

POST-GAZETTE

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A Very Merry Christmas
to our Readers and Advertisers
from the staff of the Post-Gazette



News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Giovanna Negretti of OISTE Receives New Frontier Award

Recently, Caroline Kennedy presented the fifth annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Mayor Cory A. Booker of Newark, NJ and Giovanna Negretti, co-founder and executive director of OISTE, the Latino Political Action Committee.

The ceremony took place on November 24 in the JFK Jr. Forum at Harvard University's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government.

Each recipient was presented a ship's navigational compass in a wooden box bearing an inscription from JFK's 1960 acceptance speech at that year's convention.

Let's Try a More Direct Approach

A Tampa, Florida family therapist who works with parents to help correct bad behavior in their children by using "dynamic" parenting was arrested for trying to strangle his own 15-year-old step son.

Quote to Note

"The greatest personal limitation is to be found not in the things you want to do and can't, but in the things you've never considered doing."

— Richard Bandler

(Continued on Page 15)

CITY SETS TAX RATE: Good News for Boston Residents

Officials Sent Rates to State for Certification

Amid one of the century's worst economic downturns, Boston homeowners received an early holiday present when Mayor Thomas M. Menino presented the city's proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2009 to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for approval and certification.

If certified, the FY09 assessments will result in a residential property tax reduction of \$187 in the average single family home's tax bill, down from \$2,949 last year to \$2,762 this year for taxpayers receiving the residential exemption. For the second year in a row, Boston will be one of the few communities in the state to reduce residential taxes this year.

The average residential tax bill in Boston will be 33% below last year's state wide average of \$4,110. The residential tax rate is expected to be \$10.63 per \$1,000 of

valuation, down from \$10.97 last year.

The tax rate for business properties is expected to be \$27.11 per \$1,000 of valuation, up from \$25.92 in FY08.

"We continue to look for ways to decrease the tax burden on homeowners and it couldn't have come at a better time, when people are struggling to put food on the table and heat their homes during the holiday season," said Mayor Menino. "This is great news because these property values show Boston's economy remains strong despite rough economic times nationally."

The mayor also urged residents to take advantage of the city's property tax programs designed to save them money. The most important of these programs is the residential exemption, which is available to taxpayers who own and occupy their homes. This year the exemption will save

each qualifying taxpayer \$1,375.36.

The effective date established by state law for the Fiscal Year 2009 assessments is January 1, 2008. Assessments reflect the market conditions as of that date.

For FY09, the total tax levy the total amount of revenue derived from the property tax is \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$65.7 million over last year. \$32.8 million of this growth is the result of new construction and properties being added to the tax base. The remaining \$32.9 million is the full 2.5% increase allowed under Proposition 2½.

The city's total assessed property value is \$90.4 billion, a slight increase from last year despite a weakness in the residential market.

These property values reflect Boston's strong and diverse economy, a firm foundation for weathering global economic volatility.

Mayor's Column

by Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston

In preparation for President-elect Barack Obama to take office in January, Congress is beginning to establish parameters for a major economic recovery plan, while mayors and governors around the country are considering what can be done locally to reinvigorate the American economy. President-elect Obama has called for a massive economic recovery package that generates 2.5 million jobs over two years and invests in sustainable, energy-saving infrastructure. This stimulus package has the potential to spur local economies by creating both short-term and permanent jobs and building infrastructure for future development. As I said recently, Boston is ready to help with this build-up, and I look forward to working with the Obama administration on behalf of Bostonians.

Any economic stimulus plan must invest in both human capital and physical capital because economic growth depends on getting people back to work and creating sustainable infrastructure. In Boston, there are a number of projects across different categories that the President-elect and Congress will likely give consideration. These projects are not part of some arbitrary wish list. Instead, many of the projects would create construction jobs immediately while others would help to revitalize commu-

nity spaces and create long-term economic benefits.

The City has \$130 million in Boston Public School investments ready-to-go. In recent years, we have made substantial progress strengthening the BPS system with academic programming to give our students the best education possible. These academic investments have resulted in high school graduation rates that exceed many urban and suburban school districts. Now, we have the opportunity to secure funding for school modernization projects that will impact the brick and mortar of our school system. School maintenance projects, such as new windows and HVAC systems, could be completed quickly, restoring some of our aging facilities, improving the learning environment, and lowering our expenditures on energy.

Energy efficiency and green jobs investments represent another opportunity to put stimulus funding toward an economic sector in which Boston is already well positioned. Boston has been nationally recognized for its sustainability achievements, and I recently announced funding for a new green jobs training program to address the workforce needs of this emerging economy. Stimulus funding would give Boston the

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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.



ARTEMIS AND DIANA

The union of Zeus with the goddess named Leto produced the twins Apollo and Artemis. Both twins were worshiped in many areas of the ancient world but their principal places of worship were in Greece and Rome. Apollo, became identified as the god of light, health, prophesy, music, poetry and protector of the flocks, while Artemis (Diana in Rome) became the virgin goddess of the hunt and wild life. During ancient times this goddess was usually depicted wearing a knee-length tunic, braided hair, leather sandals, and armed with bow and arrows. While Apollo became known as the luminous god of day, Diana in turn, with her torch, became the goddess of light by night, and in time she also became identified with other goddesses of the moon and of the night.

The natural environment of Diana was the hills, valleys, woods, meadows, and rivers. She became a mighty huntress, chasing wild animals, dancing, playing, or bathing, with her companions, the nymphs, in the forests. This is also an appropriate time to mention that the Galleria Borghese, in Rome contains

a painting entitled "The Chase of Diana." It is one of the famous works of the master named Domenichino, and it portrays Diana with her nymphs shooting arrows and bathing in a forest retreat. All animals were sacred to this goddess but the hind, of course, was her favorite. This was the sacred animal which inspired the offerings of deer-shaped cakes during ancient ceremonies. Diana was also worshipped by Roman women who sacrificed to her for happiness in marriage and for normal childbirth.

Although her image was one of peace and tranquility, we are told that in Greece even the Spartans sought her favor by the sacrifice of a she-goat before a battle. It was prior to the battle of Marathon when Miltiades vowed to her as many goats as there were enemies who had fallen in the fields. The numbers were so great that the vow could not be kept, but instead, five hundred goats were sacrificed at each anniversary of the battle.

In addition to her position as goddess of the hunt and wildlife, she was also worshipped as the goddess of the

moon. Special holidays honored her with parades and sporting events. During the full moon, large round cakes with candles were carried in procession and presented as a symbol of her light. Girls between five and ten years old, clad in orange-yellow color garments were conducted in procession to the image of the goddess and commended to her care. As protectress of youth, young girls worshipped this virgin goddess as the guardian of their maiden years and prior to their marriage, they offered up a lock of their hair, their girdle, and their maiden garments.

Another interesting aspect of the Artemis-Diana worship was the construction of several temples, one after the other, on the same site in Ephesus, Syria, and dedicated alternately to Diana, then to Artemis. The latest structure was built about 350 B.C. so large that it became one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It became the center of the Pan-Ionic festival of the Asiatic colonies, and assumed to itself almost every public function. It was serviced by special priests, priestesses, image makers, poets, and soothsayers, while at the same time it offered asylum to fugitives, acquired vast wealth, became a treasury, and even a bank. The roof of the temple was supported by 127 columns which were between 54 and 60 feet high. Thirty-six of the columns were beautifully sculptured on their lower sections, while the gable end of the temple showed the goddess flanked with her devotees bringing offerings.

The most celebrated ancient statue of this goddess is the "Diana of Versailles" which once stood in Emperor Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, his favorite residence. During this emperor's reign, the villa contained miniature reproductions of many famous structures in antiquity. The next time you visit the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, look off in the distance (about half a mile) and you'll see the ruins of one of the most splendid villas that the world has ever known. I'm sorry to say that time and the elements have taken their toll and most tours don't even visit the area now. After all, how do you think you'll look when you're 1900 years old?

NEXT ISSUE: *Dionysus and Bacchus*

City Councilor LaMattina Calls for United Front on Opposition to Toll Hikes

Last Wednesday's public hearing on proposed toll increases for the harbor tunnels was attended by a large contingent of concerned citizens, including groups from Charlestown, the North End and East Boston. District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina offered praise for those who took the time to turn out.

"This is a critical issue for us," said LaMattina. "People must know about the devastating impacts that these toll hikes would have on our neighborhoods."

There was some powerful testimony at the hearing, which was held at the state transportation building. Residents and small business owners in the communities that would be negatively affected by the increase stood up and spoke plainly and honestly.

"I'm encouraged by what I saw. There were longtime residents side-by-side with those who've moved into our neighborhoods in recent years," LaMattina said. "People are angry. I'm angry. This proposal is outrageous and unfair, and we cannot let this appointed board impose a policy that is so detrimental to the lives of hardworking individuals and families."

LaMattina himself spoke at the hearing, saying that the exorbitant tolls that have been proposed would be "like an embargo on East Boston" and would cause traffic congestion problems on local streets in several communities. The councilor added that any attempt to eliminate the residential exemption would cause "a war."

Several local elected officials, including LaMattina, have called on the Turnpike Authority's board of directors to explore options to the toll hikes, including a small increase in the state gasoline tax, an idea that House Speaker Sal DiMasi said is worth exploring.

"We need to stand together on this," LaMattina said. "Old and young, blue-collar and white-collar, all backgrounds — we have to be united, and we have to make our voices heard."



