, when he's ready for that to start.

DP: Last week there was a story that the Red Sox were "50-50" going to start Jackie Bradley Jr. on the opening day roster. And we keep talking about his contractual rights if they start him in the majors, they'll lose that 2019 year in his contract. Right now, where do the Red Sox stand? Is it still 50-50? Is it 75-25 that he starts on the opening day roster? Where do they stand with Jackie Bradley Jr. and opening day?

BM: They've been keeping their cards pretty close to the vest. I would say, right now, it's still probably closer to 50-50, but it's a little hard to gauge. It's tough, because logically, trading nine days for an entire season down the road doesn't make sense, as good as he can be. Especially because you assume he'll be better when he's 29 than he is now when



he's 22, because he'll be in his prime then. It's sort of like the Rays, if they had been able to get an extra season out of Carl Crawford. That sort of

player, you just don't want him to go to free agency before he has to. But, with all the impact he's making, the logic starts to go out the window

a little bit, because he does look tremendous.

DP: Because to me, as Bradley continues to improve here -- and you mentioned it, his success didn't come out of nowhere. It's no surprise. Everybody's been talking about how good this kid can be. He's showing it. I think he has earned the right to play at the Major League level, and make the opening day roster. My take on it is this, if you keep Bradley up, and he's the type of player you think he will be, can be, and should be, then you sign him to a contract before you get to 2019, don't you?

BM: That's not totally in the Red Sox' control though, that's the only issue. Because absolutely, I agree with you. The more I think about it, Dustin Pedroia is a pretty accurate comparison to him, both his skill set and sort of what he can mean to a team. And Pedroia signed that contract to age 32. So he bought out a few years of free agency with exactly the sort of contract you're talking about. The question: is that something Bradley is going to be amenable to? And you have to point out that his agent is Scott Boras. And Boras clients have signed early. Jered Weaver signed early last year. But Jacoby Ellsbury is the other side of that coin. So if he's more of an Ellsbury or a Papelbon -- and this is nothing about character or personality, it's just about where he sees his market value. And if he sees that he's going to be a guy who gets paid on the open market, he might not want to sign that contract extension. He might be perfectly happy to hit free agency at the age of 29, where if he's as good as we think he is, he's going to get a B.J. Upton type contract.

DP: Do personal feelings get involved? Because if I'm Jackie Bradley Jr., at this point, hitting .444, he probably feels like he deserves a shot, and even deserves a shot to face a lefty on opening day, given what he did to Cliff Lee. So if you're Jackie Bradley Jr., and you don't begin the season on the opening day roster, don't you think he'll take that personally?

BM: Maybe he uses it as motivation. I don't think it's going to affect whether he can sign a long-term deal or not. He's a smart guy. He understands the business of the game. He understands it's not a personal slight, especially if he comes up on April 12, if the team makes clear that they want him for the long term and also for 2019, which means they keep him in minors and bring him up on April 12. And I think by April 15, honestly, it might all be forgotten. I don't think it's going to hamper his ability to sign a contract with a team, because it is a business. They can communicate with each other. He understands that. And any contract extension is going to be less about personal feelings, I think, and more just about what the market value is for a player with his skill set.

DP: In the Red Sox' first five games, they will face three lefties. And that's where the Jackie Bradley Jr. thing comes into play, because there are obviously questions about bringing him up right away, and if you do, do you even play him against lefties? Obviously he's shown that he can do something against lefties, with what he did against Cliff Lee. But if he does start the regular season with Boston, does he play against lefties?

BM: I think you have to. I think he has to. They've made it clear, that if he comes up, he's going to play every day. And without David Ortiz, there's a spot for him to play every day. What you'll probably end up seeing is, if Bradley comes up, he's the everyday left fielder. I think that happens right off the bat, unless he moves to right field with Shane Victorino moving to left field. But I don't see that happening right away. I think Bradley is the everyday left fielder. Jonny Gomes is the DH against lefties. Daniel Nava is probably the DH against righties. That's the way it probably plays out right off the bat. He handled Cliff Lee, but you don't want to make too much out of one day. That's always the danger in baseball, to get too excited out of one day. But there's never been any indication that he's a guy who will ever be limited to facing lefties. He's going to be an everyday player.

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