

POST-GAZETTE

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2008

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 ❄️ *Happy* ❄️
 ❄️ *New Year* ❄️

*from Pamela Donnaruma
 and the Staff of the Post-Gazette*

2009

East Boston Kiwanis Spread Holiday Cheer



Kiwanis members, Left to Right: Frank Durante, Judge Joseph Ferrino, (Ret.), Pat Rosa, John Dudley, Clark Moulaison, Carol Simpson, Joe Ruggiero and Buddy Marino.

On two separate occasions the East Boston Kiwanis spread holiday cheer during the Christmas Season at the Don Orione Nursing Home and for EBARC an organization for East Boston special needs. The East

Boston Kiwanis club is an entirely volunteer organization that gives back to the community.

(Photos on Page 5)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Harry Reid's "Stinking" Joke

Recently, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was playing defense over a joke he made about tourists to the US Capitol.

The Nevada Democrat is quoted as recently saying, "In the summertime because of the high humidity and how hot it gets here, you could literally smell the tourists coming into the Capitol."

He thought reportedly that his joke was "so descriptive."

Tourists could easily have said the same thing about the smell coming from inside the place, eh?

Caroline vs. Sarah???

Ask not what a Kennedy could do for you, but what you can do for a Kennedy. Recently, New York Democrats are touting Caroline Kennedy as a swell candidate to replace Hillary Clinton as a US Senator.

Aren't these the same folks who whacked Governor Sarah Palin as a terrible candidate for Vice President of the United States?

Caroline is probably a great person, but is she prime time in the political world? What has she done? What's on her resume?

(Continued on Page 14)

Mayor's Column

by Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston

As the sights and sounds of the holiday season fill Boston neighborhoods I want to wish you and your family a very happy holiday and a blessed New Year.

The holiday season is a time to come together with family and be joyful. It is also a time of year to share with others who may be alone or in need of a little help this year. We have been very lucky in Boston to have generous residents that have turned out to help some of our city's most vulnerable. During this season especially I want to acknowledge the great work of the many volunteers and funders to help those who struggle throughout the year. At this time of year we must not forget the men and women who are serving our country overseas and their families who are sacrificing their holiday traditions so that we can be free to enjoy ours without fear.

I enjoy Christmas time very much. This season Angela, Boston's greatest First Lady, and I have traveled from the Roche Center in West Roxbury through Mattapan and Dorchester to the South End, Roxbury, Mission Hill and Chinatown to the West End, North End and Charlestown, to Brighton and Allston to East Boston, South Boston and my hometown of Hyde Park, Readville and — trying to bring some holiday cheer to our residents by lighting Christmas trees and Menorahs. It brings me great joy to see all of the young people and their families at these events. It is

wonderful to know that as big a city as we are, we can still have such close knit neighbors and communities.

This week I, like most of you, will celebrate the holiday with my family. My daughter, her husband and their three children live in Dorchester and my son and his wife along with their three children live in Hyde Park. We are so fortunate to be close to one another during this time of year. But, before we settle in for our holiday I like to do a couple of last minute things around the city.

Christmas Eve is a great day for me. When I became Mayor 15 years ago I wanted to encourage our business districts to grow and reinvigorate some of our most challenged neighborhoods. I chose to walk Christmas Eve along the streets of the Bowdoin and Geneva neighborhood. I will do that again this year. I always see some familiar faces and sometimes see a few new ones.

After I finish the walk it's time to get ready for our family tradition of shopping for and preparing the Feast of the Seven Fishes. It is an Italian tradition that my parents instilled in me and I have been continuing for my own family. I go to the North End and purchase the fresh bread and down to the South Boston Waterfront for our fresh fish and then home for a night of food and festivities.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday this year. Please stay warm, stay safe and enjoy all that Boston has to offer this season!

THE POST-GAZETTE SATELLITE OFFICE IS NOW OPEN AT 35 BENNINGTON STREET, EAST BOSTON

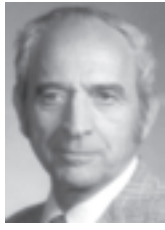
This office will be open on Mondays and Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, for the convenience of our East Boston and North Shore clients and contributors

Call 617-227-8929 for more information

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund
Turiello

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



DIONYSUS AND BACCHUS

This week we are continuing our journey down through the ancient age of mythology. Our deity for today is the Greek god Dionysus, who was worshipped as the god of the vine, the wine and luxuriant fertility. He was the son of Zeus by Semele, a mortal. Legend tells us that the pregnant Semele was killed by a lightning bolt. Zeus immediately seized the premature baby and sewed it into his own thigh until it was ready to bring up. As he grew older, Dionysus discovered the vine and its uses. He wandered through the world, planting his vine and spreading his worship among all men. He was usually accompanied by nymphs, Satyrs, and similar woodland deities, and wherever he was kindly received he responded by leaving the gift of the wine with his hosts.

Legend goes on to tell us that while still a young man, Dionysus became the victim of a tragic death. Also, due to the intervention of other gods, he was reborn. His worship by mortals eventually spread to most areas in Greece. Festivals honoring his death and resurrection were celebrated by females in the mountains at night every three years. During these rites there was a period of intense grief over his death, and this was followed by another period of extreme joy because of his rebirth. This kind of celebration often grew into a wild and savage orgy, and the participants became known as Bacchae, wandering through the woods, carrying torches, and uttering insane cries. Small animals were often killed, torn into pieces and eaten raw.

The Greek god Dionysus was worshipped in Italy as Bacchus and celebrations in his honor were called Bacchanalia. Through the

influence of this god, these celebrations became an excuse for all manner of licentiousness, which then degenerated into an occasion for committing assassinations, poisonings, forgeries, and every form of perjury, debauchery, and crime. Additionally, men hurled themselves about in wild abandon and screamed absurd prophecies while women with disheveled hair, carrying lighted torches, plunged themselves into the Tiber. Eventual intervention by authorities resulted in the arrest of 7000 men and women. Minor offenders were sent to prison while executions took care of the others.

In 1497 A.D., Michelangelo, at the age of twenty-two, carved his famous Bacchus from a seven foot block of marble. In this creation the master showed, only too vividly, the power of the intoxicating drink and what happens when a man surrenders his moral and spiritual values for the so-called pleasures of the flesh. This sculptured masterpiece is exhibited in the Bargello (National Museum) in Florence, Italy.

The Roman counterpart to Dionysus and Bacchus was called Liber, and his festivals were called Liberalia, these festivals were celebrated annually on the 17th of March and they assumed an entirely different character. In addition to orderly processions and sacrifices, this was also a day in which these young men who had just come of age, assumed the "toga virilis" or "the cloak of manhood". It probably could have been called a "Roman bar mitzvah".

The next time I visit Florence, I think I'll have a bit of libation in the form of a toast to Liber but certainly not to Bacchus.

NEXT ISSUE: Hermes and Mercury.

BOOK REVIEW



by Claude Marsilia



WISH YOU WELL

by David Baldacci

370 Pages • Soft Cover • Published by Warner Books

I have been aware of David Baldacci's success as a formidable writer for some time, actually since his initial, highly successful book, *Absolute Power*. This later book *Wish You Well* is my first attempt at critiquing his writing.

The leading and most powerful character Baldacci portrays is 14 year old Louisa Mae Cardinal who makes it clear to whomsoever she meets that she is to be addressed as Lou. Her brother Oz who is 10 years old is attached to her emotionally and psychologically.

The early scene is New York City of 1940. A terrible car accident kills Lou and Oz's father and cripples their mother who remains comatose. It was decided that Lou, Oz and their invalid mother would move to the coal mining mountainous area of southwestern Virginia where their father's grandmother Louisa Mae Cardinal lives.

Lou's father was an accomplished writer who despite winning numerous literary awards never became financially independent. Lou who is completely engrossed in her father seldom shows appreciation for her mother. This emotional setting is not unusual; however, Lou carries her feelings to an extreme.

Lou's namesake was great-grandma Louisa Mae Cardinal who believed strongly that family came first; therefore without any hesitation; she accepted her great-grand children and their mother Amanda to live with her. In fact, she dismissed the nurse that accompanied them by simply stating to Lou and Oz we will take care of your mother, we will not need any other help.

It wasn't long before Lou and Oz began to experience the difference between living in New York City and rugged mountainous Virginia. They had to learn how to live without indoor plumbing and lack of electricity. They would wake up early and perform farm duties they had never imagined. They had to cope with bullying in school and to fight for their equal rights. Nonetheless, they made new friends like Jimmy Skinner and his dog, Jeb. Neither had a real home but were always about, ready to help. Baldacci's literary descriptive skills are clearly evident, read the following, "Fallen rock lay along the roadside, like solid tears from the mountain's face." Attorney Cotton Longfellow a close friend of great-grandma Louisa visits often and be-



Wish You Well author David Baldacci

comes attracted to the comatose Amanda. He decides to read to Amanda sincerely believing she can hear him regardless of her lack of any response. During a visit to the coal town of Dickens, Attorney Cotton relates to Lou and Oz a poignant fact, "Coal mining pays pretty good, but the work is terribly hard, and with the way the company stores are set up the miners end up owing more to the company than they earn in wages."

Baldacci writes in a simple but profound manner taking the reader on a venture through the mountains of southwestern Virginia seldom seen.

The hard work was fashioning both Lou and Oz into lean and muscular beings. Amazingly, Lou who dreaded working in the barn area because of the smells now looked forward to entering the barn at daybreak and milk the cows and enjoy the blended smells of hay and animals.

Baldacci writes in a simple but profound manner taking the reader on a venture through the mountains of southwestern Virginia seldom seen. He begins by describing the arduous everyday chores these proud and decent people do to sustain themselves on small but self-sufficient farms.

Baldacci writes with such reality that the reader becomes immersed in the words that ring with truth. I can just imagine the reader wondering if it would be possible for them to achieve the goals that these hard working people aspire to. He makes it clear that these people despite the fact they had to endure harsh winters and summer droughts in order to raise their families would seldom leave

this area. This rugged but beautiful land is in their ancestral blood making it near impossible for them to consider leaving.

Sadly, almost ominously additional misfortune befalls the home of great-grandma Louisa. Gas companies were trying to buy her land, that she adamantly refuses to sell. It is during these trying times that great-grandma Louisa sustains a severe heart stroke. A suspicious fire burns down the barn killing their pigs and scattering the remaining animals. Not discouraged, even though MacKenzie the supply storeowner would not extend credit, the Cardinal clan began the seemingly impossible task of sawing their own trees needed to build their barn. However, shortly after they began sawing trees their mountain neighbors with wagons loaded with building supplies arrive and rebuild the barn in short order.

It doesn't matter whether Baldacci is writing about the desperate but satisfying life of the mountaineers or a beleaguered legal affair in a courtroom. Baldacci has the keen ability and self-assurance to fascinate and hold the reader's attention. As the tale unravels the reader learns that the final fate of Lou and Oz was going to be settled in a courtroom between a high powered gas company attorney, Goode, and a small time attorney, Cotton Longfellow.

This tale has had a profound affect upon me. I was born in Boston, Massachusetts and have lived the last thirty-five years in a pristine area of Virginia on a cattle farm. Hard work but most satisfying. When I view the surrounding countryside of my home I cannot help to compare the mountainous tree laden areas of the Cardinal's home to my home. Where I live is not as mountainous; nevertheless within a few miles lie the famous Blue Ridge Mountains that are usually covered with a blue haze, thus its name.

In his book *Wish You Well* Baldacci has immortalized the area and the people of southwestern Virginia. To my mind one character in particular Jack Cardinal the writer extraordinaire and father to Lou and Oz could easily be identified as David Baldacci.

I love this book from its start and to its finish. A well-written prose that will move you beyond belief. I highly recommend this emotionally packed book to all to read, young and old.

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Friday, December 26, 2008

GUEST EDITORIAL

CAN IT GET ANY WORSE THAN JIM ALOISI JR.?

by Sal Giarratani

The embattled chairman of the Turnpike Authority Bernie Cohen has turned in his resignation and Governor Deval Patrick named Jim Aloisi Jr., as the next MassPike chairman.

Aloisi is a longtime lobbyist and politically connected lawyer up on Beacon Hill.

On Michele McPhee's radio show on December 15, guest Christy Mihos reminded listeners that back in 2001 when he was on the Pike's board of directors, he along with others fired Aloisi who was then doing MassPike legal work. When asked to reportedly substantiate the bill he was submitting for payment, he reportedly didn't.

Now, he's back at the MassPike to run things.

Many of Aloisi's critics such as Mihos think how can things at the MassPike get any worse? Many critics have even called Aloisi, the ghost of MassPike past.

Governor Patrick elected an agent of change certainly seems to have changed if you look at the Aloisi appointment.

THE FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END BRANCH LIBRARY

Annual Holiday Open House



Band Leader Al Natale and his Jazz Combo

On Saturday, December 6th, the Friends of the North End Branch Library held their Annual Holiday Open House. Musical entertainment was provided by Al Natale and his Jazz Combo. Seasonal songs were sung and played with a jazzy feel to them. Folks were able to sing-a-long as well. During the break, the audience was entertained by the comedy of Ray Barron.

The refreshments included pizza, ziti and meatballs, salad, punch, coffee and cookies were provided courtesy of the Il Panino Group. Door prizes were awarded. Winners got prizes like a ceramic limoncello set and a lovely Gingerbread House donated by Friend member, Cynthia Stillinger. The overflowing crowd had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the party next year.

For further information about the Friends' Group or about the North End Branch Library, please call: 617-227-8135.

Charlestown to Honor Vietnam Vets

by Sal Giarratani

Vietnam veterans in Charlestown are planning a Charlestown Vietnam Memorial on Green Street near Thompson Square. The veteran's post held a fundraiser recently. When the memorial is complete, the names of SP4 Lawrence Thomas Borden, Army; L CPL Edward Lee Johnson, USMC; SP4 William James McNamara, Army; LCPL David James Pugh, USMC; 2 Lt. Michael Patrick Quinn, USMC and Captain Francis Edward Powers, Army will be enshrined in both the hearts and minds of all Charlestown.

Their sacrifices always known and their courage never forgotten.