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

Sal LaMattina & Family

*Boston City Councilor
District 1*

*Warmest Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
and a Wonderful New Year!*




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Commonwealth of Massachusetts




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MIKE CAPUANO**



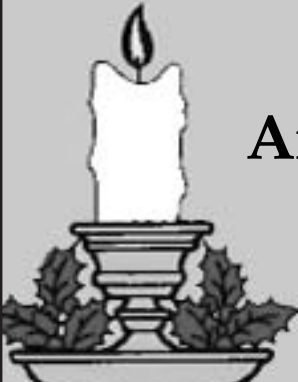
TO THE READERS OF
THE *POST-GAZETTE*

SEASON'S GREETINGS

**SAL & DEBBIE
DIMASI**

Happy Holidays

from
**Sheriff
Andrea J. Cabral**



and staff of
**The Suffolk County
Sheriff's Department**

*Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
from*

**NORTH SHORE
BUS CO., INC.
and the
Anzuoni Family**

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Friday, December 19, 2008

38th Annual NEAA Christmas Parade

by Bob DeCristoforo

Santa landed at the North End Puopolo Park on Sunday, and paraded through the streets of the North End accompanied by his many friends, to make sure all his kids were 'not naughty, but very nice' as he gets ready for his busy Christmas Eve trip. Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus, and there always will be thanks to the NEAA, and all their helpers, who welcome him to our neighborhood each year in this very special way. Teddy Tomasone, and his crew put it all together, and like the NEAA Christmas Parade they are all spectacular! Thank You for keeping Christmas in the NEAA Christmas Parade.



Santa with a few of his many friends

Christmas Prayer

by Vita Orlando Sinopoli

My Christmas Poem is dedicated to
 all USA Service Men and Women
 serving each day throughout the world

Christmas Day is here again,
 Santa's on his way,
 Many hearts will be so sad
 On that Sacred day.

Our church bells will ring,
 And our hearts should sing,
 Yet tears will fall in rhythm of
 Those beautiful hymns.

Then Santa will drop
 Through our chimney top
 So many toys for girls and boys
 While mothers sit and pray.

Dear Lord whose birthday is today
 Please have those far away
 Successfully fill their wondrous tasks
 So they'll come home to stay.

Then next year we'll join in
 And though with tears we'll sing,
 They'll be tears of happiness
 If bells of PEACE will ring.



Danilchuk Takes Top Prize in 3rd Annual Holiday Window Contest

East Boston Main Streets and the East Boston Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all East Boston businesses who participated in the 3rd Annual Holiday Window Contest.

This year 27 local businesses participated in the 3rd Annual Holiday Window Contest. Local artists Laura Rollins and Melissa Tyler have selected the top three winners and five runners up. First prize was given to Danilchuk Auto Body Inc., 73 Addison Street who won 2 Celtics ticket donated by Joe Ruggiero. Second prize was awarded to Jonathan's Hair Salon, 147 Maverick Street and they received a gift certificate from Rino's. The third prize went to A&L Bakery, 330 Summer Street who received a gift certificate from D'Parma Ristorante.

The five runners up are The Elder Service Plan at Lewis Mall, the Smart Choices Program at Harborside Community Center, Fashion Flowers, Spinelli's and Al's Shoe Store.

St. Agrippina's Christmas Program a Huge Success!

St. Agrippina's membership held its 14th annual Christmas Program for North End children on Sunday December 14th. The program once again, was a huge success! Santa Claus arrived at St. Agrippina's Chapel via fire engine. There were many families anxiously waiting for his arrival, while the band played holiday music. Santa Claus took an individual picture with the children, gave them an age appropriate gift, a balloon, and a gift bag filled

with school supplies and candy treats for over 125 children. Santa's friends made special guest appearances. Furthermore, the World Champion Boston Celtics Cheerleaders made a special visit to the program and added plenty of smiles and good wishes to the families of the North End. A very merry good time was had by everyone that attended.

The membership would like to thank the following for their support of the program, Speaker Sal DiMasi, Councilor Sal LaMattina, Senator Anthony Petrucci, The Knights of Columbus, North End Against Drugs, Green Cross Pharmacy, VFW Post #144 North End, Dr. Anthony Bova, Al Dente's,

Mangia Mangia, Rodman Insurance, George's Auto Body, Bianco's Sausage Company, Millennium Cleaners, Balloons Over Boston, Mike's Pastry, Umberto's Pizzeria, the North End Fire Station, Hillside Press, The World Champion Boston Celtics and Patte Papa of the Mayors Office of special events.

The membership of St. Agrippina's Society is very proud of the Christmas Program for North End children. Our membership would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We thank everyone for their participation and we look forward to seeing everyone at our 95th annual feast July 31st, August 1st and 2nd. Viva St. Agrippina!!!



The Pirandello Lyceum

Extends ... Best Wishes
 Buon Natale Merry Christmas

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 Dr. Stephen Maio, *Chairman of the Board*
 Frank Ciano, Esq., *First Vice-President*
 Maria Capogreco, *Second Vice President/Treasurer*
 Allyn Christopher, *Recording Secretary*
 Dorothy Maio, *Corresponding Secretary*

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Happy Holidays



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Joseph V. Ferrino, RET. Founder/Exec. Director
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Holiday Greetings
 to All



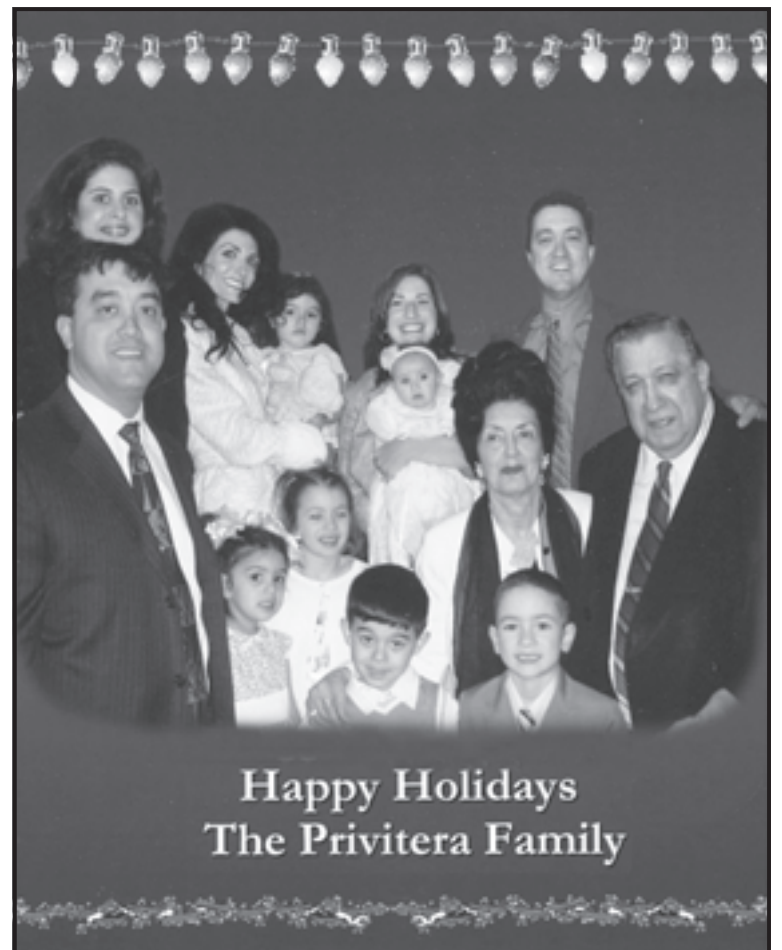
Al Natale
 & The Classic
 Swing Orchestra

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

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

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
 The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113



Happy Holidays
 The Privitera Family

WHEN SICILY SHAKES: Remembering Messina's Earthquake of 1908

by Orazio Z. Buttafuoco

On December 28, 1908 Messina paid dearly in human lives. Standing at the epicenter of the tragic seismic phenomenon, the city was nearly wiped out from the map. The catastrophe recorded over 60,000 dead and 40,000 others remained unaccounted for. Many of the survivors ran away from their destroyed homes, looking for a new home, or shelter, and for a new life. A little boy and his family settled in my own hometown, grew up, and eventually became an elementary school teacher, my teacher!

As customary in their nature, the United States rushed to help the survivors, bringing tents, food and medicines. Only a few survivors decided to remain in their homes, the homes of their ancestors. Help came also from other countries including Russia; the Russian fleet was sailing in the Mediterranean Sea at the time of the earthquake. An international effort to bring all kinds of help followed. Those who decided to stay and help to bring about the reconstruction were housed in wooden little homes and other temporary lodgings financed with international help. The Italian Americans of New York's 'Little Italy' raised thousands of dollars that reached the survivors. The American ships began to

unload large quantities of lumber and whatever materials were needed for the reconstruction. Even American engineers came to Messina to teach the locals how to build the new homes. The help coming from the United States was the most relevant. The American President, Teddy Roosevelt, asked and got, from the U.S. Congress, a subsidy of \$100,000.

An important symposium has recently taken place in New York, at the Italian Academy of Columbia University, with the participation of eminent scholars, particularly Prof. Marcello Saiya, of the University of Messina, The Italian Consul General of New York Francesco Maria Talo', Prof. Achille Varzi, Director of the Italian Academy at Columbia University, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Martino (born near Messina), the former Italian Ambassador to the UN Francesco Paolo Fulci, Guido Bertolaso, the Undersecretary of Civil Defense and Assistant to the UN Secretary General of Human Affairs, and several other prominent officials and guests. Bertolaso showed documentaries that were shot right after the earthquake, which were an important addition to the symposium.

As stated by Prof. Saiya, those who visit Messina today cannot imagine the city

before the earthquake. The city has changed radically, not just in its urban setting. But the dynamism of the old city is hardly noticeable today. Reconstruction did not proceed as planned. The cumbersome and overly slow work of the Italian bureaucracy created a slowdown of the reconstruction itself, creating further difficulties to the owners of the destroyed, or damaged homes. The earthquake that destroyed the city of Messina also caused a frightful tsunami that almost destroyed the city of Reggio, Calabria, just across the Straits, on the southernmost tip of the Italian peninsula. The records that were kept by the newspapers mention that the dead were, in all, about 150,000, on both sides of the straits. It has been estimated that the violence of the earthquake was nearly eight on the Richter Scale. Catherine Bragg, of the Human Affairs office at the UN, strongly emphasized the need of 'coordination' in the delivery and distribution of international help. The Italian Civil Defense, a new department, is quite organized today.

It has been said that Sicily is like a gorgeous woman, therefore often very fragile. Let's hope that no other catastrophe of the same kind occur in Sicily, or anywhere!



