

The Bay Village News

Volume 10, Issue 2

617-542-BVNA

www.bayvillage.net

May 2002

FRIENDS OF BAY VILLAGE PARKS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 21

6:30 to 8 PM Friday June 21,
the First Day of Summer

Annual Meeting of Friends of the Parks
to celebrate a great year and elect officers

Refreshments and conviviality

Music provided by
Community Music Center of Boston

Don't miss it!



30TH ANNUAL STREET FAIR SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

by Event Chair **Mike Maddigan** (617) 451-2593

It's time for the 30th annual Bay Village Street Fair. Started in the 1970s as a way to raise funds and awareness, the Street Fair is more than our largest fundraiser -- it's a great way to meet your neighbors. Remember, the money we raise goes to the Bay Village Neighborhood Association and charities such as the Boston High School Scholarship fund and the Floating Hospital.

Volunteers have been meeting monthly to plan this year's event. We still need lots of help, so we hope you can come.

We need **2-HOUR SHIFT VOLUNTEERS** for the different tables: hot dog, beverage, bake sale, white elephant, ice cream, registration, plant, and T-shirt, as well as runners between the various functions. Scheduling and coordinating these events is complicated, so please call **Ernie Lessa** at 617-338-0845 and sign up.

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The Bake Table is **LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD COOKS**. We need your baked donations; please call Bake Table chair **Bob Blatchford** at 617-426-1040 to coordinate your items and drop off points/time. Suggested items include: cookies, squares, cornbread, pies, brownies, banana bread, cakes, coffee cakes, scones and muffins.

If anyone is moving out, moving in, or just doing spring cleaning, the **WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE** could use your cast-offs. As they say, "One person's trash is another's treasure." Please call **Barbara Gaffney** at 617-451-8965 or **Barbara Warren** at 617-482-5870. We'll be happy to store your donations until the day of the Fair.

**SCENES FROM THE CHARRETTE ON THE
FUTURE OF BAY VILLAGE PARKS
SATURDAY, APRIL 27**



Mary Anne Poole pasted flowers from magazines to show her idea for raised planting beds in Elliot Norton Park.



Kieran Kelley, Len Haley, and Ed Wadsworth listed many ideas for Cortes and Isabella Sts. **Mike Maddigan** drew up ideas for Elliot Norton.

Thanks to all those who attended the Charrette: **Mary Anne Poole, Mike Maddigan, Ernie Lessa, Domenic Mastrototaro, John Carroll, Tom Kauycheck, Jim Messineo, Kieran Kelly, Ed Wadsworth, George Klauber, Len Haley, Francine Pellegrino, Bill Nigreen, Jo Somers, John Shope.**

More than twenty five ideas were generated at the Charrette and by e-mail.

The trustees will work with Domenic on planning and planting.

Remember, the Annual Meeting and Party of the Friends of the Bay Village Parks is on June 21st. The Meeting starts at 6:30 PM and the Party at 7. All members who have contributed \$25 or more in the past year may vote for trustees, but everyone is welcome to the Party (see page 1).

Current trustees are: **Mary Anne Poole, Domenic Mastrototaro, Mike Maddigan, Christine Colley, John Shope,** and your author, **Bill Nigreen.**

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER
From BVNA President
John Shope**

efficient Me

One of the most important functions of any urban neighborhood association is presenting neighborhood views to city and state authorities on licenses to sell alcohol. It is also one of the most challenging. The subject is legally complex, even for lawyers. It requires balancing, on the one hand, our interest in peace and quiet, and our interest, as well as the interest of the population at large, in a vibrant dining and social life in the city. By choice we do not live in Dover or Wellesley.

BVNA has consistently expressed its concern with the concentration of alcohol licenses in and around our neighborhood. That concern is appropriate and respected when tempered with nuance and a sophisticated response to varying circumstances. Those neighborhoods that have expressed nothing but "not (ever) in my backyard" have done themselves a disservice. Like the boy who cried wolf all too often, they have lost the respect of, and therefore influence upon, the licensing board and other city officials.