Yolanda's Participates in Toys for Tots Program



Anthony Avallone, General Manager of Yolanda's; Frank Gillen of the Marine Corps; Yolanda and Robert J. Harrington, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Yolanda's is a proud supporter of the Toys for Tots program which enables children to experience a festive Christmas! It was an overwhelming success this year. It looked more like a toy store than a clothing

boutique. Companies like John Brewer brought over 100 toys. In today's tough economy people came through. Yolanda's located in Waltham supports many charitable events throughout the year. The Toys for

Tots program is near and dear to Yolanda because it brings joy to children and there is no better feeling than to spread love and joy throughout the year, especially during the Christmas season.

"Taste of Eastie"

East Boston Main Streets (EBMS) will once again highlight our local eating establishments at the **13th Annual "Taste of Eastie"** on **Thursday, January 15, 2009** at the Hilton Boston Logan Airport Hotel, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In the past we have had over 30 local restaurants specializing in Italian, Latin American, American and Asian cuisine provide samples of their most popular foods. This event has become the largest East Boston dining charity event.

Our live auction and basket raffle add to the evening. If you would like to take part in this great event, please call the EBMS

office at **617.561.1044** for more information. You may also purchase tickets by logging onto www.ebmainstreets.com.

A few of the participating restaurants include: Alia Ristorante, Embassy Suites, Peaches & Cream, Angela's Cafe, Great Chef, Rosticeria Cancun, Carlo's Catering, Hot Diggitty, Sonny Noto's, Dough East Boston Hilton Logan Airport, Spinelli's, D'Parma, Lolly's Bakery, Starbucks, Ecco, Meridian Food Market, Top of the Pub, Edible Arrangements, Mi Pueblito, 303 Café, El Buen Gusto, Monte Cristo, El Paisa Restaurante and Napoles.

C.A.S.IT Holds Its Annual Assembly



C.A.S.IT Board of Directors at the 2008 Annual Assembly. Seated, L to R: Adelaide Guarracino, Vice President; Kathy Lopez Natale, President; M. Gioconda Motta, Board Chairman; Bruna Boyle; Pauline Lombardo and Lola Lombardo. Standing, L to R: Ronald Testa; Albert Mogavero, Secretary; Dr. Stephen Maio, Treasurer; Giuseppe Polimeni and Dr. Giuseppe Giangregorio.

Strengthening and reinforcing exciting programs of instruction in the Italian language is the goal of C.A.S.IT., Centro Attivita Scholastiche Italiane, which held its Annual Assembly at Spinelli's in Lynnfield on December 2nd. During the Assembly, C.A.S.IT members voted on officers for the upcoming year, on the planned budget for Fiscal 2010 and announced poster and essay contest awards to worthy students.

Under the auspices of the Italian Consul General, Dottore Liborio Stellino and Dottore Carlo Cipollone, Director of Education, C.A.S.IT supports approximately 70 public and private schools in the teaching of the

Italian language. With funds provided by the Italian government and derived from local fundraising, C.A.S.IT provides a resource center for teachers of the Italian language and yearly professional development which correlates with the Massachusetts Educational Reform Law of 1993. About 75,000 students learn the Italian language and culture in the C.A.S.IT programs.

Contact C.A.S.IT for information on grants to schools for the teaching of the beautiful Italian language and culture: 59 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143, call 617-623-0532 (Leave a message) or visit: www.casit.lycos.com.



Financially Speaking

with Ben Doherty

"A Mixed Week in the Market"

With all of the nervousness, most stocks rose for the week. Oil prices slid to new lows, and the words "Ponzi Scheme" echoed off the lips of Jewish fund managers. Angst about automakers, foreclosures, jobs, and recession, persist. The Presidents' pledge to lend \$17.4 billion to the auto industry and the Fed's latest rate cut to zero percent encouraged investors for the week, led by the NASDAQ and the S&P 500. The price of oil @ \$40/bbl is down from \$140/bbl since July, especially since OPEC lowered its output by two million barrels a day. Madoff investors overlooked the obvious when they hired him to invest their monies. Banks, insurance companies, pension funds, 401K funds, and investment firms were not diligent. Madoff produced results by

paying existing clients with money deposited by newer clients and hid his activities from regulators for decades. Robert Jaffe, from Newton/Miami was the lead person who was involved with the trusts and introduced people to Madoff, getting 2% of the total. In Salem, the Robert Lappin Charitable Foundation had to shut down because Madoff lost all of its 401K funds. In Boston, Carl and Ruth Shapiro lost \$145 million and others lost between \$600-\$1 billion on the meltdown. How to avoid being cheated! Legitimate money managers and financial advisors never want to handle your money. They simply need the authority to trade your accounts. They use banks, mutual funds and brokerage firms as independent custodians. The checks should be made out to an

account in your name at the custodial firm where your account is kept. Make sure your custodian is well known and respected then you get independent confirms and statements from both your manager and your custodian monthly. If someone is telling you that you are making 10% and everyone else is down 40%, that is a red flag. Also check with the SEC for compliance information on the advisor.

It's time to get serious about executive's pay. The executives of GM and Ford said they will accept \$1/year if Congress bailed them out. This is not a sacrifice, last year CEO's of several large companies took the symbolic earnings of \$1/year. They received stock options, benefits and perks that far exceed what we receive in our lifetimes. From 2000-07, the value would be millions. It would be idiotic if Congress didn't find a way to control the way CEO's get paid. There should be a way to hold accountable their outrageous pay packages and their boards should be held accountable, as they have the power.

The Dow is off 40% in 2008. This is the worst year since 1931 and 1937 and 2009 doesn't look much better. We are definitely in a recession and analysts are predicting that we will not start the recovery for at least six months. Interest rates cannot go much lower from zero percent and the federal deficit is expected to go over one trillion in 2009. There will be a lot of bankruptcies in the next few months and earnings will decline further, with high unemployment. The news is not good and I wish I could predict a much better picture for 2009, but it doesn't look good. Have a Happy New Year and look at your glass as half full, rather than half empty.

It's time to call your financial advisor or call me at 617-261-7777.

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

The POST-GAZETTE newspaper is a paper of general circulation. We are qualified to accept legal notices from any court in each town that we serve.

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THINKING OUT LOUD



by Sal Giarratani

"Taking the Church to the Street"

While driving along Park Street in Dorchester, I noticed a large passenger van from a church with its apparent mission statement right there on the van, "Taking the Church to the Street."

Makes sense. Preaching to the choir is good but it is the choir. They know what's going on. The people to be reached are the unchurched. Those lost in the wilderness of this sometimes harsh life.

Today, so many can't see anyone or anything larger than themselves. They fall into despair and hopelessness which too often leads to urban violence, death and destruction. For individuals. For neighborhoods.

City Hall talks about putting more street workers to work on the streets but the pathology society is suffering from is beyond their pay scale.

Politicians like to create 10-point plans or make plenty of speeches but none of it is really effective in changing the affect of many young people who think life is a jail without bars.

Job training is good. Going back to school is good. However, until the hopefuls find hope, our urban issues faced in need of solutions will go unsolved.

Good people have to take to the streets as rescuers of the lost. Teaching those that listen to respect themselves and pass it on to others. To those that can't listen, shout louder.

De-constructing the killing fields in Boston will take all of us preaching the same message.

That church van's message is right. Take the church to the street. Take responsibility and respect to the streets too.

NEMPAC WINTER CLASSES START IN EARLY JANUARY

Registration is Underway

The North End Music and Performing Arts Center's Winter Session Brochures/Registration forms are HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!!!! We are again offering Family Music Makers, Kidstompers, Gymnastics, Toddler Italian, Adult Italian, Yoga for Adults, and Private Music Instruction at some of the best prices in Boston! SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. We also offer Tutoring in Italian. You can view and print the brochure from our website: www.nempacboston.org and also register on line. We now take credit cards over the phone or with in-person registration. Hard Copies of the brochure can be picked up at the following locations: Nazzaro Center, 30 N Bennet St, The NEMPAC building on the Prado and The North End Library, Parmenter Street. Along with these classes NEMPAC offers Private Music instruction in Piano, Guitar, Voice, Cello, Violin, Percussion and Viola. Please contact Sarah Glenn at sarah.glenn@yahoo.com.



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by Frank Mari D'Alessandro

(author of *Sacco and Vanzetti - Verdict of History*)

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"I had the pleasure of reviewing a book by an astute and formidable writer, Dr. Frank Mari D'Alessandro who also wrote the awe-inspiring successful book, *Sacco and Vanzetti* D'Alessandro is at his best in *The Cassiopeia Grail* when he describes Italy and the Italian people"

.... Claude Marsilia - Post-Gazette Book Reviewer

Bowker Review

The fun-loving students Dr. Mark Francis had known in Italy in the 1950's have survived the horrors of World War II, but the shadows still lay over them. When twenty years later he receives some old photos from an Italian friend, Mark's curiosity is aroused. Someone close to Hitler took the pictures of the Führer; could the photographer have been one of Mark's old friends? Instead of a nostalgic trip into the past and an entertaining brain teaser he expects. Mark soon finds himself embroiled in an international conspiracy involving assassinations, Nazis, and McCarthyism. In *The Cassiopeia Grail*, Frank Mari D'Alessandro spins a convoluted tale that bounces from 1970s America to Germany and back again. While Mark searches for more information about the photos, he comes to the attention of some highly placed international agents who are tracking war criminals. Soon Mark finds himself caught in the crossfire, leaving his medical practice to become an amateur spy. No doubt many men have the occasional fantasy of James Bond, but Mark learns that the real world of international intrigue is much scarier than he ever imagined.

D'Alessandro writes with the slightly stilted air of an author of old-time spy novels; appropriate, given his subject matter. Mark is not a particularly sympathetic hero-he has the flair of a James Bond or everyman quality of Jack Ryan. Still the lack of distinction is not a fatal flaw.

Overall, *The Cassiopeia Grail* is a workmanlike effort most likely to appeal to those who enjoy an old-fashioned spy thriller.



Frank Mari D'Alessandro

Have you ever wondered what becomes of the photographs turned in by war correspondents, of battles and crime scenes and of mass victims ... the camera sees all, does not lie and has no feelings, but what of the photographer? Can he forget and what is the effect upon the rest of his life? When the photos go back to World War II, are candid almost family and personal views of Adolf Hitler, and were taken by a young man who could still be alive - the plot quickens and the story begins. This personal narrative tells of such a possibility and how it involves the photographer, his family and friends who become involved in the adventure, and the ramifications that will reach into their lives, affecting them far beyond their designs and will.

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WEST END 13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



Monsignor Finbarr O'Leary reads a passage from the Bible with Father Daniel O'Connell, Pastor of St. Joseph's West End. Looking on is City Councilor Michael Flaherty.



Santa Claus and friend.



St. John Children's Choir

The 13th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was celebrated on Saturday, December 13th which was also a celebration of 50 years of the Society of Saint James the Apostle and Archdiocese of Boston's Bicentennial. The event was held at Richard Cardinal Cushing Memorial Park, One Bowdoin Square at Cambridge Street, Boston's West End.

Some of the highlights included the St. John School Children's Choir (North End), The Eastwood Production Duo, The Holy Trinity German Choir (South End), and the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard.

Rev. Daniel C. O'Connell of St. Joseph's Church blessed the Christmas tree in memory of Richard Cardinal Cushing. Goody bags were given to the children and refreshments were served. A great time was had by all!

Special thanks to Norman Herr who organized this event.



Lora Ramirez poses with Santa Claus and event organizer Norman Herr.



Lighting of the Tree

• East Boston Kiwanis (Continued from Page 1)



East Boston High School Key Club



Buddy Marino, Don Orione Activities Director Franca Montemurro and George Gambale



Santa gives out presents to members of EBARC



Pat and Janet Rosa with Santa



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1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM*	11:00 AM 3:00 PM	11:00 AM 3:00 PM	1:00 PM 5:00 PM	11:00 AM 3:00 PM

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The Missing Child

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



It was not very many years ago that stores during the Christmas Season would prominently display the Nativity scene. Yes, too often it was simply meant to "drum up" business, still it was nice to see representations of the birth of Jesus expressed by means of little wooden or plaster figures artfully arranged. Whether on the marquis of Jordan Marsh or in the window of a neighborhood shop, the appearance of the Nativity scenes served to remind us what all the fuss was about as we approached Christmas Day.

Three years before his death, Saint Francis was taken with the idea of celebrating the birth of Jesus by re-enacting the scene in a stable, complete with a manger, people, and live

animals. As was Francis' way, he threw himself into the event with great passion, attempting to fully express his great love for his Savior.

It was at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas Eve in 1223, Francis created a nativity scene, which amazed all who were present. On that cold night, he was joined by the townspeople and friars in celebrating Mass in a stable, with Francis himself chanting the Holy Gospel. This Christ-centered event, filled with enormous joy and thanksgiving, set in motion the tradition of using a nativity scene for decoration during Advent and Christmas. These charming re-enactments commemorate one of history's most momentous events reminding ev-

eryone of the meaning of Christmas.

The earliest surviving reference to December 25th as the liturgical celebration of Christmas is in the Philocalian calendar, which shows the Roman practice in AD 336. The Apostolic Constitutions (c AD 380) mandate the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25th, and his Epiphany on January 6. The word *Christmas* originated as a compound meaning "Christ's Mass". It is derived from the Middle English *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes mæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038.¹ The word properly ascribes the meaning and ancient practice associated with Christmas, and lost in the secularization of the Day. There is an absence of Christ's name even in our greetings to one another, instead of Have a Merry Christmas it is have a Happy Holiday, the greeting card no longer has a religious theme but simply a wreath or picture of Santa Claus. What is the meaning of the Day if it does not commemorate the Birth of Christ?

The secularization of Christmas seems to be ongoing too often propelled by a desire to be politically correct. This is a tragic trend, for culture draws from the well of religion and is made poorer in its absence.

"Chamber's Eastie Women Connect Helps You Pump Up Your Business in 2009"

The next event of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce's Eastie Women Connect (EWC), an ad-hoc committee of the Chamber, features a seminar led by Ms. Nancy McCabe entitled "NOW, Pump Up Your Business!"

The event will take place Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at Spinelli's Function Facility, 282 Bennington Street, East

Boston, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Following some networking at the outset, Ms. McCabe will then guide attendees in focusing their attention on the things that will make a huge difference for them in 2009: generating new leads and finding those happy paying customers; marketing ideas to spread the word without breaking the bank; sales tips; fun ways to boost

customer service and find great referrals, and much more! Tickets include networking, seminar, and refreshments of light sandwiches, pastries, cookies, and coffee.