Freeway Says ...

You can email your questions to postgazette@aol.com to the attention of Freeway.

Christmas is getting closer only six days away. I noticed my dog's stocking hanging over the fireplace but I didn't see anything in it maybe, my human companion is going to surprise me and fill it the night before Christmas. Wow! What's going on? No Christmas gifts, no stocking filled. This season we should think of others, try to give more to the animal shelters for food and medicine, to the homeless, and to help out more in our community. Everyday is Christmas for us Freeway we should send a donation to different organizations that need help like Salvation Army; Red Cross those in

need. This is not a good financial year for a lot of families; people are losing their jobs and homes. It is time to be charitable that is what we should do. The Christmas lights maybe lit, and the boy and girl choirs are singing trying to give us the Christmas spirit we need to get past this year and we All Will. We are Strong; we do best in a difficult situation. The year of 2008 will be something of the past and 2009 will be a better year. I am certain of that.

To all my readers and my friends at the *Post-Gazette* "Merry Christmas" *That's all for now ...*

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Mrs. Murphy . . . As I See It

Santa has gotten news of all the financial problems the Nation is facing. He worries if this Christmas will especially be a happy one for many hard working people. As he rounds up his reindeers and boards his sleigh he prepares his takeoff from the North Pole into East Boston.

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the streets people were waiting for the King of the North Pole to greet. As Santa's sleigh heads down from the sky, he spots a sign that reads in different languages there's an entrance fee of \$25.00 to land in East Boston. Santa forgive us for the fee and all; Mayor Menino needs a new City Hall ... Massport is there to make Santa aware that the state is in great deficit ... Santa wonders where all the believers are, and does spot some not too far. Some with grins, and others with tears, as Santa tries to wipe away their fears ... The economy down, and lots of sadness in town, Santa asks how to help wipe away their frown. To the failing mortgage companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac he said very nice, you shouldn't have

followed Barney Frank's advice. To the greedy CEO's he hands them a one way ticket out of town, and utters you're all very wicked with a frown ... Governor Deval Patrick off on another trip just can't wait! But Santa catches up with him and asks what have you done for this state??? ... To Santa's delight he spots more friends lined up along the streets anxiously awaiting for Santa to speak. With a twinkle in his eye, and his beard pearly white, he quivers and shakes to everyone's delight. His promise of a better New Year gets a cheer, and orders the people to wipe away that tear ... Santa explains Mrs. Claus could not attend, she was recently ill and is on the mend ... Santa's first stop is Tony's Realty to ask when real estate values will rise, he has some property he wants to dump, he's far too old for the real estate slump ... Before Santa begins his rounds, he visits the YMCA and buys the popular Calendar Girls Calendar with a picture of 12 women who posed to raise money for charity. As he views each woman of the month, he's impressed by each and everyone ... Then off to Station Seven to say hello to Captain

Cunningham and the police officers, to thank them for all their hard work and keeping East Boston a very safe place ... A quick hop next door to the Court House where a banquet of delicacies awaits Santa. He nods and winks at the court house staff, and toasts the big brass. Clerk Magistrate Joe Faretra gives Santa a tour, as the staff applauds Santa with a thunderous roar. Santa offers condolences to Sandra Caggiano's family on the loss of their beloved father, and husband Mike ... Before Santa arrives at Central Square, he makes a pit stop at Gloria's Food Market to pick up a huge cold cut platter with all the trimmings, to share with the ZUMIX Kids Choir waiting to entertain their favorite "Man of the Hour". Madeleine, Director of ZUMIX gives Santa a taped recording of her talented kids Christmas Carol songs ... As Santa glances around he notices the absence of Sal Lombardo. The Lombardo family is sad, an icon is gone, but Santa reminds them their beloved father will never be forgotten for the kindness and respect he gave East Boston ... Santa visits with Benny and Debra Tauro, and receives a beautiful mirror to admire himself from their two sons Paul and Danny of Tauro Glass on Chelsea Street ... Santa is presented with a huge box of homemade Italian cookies from the Capogreco family, and a bottle of aged wine from their wine cellar stash, to open when Santa hosts a big bash! ... Boston City Councilor Sal LaMattina looking sharp as a tack gives Santa an agenda of city proposals he's trying to enact. State Rep. Carlo Basile and family are also on hand to welcome Santa to the multi-cultural land ... Santa crosses the street to Pericola's landmark gift shop where he is given a designer

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Happy Holidays
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Marisa Di Pietro **Buddy Mangini**
 President Lt. Gov., Division 14

Happy Holidays to One and All

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Happy Holidays to One and All

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ALL THAT ZAZZ

by Mary N. DiZazzo



Have a Lush-ious Christmas '08

Ciao bella,

Wondering what to get for that someone special on your list? Or maybe just a thoughtful treat to show appreciation?

LUSH is the way to go! Lots of loving care go into all their products and the "scents" just take you to places you yearn to go. As always there are gift boxes to go — full of goodies, wrapped and ready.

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It doesn't matter if you've been naughty or nice, this Santa will scent the air with chocolate and vanilla bringing you a calming, relaxing haven amidst the chaos of Christmas.

THE SNOWDROPS BATH BOMB

An invigorating bomb made with essential oils of mandarin, grapefruit and peppermint. Partied a little to hardy? Then this soak is for you, soothing aching feet and headaches. A perk me up for sure. (vegan)

FROTHY THE SNOWMAN BUBBLE BAR

Fill your tub with comforting vanilla orange and sandalwood. Great for your skin with the sandalwood encouraging relaxation and a sense of well being.

CHRISTMAS CAKE SLICE

Imagine a giant slab of Christmas cake you can wash with? Smells delicious — remember don't eat it! Enjoy the Almond oil rich in vitamin A & E nourishing the skin.

DOUBLE FAST LUCK EMOTIBOMB (the bath bomb for your shower)

Created for Chinese New

Year to bring good luck and fortune. Enjoy its coin shape fragrance of patchouli, ylang ylang, lavender, orange and lemon grass. Great gift idea for friends — "Double fast Luck" is a spell to bring growth, prosperity, vitality and energy! We all can use the good Karma.

STRAWBERRY SANTA SHOWER JELLY

This Santa shaped jelly comes in a delicious smelling aroma of strawberries. Moisturizes with mineral rich spring water. Contains sweetness of coconut and vanilla pod both for calming the skin and mind. (Vegan)

LET THEM EAT CAKE LIP BALM

Wow — tastes like cake with extra softening ingredients to keep those lips kissable for those mistletoe moments. I find it helps satisfy a "cake" craving! Contains Organic Olive Oil and shea butter to retain moisture. There is also a sprinkle of cinnamon to plump and redden lips!

These are just a few of the marvelous and uplifting products LUSH has to offer. Visit your local stores in Boston, Cambridge and now New in Natick.

I want to take this opportunity to wish my colleagues at the *Post-Gazette* and all my readers *Buon Natale*.

— Mary N. DiZazzo

Read prior weeks' "All That Zazz" columns at www.mary4nails.com. Mary is a third-generation cosmetologist and a Massachusetts distributor of *Kosmea* brand *rose hip oil* products. She may be contacted at (978) 470-8183 or mary@mary4nails.com

Saint Leonard Parish Annual Christmas Concert 2008

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

The message of Christmas is one of joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. We commemorate this event in many ways, we exchange gifts, we send greeting cards, we gather with family and friends in celebration and most of all we attend Mass in remembrance of the event when God, out of love for us, sent His Son into the world, entering human history for the redemption of mankind. One of the most expressive and evocative ways of conveying the joy of the Season is through music, like poetry it is transformational, enabling the expression of emotions that simple words alone cannot convey.

The Annual Saint Leonard Parish Christmas Concert that took place on Sunday, December 14th, perfectly captured the spirit of the season. The Parish choir under the direction of Dan Dryzmalski accompanied by the immensely talented organist, Kevin Galie, presented a beautiful performance of seasonal hymns woven together through the recitation of the Christmas story. The concert took place

in the magnificent setting of Sacred Heart's upper church, the most recent in a series of Christmas Concerts held at the historic church quickly becoming a North End tradition.

Following a greeting to the audience by Richard Molinari and an introduction by Mr. Dryzmalski the concert opened with a beautiful rendering of "Once in Royal David's City" by longtime North End resident, Jessica Dello Russo. Other solos were performed by Rosalbe Schino, Antonella Spinace-Casale, Ottavio Nardone, Teresa Soccio, Gabriela Colombo, Margherita Comerford and Dan Dryzmalski. The choir presented a varied selection of hymns sung in English, Latin, Polish and Italian; from classic favorites to the beautiful Polish folk hymn "Lulajze Jezurniusung. The concert concluded with a sing-along that included the touching Italian carol, "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle" and a rousing version of "Joy to the World" both enthusiastically sung by the audience.

Closing remarks were made by Mr. Dryzmalski who then introduced Fr. Antonio Nardoanni, Pastor of

Saint Leonard Parish, who expressed his delight with the quality of the choir and taste in the musical selection. Father Antonio thanked the concert organizers and all who participated in any way to its success. He went on to thank Carmen Guarino of Citizens Bank acknowledging their continuing sponsorship of the concert. He expressed a special thank you to Fr. Dominic Ruggeri who was in attendance and one of the many Scalabrini pastors who served at Sacred Heart Church for over a century. Fr. Antonio thanked the audience for attending, the largest since the series of Christmas concerts began four years ago, then invited everyone to Saint John Hall, just across the street, for the Parish annual Christmas Party where guests were treated to pizza donated by Galleria Umberto, and Bova Bakery, pastry from Maria's Pastry Shop and Mike's Pastry and sandwiches by Artu Ristorante.

The Saint Leonard Parish Christmas Concert has become an awaited event in the North End, an integral and lovely aspect of this Joyous Season.

