

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

SEIJI OZAWA 1935-2024

Groundbreaking BSO music director

By Richard Dyer
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Seiji Ozawa, who led the Boston Symphony Orchestra for nearly three decades, and in the process helped to remake the face of Western classical music, died Tuesday, in Tokyo. He was 88.

A spokeswoman for the Seiji Ozawa International Academy Switzerland said the cause of death was heart failure.

Mr. Ozawa had dealt with serious health issues for the past dozen years, including esophageal cancer, back problems, and heart-valve disease.

Boston was home base for Mr. Ozawa for the 29 seasons he served as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (1973-2002), the longest tenure of any music director in the BSO's history.

"For Seiji, music started with silence, a blank canvas," said the cellist Yo-Yo Ma. "He would then



BILL BRETT/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Mr. Ozawa, seen in 1995 at Tanglewood, was music director of the BSO for 29 seasons.

paint and illustrate a whole universe in a way the world had not seen before, and rarely since. It's difficult to be a pioneer and he did so with grace, serving as a source of hope and inspiration for me, especially as an Asian American artist. To collaborate with him was to exchange intuition and emotion at the deepest level. But most of all, I remember Seiji as a joyful, kind, caring human being."

Mr. Ozawa, who was the BSO's 13th music director, succeeding William Steinberg, remained connected to the orchestra from his arrival as a conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, in 1960, through his debut with the BSO, in 1964, his appointment as music director, and his final title, as music director laureate, in 2002, which he retained until his death.

"Without question, Seiji Ozawa was one of the world's greatest conductors, and the Boston Sym-

OZAWA, Page C10

Age-old questions take over campaign

Special counsel's wording slammed as 'gratuitous,' but issue has long dogged Biden

By Jess Bidgood and Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — When Andrew Weissmann, a former Justice Department prosecutor, was working on the so-called Mueller Report, he and his team were intent on making sure the finished product was in no way salacious.

"There was an effort to not use adjectives and adverbs," he said, recalling the writing of a highly anticipated 2019 document that laid out special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of allegations of collusion between former president Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and Russian operatives. The discretion was necessary because the report did not recommend criminal charges against Trump.

"The DOJ policy is essentially, put up or shut up," said Weissmann, a top deputy to Mueller, explaining that prosecutors who don't file charges need to be very careful with what they say about the subjects of their investigations.

So Weissmann found it inappropriate Thursday when the special counsel report into President Biden's improper possession of classified documents before he became president cleared him of wrongdoing but made politically damaging statements about his memory and self-regard

MEMORY, Page A7

Boston misses time limit on rape-kit testing

30-day mandate not met half the time, report says; staffing shortage cited

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

In 2018, amid outrage over a statewide backlog of untested sexual assault kits that in some cases had been languishing for years, the Legislature passed a law mandating that they be tested within 30 days, so that rape survivors would no longer have to wait in limbo.

But during the last fiscal year, ending in June, the Boston Police Crime Laboratory failed to meet that deadline for half of the rape kits it received, according to a recently released state report that attributed the delays to ongoing staffing issues.

A state lawmaker who led the push for reforms said the lab must comply.

"We put a 30-day requirement in the law because that's what justice requires," Senate majority leader Cynthia Creem said in a statement. The Newton Democrat said rape survivors should not be left waiting so long after going through the difficult process of providing evidence for testing.

The lab received 186 rape kits between July

RAPE KITS, Page A10



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Pei Ying Yu (left) greeted a friend while shopping for Lunar New Year at the C-Mart Supermarket on the edge of Chinatown.

NEW YEAR, SAME WORRIES IN CHINATOWN

Amid celebration, neighbors and officials see threat from housing crunch

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

Just across the Mass. Pike from Chinatown, C-Mart was abuzz with the kind of energy seen at supermarkets only on the cusp of a huge holiday.

Pei Ying Yu was among the throngs considering produce and waiting in line at the deli. She had big plans. The Lunar New Year is Saturday and she will prepare eight dishes plus a soup. She traversed the aisles here for more than an hour, hunting for sales, la-

menting some prices.

"It's important to cook the traditional foods to celebrate," she said Wednesday through an interpreter.

The Lunar New Year, commonly called the Spring Festival in China, is the most significant annual celebration in this corner of Boston, a rolling series of festivities that highlights the hope a new year brings with dinners, dances, concerts, banquets, and parades scheduled across several weeks. It's when families get together to celebrate their

heritage and honor their ancestors.

"It's like Thanksgiving," Suzanne Lee, a retired educator and Chinatown resident, said recently. "No matter how far you are, you come home."

But that home, one of Boston's smallest neighborhoods, an ethnic enclave with a rich history in the city's urban core, is changing. Talk to seemingly anyone in Chinatown and they'll say that displacement is the largest concern. And demographic data back up the

CHINATOWN, Page A10

In polyamory, no romance without finance

The more people in a relationship, the more complicated money can be

By Dana Gerber
GLOBE STAFF

When people find out that Scott Legault and Petra Jackl, who are married, also live with Legault's girlfriend, the questions the three field tend to be focused on the bedroom.

But just as important to the Warwick, R.I., trio when they embarked on the new living arrangement in 2019 was a far more banal reality, confronted by lovers of all stripes: money.

There was a mortgage to refinance to include all three of their names. There was Legault's pension and annuity, to which his girlfriend had to be added as a beneficiary. There was the divvying up of household expenses relative to each of their incomes.

"I'm fairly open at work about telling people that I have two partners, and guys being guys, they're like, *Oh*, but I try to say, 'It's not really like that,'" said Legault, 58. "But the nice thing about it — and the guys immediately understand — is when you say, 'Three incomes.'"

Jackl, Legault, and his girlfriend (who did not want to be named in this story for privacy reasons) identify as a "vee," in

POLYAMORY, Page A6



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Marissa Barlow (center) is dating both Ryan Malone (left) and Fritz McGirr; all three identify as polyamorous.

Prosecutors have asked a judge to protect the identities of witnesses in the criminal case accusing former president Donald Trump of retaining classified documents. **A2.**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he has ordered the military to prepare a plan to evacuate civilians from Rafah ahead of an expected Israeli invasion. **A4.**

Political leaders in South Boston are calling for a meeting with residents and city and state officials to discuss a proposed shelter in a Fort Point office building. **B1.**

Kayla Montgomery testified against her estranged husband, Adam Montgomery, who is accused of fatally beating his 5-year-old daughter, Harmony, then hiding her body. **B1.**



Winter break

Saturday: Cloudy, warm. High: 54-59. Low: 40-45.

Sunday: Mild, some sun. High: 49-54. Low: 34-39.

Sunrise: 6:49 Sunset: 5:09

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

VOL. 305, NO. 41

*

Suggested retail price
\$3.50



0 947725 4