To reserve your seat, please call Chamber Treasurer, Grace Magoon, right away at 617-569-0175. www.eastbostonchamber.com. **About Ms. Nancy McCabe:**

Her clients include independent entrepreneurs and sales teams. Ms. McCabe crafted her career with 13+ years as a highly successful entrepreneur in direct marketing for Mary Kay. She developed her passion for marketing as an innovative marketing professional in the computer hardware/software and financial services industries. She loves the opportunity to work with individuals and groups to inspire, educate and challenge, with high energy and humor. Most recently, Ms. McCabe is the creator of The Business Book Club, and a professional speaker, trainer and facilitator at The Business Book Club.

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Res Publica

by David Trumbull



Happy New Year

Good-bye to 2008. The year now ending brought us a summer with rain almost every weekend, financial collapses in banking, housing, and manufacturing, and further erosion of the small Republican minority in the state legislature that mirrored GOP losses nationally. Good riddance to 2008!

Personally, I am optimistic about 2009. Surely we are in for tough times, but at least the bad economy is prompting some to rethink the failed economic policies of the last 20 years that got us into this mess. **The Industry Trade Advisory Committee** I serve on is non-partisan, so I'll continue as an advisor to the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of Commerce in the new **Obama Administration**. Watch for continued articles from me on international trade and how Washington trade policy is helping or hurting American workers.

The New Year 2009 is a good time to start rebuilding the Republican Party in Massachusetts.

Here in Boston we have a hard-working, intelligent,

and dedicated candidate for City Councilor — **Doug Bennett**. Doug has been knocking on thousands of doors, meeting the voters and discussing the issues that matter to them.

On January 27th the Massachusetts Republican State Committee will assemble to elect a new party chairman. For the first time in many years a candidate is not being forced on the committee members by a Republican governor more focused on illusions of national office than on building the GOP in the Bay State.

Two candidates have stepped up, there could be more by the time of the vote. **Jennifer Nassour** of Charlestown has a reputation as a GOP fundraiser — a skill much needed after the current chairman who drained the treasury while providing little if any leadership. **Mike Franco** is a well-regarded conservative activist from one of the few Republican towns in the Commonwealth, East Longmeadow.

The **Massachusetts Federation of Young Republi-**

(Continued on Page 14)

Mayor Asks Residents to be Green this Holiday Season

Residents Should Remember to Recycle Christmas Trees and Wrapping Paper

Mayor Thomas M. Menino is asking Bostonians to help keep the city clean and healthy throughout the holiday season by recycling their Christmas trees and holiday wrapping paper.

The Department of Public Works will collect Christmas trees for two weeks beginning January 5th and ending January 16th.

"I hope that every Boston resident will give the environment a present this year by properly recycling their Christmas trees and their used wrapping paper," said Mayor Menino. "Our crews will compost the trees. Composted trees and yard waste become a natural fertilizer for Boston's community gardens."

Residents are asked to remove all ornaments, decorations and stands from their Christmas trees. They should place the tree at the curb on the day of their regular trash collection.

Holiday wrapping paper should be recycled along with newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and other household paper, and put on the curb on their normal recycling day.

For further information, please call the Boston Recycling Program at: 617-635-4959.

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"Italy and the Holocaust: The Calabria Connection"

(Testimonials by Rescuers, Survivors and Children of Survivors)

by Robert Trifiletti



From Right to Left: Cara Lipper, Dr. Maria Lombardo, Consul (Israel) Rony Yedidia, Buena Alcalay Pearlman, Rosian Zerner, Angela Simona Celiberti, Albano Ponte (Conference Sponsor), Ena Lorant, Maria Puzanghero, Katrin Tenenbaum and Ms. Cardelli.

On November 10, 2008 over 400 people attended the conference "Italy and the Holocaust: The Calabria Connection" held at the University of Massachusetts Boston. It was the day before Veterans' Day, when we remember all of those individuals who have gone before us risking their lives so that we can enjoy freedom today. Fittingly, it was appropriate to pay tribute to rescuers and survivors in the audience and to those who were not there with us. There was a moment of silence to remember them.

I, as the Director of the Italian Center of New York City, North End Boston Office who was born in Sicily, Italy, spoke about the importance of this event in eradicating the false notions of certain leaders. It disturbed me that the highest official in the Middle East can make blatant statements that the Holocaust never occurred. Testimonials by survivors and rescuers which confirm and validate history are important because this group is getting older and will eventually not be there to tell their stories. Hon. Renato Turano who traveled from Chicago to participate in the conference provided a background history of the Jews in Italy. One of the strong points in Italy majority catholic country as opposed to other European countries is that the Jews assimilated which resulted in strong ties. Perhaps this was a major factor in the rescue of many Jews during World War II. Hon. Turano born

in Cosenza, Calabria, Italy, is the CEO of the Turano Baking Company. He was Senator of the Republic of Italy and is Consulatore Regionale, Regione Calabria. In addition to being a powerful businessman, he is truly a great humanitarian. Rob Leikind, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee's Boston office and the son of immigrants who survived Hitler's Europe, spoke of the importance of this conference to the Jewish community as he recalled his father's teaching him about tolerance of others.

Dr. Maria Lombardo born in Calabria, Italy a keynote speaker and presenter at 43 Holocaust conferences, spoke of the impact of her father's experience as a Nazi slave labor camp survivor on her family from her book, "A Camp Without Walls" (www.niacs.com). Lombardo stated, "This conference remarkably is a coming together of the Italian and Jewish communities in a university setting, the theme that brought us together is "humanitarianism." During a dark period of history, the Holocaust, there were lights that became beacons, as people took courage in helping those around them, often at the risk of their own lives. We wish to provide a piece of history, a testimonial of Italy during WWII and what transpired with the Nazi invasion of Europe. In Italy and Italian occupied territories over 80 to 85% of the Jews were rescued by the Italians. We welcome the

speakers who can attest to rescue by the Italians and have taken the time to be with us today coming from such far away places as Chicago, New York City, Calabria and Rome, Italy. This is the 44th conference organized on Italy and the Holocaust and this conference could never have been possible without the Italian Center of New York City, North End Boston Office which hosted the luncheon, the Chancellor of UMass Boston hosted breakfast, the Olli Institute and Italian and Jewish were other organizations who supported the event. One of the major financial contributions of the Conference was Mr. Albano F. Ponte, Nobile Insurance and Security Service Specialists, Inc. and Executive Director of the Italian Center of New York City, North End Boston Office. The conference proceeding could be found on www.niacs.com under Holocaust. She also

provided background history on the Holocaust in Italy. She was the recipient of the highest award given to women in Italy, the Marisa Bellisario Mela d'Oro. Currently, she is Project Coordinator of a federally funded teacher-training program at UMass Boston.

Dr. Spencer Di Scala, full Professor and Graduate Program Director in the History Department at UMass, Boston presented an internment camp in Campagna, near Salerno, Italy. He has published over 200 articles in journals, newspapers, and encyclopedias in the US and abroad.

A film was shown of Ferramonti from the British Imperial Museum showing life in Ferramonti in the 1940's and then we showed current pictures of the Ferramonti Fondazione's Museo Internazionale della Memoria di Ferramonti and reconstruction of the cabins as taken by Lombardo on her trip to Italy along with Turano and a Canadian delegation.

Angela Simona Celiberti who came from Calabria, Italy spoke about being one of the founders and volunteering on the Board of the Fondazione Museo Internazionale della Memoria di Ferramonti, a non-profit organization which promotes at the international level, the memory of the internment camp of Ferramonti.

Buena Alcalay Pearlman related her life as a survivor of the Ferramonti Camp: She was born in 1926 in Belgrade, then Yugoslavia; now Republic of Serbia. She lived there with her family until 1941 when Nazi Ger-

many and Fascist Italy declared war on Yugoslavia. Her family fled south-to the Yugoslavian province of Montenegro and after a few months they were transported to an Italian concentration camp in Ferramonti, Italy. From 1943 to 1945 they were forced to go into hiding in the mountains of Italy, from 1945 to 1951 they lived in Rome, where Buena resumed her education. In 1951 they immigrated to the US, and settled in the Boston area.

Dr. Norbert Goldfield M.D. is the son of a survivor of Ferramonti. He is Executive Director of Healing across the Divides, and has published more than 50 articles and books and is a practicing internist in Springfield, MA.

The film — A Debt to Honor which describes Italy during WWII and testimonies by survivors and rescuers was introduced by Lombardo who said she had the pleasure of working with Mr. Sy Rotter and Mr. Alan Alda, who narrated the film free of charge.

The highlight of the conference was when Maria Puzanghero clearly spoke of her family's rescue of Katja's Jewish family and Katja now Prof. Katrin Tenenbaum traveled from Rome to say thank you to Maria and her sister as she presented them with red roses. Other survivors also related their stories.

Maria Cardarelli Puzanghero (Rescuer) was born in San Donato Val di Comino, Provincia di Frosinone, near Rome on May 30, 1927. Her family consisted of herself, her mother, and her two sis-

(Continued on Page 15)



Ms. Florence Ferullo Kane (5th from left) and Officers from The Massachusetts Order Sons of Italy.

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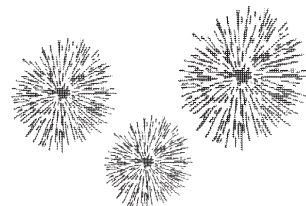
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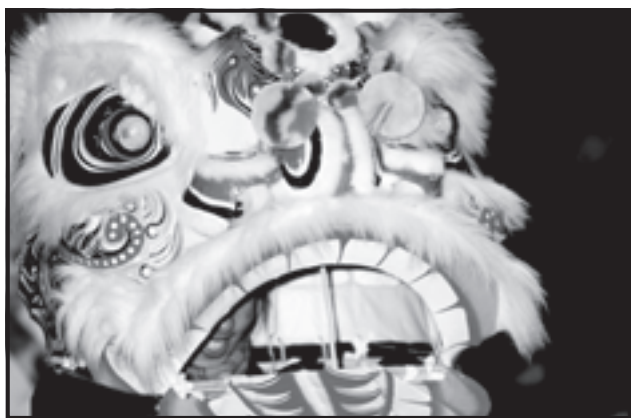
First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On December 31, 2008 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Boston offers a wide array of outdoor programming this year. For complete schedules including updates, please visit www.firstnight.org.

FIRST NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

FIREWORKS

There are two fireworks displays at First Night this year. Boston 4 Productions, the folks who bring you Boston's world-famous 4th of July celebration produce the Boston Family Fireworks at 7 pm on the Boston Common. Presented by Boston 4 Productions and Mayor Menino, this spectacular 12-minute display takes place in the relatively intimate setting of the Boston Common, giving revelers a unique perspective. This is the 10th year that Boston 4 Productions has produced the Boston Family Fireworks at First Night. The Verizon Yellow Pages and Superpages.com Midnight Fireworks over Boston Harbor is a brilliant ten-minute display over Boston Harbor. Good viewing areas include Rowe's Wharf, Long Wharf, Columbus Park, and Fan Pier, as well as locations in South Boston, Charlestown and East Boston.

METRO BOSTON GRAND PROCESSION



(Photo by Paul Robicheau)

The Grand Procession is the heart of the First Night celebration, and it has been since the beginning in 1976. "Look for Metropolis," First Night's 33rd anniversary Grand Procession, will contain four sections. Each section, differentiated by colors, is led by a different piece from the Back Alley Puppet Theatre and Puppeteers Cooperative, whose founders have participated in all 33 First Nights in Boston. Look for Metropolis the Dragon in the Procession! The *Metro Boston* Grand Procession is led by Mayor Menino and First Night Executive Director Geri Guardino, and begins at 5:30 pm in front of the Hynes Convention Center. It proceeds down Boylston St., turning left on Charles, and ending at Charles and Beacon Streets. Over 800 people will march in the Procession.

COUNTDOWNS

Two outdoor midnight countdowns. Over at Copley Square WBZ-TV anchors Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes get help ringing in the New Year with the **Keep Your Resolutions Dance Party** on the steps of the Boston Public Library. This multimedia outdoor dance party with dancers and light show will feature DJ Die Young, DJ Kon and Morgan Louis in a two hour countdown extravaganza that will be broadcast live on WBZ-TV starting at 11 p.m. The party starts at 10 p.m.

The Verizon Yellow Pages and Superpages.com Midnight Countdown on the Boston Common Parkman Bandstand will be the culmination of an evening of rock with local garage rock heroes The Downbeat 5 who kick it off at 7:30, followed by alternative rock band Black Taxi from 10 p.m. to midnight.

ICE SCULPTURES

First Night presents four of its signature ice sculptures this year — two on Boston Common and two in Copley Square. Work on these pieces continues through December 31 at dusk, when they are illuminated with theatrical lighting.

Eric Fontecchio and Alfred Georgs, Brookline Ice

Copley Square — Eric and Alfred create two monumental ice sculptures on either side of Copley Square, one across from the Boston Public Library stairs, and one by Trinity Church. This year,



First Night Ice Sculpture by Eric Fontecchio and Alfred Georgs
(Photo by Paul Robicheau)

they create "The Dance," depicting male, female, old, young, pauper and king celebrating the dance of life; and "Tarzan and the Temple of the Monkeys," a depiction of the classic children's tale in ice.

Donald Chapelle, Brilliant Ice Sculpture "Pipeline"

Boston Common — Brewers Fountain Cowabunga! There may be very little surfing in Boston Harbor, but sculptor Donald Chapelle is going to see to it that there's some surfing on Boston Common during First Night. Visit Pipeline, Oahu's most famous surfing beach on the North Shore. View the heavy surf from the safety of the beach while the ballet of board and human gracefully coexist with windward waves in eternal motion.

Steve Rose, Ice Effects

Boston Common, Frog Pond — The majestic polar bear is rendered in shimmering ice. Master ice carver Steve Rose pays tribute to these spectacular animals, now classified as a vulnerable species. In addition to these four giant sculptures, First Night partners New England Aquarium and Boston Harbor Association promise some smaller pieces in their respective neighborhoods.