*Buon Natale
Felice Capo
S' Anno
from
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At the Cartier Holiday Party, Dr. Tonya Mezrich tries on the diamond cluster necklace, while sitting on Santa's lap. (Photo by Roger Farrington)

The Cartier Holiday Party at the Cartier Boutique on Newbury Street was held on December 1st and featured the famous Cartier Santa and unique jewelry from the Cartier Collection in New York.

Nearly 200 guests, many representing Boston nonprofits including Boston Ballet and the French Library and Cultural Center, attended the glittery social soiree, which marked the beginning of Boston's holiday festivities.

As in years past, guests got the fun opportunity to sit

on Santa's lap and have their photos taken while wearing the "High Jewelry Diamond Cluster Necklace" set in 18K yellow gold, consisting of 9 pear-shape diamonds and 380 brilliant-cut diamonds for a total weight 56.83 carats. We are told that the necklace is valued at \$511,000!

Among the guests welcomed by Cartier manager Cedric Tonello were Boston Ballet Trustee Eve Rounds, Bill Emery of 28 Degrees, Jared Bowen of WGBH's "Greater Boston," Suzanne Eliastan, Patricia Bradley,

Brigitte and Gerard Moufflet, Dr. Tonya Mezrich and Boston Ballet Trustee Pamela Humphrey, just to name a few.

The photos will make a nice remembrance of a lovely evening, for sure!

..... We are told that Eastern Standard Kitchen & Drinks is hosting a Chanukah Party on Tuesday, December 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

We're invited to attend with friends or meet some new ones at the Chanukah celebration, Eastern Standard-style, featuring communal tables and family-style service serving a traditional holiday menu including: Grandma Goldie's Chopped Liver, Marlo's Matzo Ball Soup, Burt's Brisket, Potato Latkes, Sour Cream & Apple Sauce and Beignets. Yum!

Eastern Standard Kitchen is located in Kenmore Square at 528 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. For reservations and more information, call Molly at 617-532-9100.

..... On January 8, Music Circus Productions presents "An Evening With ABBA The Tour" at The Wilbur Theatre in Boston at 7:30 p.m.

As Paula Gates told us, "Come sing, come dance, come have the time of your life ... and experience the magic of the music of ABBA,

The Socia

by Hilda M. Morrill



Cartier Boutique manager Cedric Tonello, center, welcomes Bill Emery of 28 Degrees, left, and Jared Bowen of WGBH's "Greater Boston" to the party.

(Photo by Roger Farrington)

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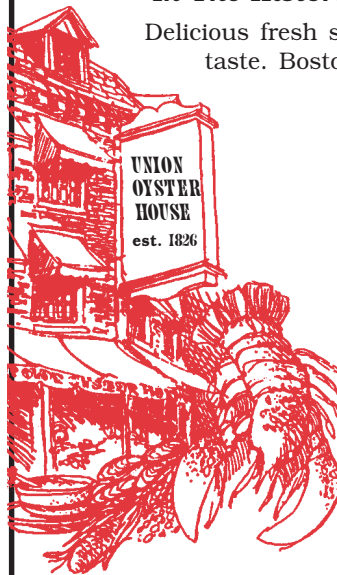
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Boston Ballet Trustee Pamela Humphrey has her picture taken with Santa and the famous diamond cluster necklace.
(Photo by Roger Farrington)

radiantly recreated on stage by ABBA The Tour! If you loved 'Mamma Mia,' you'll love this show!"

The overwhelming success of the Broadway musical 'Mamma Mia' and the touring sensation that is 'ABBA-The Tour' proves just how popular the music of ABBA remains in the 21st century.

Hit after hit is performed with an uncanny resemblance in visuals and sound: "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," "The Winner Takes It All," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Waterloo," "S.O.S.," "Take A Chance On Me," "Fernando," and many more. "ABBA-The Tour" radiantly presents the classics of one of the most commercially successful pop bands in history.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 617-931-2000, online at www.thewilburtheatre.com, or at the Wilbur Theatre Box Office box office, open Monday through Friday between noon and 6 p.m.

The Wilbur Theatre is located at 246 Tremont Street, Boston.

..... The Boston Symphony Orchestra will offer \$20 concert tickets to patrons under the age of 40 to BSO concerts for the remainder of the 2008-2009

Symphony Hall season, thanks to a generous contribution by an anonymous underwriter who will pay the difference between the full and discounted ticket prices.

Four thousand \$20 tickets, normally priced from \$29 to \$115, will be made available to more than 45 Boston Symphony concerts throughout the remainder of the season. The generous underwriter of this special gift, a BSO concertgoer for many years, hopes to ensure that the next generation of music enthusiasts can attend BSO concerts as often as they like and enjoy the thrill of a live concert at a relatively low cost.

Eligible patrons may purchase up to two tickets per show and must provide proof of age in order to receive the discount.

This new offer complements the BSO's ongoing effort to bring the live concert experience to young music enthusiasts by making it more accessible and affordable. The BSO is devoted to reaching out to young audiences, from extensive education programs targeting children and young adults; to the college card and repartee programs focused on college and post-graduate aged patrons; to

Symphony +, a series of pre- and post-concert events designed to enhance the overall concert experience by offering social and educational opportunities to concertgoers.

Patrons who take advantage of this special offer can purchase \$20 tickets to 13 different BSO programs including two programs under the direction of James Levine — Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra" on January 29 and 31 and February 3 and the world premiere performance of Gunther Schuller's "Where the Word Ends" on February 5, 6 and 7; Kurt Masur leading and all-Mendelssohn program on January 22, 24, and 27; Alan Gilbert leading a program of the music of Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, and Ives on March 5, 6, 7 and 10.

Also: Hans Graf conducting Brahms and Bruckner on March 19, 20, 21 and 24; Charles Dutoit leading a program of music by Ravel, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky on March 26, 27, and 28; and Sir Colin Davis leading Berlioz's "Te Deum" on April 30, May 1 and 2.

Dates not included in this special offer include January 23, and April 10 and 16, among others. All ticket offers are subject to availability.

Tickets may be purchased by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston), or online through the BSO's Web site, www.bso.org.

..... Looking ahead: The hit Broadway musical "Jersey Boys" is scheduled to play at the Shubert Theatre in Boston from July 23 to August 30.

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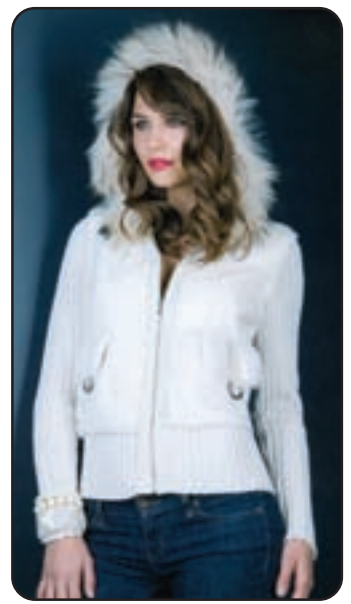
(Be sure to visit Hilda Morrill's gardening Web site, www.bostongardens.com. In addition to events covered and reported by the columnist, "The Socially Set" is compiled from various other sources such as news and press releases, PRNewswire services, etc.)

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Bob D's Beat by Bob DeCristoforo

FR. VINCENT DAILY

On Sunday, December 21st Fr. Vincent Daily will be celebrating his 50th Ordination Anniversary at St. Stephen's Church at 11:00 a.m. Bishop Robert Hennessey will be the Celebrant. Following the Mass a reception will take place at the Rectory. At the end of the Mass Bishop Hennessey will bless a plaque commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the St. James Society concluding the anniversary celebrations of the Society.

VIVA ST. AGRIPPINA



Santa Claus and Warren Mustachio

St. Agrippina DiMinea Benefit Society 14th Annual 'Christmas Program for North End Children' took place on

Sunday (December 14th) at the Society Club on Hanover Street. The 'smiles' on the kid's faces, as they got a gift from Santa, who was in town for this pre-Christmas activity, said it all. Viva St. Agrippina, Viva Santa Claus, and Viva to Santa's Society members Helpers, who made the day another success.

CHRISTMAS IN NYC



Ground Zero

For seven out of the last eight years North End Against Drugs has coordinated a day trip to New York City, the second Saturday in December. Our 'Christmas in New York

has become a great family tradition. Saturday, December 13th we took the magical journey, and while everyone does their own thing, the stories told on the way home are quite similar. Looking and listening around on the bus I know the real beauty of this day ... IT'S CHRISTMAS!

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

The North End has been very much alive with the sounds of Christmas music over the past few days. St. Stephen's Church hosted the NEMPAC Christmas Recital on Friday evening. Sacred Heart Italian Church was the host for the very beautiful St. Leonard's Parish 'A Christmas Festival' performed by St. Leonard of Port Maurice Choir, sponsored by Citizen's Bank. Handel's Messiah was celebrated at the Old North Church and the Dante Alighieri Society presented an Italian concert at the Nazzaro Community Center. On Friday, December 19th the Nazzaro Community Center Band will have a concert of their own at the Center.

ST. ANTHONY SOCIETY

North End Against Drugs would like to 'Thank' the St. Anthony Society for their very generous donation The St. Anthony Society has always been a big part of the NEAD family.

HIGH SCHOOL PREP NOTEBOOK

Charlestown High School stars Omar Abdi and Ahmed Ali were named to both the *Boston Herald* and *Boston Globe* All Scholastic Cross Country Teams. Omar was also the *Globe's* 'Runner of the Year'.

Buon Natale

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VIDEO VIEWS

by Bob Morello

... more than meets the eye

HITMAN: DAVID FOSTER & FRIENDS Thirteen-WNET

Songwriter/Producer David Foster takes center stage in a concert gala currently being broadcasted on PBS stations. Viewers are treated to an evening of 'Great Performances' as Foster surrounds himself with music royalty that includes Andrea Bocelli, Celine Dion, Josh Groban, and Michael Buble. Bocelli duets with Katharine McPhee — who also performs "Somewhere," on "The Prayer" co-written by Foster, Dion delivers "Because You Loved Me," Groban provides the closer with the uplifting "You Raise Me Up," while Buble and country star Blake Shelton bring it on via "Home." Add to that impressive list with performers — Kenny G, Michael Johns, Peter Cetera, Cheryl Lynn, Boz Scaggs, Brian McKnight, Babyface & Kevon Edmonds, and American Idol 'hottie' Michael Johns. Two new Foster discoveries feature the 16-year old Charice from the Philippines and pianist William Joseph. Easy to see how Foster earned 15 Grammys!

AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE: VOL. 6 (DVD) Warner Home Video

The epic tale of Frylock, Master Shake and Meatwad, three human-sized food products looking for acceptance, friendship and yes, even love, in the wilds of New Jersey. The rest of the time, they do things like try to figure out ways to make money or hang out in their neighbor Carl's aboveground swimming pool, and stuff like that. The show, which re-

cently completed its sixth year, consistently ranks as one of the most popular TBS television series on Adult Swim, which is the #1 ranked programming block in its time period on basic cable with men 18-24. (2 hrs. 28 mins./Available now).

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: THE COMPLETE FOURTH SEASON (7-DVD) Universal Studios Home Ent.

1978-79 was the fourth season for SNL, and they continued their success with hilarious sketches as John Belushi/Dan Aykroyd's 'Blues Brothers' - Bill Murray as 'The Lounge Singer' — Gilda Radner's 'Candy Slice' — Jane Curtin 'The Loud Family' — Aykroyd's 'Fred Garvin: Male Prostitute' and Murray/Radner's 'The Nerds'. The season also saw the return of Steve Martin with Aykroyd as the 'Wild and Crazy Festrunk Brother. Classic performances from star hosts, and unforgettable musical guests. (22 hrs. 33 mins./Available now).

ANAMORPH (DVD) Genius Entertainment

Willem Dafoe is a detective drawn into a gruesome case in this intense psychological thriller. Haunted by the killings, he soon finds himself confronting his own deadly past. With each slaying, the investigation takes a different, darker turn. And the nearer he's drawn to the murders, the closer he could become the ultimate victim — or take the fall for the crimes. Also starring Scott Speedman and Clea Duvall. (1 hr. 43 mins./Available now).

Merry
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and a
Happy New Year



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Sal and Yvonne

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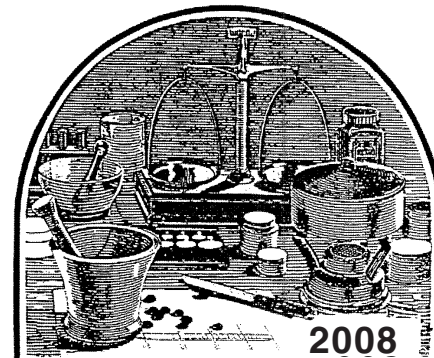


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MUSIC

THE REGENT THEATRE
7 Medford Street, Arlington, MA
THE AMERICAN BELLES - Saturday, December 20th at 2:00 and 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 21st. The American Belles will take you on a sentimental journey through American standards, seasonal and patriotic favorites.

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 more information, please call: 781-646-4849 or visit: www.regenttheatre.com

Special Events

SANDERS THEATER
1350 Mass Ave. Cambridge
CHRISTMAS REVELS - December 18-22 and 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: Online at www.revels.org and www.fas.harvard.edu/~tickets. By phone: 617-496-2222 (Tuesday - Sunday 12-6pm). In-Person: Harvard Box Office, 1350 Mass Ave. Cambridge (same hours).

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6th ANNUAL A CHRISTMAS CELTIC SOJOURN WITH BRIAN O'DONOVAN - Now through December 21, 2008. WGBH is presenting this must-see holiday tradition which features an ensemble cast of music, dancing, songs and stories in the Celtic Tradition. For tickets and more information, please call: 1-800-233-3123 or visit: www.wgbh.org/celtic.

OMNI PARKER HOUSE HOTEL
60 School Street, Boston, MA
A CHRISTMAS CAROL - Friday, December 19th at 7:00 PM. This event is sponsored by WBUR to benefit Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women. Relive history and join your favorite WBUR personalities for a special reading of this timeless holiday tale. For tickets call: 617-318-0232 or visit: www.rosiesplace.org.

GREAT COMPANY: PORTRAITS BY EUROPEAN MASTERS - Now through January 5, 2009. A selection of portraits and sculpture by European masters dating from the Renaissance to the 20th century will grace the Coolidge Gallery. This is a must see collection! For more information on any of the museum's other exhibits, please visit www.mfa.org/calendar or call 617-369-3300.

ART

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA
PLACE (VILLAGE) 2006-2008 - Now through January 25, 2009. These are the works by renowned sculptor Rachel Whiteread. This exhibition includes sculptural pieces and some rarely seen drawings by the artist. This exhibit also features 200 vintage dollhouses.

DANCE

THE CITI - WANG THEATRE
270 Tremont Street, Boston, MA
THE NUTCRACKER - Now through December 27, 2008 - features the entire Ballet Company and more than 200 children from the Boston Ballet School. The cherished Tchaikovsky score will be performed by the Boston Ballet Orchestra. For tickets call: 1-866-348-9738 or visit www.bostonballet.com

ITALIAN EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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.
Buon Natale a Tutti! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.
NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE
A CHRISTMAS CAROL - Now through December 21, 2008. For more information, call: 978-232-7200 or visit: www.nsmst.org.

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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

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Ray Barron's 11 O'CLOCK NEWS

When Barack Obama campaigned in Iowa last year, he and his family frequented the Baby Boomers Cafe in Des Moines, where they grew to love the shop's chocolate chunk cookies. Word of the Obamas' cookie habit spread and now sales of the cookies have shot from 400 a week to more than 1,000, with requests coming from as far away as Mexico. "Two months ago I was giving these cookies away," said co-owner Rodney Maxfield. "Now, it's like 'I need two dozen cookies, I need four dozen cookies,' I think everybody just thought, 'Oh, great cookie, great president — the world is a happy place.'"

Bella Culo of Chestnut Hill, says, "If Barack Obama and his family had dined at an Italian restaurant and ordered Baccala, Baccala would become popular with people."

Congratulations! John Dawkins and Penny Cooper have become Great Britain's oldest newlyweds, with a combined age of 179. Taking advantage of a leap year tradition, 89-year-old Dawkins proposed to 90-year-old Cooper last February 29, after a nine-year courtship. Following the ceremony at a local registry office, the couple held a reception at the nursing home where Cooper lives. Both had been previously married; among their guests were 10 great-grandchildren. "It is a wonderful thing to love," said Dawkins. "Without a shadow of a doubt, I would have been a very grumpy old man if I had not met Penny."

Giuseppina, cosce storte, wonders if the newlyweds honeymooned.

The *National Italian American News Bureau* reported one of Italy's most beloved drinks, the Bellini, is turning sixty this year. The Bellini was created by Giuseppe Cipriani, owner of the celebrity hotspot Harry's Bar in Venice, in 1948. Experimenting with one of his favorite fruits, the white peach, Cipriani concocted the delicious mix of Italian Prosecco and peach puree, which became a favorite among his celebrity patrons.

The original drink called for a splash of cherry juice, to give the mixture a rosy color. The color reminded Cipriani of the colors in a painting by 15th century Venetian painter Giovanni Bellini. Thus, the name "Bellini" was dubbed.

A shoe-in! Italy's top shoe company happened almost by accident: One hot day, Mario Moretti Pelagato was running while visiting Nevada to attend a wine conference and noticed his feet were sweating. From this incident, GEOX Respira, the shoes with "breathable technology," were born.

GEOX was founded in 1995 and consisted of a small workshop with five employees located outside Venice. At this year's end, GEOX will be sold in 68 countries, including 35 stores in the United States and 300 in Italy. In 2007, the company produced 21 million pairs of shoes and now boasts a 1.2-billion-dollar empire. GEOX has become one of the best shoe companies in the world.

Pelagato's focus, however, has remained on the origins of the shoes: We invest in technology that provides comfort for the people who wear our shoes," he explains.

Tom Analetto of Medford, says, if the high cost of living goes any higher, we'll be buying our shoes one at a time instead of a pair.

Joe Antonelli of Somerville claims the first thing a woman would do if she were in a man's shoes is kick them off.

Robyn Waters of Swampscott, reminds us, the only woman who doesn't wear shoes that are too tight is a mermaid.

Carlo Scostumato claims no man ever learns to shop properly: if he likes the first pair of shoes he tries on, he will buy them simply because they fit.

Remember! Never judge a woman's feet by the shape of her shoes.

Do you know what the name of the instrument shoe salespeople use to measure feet? Give up? The metal measurer is called the Brannock device.

Next question! How many gifts would you have if you received all the gifts mentioned in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas?" You would receive 364 gifts!

Deadly fan!

A Massachusetts funeral home sold its first Boston Red Sox casket to the family of a longtime fan. The coffin company will soon make them with other team logos, and also sell team-themed urns for those who prefer cremation.

Seeing things! The Montgomery Township, New Jersey, police, who laid siege to a closed bank after a shadowy figure was seen through drawn blinds. After a tense two-hour standoff, police realized that the suspect was actually a life-size cardboard figure.

Questions people ask: When did trees become part of Christmas celebrations? Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens were still used in Scandinavia-to scare away the devil. In the Middle Ages, the Christmas tree, decorated with candles and wafers (symbols of Christ and the Host), became popular, as did the gaily decorated wooden Christmas pyramid. By the sixteenth century, the two objects merged into what we now know as the Christmas tree. By the nineteenth century, the Christmas tree was popular across Europe and the United States.

What is the earliest reference to Christmas's being celebrated on December 25? In the middle of the second century, Christians in Antioch were already celebrating Christ's birth on that day. The day was not officially recognized by the Church as the date of Christ's birth until A.D. 350.

Kyle Waters of Swampscott wants to know what is the name of Santa's brother. In brief, according to Pennsylvania Dutch and French tradition, he is Bells Nichols. He visits every home on New Year's Eve after the children are asleep, and if plates are set out for him, he fills them with cakes and cookies.