A few principles should be borne in mind when applicants approach us. First, we must remember that, once a license has been issued, legally the board (and therefore we) has very little authority to restrict a transfer of that license. The proposed premises may ultimately be operated by someone very different from the person coming before us. A planned elegant restaurant may become a beer-and-pizza joint patronized by loud students. (Conversely, without the appropriate licenses, an elegant restaurant may go out of business and therefore be sold to a beer-and-pizza joint.)

Recently a nearby bar applied to extend its hours during the week from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Some who had long opposed late-night licenses did not oppose the change in good faith recognition of a favorable operating record. The executive committee, however, did not agree, since it realized that at any time the license could be sold to an operator of a different stripe. In the wrong hands, a 2:00 a.m. license can be a disaster for neighbors.

Restaurants, on the other hand, can be very positive. It is no coincidence that rows of restaurants on Charles, Newbury, and Tremont Streets abut some of the most desirable and expensive residential real estate in Boston. But how to prevent a restaurant that happens to serve alcohol from becoming a bar that only happens to serve food? One way is to impose conditions upon the license. For example, three local establishments have requested that we agree to their applications for outdoor summer cafes (the board must approve any change in seating arrangements). We did, but only upon strict terms: (1) shorter specified operating hours outside; (2) alcohol service "in conjunction with food only," which means every patron who drinks must eat as well; and (3) in one instance, a requirement that the full dinner menu be available whenever the outdoor café is open. These are the sort of conditions -- which are binding upon a sale -- that a respectable restaurant would not mind, but that a gin mill would.

Of course, there are many other possible conditions, and for future applicants we will have to consider the gamut of parking, seating, deliveries, hours, and other issues. On all these matters, opinions can be strong. But by informing ourselves of all the legal options that can protect us from possible harms, and by maintaining a civil discourse among ourselves, municipal authorities, and the businesses that are themselves our neighbors, we can protect and enhance our uniquely urban quality of life. I urge you to participate in these deliberations.

JOHN STACK'S HANDY GUIDE TO CITY SERVICES

Clip and Save



CLEAN STREETS ARE HAPPY STREETS. Every Tuesday, 8am to 12pm, from April through November, city crews sweep the residential streets of our neighborhood. Bay Village residents, however, are not required to move their legally parked vehicles. Sweeping occurs only on that side of each street where vehicles are not allowed to park. If you see trash or debris on the side of your street that does not get swept, please move it to the opposite side and the city will whisk it away every Tuesday.

SUMMERTIME GRILLING. Let's not forget how vulnerable our neighborhood is to fire. City of Boston regulations **prohibit** open fires and charcoal and gas grills on roofs, fire balconies, and fire escapes.

SECRETS OF TRASH COLLECTION. The city's trash collectors will pick up hot water heaters, refrigerators with their doors removed, sofas, mattresses, chairs, and other residential furnishings. Calling ahead ensures the pick up. Public Works will also pick up TVs and computer screens, but only by prior arrangement. Call **617-635-7574** and ask for Sanitation. Provide the address that the TV or computer screen will sit in front of on the next scheduled pick-up day for your street, and the city trash collector will remove the item. Note that the city will not pick up toilets, sinks, oil burners, construction debris, and other pieces of large equipment because they are fined for taking these materials to landfills.