INSTALLATION

Barnaby Evans: "Never Use a Red Pen: A Tribute to J. Mark Schuster"

Boston Common, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, installation completed by dusk on Dec. 31 and illuminated through midnight. Barnaby Evans is best known for WaterFire, a sculpture he created on the river in downtown Providence for First Night Providence 1995. For First Night Boston this year, he creates a special luminara installation in memory of J. Mark Schuster, an early and avid supporter of First Night celebrations. Schuster, a distinguished professor in the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, passed away this year. He inspired thousands who have spread his enthusiasm for public art and spectacle all over the world. Evans, a friend and colleague of Schuster's, will name his piece after an essay that Schuster wrote about his philosophy on teaching.

Including the offerings listed here, First Night features over 1000 artists in 200 exhibitions and performances in over 40 locations in downtown Boston.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hiromi's Sonicbloom — Berklee Performance Center

First Night has partnered with Berklee College of Music and WGBH 89.7 FM to present a very special show with Berklee alumni Hiromi's Sonicbloom, to be broadcast live in Boston on 89.7 as part of NPR's annual New Year's Eve broadcast "Toast of the Nation." An evening of talented Berklee alumni and students is headlined by jazz phenomenon Hiromi, a composer/pianist known for her virtuosic technique and energetic live performances that blend jazz, classical and progressive rock. Her band will feature bassist Tony Grey, drummer Martin Valihora and guitarist David Fiuczynski.



Hiromi's Sonicbloom
(Photo by Muga Miyahara)

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company — Orpheum Theatre

From the people who bring Free Shakespeare to Boston Common every summer, selected pieces will blend speeches, sonnets, scenes and songs inspired by Shakespeare into a joyful celebration of language and love. Performed by some of Boston's finest up-and-coming actors and directed by Founding Artistic Director Steven Maler, the performance is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Presented in association with 92.5 *The River*.

Opera Boston — Emmanuel Church

Opera Boston artists will present operatic favorites and classic songs. Tenor Matthew DiBattista, soprano Megan Tillmann, and pianist Linda Osborn-Blaschke will present arias and duets from a variety of composers, selected from beloved as well as lesser-known works.

Sxip's Sonic New York — Park Plaza Castle

Freshly returned from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, circus composer Sxip Shirey and human beat boxer Adam Matta preside over a table of mutant harmonicas, industrial flutes, regurgitated music boxes, siren whistles and other sonic marvels creating the most incredible visual soundscapes you will ever see and hear. Last year, Sxip's Hour of Charm at the A.R.T. played to effusive reviews, and Sxip has also performed at Symphony Hall with Amanda Palmer.

Tony V. and Kenny Rogerson — Hynes Convention Center

Boston comedy veterans Tony and Kenny present "700 Billion Laughs: A Bailout of Humor From Some Serious Stupidity." Says Tony, "Start your year by investing in some titters and watching

them grow to guffaws. This will be an evening of covering our own assets, diversifying some foolishness and restructuring your Hedge Fun. We got your dividends, Right Here!"

Monkeyhouse — John Hancock Hall

Monkeyhouse, voted Boston's Best Dance Company by the *Boston Phoenix* Readers' Poll, returns for their fourth First Night filled with new inspiration for idiosyncratic dance theater pieces. After a yearlong sabbatical saturated with adventures in Iceland, Italy and England (among other places), Artistic Director Karen Krolak is refreshed, renewed and ready to experiment. Aren't you curious?



Monkeyhouse Dance
at John Hancock Hall

The FedEx Family Festival at the Hynes Convention Center



Dan Butterworth
Marionettes

The Family Festival features all kinds of entertainment and activities for all members of the family. In addition to face painting and crafts workshops, there will be puppet shows, music, comedians, jugglers, stunts and more. Don't miss **ImprovBoston Kids Comedy**, geared toward kids 8 - 12, or original songs from well-known Boston folkies **Ellis Paul** and **Sara Wheeler** whose young kids' repertoire is sure to please. Crowd pleasers **The Yo-Yo People** return, along with local rockers **Cul de Sac** who will provide live music to films geared toward kids. Neighborhood children also perform, with the Tony Fonseca Drummers' Cape Verdean rhythms, Chu Ling Dance Academy's traditional and contemporary Chinese dance, and the dynamic baton twirling of Jamaica Plain's **Estrellas Tropicales**. In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature Japanese Anime; films of the Roxbury Film Festival; swing dancing; five ice sculptures; **The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession**; the **Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor

Menino and Boston 4 Productions; the traditional midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor; a midnight countdown with **WBZ-TV's Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes** at Copley Square, the



"Keep Your Resolutions" Dance Party with some of Boston's Hottest DJ's also at Copley Square; and the countdown at the Parkman Band-stand featuring **Black Taxi** and **The Downbeat 5**.

Aurelia's Oratorio, American Repertory Theatre. First Night Boston crosses the river where the first 100 First Night button holders at each performance will be admitted free to Aurelia's Oratorio, a surreal circus spectacle of acrobatics, illusion, puppetry and clowning. A descendant of Charlie Chaplin, and Eugene O'Neill, Aurelia Thierree has created an enchanting show that's well-suited for fans of Tim Burton and Edward Gorey, and is suitable for children ages 8 and up.

Bonaparte, Hynes Convention Center. Named *Boston Parents Paper* Entertainer of the Year, his show is highly visual and features the dramatic and magical appearance of live animals.



Bonaparte

Chu Ling Dance Academy, Hynes Convention Center. Sponsored by *The Epoch Times* "City Scan". This performance melds traditional Chinese Dance with New Age Asian to present a rich picture of modern Asian life in the city.



Chu Ling Dance Academy

The Socially Set

by Hilda M. Morrill



The one-and-only Tony Bennett in concert at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, during the benefit for the Boston Public Library Foundation.

(Photo by Roger Farrington)

The Boston Public Library Foundation (BPLF) recently presented the legendary Tony Bennett at a benefit concert at Boston's newest luxury hotel, the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.

The event was co-chaired by Roberta and Stephen Weiner with Marcia and Robin Brown, the developers of the Mandarin Oriental and longtime library supporters. Ron O'Hanley, Chair and Sharyn Neble, Vice Chair of the Boston Public Library Foundation were co-chairs.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and a spectacular performance by Bennett in the hotel's ballroom.

We are told that Tony Bennett has had a long history with the Library. Bennett has a special fondness for the BPL because when his daughter was studying in Boston, he would visit the John Singer Sargent murals at the Copley Square landmark and was inspired in his own painting.

This special event benefited the Foundation, whose

mission is to preserve and provide free access to the historical record of our society while serving the cultural, educational and informational needs of the people of City and the Commonwealth.

Proceeds will also help the BPL continue educational programs in all 27 neighborhood branches and the Central Library, which also serves as a neighborhood branch. Private funding is essential to programs like these, as well as the completion of the final phase of the National Historic Landmark McKim Building restoration in Copley Square and the enhancement of branch facilities, access through technology, and special collections.

Event sponsors included the Mandarin Oriental Boston, Rafanelli Events, Grossman Marketing, Bank of New York Mellon and WBUR.

The Foundation's Board of Directors, composed of civically engaged business and community leaders, develops the Foundation's strategies and steers its initiatives. Since 1992, the Foundation has raised more than \$79 million.

For more information about the Foundation and future events, contact Daria McLean, BPLF Director of Development, at 617-247-8980.

..... Looking ahead: The New England Conservatory's School of Continuing Education is inviting the community to an "Open House," on Monday January 26 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to showcase its new offerings and new energies.

Everyone is welcome, from the curious listener to serious amateur performers, to professional musicians including alumni. The reception, in NEC's Williams Hall, will feature wine, cheese, and musical performances as well as information about new courses, programs and registration. NEC's Williams Hall is located at 30 Gainsborough St., corner of Huntington Ave. in Boston. It is handicapped accessible.

NEC President Tony Woodcock and Dr. Erik Gregory, who took over as director of Continuing Education in September, will introduce guests to some of the new offerings through which they hope to transform the school into a "creative jewel at NEC."



Co-Chairs Roberta and Stephen Weiner, left, with Marcia and Robin Brown at the BPLF benefit concert.

(Photo by Roger Farrington)

Citing ways to help music lovers "connect or reconnect with their passion," Gregory explained that new courses will range from training in Sibelius and Finale notation software (of particular usefulness for composers and arrangers), to a partnership with the Celebrity Series of Boston through which listeners can attend a pre-concert dinner with a faculty member or other expert to discuss the music being performed.

Opera buffs and newcomers can get together for wine, cheese, and discussion of an upcoming opera performance; and professional musicians can return for musical training of the same caliber they enjoyed in college or conservatory.

As part of its new direction, NEC Continuing Education will also take advantage of new high-tech capabilities. Some courses will operate as "hybrids," according to Gregory. That is, students can choose to attend classes on site or join online. These courses will allow students to ask questions and connect with the instructor in real time whether from remote national or international locations or from the comfort of their homes in the metropolitan area.

"You don't need to be a tech guru to join us online," Gregory said. "It will be easy to access the class on the Internet." What's more, he added, students will be able

(Continued on Page 13)



BPL President Amy Ryan, center, with Mayor Thomas Menino and Mrs. Angela Menino at the Tony Bennett concert.

(Photo by Roger Farrington)

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'A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born to us.'

GOSPEL READING

"When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go, then to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'" So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told to them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they heard and seen. Just as it had been told to them."

Luke 2:15-20

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Through 'Bob D's Beat' we have shared many things, and together we have made many journeys. We have grown together, and watched so many grow right before our eyes. We have welcomed newborns and said goodbye to many we loved, and will always miss, especially at this time of the year. Many of our kids we have watched go from Pee Wees to the Pros, and many of our kids now have families of their own. In recent times we have watched the Patriots win Super Bowls, the Celtics bringing home their 17th title and our Red Sox win two World Championships in five years, and the Bruins are now working hard to bring back the Stanley Cup. Our High Schools have won State Championships, and our Colleges have won NCAA

titles, but the reality is you are all Champions. We have always encouraged the 'Go for the Gold' attitude. Here in the Beat, 'Yes, We Can' is not a new slogan. These are just some of the many Christmas gifts you have given us this year, and over many years. These are the Christmas gifts I have been fortunate to be able to share with you. Still the greatest Christmas gift you have given me, and my brother, and my sister, the riches of all, is the Christmas Gift of your Friendships. We appreciate them very much. We appreciate each of you very much.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

Peace on earth, Peace in our neighborhoods, Peace in our streets, Peace in our home, and Peace in our families. Our Christmas Wish ... Peace!

OUR CHRISTMAS CARD

To each of you, home or away, as you gather around your 'Christmas Crib', remember this is what it is all about, and remember what we are really celebrating this Christmas Day. May the Peace of this Day fill your hearts and let's bring this Christmas Peace to the streets all year and every year long.

TIDBITS

- Happy Birthday Jesus
- All the best to Mary Theresa McIntosh, we're praying for you, get home soon!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



WANTED (DVD) Universal Studios Home Ent.

Wesley's (James McAvoy) life is over - his pathetic, old one, anyway. Fortunately, it is all because of a girl, the sizzling-hot Fox (Angelina Jolie), who crashes into his life and introduces him to the Fraternity, a secret society of assassins, led by the mysterious Sloan (Morgan Freeman). Seems Wesley's long-lost father was killed while working for the Fraternity and Wesley has been selected to target the rogue member who murdered him. But before he can complete his assignment, Wesley must first uncover the Fraternity's dark secrets in order to determine his own destiny. (1 hr. 50 mins./Available now).

HANCOCK (DVD)

Will Smith stars in this action-packed comedy as Hancock, a sarcastic hard-living and misunderstood superhero who has fallen out of favor with the public. When Hancock grudgingly agrees to an extreme makeover from idealistic publicist Ray Embrey (Jason Bateman), his life and reputation rise from the ashes and all seems right again - until he meets a woman (Charlize Theron), with similar powers and the key to his secret past. (1 hr 42 mins/Available now.)

RISE OF THE FOOTSOLDIER (DVD) Lionsgate

Rise of the Footsoldier was inspired by the shocking true story of Carlton Leach, one of the most feared and respected criminals in England. Everyone knew him as a street thug who quickly rose to become a member of a notorious gang of criminals who rampaged their way through London and Essex in the late eighties and early nineties. The film follows Leach through three decades of his life, starting with his football hooliganism and continuing through his burgeoning career as a bouncer. His involvement in the criminal aspects of the early "rave" scene, and subsequently to Leach's rise to power as one of the biggest gangsters in the country. (1 hr. 59 mins./Available now).

10 ITEMS OR LESS: THE COMPLETE FIRST AND SECOND SEASONS (2-DVD)

Sony Pictures Home Ent. This TBS comedy series is described as: 10% scripted, 90% improv and 100% lunacy, starring John Lehr, Robert Clendenin, Chris Payne Gilbert, Christopher Liam Moore, Greg Davis Jr., Jennifer Elise Cox, Kirsten Gronfield, and Roberta Valderama. All Leslie (Lehr) ever wanted was his dad's approval. So when his father passed away and left him the

family grocery store in Ohio, Leslie took over the reins. Of course, the staff of Greens & Grains aren't exactly the brightest. Then again, neither is Leslie. But together, they're bravely taking on masked robbers, skating elves, beef on the hoof, unwilling virgins, the megamart next door, and cleanups on aisle five. Two-disc set contains all 13 episodes from the first two seasons. Daddy would be proud. (4 hrs. 48 mins./Available 12/27).

THE RON HOWARD SPOTLIGHT COLLECTION (8-DVD) Universal Studios Home Ent.

The Ron Howard Spotlight Collection features four of Ron Howard's most unforgettable and highly acclaimed films. A Beautiful Mind - Ron Howard won an Academy Award for directing this powerful story of courage, passion and triumph involving a brilliant mathematician who becomes entangled in a mysterious conspiracy. Starring Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly. Apollo 13 - The inspiring and riveting story of the real-life space flight that gripped a nation and changed the world. Starring Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton, Kevin Bacon, Gary Sinise and Ed Harris. Cinderella Man - Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger star in this triumphant, powerfully inspiring true story of a boxer who defied odds and became an American hero. Backdraft - Robert DeNiro stars with Kurt Russell in Howard's heroic, heart-pounding action-thriller about the courageous lives of professional firefighters. (Available now).

BEAUTIFUL OHIO (DVD) Genius Ent.

In a touching coming-of-age story, Chad Lowe weaves a compelling family drama about William (Brett Davern), a young teenager lost in the success of his older brother Clive (David Call), a troubled high school math prodigy who has begun to drift apart from his parents (William Hurt, Rita Wilson). William grows attached to Clive's free-spirited girlfriend (Michelle Trachtenberg), and he uncovers something, changing the family forever. (1 hr. 30 mins./Available now).