Ah, Christmas! How well we remember a Christmas during World War II. There we were holed up in a cellar in Belgium as the Battle of the Bulge began. One of the guys mentioned it was Christmas and we all shouted at him to shut-up! Yes, many of us thought about how it would be great to be back home celebrating the holiday with our families. The only gift we received on that day in Belgium was none of us were wounded or killed. Enough said.

Time to hear from the noted musicologist Albert Natale. Lewis H. Dedner, composer of the music to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," claimed that the hymn's melody came to him in a dream on Christmas Eve. Charles Wesley, author of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (written in 1730), wrote a total of 6,000 hymns. He was inspired to write "Hark" while listening to the peeling of bells as he walked to church one Christmas morning.

Natale also reminds us one of the top songs of the 20th Century is Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" sung by Bing Crosby. Other top songs of the 20th Century includes, "Over the Rainbow, Judy Garland, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," The Andrews Sisters. Glenn Miller's "In the Mood." "When the Saints Go Marching In," Louis Armstrong. "You Are My Sunshine," Jimmy Davis. And John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Some great songs of World War II: "I'll Be Seeing You," sung by Frank Sinatra. "When The Lights Go On Again All Over The World," sang by Vaughn Monroe. "Long Ago And Far Away," sang by Jo Stafford. "I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time," sung by The Andrews Sisters. "There'll Be Bluebirds Over The White Cliffs of Dover," sung by Vera Lynn. Sammy Kaye's "You Always Hurt The One You Love." Charlie Spivak's "You Belong To My Heart." "I Left My Heart At The Stage Door Canteen," by Sammy Kaye. "Stardust," by Tommy Dorsey with Frank Sinatra and The Pied Pipers. And "Sentimental Journey," by Hal McIntyre.

AMERICA IS A BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN NAME



Recipes from the Homeland

by Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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BISCOTTI

4 cups flour
4 beaten eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
1 1/2 cups sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder
3 teaspoons vanilla**
1 cup chopped walnuts*

Mix sugar and oil. Add beaten eggs and vanilla. Gradually add flour and baking powder. Fold in chopped walnuts last. Spoon mixture by tablespoon onto lightly greased cookie sheet, forming a long strip about two inches wide and one inch thick. Place each strip about two inches apart because mixture spreads while baking. Bake at 350°F in preheated oven about fifteen to twenty minutes or until firm with bottoms slightly browned.

Allow cooling only a minute. With spatula, carefully lift one strip at a time onto cutting board. With a sharp serrated knife, slice each into 1-inch thick biscotti. As you slice, place sliced portions on the baking tray, side down. Return full tray into heated oven of 350°F for about ten to fifteen minutes to toast lightly.

After toasting, remove from cookie sheet to cool. These store well in a large canister.

**OPTIONAL: To make anise biscotti, replace vanilla flavoring with two teaspoons of anise. *Walnuts can be eliminated.

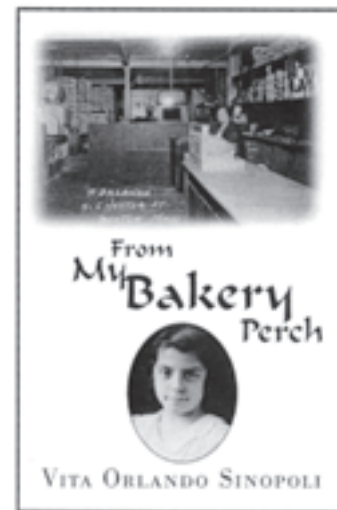
NOTE: My sister-in-law, Rose Sinopoli, introduced me to this recipe around 1955. I have made them in my home ever since.

Rose began baking biscotti as a young girl. The family came to America around 1920. She learned to make these biscotti from her mother, Antoniette (Pisano) Marcantonio. These old-time popular Italian treats are wonderful with coffee, tea, or alone. They are also well received by family members or friends as a gift during holidays.

Vita can be reached at voswriting@comcast.net

Mille Auguri Di Natale e Capo D'Anno

Vita Orlando Sinopoli



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Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



It was back in the 1940s, and I still believed in the Santa Claus. Mom and Aunt Ada (Uncle Nick's first wife and my Godmother), brought me to Jordan Marsh to visit with him. The 4th (maybe the 5th) floor toy department was decorated in the most magnificent way that only a kid could understand. I ignored the things for little girls and immediately ran to the display of electric trains. They had a platform which was, I would say about chest high to a ten-year-old and maybe twenty feet by twenty feet. It was decorated with hills, valleys, a frozen pond with skaters, trees, an array of stores in the center of sleepy suburban towns and the trains, of course. They used both Lionel and American Flyer in their display and every option that could accompany the concept of train transportation, both for freight and people.

I would marvel at the authenticity that their artists conjured up, and made mental notes as to how I was going to set my trains up under the Christmas tree, especially with the new things I was going to ask Santa for. The next stop was at the department where they displayed model planes. I was a model plane maker. My specialty was wooden models of American World War II aircraft. I had every one that we used to fight our enemies, and then some. Usually, I would buy balsam wood models made by P.K. Guillow of Wakefield. They were the least expensive and easiest to make. When gift time came around, I would ask for hard wood models made by Strombecker, a company that made the most authentic scale model war planes. When I tired of looking at trains and planes, we would head to the section that featured scientific toys. I loved erector sets, and the display of things made from the Gilbert sets were complicated and magnificent, especially the ones that represented machines with movable parts driven by a small electric motor which was part of most sets. Near by was a display of microscopes and an assortment of chemistry sets. I envisioned myself examining tiny

things under the lens of the most powerful scope while I mixed chemicals which would save the world from destruction.

When this part of the visit was over, Mom and Aunt Ada would bring me to a long line where I would take my place and anticipate a visit with Santa. At this particular visit, I sat next to Santa, and gave him a list of things I wanted. It began with, "And, what is your name, little boy?" I tipped my fedora to the back of my head and said, "John." Santa then asked, "Have you been a good boy this past year?" Of course, I admitted that I was a great kid and never gave my parents or my teachers any trouble. (Boy, could I play the game) The next question was, "And, what can I bring you for Christmas this year?" I was ready for him and blurted out, "First, I would like a new transformer to run my trains. Next I would like a box car that opens due to a switch on the track. I would like a train station for my passenger train and ten more pieces of O27 track (a particular size that was compatible with the track I already had.

Santa was nodding as if he understood, but before he could speak, I continued with my memorized list, "Next, I would like a model of a B25 Liberator (a WWII medium bomber) and a P40 Warhawk (The plane used by the famed Flying Tigers) with the glue to put the parts together and some paint to make them look real. As Santa opened his mouth to speak, I beat him to the punch and then asked for some extra parts for the Erector Set that I already had and then, for good measure, added in a microscope and a chemistry set. When I finally shut up, Santa looked at me and said, "Is that all you want?" Pulling my fedora forward, I answered that those were the gifts I desperately needed. Santa then assured me that he would do the best he could. A photographer yelled for me not to move and snapped a black and white of me and The Man. As I left the enclosed Santa location, an elf handed me a gift wrapped

package. (What I didn't know was that my mother had to pay for it.) That particular year it was a kid's puzzle of the map of the world. To this day, I know where most of the countries of the world are thanks to that puzzle.

Well, Christmas was approaching and at dinner one night, Dad asked me what I had said to Santa Claus. I mentioned the list I had given him verbally and Dad sounded skeptical as to whether I would get everything I asked for. I now think that he was mentally counting the dollars it would cost to satisfy my entire request.

On Christmas Eve, I wrote a note for Santa and put out a dish with cookies on it. I was going to pour a glass of milk to go with the cookies and Babbononno, who had been observing me, said, "Jenny, Sanda Clauza, heeza come-a inna da houza frum-a da colda. Maybe you shulda leave-a himma nyza glass oh wine."

I agreed and Nanna supplied the glass and Babbononno poured the wine, Zi' Antonio's best red of that season.

I went to bed early and on Christmas morning, I was up at the crack of dawn to see my presents. There were the model planes and the Erector Set parts but no train transformer and accessories I asked for. There was also a note from Santa stating that there weren't enough chemistry sets and microscopes to go around, and seeing I asked for so many things the last things on my list were to go to a little boy that didn't have much. I was satisfied with that, but where were the train parts. I was devastated until the phone rang. It was Uncle Nick. He explained that Santa Claus had made a mistake and left a new transformer and some track at his house. He would bring it later in the day when he came over for dinner.

I jumped for joy but couldn't understand how Santa made such a mistake. He was supposed to be perfect. When Uncle Nick arrived, he had unwrapped boxes labeled Lionel on the side and I knew that my gifts had arrived.

There was one problem that I didn't anticipate. I couldn't play with my trains. Dad and Uncle Nick assembled the new track and added it to my existing oval. Dad then hooked up the new transformer and he, Uncle Nick and Babbononno had to test out the new equipment to see if everything ran properly. When they thought I was going to begin to cry, they turned everything over to me and headed for the kitchen for some antipasti and Zi'Antonio's red wine.

It was finally Christmas and I could smell Nanna's gravy on the stove.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

• Mrs. Murphy (Continued from Page 6)

sweat shirt, compliments of David Oriola ... Santa can't wait to visit with Kelley Pub owners John Jr. and John Sr., to dine with pleasure with a glass of white wine. He jokes with the wait staff, and gives them tips, and remarks on the service that is so quick, quick, quick ... Santa's utters "It doesn't get any better than this!" ... As Santa glides down Bennington Street, he notices the *Post-Gazette* has a new satellite office at 35 Bennington Street. The *Gazette* staff is in the window blowing Santa a kiss! Santa raises his hand to assure them the paper can't miss! He steps from his sleigh, to ask that the newspaper be sent to the North Pole everyday ... A quick run into Elite Restaurant to pick up a jar of Joe's cherry-brandy preserves, and down a cup of hot fresh brew which Santa really deserves! ... Of course he cannot forget the famous Jeveli's Restaurant. He greets Eric Jeveli with a huge wide grin and sits down to a meal that's surely a win! ... Santa has a community service award for Joe Ruggiero who he describes as

a community hero. Santa informs Joe his Elves wish to be buried from the Ruggiero-Mazzarella Funeral Home when they go. They want a classy funeral and no one to cry just a wish to keep Christmas spirit always alive! ... Then Santa is off to the new Marriot Courtyard Hotel on McClellan Highway to view their newly redesigned interior. Santa wanders in and is met by some staff who have eggnog, and cookies and a lit yule log ... Before he leaves he waves to three of his friends, Buddy Mangini, George Gambale and Joe Keohane ... Santa returns to his sleigh with an empty sack and reminds everyone he'll be back. As Santa boards his sleigh, he waves and says, I'll return in July for the big celebration of Italia Unita's 15th big year. I'll spread cheer, and have a beer, and toast to a better economy next year ... As Rudolph's nose lights up, and the reindeers start flight, Santa wishes with all his might, for everyone Dear to have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year ...

THE CASSIOPEIA GRAIL

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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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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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NEWS BRIEFS

(FROM ITALIAN
NEWSPAPERS AND
OTHER PUBLICATIONS)

Compiled by Orazio Z. Buttafuoco

MISS ITALY IN THE WORLD VISITS ITALY! Miss Italy in the World, Fiorella Migliore, was elected in the resort town of Jesolo, near Venice, on June 24, 2008. She was born in Asuncion, Paraguay, on January 27, 1989. She paid a visit to the Paraguayan Ambassador in Rome, Crispino Humberto Galeano Bonzo who warmly congratulated Fiorella. She then went to Sicily to visit the town of Comiso, in the province of Ragusa where her paternal grandparents were born. Fiorella has dark-chestnut hair, green eyes, and is 5'6" tall. She is the 18th Miss Italy in the World elected.

IMMIGRANTS EASILY FIND JOBS IN ITALY. During the year 2007, the number of available jobs increased, albeit modestly. Those who seem to find jobs quite easily, even ahead of college graduates, are increasingly women, the 'over 55', and the immigrants, of course. The job market has slightly improved over the last 15 months, particularly for the categories that the 'natives' are reluctant to take. Legal immigrants are finding jobs that many Italians now stay away from, to the tune of 65% of all available jobs. Many of these legal immigrants work in the Center North Regions, mainly in hotels, restaurants, construction, and in the service field. It doesn't surprise anyone to realize that most of the jobs they take are in the low pay scale.

• Mayor's Column (Continued from Page 1)

chance to take these accomplishments to the next level by implementing energy efficiency upgrades in existing buildings, expanding solar and wind projects, supporting energy efficiency projects in residential buildings, and reinforcing our commitment to train workers in Boston's workforce for green jobs. Implementing these eco friendly initiatives will create jobs and save millions annually.

An economic recovery package should invest in our vibrant neighborhoods. With that in mind, there are projects around the City, from former brownfield sites to neighborhood infrastructure improvements, which would lead the way for future development. Stimulus funding could also accelerate the Boston Housing Authority's capital construction plan to improve public housing, including safety repairs. Every dollar of these

capital fund expenditures produces an economic return of two dollars and helps to satisfy the housing needs for many of the City's most vulnerable residents.

Ultimately, an economic recovery plan isn't about wish lists or bailouts. It's about jumpstarting the local and regional economic engines that power our nation. These proposed projects would improve community resources for children and families, rehabilitate former industrial sites to use for future neighborhood businesses, and encourage private growth by improving infrastructure. We can't afford to overlook the projects that may seem small individually, but together would serve to strengthen our neighborhoods and position Boston for future growth. By making these sound investments now, we will benefit from the returns for years to come.

Happy Holidays
from

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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

CITY: REBUILD NORTHERN AVENUE SPAN

A big boost seems on the way for the South Boston Waterfront as Mayor Menino unveiled plans to rebuild the old Northern Avenue Bridge.

The bridge over Fort Point Channel will be reinforced to allow a single lane of traffic for emergency vehicles, another for pedestrian use, and a third for small retail shops.

Rich McGuinness, deputy BRA director for waterfront planning says, "We'll be able to preserve and maintain the bridge and at the same time keep open the pedestrian connection."

The cost is estimated between \$35-\$40 million. Boston has received \$9.5 million in federal aid.

LABOR COALITION TARGETS CVS

A labor coalition released a report alleging discriminatory practices by CVS Caremark Corp., in how they choose locations and what services are offered across major US cities.

The "CureCVS" report is reportedly based on investigation by the Change to Win Labor Coalition and apparently found that CVS has nearly three times as many stores per person in white areas of Greater Boston as minority communities.

Spokesperson for the group Faron McLurkin says "CVS needs to be unbiased in all its practices."

CVS spokesperson Michael DeAngelis said the claims by the labor coalition are based on inaccurate or outdated information. He says, "CVS Caremark does not discriminate ... we don't look at demographics, and we don't look at income. We look at population density (and sites) that are convenient and accessible for consumers."

DeAngelis acknowledges that CVS has opened Minute Clinics for customers' minor ailments only in Boston suburbs. He said in Boston, the mayor doesn't allow them.

FEWER MILITARY BENEFITS FOR PUERTO RICANS?

Military widows and US veterans living in Puerto Rico receive fewer health benefits than their counterparts in the States even though Puerto Ricans' citizens are US citizens and serve shoulder to shoulder in Afghanistan, and Iraq. In years gone by,

they did likewise in Vietnam, Korea and WWII.

That means spouses in Puerto Rico whose soldier husbands were killed in US wars would get less than fully paid health insurance, simply for living in Puerto Rico.

This unequal treatment from the US Department of Defense also extends to the 22,000 military retirees under the age of 65 and their families. The reason: The Pentagon in their wisdom considers Puerto Rico, an "overseas" location. However, both Alaska and Hawaii are also considered "overseas" by the Pentagon for purposes of the health insurance plan receive the same benefits as the other 48 states.

Puerto Rican officials have been trying to change this discriminatory practice for years but the Pentagon says it is only following federal law.

Where is Congress on this issue? Perhaps too busy giving away billions to the Big Three Auto Makers who can't survive with a welfare check.

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September 16, 2008

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I'm with you every night.
I'm with you when the times are good,
To share a laugh or two,
And if a tear should start to fall...
I'll still be there for you.
And when that day arrives
That we no longer are apart,
I'll smile and hold you close to me...
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and the State Council

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ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**



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Very Merry Christmas!*

Dom Campochiaro, President

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• **News Briefs** (Continued from Page 1)

Gazette Pet of the Week
by Sarah Carroll

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is a biweekly advertisement sponsored by Sarah Carroll, Sales Associate of Caldwell Banker on Centre Street in Jamaica Plain. Her ads run biweekly in the *Jamaica Plain Gazette*. She encourages readers to adopt a pet from the Angell Memorial on South Huntington Avenue.

Sarah recently told me that, "as a result of 'Gazette Pet of the Week' which has appeared in the *Jamaica Plain Gazette* for the past three years, hundreds of people have gone to the MSPCA to adopt pets."

She has helped offer new beginnings for many homeless animals. She herself adopted Peewee a very Halloweenish black cat. Recently, she even pictured Peewee and herself in her newspaper ad.

There are still many other animals just like Peewee awaiting their forever homes

at the MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center. Stop by, call 617-522-5055 or e-mail www.mspca.org for more information.

More Sal Fans

Sal Giarratani's fan base continues to grow. Betty McKenna and Pauline Casani Palardy from the Colonial Federal Savings Bank in Wollaston look forward every week to the *Post-Gazette* and Sal's columns.

Also, doing likewise is Emilie Howard, a great psych nurse over at the Shattuck in Jamaica Plain.

Congrats to Maura and Matt

Recently Maura Stack and Matthew McDonald were wed at St. Mary's Church in Dedham.

I've known Maura's parents Eddie and Maureen Stack of West Roxbury since our younger college days back in the late 60s and early 70s.

Maura and Matt are now calling Roslindale home.

EXTRA Innings
by Sal Giarratani

GREEN MONSTER HITS RED TAPE IN QUINCY

"We might have to go elsewhere, but we will never give up," says Ron Iacobucci, CEO of Kids Replica Ballpark, Inc., on holdups to building a mini-Fenway Park in Quincy.

According to a recent *Boston Globe* story, "It all comes down to frogs and salamanders and the possible habitat of copperhead snakes."

Vernal ponds near the Quincy Quarries are a habitat for endangered species and one of the reasons the state won't give its final approval stamp for the mini-Fenway Park project.

If you travel down to Ricciuti Drive near the old quarries, you'll see a sign welcoming you to the future home of the mini-Fenway Park. The sign gets changed all the time. The latest one up says the park is coming '08. It replaced others before it and soon it too will have to be replaced as '08 winds down to a finish.

The Boston Red Sox and Major League Baseball gave its approval in 2006 and Governor Patrick in August signed a \$1.64 billion environmental bond bill with a

provision for the mini Fenway saying it had "overriding public interest" but shovels are no way near the site.

Ron Iacobucci, CEO of the nonprofit Kids Replica Ballpark Inc. has been involved in the project since 2001 and told the *Boston Globe* the park has been "held hostage" by state agencies over environmental concerns.

Says Iacobucci, "I'm probably as frustrated as anyone ... we haven't got a shovel in the ground because they (the State) won't give me the process for a final variance."