CURIOUS GEORGE: LEADS THE BAND AND OTHER MUSICAL MAYHEM (DVD) Universal Studios Home Ent.

Everyone's favorite monkey Curious George is back for more fun and exciting adventures. George is a natural performer, making a splash everywhere, from the symphony to the state fair! Swing with George via Curious George Leads the Band and Other Musical Mayhem! (1 hr. 48 mins./Available now).

MBTA Taking "Stockyard" Approach to Moving Riders

by Sal Giarratani



(Photo courtesy of the MBTA)

Remember stand up comic Rodney Dangerfield, the guy who gets no respect, well the MBTA has decided to treat Red Line riders like a collection of Rodney Dangerfields. Pack 'em in. It's Rawhide

time on the T as in time to move the cattle which is us.

Already, a magnet for subway-stalking predators and every wannabe Level 3 out there, the T has decided to

herd more passengers into crowded cars by ripping out seats.

The MBTA will run two retro filled cars that leave only four seats on each for the elderly and disabled.

This is MBTA General Manager Dan Grabauskas's answer to addressing booming ridership that jumped 5.5 percent in the past year.

"There are pros and cons to this approach, but we feel that it is worth pursuing a high capacity car or 'Big Red' to determine how it works' for our customers," says Grabauskas.

Only one Red Line train running weekday rush hours will be retro filled. The T says removing the seats increases a car's capacity by 27 people or 10 percent. Maybe, they should do what Japan does. Give T employees cattle prongs pushing more riders in. Hey, try and get the 10 percent up to 20 percent, eh?

The MBTA could add more trains but that wouldn't make sense, right?

I saw an MBTA photo of the interior of the "Big Red" car. Not enough poles if you ask me. Will people be responsible for holding each other up. And yes, what about those predators who love squeezing into tight spots. It's heaven for them and hell for the rest of us looney-tunes who put with this nonsense.



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For events going on in Massachusetts this WINTER, visit the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism Web site at www.massvacation.com.



It's the Summer of 1963, and 17-year-old Frances Houseman is about to learn some major lessons in life as well as a thing or two about dancing. On vacation in New York's Catskill Mountains with her older sister and parents, Frances "Baby" Houseman shows little interest in the resort activities, and instead discovers her own entertainment when she stumbles upon the staff quarters when an all-night dance party is in full swing. Mesmerized by the sensual dance moves and the pounding rhythms, Baby can't wait to be a part of the scene, especially when she catches sight of Johnny Castle, the resort's dance instructor. Baby's life is about to change forever as she is thrown in at the deep end as Johnny's leading lady both on-stage and off with breathtaking consequences. For more information check out Theater section below.

THEATER

THE OPERA HOUSE
539 Washington St., Boston, MA
DIRTY DANCING - February 7th through March 15, 2009. A movie seen by millions with an unforgettable soundtrack and adored by many, is now a record-breaking stage show. For tickets, times of performances and more information, please call: 1-866-633-0194.

THE COLONIAL THEATRE
106 Boylston Street, Boston, MA
NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT Now through January 11, 2009. Harry Connick, Jr., stars as a Long Island playboy in this new musical comedy filled with bootleggers, gold diggers and some of the greatest songs in the legendary Gershwin catalog.

FROST/NIXON - January 27, 2009 through February 8, 2009. Stacy Keach leads a cast of 10 in this fast-paced Tony Award nominated new play which shows the determination, conviction and cunning of two men as they square off in one of the most monumental television interviews of all time.

A BRONX TALE - March 31st through April 11, 2009. Actor Chazz Palminteri gives an unforgettable performance as a young boy's rough childhood in the 1960s-era Bronx, and the unforgettable people he encountered. For tickets and times of the performances, call Ticketmaster at: 617-931-2787.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY THEATRE
264 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA
THE CORN IS GREEN - January 9th through February 8, 2009. Kate Burton stars as Miss Moffat in this classic play of a schoolteacher who creates the first school in a poverty stricken, Welsh coal-mining town. For further information, ticket purchases and performance times, please call: 617-266-0800 or log on to the website at www.huntingtontheatre.org.

LOEB DRAMA CENTER
64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square Cambridge, MA

AURELIA'S ORATORIO - Now through January 3, 2009. Behind the red velvet curtain lies a topsy-turvy world of surreal surprises, tricks, and transformations, where dreams come to life and the impossible happens before your very eyes. Aurelia's Oratorio is an ideal holiday treat for the whole family. For tickets call: 617-547-8300 or visit: www.amrep.org.

EMERSON COLLEGE
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont Street, Boston, MA
THE NOSE - February 27, 2009; March 1st and 3rd 2009. This is an absurdist satirical opera about a petty bureaucrat who faces an identity crisis when his nose leaves his face and takes on a life of its own. It is sung in Russian with English supertitles. For more information, please call: 617-451-3388.

MUSIC

SANDERS THEATRE
1350 Mass Ave. Cambridge
CHRISTMAS REVELS - December 27-30, 2008. "Church meets Tavern" in this year's annual holiday celebration, loosely based on the characters and setting created by Thomas Hardy in *Under the Greenwood Tree*. For tickets: www.revels.org and www.fas.harvard.edu/~tickets. By phone: 617-496-2222 (Tuesday - Sunday 12-6pm). Harvard Box Office, 1350 Mass Ave. Cambridge (same hours).

BERKLEE PERFORMANCE Center
136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston
 The Sovereign Bank Music Series at Berklee. Pop music chases fads; great music surprises us. The Sovereign Bank Music Series at Berklee presents great music from Peru to Nashville; from soul to lando to jazz. Eight shows. No boundaries. Full of surprises. February 5, 2009 - **JAZZ as Condition: Mint Condition**, March 1, 2009 - **The Great American Songbook: The Music of Burt Bacharach**, March 7, 2009 - **Shining Stars: The Music of Earth, Wind & Fire**, April 16, 2009 - **Singers Showcase: The 25th Anniversary**. All concerts begin at 8:15 p.m., except where noted.

SYMPHONY HALL
301 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA - Friday, March 27, 2009 at 8:00 PM. Down by the riverside is an extraordinary collaboration between the gospel music of the Blind Boys of Alabama and the ageless New Orleans Jazz. Come and enjoy this uplifting evening of music. For tickets call: 617-876-4275 or www.WorldMusic.org.

THE REGENT THEATRE
7 Medford Street, Arlington, MA
AN EVENING WITH SHAWN KLUSH - Saturday, January 31st at 8:00 PM and Sunday, February 1st at

2:00 PM. In just a short time Shawn Klush has officially emerged as the top professional Elvis tribute artist in the world. He is the closest thing to the King in concert.

BUDDY, BOPPER & VALENS: Their last show 50 years later!!! - Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 3:00 PM. Come and enjoy Buddy artist, Brian Best as he sings all our favorites "Chantilly Lace", "Peggy Sue", "LaBamba" and many others.

THE MAN IN BLACK: A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH - Saturday, February 21st at 8:00 PM. Shawn Barker takes the stage with traditional Johnny Cash greeting to his exit. Shawn truly captures the presence of Cash, not only through his music, but in his storytelling. For tickets and further information, please call: 781-646-4849 or visit: www.regenttheatre.com

THE NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY/JORDAN HALL
30 Gainsborough St., Boston, MA
THE MUSIC OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN - Friday, January 16, 2009 at 8:00 PM. For tickets call: 617-868-5884 or visit: www.cantatasingers.org.

MOHEGAN SUN ARENA
Uncasville, CT
LYNYRD SKYNYRD - Saturday January 3, 2009 at 8:00 PM. Going strong after many years, don't miss this performance. For tickets call 617-931-2000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Special Events

DICK'S LAST RESORT
Quincy Market at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, MA

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH - Wednesday, December 31st starting at 4:00 PM until Midnight. Early "First Nighters" are encouraged to stop by for an early dinner and stay on for all the great music, food, champagne-popping blow out. For more information, call 617-267-8080.

THE OPERA HOUSE
539 Washington St., Boston, MA
The Chinese New Year Spectacular - January 10th and 11th 2009. This spectacular brings to the stage Chinese classical dance, folk dance, vocalists, and instrumentalists for gloriously colorful and exhilarating entertainment. For further information, please log on to: www.divineShows.com/boston or www.DivinePerformingArts.org.

SALEM HISTORICAL TOURS
8 Central Street, Salem, MA
HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE TOUR - Wednesdays and Mondays at 4:00 PM. Stroll through four centuries of Salem's illustrious history from its founding in 1626 to present day. For more information, please call: **978-745-0666** or log on to: www.salemhistoricaltours.com.

THE COMMANDER'S MANSION
440 Talcott Ave., Watertown, MA
WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND: EXPLORING BOSTON'S PAST THROUGH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD - February 20, 2009 from 7:30-9:30 PM. Come and enjoy a conversation with Boston City Archaeologist Ellen Berkland. For more information and tickets, visit: www.commandersmansion.com.

WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER
150 Staniford St., Boston, MA
WEST END POETRY CLUB will start having open readings on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month starting on January 13th and January 27th at 7:00 PM in the Center by area poets. For more further information, please call Duane at: 617-416-0718.

DANCE

THE CITI-WANG THEATRE
270 Tremont Street, Boston, MA
BLACK AND WHITE - February 12-15, 2009. This five-ballet program includes *Falling Angels*, a mesmerizing study in motion and minimalism; *Sarabande*, a powerful display for six men; *Petite Mort*, which incorporates artistic swordplay set to music by Mozart; *Six Dances* and *No More Play*, playing with space, shapes and contrasts.

ITALIAN EVENTS & PROGRAMS

ITALIAN RADIO
"The Sicilian Corner" 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM every Friday with host Tom Zappala and Mike Lomazzo and **"The Italian Show"** w/Nunzio DiMarca every Sunday from 10AM to 1PM www.1110wccmam.com
"Italia Oggi"(Italy Today) Sundays 1PM to 2 PM with host Andrea Urdi AM 1460 www.1460WXBR.com
"Dolce Vita Radio" DJ Rocco Mesiti 11 AM-1 PM Sundays. 90.7 FM or online www.djrocco.com

DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY
41 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA
FESTA DELLA BEFANA - Sunday, January 6, 2008 at 12:00 PM. Fund-raiser for the Saturday Children Italian School. Complete Dinner. Please contact Diane Basile or Michelle Dardeno. Diane can be reached at 978-456-6979 or e-mail dbasile@verizon.net. Michelle can be reached at 781-538-5859 or e-mail mdardeno@hotmail.com. For more information call 617-876-5160.
SPAJAZZY An evening of Jazz, Friday, January 11, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

Featuring: Tino D'Agostino, Bass; Sergio Bellotti, Drums, Percussion and Vocals; Joey Vellucci, Guitar and Vocals. For more information, please call 617-876-5160.

BEL CANTO OPERA - Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 2:30 PM - Presented by the Pirandello Lyceum. This Italian opera concert will be entirely Italian. The renowned Boston Bel Canto Opera Company, artistically directed by Bradley Pennington, will present arias from favorite operas such as *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*, *La Boheme* and *La Fanciulla del West*. Members and friends are asked to make plans early to be present and enjoy beautiful Italian music accompanied by the dynamic, lovely Bel Canto voices. Free parking is available for early birds at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Center. Additional parking is available at the Kendall Theater garage at a reduced rate with validation from the Dante. For more information log onto www.pirandello.com or you may call 781-245-6536.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE. Sunday, January 27, 2008 2:00 PM - The Consulate General of Israel, The Consulate General of Italy and the Dante Alighieri Society proudly presents **A Commemoration of Italian National Holocaust Remembrance Day**. A screening and discussion of the film *Musica Concentrationaria*, interviews, documents and original score in original languages with English subtitles by Francesco Lotoro. Please RSVP to 617-876-5160.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - On Saturday morning, February 23, the Pirandello Lyceum will sponsor an Italian film (to be announced) with English subtitles, at Boston's North End Branch Library, 25 Parmenter Street at 10:15 AM. *Caffe e biscotti* will be offered. The film starts at 10:30 AM SHARP. Adults only. The film is free and open to the general public. Weather advisory: If the library is open, the film will be shown. RSVP is not required.

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FREE PARKING

First Seating - 5:30 PM \$37 per person
3 courses with a glass of Sparkling Wine

First Course (choice of)
SEARED DUCK BREAST
 Dried Plum Jam, Buttery Croustade and Arugula

LOBSTER EGG ROLLS
 with Sweet and Sour Dipping Sauce

SHORTRIB SHUMAI DUMPLINGS
 Stuffed with Ground American Kobe Beef, Shredded Beef Shortrib and Roasted Shallot

HAWAIIAN BIG EYE TUNA DUO
SPICY TUNA TARTARE
 Wasabi Jello, Soy

Main Course (choice of)
SLICED RARE DUCK BREAST
 Jasmine Rice, Sweet n'Sour L'Orange Glaze and Rabe

LAMB CHOPS DIJONNAISE
 Potato Gratin, Cheesy Brussel Sprouts and Lamb Jus Reduction

PAN SEARED JUMBO SCALLOPS
 Crispy Leek Mashed Potato, Bacony Bechamel, Lemon Hollandaise

GRILLED SIRLOIN STEAK
 Mashed Potato, Grilled Asparagus and Demi Glaze

Dessert (choice of)
 Fresh Berries and Sabayon, Chantilly Crème
 Flourless Chocolate Espresso Cake with Mocha Sauce
 Butterscotch Crème Brulee

Second Seating - 8:30 PM - \$57 per person
4 courses with a glass of Sparkling Wine

First Course (choice of)
DUCK DUO, FOIE GRAS AND RARE BREAST
 Dried Plum Jam, Butter Croustade

LOBSTER EGG ROLLS
 with Sweet and Sour Dipping Sauce

SHORTRIB SHUMAI DUMPLINGS
 Stuffed with Ground American Kobe Beef, Shredded Beef Shortrib and Roasted Shallot

HAWAIIAN BIG EYE TUNA DUO
SPICY TUNA TARTARE
 Wasabi Jello, Soy

Second Course (choice of)
WARM SPINACH SALAD
 House Cured & Smoked Bacon, Chopped Egg, Pickled Red Onion in Sweet N Sour Vinaigrette

WILD MUSHROOM BISQUE
SALAD OF GRILLED BABY FRISEE
 Sliced Pear, Maytag Blue Cheese, Sweet N Spicy Walnuts

Main Course (choice of)
HALF ROASTED DUCKLING
 Jasmine Rice, Sweet n' Sour L'Orange Glaze, Broccoli Rabe

RACK OF LAMB DIJONNAISE
 Potato Gratin, Cheesy Brussel Sprouts and Lamb Jus Reduction

PAN SEARED JUMBO SCALLOPS
 Crispy Leek Mashed Potato, Bacony Bechamel, Lemon Hollandaise

BONE IN SIRLOIN STEAK
 Mashed Potato, Grilled Asparagus and Demi Glaze

Dessert (choice of)
 Fresh Berries and Sabayon, Chantilly Crème
 Flourless Chocolate Espresso Cake with Mocha Sauce
 Butterscotch Crème Brulee

Menu Subject to Change

Ray Barron's 11 O'CLOCK NEWS

Kid stuff! It has been said smart kids with high IQs at age 10 are more likely to have alcohol problems as adults, says a new study. The findings of the study, which followed 8,000 people over a 20-year period, surprised researcher Dr. G. David Batty, who also found that the effect is "markedly stronger among women than men." In young girls, a 15-point IQ bump increases the risk of alcohol dependency in adulthood by 38 percent. For boys, 15 additional IQ points translates to a 17 percent increase in risk. Dr. Batty tells MSNBC.com that "these findings ran counter to our expectations," and he recommends further research into the link between intelligence and susceptibility to alcoholism.

The typical alcoholic insists he drinks only on special occasions, like when the sun goes down every day, so says Joe Antonelli of Somerville.

The astute Tom Analetto of Medford says, the favorite drink of an alcoholic is the next one.

With all the diets we hear and read about, it appears there are more problem eaters than problem drinkers.

Louise Santosuosso of Watertown says, "Some folks drink liquor as if they want to be mentioned in BOOZE WHO."

Atheists are suing Kentucky's Office of Homeland Security for thanking "Almighty God" for protecting the state from terrorists. Ten secular Kentuckians charge that a law requiring the office to show its gratitude to God is "breathhtakingly unconstitutional." The plaintiffs say they have suffered "anxiety" from realizing that "their very safety as residents of Kentucky may be in the hands of fanatics, traitors, or fools."

Speaking of atheists, when we were introduced to Cardinal Law, I said to him, "Cardinal, thank God I'm an atheist." Well, Cardinal Law failed to grasp what I said and so I repeated what I had said. And then, he finally caught what I had said and laughed. For you dummies, how can you be an atheist if you say, "Thank God." Get it?

What do atheists do with their money? Surely they wouldn't carry around anything that says, "In God We Trust."

Mother Superior Frances Fitzgerald reminds us that God gives us the ingredients for our daily bread, but He expects us to do the baking.

Robyn Waters of Swampscott, who once considered becoming a nun, says, "The person who looks up to God rarely looks down on people."

Thanks to The National Italian American News Bureau we learned "La Festa di San Silvestro" is celebrated annually December 31, New Year's Eve, in Italy. Families and friends gather for a huge feast (cenone), which includes lentils, symbolizing money and good fortune for the coming year. A large spiced sausage (cotechino), or stuffed pig (zampone) is also part of the dinner; the pork symbolizes the richness of life in the coming year. A game similar to bingo, "tombola," is played in homes and parties while spumante or prosecco, Italian sparkling wine is served at midnight. In some areas, especially in the south, the tradition of throwing old objects out of the window still continues, symbolizing one's readiness to accept the New Year. Fireworks are also part of the evening's festivities. Naples is known to have one of the best and biggest fireworks displays in Italy. Smaller towns build bonfires in their squares, while boats and ships blow their horns in celebration along the coastal cities.

Rome's Piazza Del Popolo, Venice's St. Mark's Square, Milan, Bologna, Palermo and Naples also host outdoor music concerts. Florence's bridges along the Arno River are an excellent spot to watch the cities' fireworks. In Bologna, oxen are adorned with flowers and ribbons for the traditional Fiera del Bue Grasso (fat ox fair). Spectators light candles, while church bells ring and fireworks are set off. At the evening's end, a lottery winner keeps the ox.

Italians also are known to wear red underwear while ringing in the New Year

because it's believed to bring good luck. Felice Anno Nuovo!

Gee, it is rumored Joe Guzzo of North Billerica, rings in the New Year wearing red underwear.

Have you heard about the large pieces of meat turning up on the town common in Framingham? The first piece, a shoulder cut of beef, appeared weeks ago beneath a tree. Since then, meat has been showing up regularly in the same spot, including a 10-pound roast and a slice of liver. With rumors swirling, officials admit to being baffled. "It's our mission to get to the bottom of why these pieces of meat are being left," said Police Lt. Paul Shastany. "Why? Who? And what is it?"

Giuseppina, cosce storte, thinks people are leaving pieces of beef on the town common because they have to beef about.

Are you one of them? Nearly 300,000 people have applied for the approximately 7,000 available jobs in the Obama administration.

With hotels in Washington, D.C., rapidly filling to capacity for Barack Obama's January 20th inauguration, area college students have been renting out their dorm rooms from \$500 to \$1,800 a night for the week-end. Colleges have rules against this sort of thing, but they are difficult to enforce.

Wow! Television watching has hit an all-time high, with the average American watching 142 hours of television monthly, up 4 percent over last year, according to the Nielsen survey. The average home now has access to 119 channels.

For dummies! The longest-running national television series is NBC's "Meet the Press." The series has been running since November 20, 1947. It celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1987.

Time for some show biz stuff by our noted musicologist Albert Natale. The story most often been made into a movie is the story of Cinderella. The story of Cinderella has enjoyed 58 film productions — in cinematic and cartoon form — throughout the world. The first Cinderella movie was made in 1898. Do you know what does the Lone Ranger's title *Kemo Sabe* really means? As used by Tonto on the radio show "The Lone Ranger," it was intended to mean "faithful friend." But in the Apache tongue it means "white shirt." In Navajo it means "soggy shrub." How long did "Howdy Doody" run? The television series ran from 1947 to 1960. How long did "I Love Lucy" run? Six seasons — from October 15 1951, to June 24, 1957.

It was on December 15, 1944 when we learned Glenn Miller's plane on route to Paris from England was lost at sea. Well, Glenn Miller was presented with a gold-covered master of his recording "Chattanooga Choo Choo" on his radio program of February 10, 1942. It would be East Boston's Gennaro Graziano/Jerry Gray who would take over the band. Jerry Gray stated that he, too, was supposed to have gone on the same trip. "Glenn was in my room the night before and asked me if I'd like to go. But I had caught a pretty bad cold, and decided maybe I'd better come over a few days later with the rest of the men."

To think, if it wasn't for Jerry Gray, Artie Shaw would never have made it as a bandleader. It was Jerry Gray's arrangement of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" that became Shaw's first big hit recording. And let's not forget, it was Jerry Gray's arrangement of "In The Mood," that put Glenn Miller on the map!

We heard there is a photograph of Jerry Gray mounted on the wall of The Barnes' school building in East Boston. Great!

Oops! We forgot to wish a "happy birthday" to the illustrious Dean Saluti who celebrated his big birthday on December 23rd. Saluti was born in the year General Tojo and six other Japanese military leaders were executed, having been found guilty of crimes against humanity.

See you next year!

AMERICA IS A BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN NAME



Recipes from the Homeland

by Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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RAVIOLI

DOUGH:

6 cups unsifted flour
1 teaspoon salt
¾ cup boiling hot water
3 eggs

Place flour in a bowl or on prepared table. Form a well in the center of the flour. Add the salt to the well. Break the three eggs gently, one by one, and drop into well you created. With a spoon or your fingers, mix the flour and eggs together slowly to form a course texture. With your hands gently create a well in the course texture. **Slowly** add small amounts of water to the well while you combine the mixture and remaining water together. Be careful not to burn your fingers with the hot water. If dough is too soft or moist, add small amounts of flour until you can knead the dough without being sticky. Dough needs to be kneaded for about eight to ten minutes. It is important to keep kneading and folding dough until it is smooth and satiny. Then place dough in a bowl and cover bowl with a clean cotton cloth. It will need to rest for about 30 minutes.

RAVIOLI FILLING:

2 lbs Ricotta
3 medium eggs plus two additional egg yolks
½ cup of grated cheese of choice
½ cup chopped parsley
Salt and black pepper to taste

Mix ingredients thoroughly. Divide dough in half. One half will remain in covered bowl. Roll the first half of dough on a floured surface. If sticky while rolling out dough, spray small amounts of flour over dough, and continue rolling over it until it is about 1/8-inch thick. Roll the second half of dough the same way and set aside. To keep the sheet of dough from sticking, gently spray some flour over area where it rests and slight over the sheet of dough.

Drop teaspoonfuls of prepared Ricotta mixture, two inches apart, over one sheet of dough. Cover gently with the second sheet of dough. With fingertips press around each filled mound to form the round ravioli. With fingertips press lightly to be sure round edges are sealed. Spray top sheet of ravioli dough with a little flour. With sharp knife or pastry cutter, carefully cut two-inch Ravioli squares and set aside.

NOTE: Anyone who has prepared Ravioli at home knows that it can be time consuming. However it is a pleasure to know they have been hand made for a family.

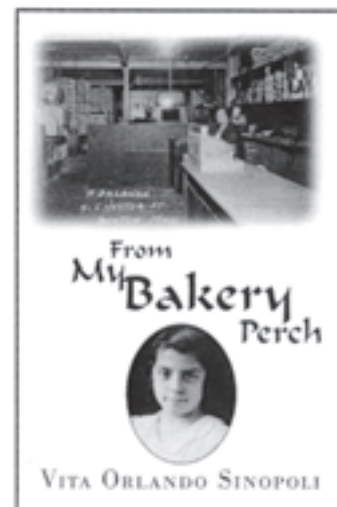
When my children were young and my parents enjoyed making Ravioli, the whole family sat to watch and to assist only if help was requested. It is a subject that comes to mind now and then when we buy "prepared Ravioli" for a special meal.

Vita can be reached at voswriting@comcast.net



Happy New Year

from
Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Nanna and Babbononno had to learn that Christmas was celebrated on December 25th in America. When they were kids in Avellino and Foggia, respectively, the festivities were on January the 6th, the day we called "Little Christmas." When my mother and her brothers were growing up a compromise came into being. Both dates were celebrated and everyone was happy. My mother used to tell me that on Christmas Eve, she, Uncles Paul, Nick and Gino, would hang their stockings up on the mantle of the living room fireplace and they would leave a note as to what they wanted. Each received a small gift placed under the Christmas tree and the stockings would be filled with fruit and candy. The word was out, though: if you were a bad little boy or girl during the year, Santa would leave only coal in your stocking. I wonder if kids today even know what coal looks like.

Last week, I mentioned that a request I made to Santa didn't arrive on Christmas morning, but when Uncle Nick got up, he called to say that Santa left the gift under his tree by mistake. What actually happened was that with the men in my family all being musicians, whoever was free at a point in time during the day, would pick up the gifts for us kids and then distributed to our parents for placement under our trees. At times, their schedules prevented them from getting the toys or clothes to the right house and Santa's mistakes had to be emphasized for us kids to believe, yet, for another year. The only problem was that when I asked and received electric train parts, a new engine, a new box car, a new railroad crossing gate, etc., ... once it was added onto the existing equipment, Dad, Aunt Ninna and Babbononno had to test things out. Until I started yelling, "Ma, Ma, Ma, Daddy and everybody else won't let me play with my trains." At that point, she would start yelling at them to come and help her and Nanna with things in the kitchen. At that point, they would back off and leave the toys to me.

Being a story lover at heart, I would listen to any version of Dickens' Christmas Carol that was played on the radio during the holiday season. From 1949 on, we had a TV and I watched Playhouse 90,

The Kraft Television Theater, Omnibus, or whatever program that presented serious theater, when they featured the famous Dickens story. Years later, it was a ritual with my friends and I, whatever downtown theater was showing one of the two versions of the story, we would see. Today, there are a dozen or so variations showing on TV. I just saw one last week that starred Patrick Stewart. I was so used to seeing him in Star Trek: The Next Generation, I was waiting for him to blast off, but he didn't.

What was more important to Nanna and Babbononno was Christmas Eve. In an Italian home, it was traditional to celebrate the night before Christmas with a multi-course fish dinner. The number of fishes cooked had to be an odd number. For Nanna, it was seven. I may have mentioned that my family of musicians would take off on December the 24th. They would have Jewish musicians cover for them and they would do the same in return on Jewish holidays. This meant that all of the men in my family would gather around Nanna's dinner table ready to eat. Dad would have bought pounds of shell fish, clams, quahogs, razor clams, and oysters. With the exception of the razor clams, these would be served on the half shell with hot sauce and lemon. The razor clams would be baked with bread crumbs. Another traditional dish would be placed in the center of the table, baccala, cool cod, salted and served in olive oil with olives and celery pieces. Nanna would make linguini aglio olio (linguini with garlic and olive oil). Once this was served, out would come fried smelts, dozen of them served with lemon. Actually, Babbononno coming from the lemon growing part of Italia, put lemon on everything. Dad was the master of the next fish course. He would make lobster Fra Diavolo, (lobster with a spicy, hot tomato gravy). Nanna would have another pot of linguini ready in case some of the folks wanted the Fra Diavolo gravy on their pasta. Let's see, if you add the shell food up and add in the bacala, smelts and lobster, it comes out to seven. This was our Christmas Eve dinner. Of course, Babbononno would have chilled white wine ready to wash down the dif-

ferent fish courses. A bottle of red would sit in the middle of the table for those who concentrated on the lobster Fra Diavolo. The gravy was so zesty; you really couldn't taste the more delicate white wine.

Following the main part of the dinner, Nanna would put out dishes of fruit, nuts and Italian candy for all to pick on. There might be a dish of zeppole and strufolli that were considered dessert, or maybe not, but who cared. Later, the men would light up cigars and Nanna and my mother would serve coffee that, of course, was accompanied by a bottle or two of home-made anisette. These bottles couldn't stand alone and they didn't. Aside of them would be Italian brandy, rum, Canadian rye, grappa and who knows what else.