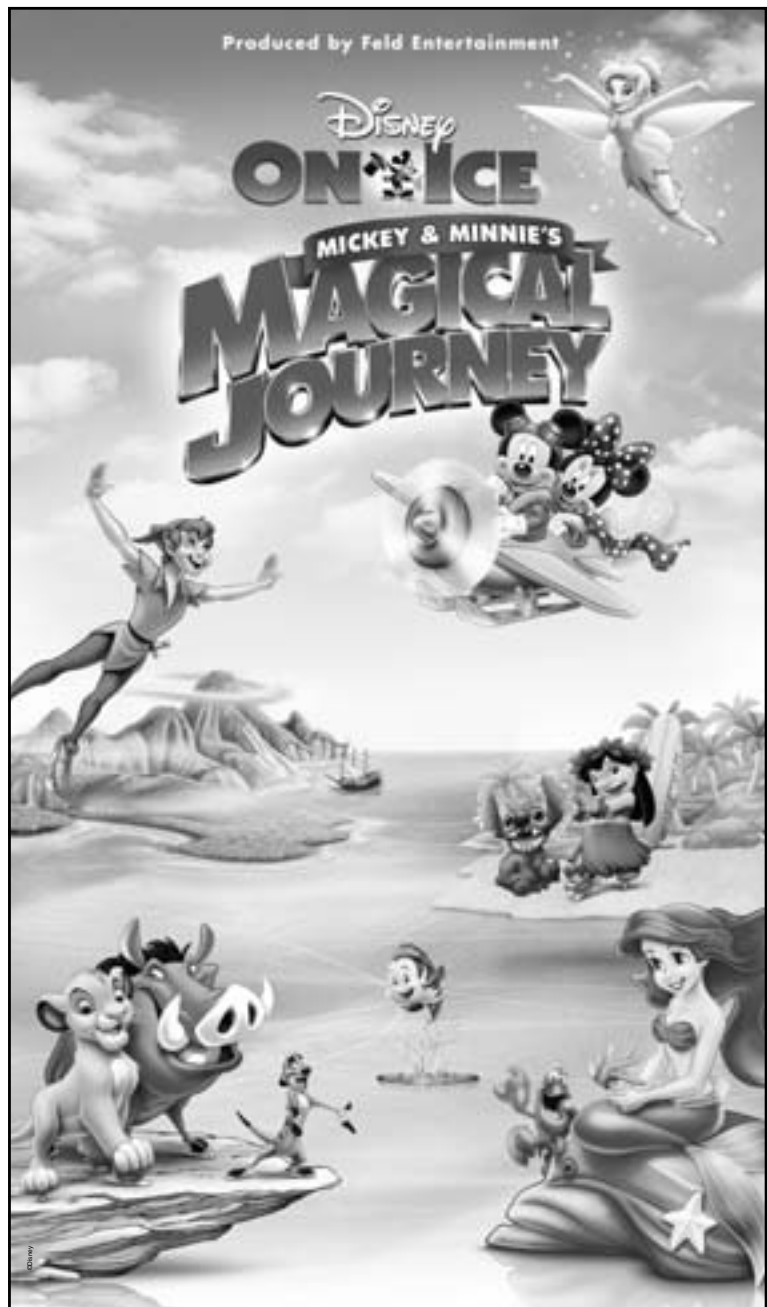
The project itself has netted almost \$136 thousand from the auction of low-numbered mini-Fenway Park licenses.

The project started as an idea from former Red Sox

third baseman Tim Lincecum but many in Quincy say the project's been cursed since Naehring first came up with the idea back in 1998. When Tim moved to Cincinnati after retiring from the Sox, he went ahead and built his own Little Fenway Park on his own field. He owned the land and quickly built his Fenway.

Even Babe Ruth's daughter Julia Ruth Stevens, 92, is on board and all aboard for the mini-Fenway. Says Babe's daughter, "It's a place where children can come and play ... I'm all for nature ... but I really do think that people take precedence (over frogs and salamanders)."

Iacobucci, fights on for his long deferred dream, but sadly says, "We're going to miss at least another baseball season."



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LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
MIDDLESEX Division
Docket No. 08P5214G11

In the Matter Of
WILLIAM COOK HANLEY
Of LEXINGTON
In the County of MIDDLESEX
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MENTALLY ILL PERSON

To WILLIAM COOK HANLEY of LEXINGTON in the County of MIDDLESEX, and his heirs apparent or presumptive, a petition has been filed in the above captioned matter alleging that said WILLIAM COOK HANLEY of LEXINGTON in the County of MIDDLESEX is a mentally ill person and praying that BRETON MIAN of LEXINGTON in the County of MIDDLESEX and NASIR MIAN of LEXINGTON in the County of MIDDLESEX or some other suitable person be appointed guardian, to serve with surety of the person - and property.

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 12, 2009**.

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at CAMBRIDGE this day, December 8, 2008.

Marie A. Gardin
Acting Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
MIDDLESEX Division
Docket No. 08P5127G11

In the Matter Of
HENRY SCOTT SR.
Of WAKEFIELD
In the County of MIDDLESEX
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MENTALLY ILL PERSON

To HENRY SCOTT SR. of WAKEFIELD in the County of MIDDLESEX, his spouse, and heirs apparent or presumptive, a petition has been filed in the above captioned matter alleging that said HENRY SCOTT SR. of WAKEFIELD in the County of MIDDLESEX is a mentally ill person and praying that PETER C. SCOTT of ENFIELD in the STATE of CONNECTICUT be appointed guardian, to serve without surety of the person.

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 12, 2009**.

WITNESS, HON. PETER C. DIGANGI, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at CAMBRIDGE this day, December 8, 2008.

Marie A. Gardin
Acting Register of Probate

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CORNER TALK

by Reinaldo Oliveira, Jr.

Manny "The Pac-man" Pacquiao demonstrated to all that he is indeed, the "Pound for Pound." best fighter, when he decisively defeated the **Golden Boy, Oscar De La Hoya**, by way of a eight-round TKO. The Great Trainer, **Freddy Roach** prepared **Manny Pacquiao** well for this Las Vegas fight. Manny Pacquiao was in control, of this bout throughout. In the seventh round **Pacquiao** was credited with landing 45 punches to De La Hoya's single digit total. The end of an era. **Freddy Roach** worked the corner of **Manny Pacquiao**, and did a great job of preparing the **Pac-man**. Who will it be next? There's talk of the **Hitman, Ricky Hatton**. That would be a Big Buck's Fight. There's a fight that I think would even be bigger! That's a battle between the **Pac-man, Manny Pacquiao** waltzing with the Pretty boy, **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** I believe, as I believe many others do, that this would be

a highly profitable battle. What do you think? A lot of quick punches in this battle. Don't you believe that this fight would be great, and score big. **Floyd Mayweather** was the former *Ring Magazine*, Pound-for-Pound Best, and **Manny Pacquiao** is the present *Ring Magazine* Pound-for-Pound best. Come on! Let's do it. Big, big bucks? **Oscar De La Hoya** tried. Don't forget, about all of the good wins with a record of 39-6-0, 30 KO's, that the former World Champion **Oscar De La Hoya** achieved in his career, over **Julio Cesar Chavez, Hector Camacho, Pernell Whitaker**, and many, many more. Enjoy what you have accomplished. **Manny Pacquiao** has a record of 48-3-2, 30 KO's

It's **Hammer Time**, on the "Contenders." 12 episodes with one of our own, in **The Hammer, Tough Tim Flamos**. This series, is hosted by **Taxi** actor/professional fighter **Tony Danza**,

featuring the Cruiser weights. A very formidable cast of warriors. **Tim Flamos** is the oldest at 41 years old, and he looks to be the fittest, and as young as the rest. **Tim Flamos** has a record of 20-4-1, with 8 KO's. We all wish you the best. 12 exciting episodes. Good luck **Tim. Keep Punching!**

Happy Birthdays, on December, 10th, Richard Hand, 20th Richie LaMontagne, 22nd Eddie Fitzgerald, 24th Jimmy Connors, 26th Chris Sarno, 28th Roland Milton 29th Greg Vartanian January, 2nd Doug Pendarvis, 7th Danny Long and Frank Calabro, 11th John O'Brien, and the younger of the Long family, Ryan Long, The 14th World Champion, Tony DeMarco, and Ed Imondi.

Saturday **December 20th** We have, the Giant, the 7 foot **Nicolay Valuev** who's in battle with the other Giant, in 6' 1", **Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield**, who's still battling, for US.

On a sad note. The passing to that **Golden Ring in Heaven refereed by God!** The passing of our Brother in boxing, **Francesco "Kid" Fratalia**. He is survived by a great family. Francesco came to the United States in 1947 from Italy. He was a sparring partner for **Rocky Marciano**, for a title fight. I will do a story on "**Kid Fratalia**," next week God Bless you and our prayers are with you. Rest in Peace!

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



It was a routine timeout in the Celtics game with the Utah Jazz at the Garden on December 15 when suddenly those in attendance erupted with accolades.

It was one of those moments when a story seems to come to life. Earlier, your faithful correspondent had been reading in the *Boston Herald* how Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps had basically been enjoying some down time since his spectacular performances in Beijing this past summer that saw him win eight gold medals. Just think, it was only a scant four months ago that the world became enthralled with the swimmer from the Baltimore area as he proceeded to win race after race after race.

The *Herald* story told how he was taking a break from swimming and was relaxing.

Then suddenly, on the Garden floor, there he was with Heather Walker, the Celtics Director of Public Relations who was serving as his guide. Local personality "coach" Willie Maye had a microphone and was serving as an impromptu master of ceremonies, interviewing the Olympian as the timeout proceeded.

The aspect of Michael Phelps that stood out on this particular evening was that he didn't stand out. He looked exactly like a normal

young adult, dressed in a hooded sweatshirt, jeans and a cap. That night, one could probably have walked right past him to the seating areas without realizing who he was. The interview proceeded but with the clapping and cheering we're not quite sure what was said — our seat is 140 feet off the Garden floor on the ninth level and the applause overwhelmed whatever he had to say. But he was all smiles, the fans were jubilant.

The next day we learned that Phelps was in the Boston area to shoot a commercial. Starting in January he's set to resume his long training routine that he hopes will carry him to stardom once again in the Summer Olympics — set for 2012 in London.

The entire experience wasn't long in duration — because of the timeout — but certainly will be long remembered by those fortunate enough to have been there on that particular night.

The Celtics went on to defeat the Jazz that night and continue their winning streak. But somehow, what occurred during that timeout, was somewhat more memorable than that single victory. We all remember the Celtics parade last June and we'll always remember Michael Phelps at the Garden in December.

Happy Holidays
and our best wishes in 2009
from the Gem Gravure family

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