Babbononno would always say that he was chilled and have a shot or two and then doctor-up his coffee with something to make it a coffee royal. Later, some of the folks might go to midnight Mass. If there was no Italian Mass at the Sacred Heart in East Boston, Dad would drive whoever wanted to attend to St. Leonard's in the North End. The evening really didn't end until one or two in the morning.

Christmas morning was for us kids. Early on, there were only three of us, my cousins Paula and Ellie, Uncle Paul and Aunt Eleanor's daughters. I was either 11 or 12 when Uncle Gino and Aunt Ninna surprised the family with twins, Donna and Richard. Unfortunately, Uncle Nick never had any kids. Years later, when I had my own family, I was the surrogate son he never had and my sons, John and Michael were the grandchildren he would never see.

On Christmas day, just like the night before, Nanna would make enough food for an army. If you asked her why, her answer was always, "Just in case." Just in case often occurred. Relatives and paesani would drop by for a Christmas drink.

Now this might be the case in an American house, but we were Italian and no one was allowed to just drink. They had to eat, and eat they did.

These were happy times. I and my cousin Ralph Pepe try to keep these traditions alive. We are now the old-timers in the family as our grandparents and parents are all gone. Hopefully our kids will try to maintain the same traditions in the future because it all represents one concept, la famiglia (the family).

So, from my family, my wife Loretta, my sons John and Michael and me, BUON NATALE, December 25, 2008, auguri, and may GOD BLESS AMERICA.

• The Socially Set (Continued from Page 9)



Tony Bennett is pictured with his good friends Joyce and Ron Della Chiesa. (Photo by Roger Farrington)

to find all course descriptions online along with registration forms that can be filled in and submitted either electronically or by fax.

Along with the newer offerings, NEC Continuing Education will continue to offer studio lessons, ensemble coaching, and classes in brass, strings, woodwinds, piano, guitar, voice/opera; classical, jazz, and Gospel music; chamber music, composition, music theory, Kodaly Institute, and early music.

For further information, visit www.newenglandconservatory.edu or contact the Continuing Education office at 617-585-1130.

The oldest independent school of music in the United States, NEC was founded in 1867 by Eben Tourjee. Recognized nationally and internationally as a leader among music schools, New England Conservatory offers rigorous training to 750 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral music students from around the world. Its faculty of 225 boasts internationally esteemed artist-teachers and scholars. Its alumni go on to fill orchestra chairs, concert hall stages, jazz clubs, recording studios, and arts management positions worldwide.

Nearly half of the Boston Symphony Orchestra is composed of NEC trained musicians and faculty.

NEC presents more than 600 free concerts each year, many of them in Jordan Hall, its world-renowned, 100-year-old, beautifully restored concert hall. These programs range from solo recitals to chamber music to orchestral programs to jazz and opera scenes. Every year, NEC's opera studies department also presents two fully staged opera productions at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in Boston.

NEC is co-founder and educational partner of "From the Top," a weekly radio program that celebrates outstanding young classical musicians from the entire country. With its broadcast home in Jordan Hall, the show is now carried by National Public Radio and is heard on 250 stations throughout the United States.

Enjoy!
(Be sure to visit Hilda Morrill's gardening Web site, www.bostongardens.com. In addition to events covered and reported by the columnist, "The Socially Set" is compiled from various other sources such as news and press releases, PRNewswire services, etc.)



Event Co-Chair Sharyn Neble, left, and BPLF Board member Carol Goldberg at the Tony Bennett concert. (Photo by Roger Farrington)

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The Bilingual Corner

by Orazio Buttafuoco

LO SAPEVATE CHE ...

La comunita' italiana del Canada puo' essere fiera di un suo figlio che e' arrivato ad occupare una carica di prestigio. Infatti, Girolamo Zuccardelli, chiamato dagli amici 'Zack', di origina abruzzese, e' da cinque anni il comandante in capo della 'Giubbe Rosse' ed e' considerato uno degli investigatori piu' abili delle forze di polizia canadesi. Non appena gli e' possibile, scappa via dalla citta' per tonnare in sella ad un cavallo. Intanto in Canada la percezione dell'opinione pubblica sugli italiani e' molto cambiata negli ultimi cinquantanni. Accanto a 'Zack' e' doveroso menzionare il nome di Ben Soave, capo della 'task force' a Toronto contro il crimine organizzato, ed a Julian Fantino, capo della polizia di Toronto. Giuliano Zuccardelli nacque a Prezza, in provincial di l'Aquila. Quando la famiglia emigro', lui aveva sei anni.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Canada's Italian community can be proud of one of its sons who has climbed to a very high office. In fact, Giuliano Zuccardelli, known to his friends as 'Zack', of Abruzzi extraction, is the Chief Commander of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and is regarded as one of the most capable investigators of the Canadian police force. Whenever possible, he runs out of the city to take a horse ride. Meanwhile in Canada, the public opinion's perception vis-à-vis Italians in Canada has changed a lot over the last 50 years. Along with Zuccardelli, it is our duty to mention the name of Ben Soave, the Chief of the Toronto's Task Force against organized crime, as well as Julian Fantino who is Toronto's Police Chief.

Giuliano Zuccardelli was born in the town of Prezza, in the province of l'Aquila. When the family emigrated, he was 6 years old.

• Res Publica (Continued from Page 6)

cans is hosting a candidates' night for persons seeking the post of Mass. GOP Chairman to present their cases. So far **Jennifer Nassour** is confirmed as attending, and **Mike Franco** has been invited and is expected. The event will be Thursday, January 8, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at **The Point, 147 Hanover Street**, Boston (that's the part of Hanover Street near Haymarket, downtown, before Hanover passes the Central Artery

into the North End). There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 to help defray the cost of the event. For more information contact Richard Wheeler at (617) 872-0096 or richardhwheeler@yahoo.com. Best wishes for 2009!

David Trumbull is the chairman of the Boston Ward Three Republican Committee. Boston's Ward Three includes the North End, West End, part of Beacon Hill, downtown, waterfront, Chinatown, and part of the South End.

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The time has come, the walrus said, TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

Go Ahead Say It "MERRY CHRISTMAS"



Christmas time in Charlestown, 1981



Christmas in Charlestown in 1982

(Photos by Sal G.)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. May 2009 bring you much happiness. Enjoy life. When you have a chance to sit it out or dance, do what

that singer says, "Dance."

Stay close to family and friends. Be kind to strangers. Respect all. Be positive. Look to the future with joy and remember your past.

Memories are good, don't forget them. Hold on to what is good, disregard all else. Be happy, smile a lot and thank God for everything.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

Sarah Palin was thrown to the wolves by liberal Democrats as an airhead, but Palin was more than qualified to be governor. She could have been a good vice president. If she wanted to run for the U.S. Senate she would be qualified too.

If Caroline Kennedy is qualified for the Senate, why wasn't Sarah Palin credible too?

Labor is No Excuse Here's your Ticket

Is the public interest served by a Massachusetts State Trooper ticketing women in labor rushing to the hospital? It's one thing to enforce the law against using the breakdown lane, but shouldn't troopers also use good judgment?

A state trooper wrote Jennifer and John Davis a ticket for using the breakdown lane as they rushed to the hospital to give birth.

While it's awful nice for the State Police to remind folks about driving in the breakdown lane, telling the couple to submit a letter of complaint isn't the answer.

What happened to police who once escorted with sirens and lights couples like John and Jennifer Davis? You don't ticket them, you help them by escorting them to the delivery room before the highway becomes the birthplace of

the baby. Common sense, you either have it or you don't. In this case, the answer seemed *don't!*

Remains from Vietnam Sent Home

Remains believed to be those of American airmen killed back during the Vietnam War were placed on a US military transport plane recently in Hanoi and sent home to the United States for identification.

Four aluminum cases holding the remains were draped with U.S. flags as U.S. soldiers carried them onto the plane at Noi Bai International Airport.

The repatriation was the 108th, according to the MIA office in Hanoi.

WJIB 740 AM Hit Tunes

The other day while listening to WJIB on the car radio, I heard Perry Como singing

a tune about Seattle. However, the lyrics seemed odd. "Endless Blue Skies in Seattle."

Endless blue skies in Seattle? Not in the Seattle we all know, right? Isn't that corner of America known to have plenty of rain and depressed inhabitants?

Perhaps, Perry was thinking about San Diego, huh?

Speaking of this Memories Station

Just heard an instrumental on WJIB. The tune keeps bugging me. Where have I heard it before? Then it came to me. It was the theme song for the old Jack Benny Show on TV back in my youth.

Haven't heard it in 40 years, but still remembered it. Says something about that computer in my head. It must be crammed filled of all this useless information.

KJS

Mechanical

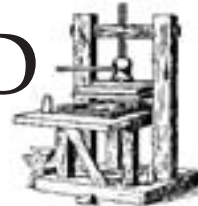
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What is a Caregiver? PART 3

by Damon Syphers, MSPH, M.Ed.

CAREGIVING AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

According to the Alzheimer's Association (2008), Alzheimer's is a progressive and degenerative disease that affects not only the person but their care partners as well. The Nation Institute on Aging (2008) statistics on Alzheimer's disease reflect that 5.1 million persons in the United States has Alzheimer's disease and the Alzheimer's Association (2008) statistics report that 140,000 in Massachusetts and New Hampshire have Alzheimer's disease. Future statistics are expected to increase due to the fact that the baby boomer generation is advancing in age.

Alzheimer's disease poses significant challenges for both the person afflicted with AD and their care partners (caregivers). Historically, the medical field referred to AD by such terms as organic brain syndrome, senility, and hardening of the arteries. It has not been recently that these terms have come to be associated with what we now call Alzheimer's disease. While there is no definitive way to formally diagnose Alzheimer's with the exception of a biopsy of the brain at death, MRI and CAT scans of the brain can assist health care professionals in the medical treatment of Alzheimer's.

I have dealt with Alzheimer's disease on both a professional and personal level. I agree with professionals when they term Alzheimer's as being the "long good-bye" and a "maze of endless confusion". Presently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's, but there are medications and psychosocial interventions available to assist the person with Alzheimer's as well as their care partners.

Dr. Paul Raia and Joanne Koenig Coste are staunch advocates of the habilitation therapy model which is a psychosocial intervention which seeks to capitalize on the remaining skills of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. This method specifically focuses on validating patient's emotions: maintaining dignity, creating moments for success, and utilizing all of the patient's remaining skills (Koenig-Coste, 2003). Dr. Raia's and Joanne Koenig Coste's main

premise is that while the behaviors of Alzheimer's patient's behavior cannot change, the emotions behind them can by practicing habilitation therapy. The five tenets of habilitation therapy include: making the physical environment work, focus only on remaining skills, live in the patient's world and enrich the patient's life.

All caregivers in the Suffolk County Caregiver Alliance have been trained in the tenets of habilitation therapy and one other caregiver advisor and myself have taken the habilitation therapy course through the Alzheimer's Association. Anyone of my colleagues within the Caregiver Alliance and me would be willing to assist you, answer your questions, and provide you with referrals and resources on Alzheimer's disease. Please feel free to contact anyone of us through Boston Elder Information at 617-292-6211. There are also care advisors who are bilingual in several languages and persons available to help with interpretation.

The Caregiver Alliance of Suffolk County provides caregivers with assistance by establishing service plans as well as identifying services, referrals, and resources that will best meet your individual needs. The services provided by the caregiver advisor are free to all elders who live in Suffolk County. In addition, caregiver advisors also make appropriate referrals as needed for home care services (personal care services and homemaking services) that assist caregivers with day-to-day house-hold and personal care activities for their loved one. Please feel free to visit the Caregiver Alliance of Suffolk County website at <http://www.caregiveralliance.org> or call the Boston Elder Information Hotline at 617-292-6211 to learn more about services that will make a positive difference in your role as a caregiver.

Next month's featured article with focus on caregiver resources.

Damon Syphers is a Caregiver Advisor at Boston Senior Home Care.



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarratani



K-ROD:

METS ARE 'THE TEAM TO BEAT'

Francisco Rodriguez (K-Rod) has a message for the Phillies. "Of course, we're going to try to win the division. Of course, we're going to be the front-runner. Or course, we're going to be the best team", said K-Rod.

He has agreed to a \$37 million, 3-year deal. He was also confident the Mets would put their bad Septembers behind them.

Rodriguez saved a major league record 62 games in '08 with the Angels.

He's a New York kind of guy now saying, "I'm the kind of guy that likes to be on the big stage."

WILLIAM GOES PUERTO RICAN

Former Yankee slugger Bernie Williams, 40, is expected to play winter ball in Puerto Rico.

PHILLIES GET IBANEZ

The Phillies gave Raul Ibanez a 3-year deal for \$31.5 million to be their everyday left fielder.

Last year with the Mariners he hit .293, 23 homeruns and 11 RBI's.

MADDUX RETIRES

In his final season with both the Padres and Dodgers, Greg Maddux won his 18th Gold Glove Award and led the NL in fewest walks per nine innings.

All in all, he won 355 games lifetime, won four Cy Youngs and won 15 or more games in 17 consecutive seasons.

His 355-227 record, lifetime 2.16 ERA and 3,371 strikeouts make him a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame. No one, not even Roger Clemens was better than Maddux during their era together.

• Italy and the Holocaust (Continued from Page 7)

Her father came to the United States in 1930 to find work and support the family. He never returned, and during WWII, lost contact with his family altogether. She prides herself in being a storyteller telling of her recollections of WWII and her family's rescue of a Jewish family of Ulla, Katja and Sascia. Survivor, Professor Katrin (Katja) Tenenbaum was born in 1942 in Sora Frosinone, Italy. She teaches Social Ethics at the University of Rome, La Sapienza. She taught and researched in German Philosophy (Immanuel Kant), Rousseau and Enlightenment, and Jewish Thought from Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment) to Hannah Arendt. Survivors Ena Almuly Lorant and Alisa Almuly Palmeri related their lives, who as young children lived with their family, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. In April 1941, using false identities, the sisters escaped with their mother and a group of eight relatives. They were arrested by Italian authorities and sent to the Veneto region as internati civili di guerra in confino libero. The adults were prohibited from working and the children could not attend school. In September 1943 with the fall of Mussolini and the Nazi invasion, they fled south hoping to reach the Allied lines. They lived in Amandola in the Marche region for the remainder of the war. But despite written warnings from German authorities that sheltering Jews was punishable by death, the town kept their secret. They never forgot their Italian "family" and for years worked to have Yad Vashem recognize their heroic deeds. In 2005 all 25 the Lorant and Palmeri families traveled to Amandola to express their official gratitude. She survived WWII in the Kovno Ghetto, Lithuania in hiding. With her parents, after WWII she was in a DP camp in Austria, in a prison in Hungary and came to Italy where she was in a "hachshara" type children and teenager camps in Selvino and Avigliano. In 1945, she arrived in Milan where Mussolini and Petacci had been hung. She lived in Milan attending La Scala School of Ballet and

the Jewish School in Via Eupili, and La Brera School, before coming to the U.S. in 1951.

The Panel on the Moral Lessons of the Holocaust addressed the significance of the conference and how it applies to us by discussing the action of individuals who had the choice to be perpetrators, bystanders or righteous. Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal has a remarkable background of teaching in Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University in Israel, Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, New York University, and Western Washington State College. He has served as the Executive Director of non-profit Jewish organizations in Boston and New York City including the American Zionist Federation, the Long Island Jewish Federation, the Greater Framingham Jewish Federation, and the American Jewish Committee. Consul Rony Yedidia who grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Beer-Sheva, Israel serves in the Consulate General of Israel to New England. She most recently served as head of the Consular Liaison Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Stephen Puleo is an author, historian, and former award-winning newspaper reporter and contributor of feature stories and book reviews to American History magazine, he has made nearly 200 public appearances. His latest book, "The Boston Italians: A Story of Pride Perseverance, and Paesani, from the Years of the Great Immigration to the Present Day," is a Boston Globe and Boston-area bestseller.

Dr. Joe Scelsa came from New York City to present the Italian American Museum's goals, programs and importance to the Italian American community. He is currently the Director of the Italian American Museum in New York City. He was Director of the Italian American Institute of The City University of New York; and named Dean of the Calandra Italian American Institute. He has authored and edited several books and has written articles and reports on ethnicity, pluralism and education. He was the historical consultant for A&E's

documentary, "The Italians in America" which premiered worldwide. Quoted in the media in the U.S. and abroad, he has the rank of Cavaliere of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Italy; the rank of Ufficiale from the Order of Merit of Savoy; and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The following day a one-day workshop was held for the Italian Delegation and community leaders. The first workshop was presented by me. I talked about the status of the Italian Language in the U.S. The main theme was that the Italian Language is experiencing difficulty in maintaining its enrollment, the training of new teachers and the possibility of AP elimination from the curriculum. He emphasized that in the past 25 years many school districts have not applied for Federal funding. I will be offering workshops on grant writing for discretionary funds from external sources. The second topic was presented by Dr. Maria Lombardo who emphasized ways of forming better economic and educational ties with the Region of Calabria.

On Wednesday the Italian Delegation toured many Boston historical sites.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
MIDDLESEX Division
Docket No. 08P5246EP1

In the Estate of
JOHN F GETTINGS
Late of NATICK
In the County of MIDDLESEX
Date of Death October 14, 2008

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented praying that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed, and that ARTHUR L. GETTINGS of WESTBOROUGH in the County of WORCESTER be appointed executor, named in the will to serve without surety.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT CAMBRIDGE ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 20, 2009.

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within thirty (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at CAMBRIDGE this day, December 16, 2008.

Marie A. Gardin
Acting Register of Probate

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
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CORNER TALK

by Reinaldo Oliveira, Jr.



"Merry Christmas to All." To the great staffs at the *Boston Post-Gazette*, and Pamela Donnaruma, and the *South Boston Tribune*. To Massachusetts State Auditor Joe DeNucci and Staff, to Steve Acunto, Vito Antuofermo, Michael Antonelli, Demetrius Andrade, Jimmy Burchfield and his CES Team, Jackie Brady, Juan Botta, Bob Benoit, Calvin Brown, Bobby Bower, Richard Baker, Francis X. Bellotti, Nick Barbato, Paul Barry, Bobby Bolster, Johnny Bos, Richard Biondi, Lou Bogash, Manny Burgo, Jimmy Connors, Paul Cardoza, Ed Casey, Ed Connolly, Bill Connolly, Jerry Colton, Rich Cappiello, Mike Cappiello, Georgie Colton, Angie Carlino, Atty. Anthony Cardinale, John Crowley, Frank Calabro, Bobby Covino, Clem Crowley Jr., Jaime Campbell, John Coiley, Sean Creegan, Tom Conlon, Tommy Connors, Jimbo Curran, Jimmy Constantino, Kurt DeCicco, Louie DeCicco, Rocky Couture, Dan Cuoco, Paul Doyle, Sal DiMasi, Stephen Dovell, Joe Dias, Mark Dias, Mickey Dwyer, Tony DeMarco, and Janet, Papa Ray Drayton, Ben Doherty, Cezar Duarte, Al Duarte, Tom Dargin, Ron Drinkwater, Mark DeLuca, Mark DeLuca Jr., Jaime Doyle, Joe Devlin, Robert Dudley, Jumbo Espinosa, Jimmy Farrell Jr., Joe Feeney, Mickey Finn and Mary, Mickey Flynn, Angelo Frataglia, Dick Flaherty, Eddie Fitzgerald, Jerry Forte, Tim Fitzgerald, Peter Fuller, Bobby Franklin, Tim Flamos, Leo Gerstal, Ronnie Gerstal, Harold Gomes, Don Green, Bobby Gould, David Gemelli, Tucker Gorman, Jerry Huston, Bob Hanna, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Emily Harney, Richard Hand, Don Halpin, Jack Hurley, Bob Hayden, Mike Joyce, Larry Kelly, Bridget Kelly, George Kreger Jr., Greg Kreger, George Kimball, Doug Keefe, Peter Koutoujian, Pat Kelley, Danny Long, Pat Long, Ryan Long, Jerry LaFlamme, Richie LaMontagne, Gabe LaMarca, Gerry Leone, Joey Lupino, Pat Leonard, Donnie Lewis, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Pops Lynch, John Lynch, Ray Leonard Jr., Greg Leschishin, Peter Marciano, Dickie McDonough, George Maddox, Jim Melvin, Tom McNeeley, Peter McNeeley, Mayor Tom Menino, Jim McNally, Jim McDonald, Bill McCluskey, Bob McCoy, Ed McAloney, Mike Minasian, Marty Murphy, Tommy Martini, Vinny Marino, Mel Manning, Mike Mullen, Steve Memishian, Wilbur "Skeeter" McClure, Nick Morganelli, Theresa Murry, Rick Marinick, Earnie Manelli, Dennis Marrese, Jack Monroe, Jimmy Manning, Stephen Murphy, Joe Marques, Peter Manfredo, Peter Manfredo Jr., Larry Belcamino, Tom O'Brien, Donald O'Neil, Dan O'Malley, Johnny Otto, Luanne O'Connor, My family Reinaldo III, Erica, 6 Grandchildren, brothers, sisters, and all. Suera Ray Oliveira, Johnny O'Brien, Donnie Orr, Mike O'Donnell, Goody Petronelli, Tony Petronelli, Pat Petronelli, Jason Pires, Todd Peters, Matt Paturzo, Roger "PIT" Perron, Doug Pendarvis, Tinker Picot, Iron Mike Pusateri, Vinny Paz, Billy Pender, Paul Poirier, Joe Possidento, Freddie Roach, Marvin Pave, Paul Roach, Pepper Roach,

Barbara Roach, Art Rohmalo, Chic Rose, Robbie Simms, Kathleen Ross, Francis Mickey Roache, Dana Rosenblatt, Mike Ryan, Peter A. Santoro, Paul Stivaletta, Billy Skinner, Chris Sarno & Janet, Jackie Smith, Peter Santoro, Bill "Cly Die" Stewart, Norman Stone, Charles (Skeets) Scioli, Charlie Tartaglia, Hank Tartaglia, Bob Treiger, Hank Tuohy, Richard Torsney, Vinny Marchioness, Al Valenti, Ben Venuti, John Vena, and Shirley, Micky Ward, Donnell Wigfall, and to all their family, and loved ones, and to all of this great world of ours BOXING. **Merry Christmas to all, and to all, have a great New Year, in 2009. "God loves you all !!!!!"**

In order of functions attended. A Christmas Gala, given by former New England Champion / Marine / State Trooper / Attorney, Don Green. At the Wollaston Golf Club. Boxers, Mickey Finn, Matt Troiani, Iron Mike Pusateri, Don Green, Tommy Martini, George Kreger Jr., Dick Flaherty, and me, are here at this great time. The food is excellent, the entertainment, and the guest are outstanding. A first class event. Given by Don Green, and his wife Annette. Don Green you also have a first-class, intelligent daughter in Julie Green here, along with a great list of guests.

Together here at Georges Cafe, in Brockton for lunch, with Brother Boxers, Iron Mike Pusateri, Tony Petronelli, Joe Ennis, Jimmy Connors, Tommy Martini, and Lenny Jacobs who's daughter Heather Jacobs, coaches at Daniel Webster College, and is the youngest NCAA, Head Coach. The foods great, and it's a great place for fans of Boxing, to be at. Charlie Tartaglia has a great place here. Check it out.

Ring 4, Christmas Party, and meeting attended by Steve Memishian, John Ford, Tom Martini, John O'Brien, Tony Petronelli, Mary Nelson, President Mickey Finn, Jack Hurley, Johnny Gibson, Todd Peters, Heather Peters, Jerry LaFlamme, Eddie Fitz, Jimmy Connors, Reinaldo Oliveira Jr., Paul Doyle, Jerry Huston, Joe Feeney, Tom Conlon, Eddie Casey, Tommy Caholane, Bobby Franklin, Frankie Hagerty, Don Green, here at Lindsey's Restaurant in Wareham. A motion was made, by Mike Joyce to have Ring 4 President Mickey Finn, voted in as President Emeritus. This was voted in by all members. Congratulations Mickey Finn. A "10 Count," was given for Frank, Francesco "Kid" Frataglia our recently departed brother in boxing, now in that Golden Ring in Heaven, Refereed by God. With his brothers in boxing, Rocky Marciano and Babe Wood. The ten count was given for Francesco Frataglia, by Myself and Mickey Finn. "Rest in Peace!" A Tribute to Babe Wood, "Honoring M. Boxing," will be, on January 14, 2009 in Manomet, at 10:00 am, at the Monte Christo Restaurant. A memorial will be dedicated honoring, Mr. Boxing, Charles Babe Wood. More details, next week. God Bless you all. I pray that all, had a wonderful Christmas, and that all are looking forward to a wonderful, "Happy New Year for 2009!"



HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



Alive. The 12 months that comprised 2008 will be remembered as the year that the TD Banknorth Garden came alive.

Since it opened in September, 1995 the facility on Causeway Street had been a slumbering behemoth — nothing of real significance involving local pro teams had occurred there — and all the banners in the rafters were from the prior era of the original Boston Garden.

Coaches came and coaches went, players arrived and departed. Some like The Bruins' Ray Bourque, played their entire careers here, without winning a title. Only when Raymond went west to the Colorado Avalanche did he pick up a ring.

And the same thing almost happened to Paul Pierce. A standout player on a variety of so-so Celtics teams over the years, it had been widely reported that Pierce wanted to leave for a franchise that had better postseason possibilities — especially after the Celtics experienced an 18-game losing streak in the middle of the 2006-2007 season.

But, of course, he didn't. Management went out and acquired quality players — principally Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. The result was a marvelous turnaround and a spectacular run — culminating in the Celtics winning their 17th NBA Championship at the Garden, marking the first time a Boston pro team had won a championship at home in more than 20 years.

Compared to the regular season, where the C's compiled an enviable 66-16 mark that gave them home court advantage throughout the playoffs, the postseason proved to be much more of a challenge with the Green and White needing 26 games (out of a possible 28) to claim the title.

That home court advantage would prove crucial. Atlanta, which qualified for the playoffs by grabbing the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, extended the Celtics to a full seven games in the opening series, finally yielding for good on May 4 was the C's captured the seventh and deciding game, 99-65. It was the fourth win for the Celtics in the series — with all four coming on the parquet, a characteristic that would also hold true for the next series against Cleveland.

It's truly a shame that LeBron James had to be a one-man team against the Celtics. But he was. If two or more of his teammates had also been of the highest quality then the Larry O'Brien trophy might be on display today along the shores of Lake Erie. Game 7 was a matchup to be remembered for sure. Pierce hit for 41 points while James connected for 45.

Cleveland actually led by one 89-88 with less than 90 seconds left — yes, that's how close it was for the Celtics on

this day. It could have gone either way down the stretch but as fortune would have it that way was painted green. Cleveland was within range, behind only by three at 95-92 with eight ticks left on the clock. But Pierce was fouled and calmly sank two free throws to send the C's onto the next series against Detroit.

This one would depart from the paths of the prior two series in that the Celtics would lose their first home game of the playoffs, 103-97, and it would be a six game series. The Green would win two on the road in this one — including the sixth and clinching contest in Detroit, 97-92.

This proved the Celtics could win on the road in the 2008 playoffs, albeit infrequently, but just enough to make a difference.

The culmination, of, course was the series that everyone had been waiting for — the Celtics against the L.A. Lakers. There's no doubt it's a rivalry of sorts. But remember that the teams only play each other twice in the regular season and can only meet in the playoffs if both teams make the NBA Finals. So there have been many years where the teams played just those two regular season games.

The NBA went all out — including a lobster dinner for media on the evening of the first game, June 5. The Celtics won that one 98-88 and then grabbed a 2-0 series lead with a 108-102 victory on the parquet.

A win by the green in Game 5 in L.A. meant the C's eventually returned home with a 3-2.

Lead in the series — meaning L.A. would have to capture the two remaining games in Boston to lay claim to the championship. That was not about to happen, though, as the Green demolished the visitors from the west coast, 132-92, in game six on June 17. The crowd in the Garden — as well as those in the streets surrounding the facility — went wild.

Banner 17 had been won, another championship had been captured and the NBA trophy was back in the state where basketball began — Massachusetts.

There would be a triumphant parade, there would be souvenir sections of newspapers and in October — some four months after they won — the players and coaches would receive their rings and hoist the championship banner to the rafters.

As the New Year approaches the Celtics are making another historic run and could possibly threaten the regular season record of 72-10 set by the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s. In addition, the Bruins have also come alive and seem poised to possibly go deep into the NHL playoffs.

The Year 2008 was a great one on Causeway Street. Could 2009 be twice as nice? Only time will tell.