SINKING FOUNDATIONS? According to the engineering firm Haley & Aldrich, dozens of buildings throughout Boston's neighborhoods are sinking on their foundations because of low ground water levels. Many of Boston's century-old buildings are held up by wooden pilings standing on unstable land fill. When they were built, groundwater levels were stable and engineers knew that the integrity of the timbers would be sustained as long as they remained moist. In the 1920s and 1930s, more than 1,300 wells were dug throughout the city for monitoring purposes. Fifteen years ago, in response to rapidly lowering groundwater levels, the Boston Groundwater Trust was established to monitor groundwater levels and to replenish areas where water levels fell. Bay Village is fortunate to have a number of these wells in and around the neighborhood. Monitoring wells are located at the corner of Arlington and Winchester, in front of the Sawyer parking lot on Arlington, at the corner of Arlington and Isabella, at 23 Cortes, at 29 Isabella, and at 40 Isabella. Visit the Groundwater Trust's web site at **www.bostongroundwater.org** for a complete list of monitoring wells and recent depth readings. The site also provides homeowners and citizens with valuable information on the efforts of the Trust.

MAY YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM. Every Saturday in May, the city will pick up leaves and yard debris. The materials must be placed either in paper leaf bags or open barrels and put out on the curb before 7AM. Materials placed in plastic bags will not be picked up. For more information or to confirm a pickup, please call the City of Boston Recycling Department at **617-635-4959**.

STREET REPAIRS. For potholes or other street repairs, call Public Works at **617-635-7555**.

By **John Stack**, BVNA City Services Committee.

BAY VILLAGE DONATES \$1500 TO BOSTON HIGH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The May 3 fundraising event for the Boston High Scholarship Fund raised more than \$1500 (up from last year). **Mike Maddigan** thanks **Bob Blatchford** and **Ernie Torgersen** for their food donations, as well as all the Bay Villagers who donated money to the scholarship fund.

BVNA EYEGLASSES RECYCLING DAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH



by **Barbara Warren**

There is a tremendous need for recycled eyeglasses throughout the world. Lions Club International collects more than 5 million pairs of used eyeglasses each year for distribution in developing countries.

What types of eyeglasses are collected? All types of eyeglasses for children and adults are accepted, including exceptionally strong or weak prescriptions. Reading eyeglasses are also useful for those who perform close-up tasks while at work. Sunglasses are given to people living near the equator, especially those with cataracts. Only intact eyeglasses and sunglasses in relatively good condition are accepted.

The eyeglasses will be shipped to a Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center where they will be cleaned, categorized by prescription, and prepared for distribution in developing nations.

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR USED EYEGLASSES AT THE BVNA MEMBERSHIP TABLE DURING THE DAY OF THE BVNA STREET FAIR. A specially marked "Eyeglasses Recycling Box" will be provided. If you are unable to attend the Street Fair, but still wish to make a donation of eyeglasses, please call **Barbara Warren** at (617)-482-5870.

JAZZ RECITAL RAISES \$700 TO BENEFIT CMCB AND BVNA

By **Nan Rubin** and **Leslie Colburn**

On Thursday evening, February 28th, the Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) and the BVNA held a joint fundraiser at the Community Music Center on Warren Avenue in the South End.

CMCB faculty members, including pianist Michael Shea, flutist Fernando Brandao, and vocalist Karen Tobin led a lively, Latin-flavored program. They were joined by guest artist Charles Gabriel on bass. Following the performance, the audience welcomed the artists at a reception in the CMCB library.

Special thanks go to The Wine Emporium for their generous donation of wine and to Finale's and **Birdie Rubin** (Nan's mom) for the fabulous confectations. In all, \$700 was raised for two very special community organizations.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

NOTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

by **Doug Fiebelkorn**

Dedo Lounge & Bistro at 69 Church has opened the second floor lounge after extensive renovations. The first floor is closed for renovations and should be open soon. Watch for their grand opening.

Dedo presented plans for a new sign to replace the blue and yellow vertical sign at the corner of Church Street and Shawmut Street Extension. Although the proposal is for a sign of the same size, it is designed to blend in during the day. The sign has to be approved by the Bay Village Historic District Commission and the BRA.

The Columbia Project at 45 Church Street at Winchester is in full swing and demolition is on-going.

Davio's Restaurant is planning to move from Newbury Street to 75 Arlington Street in the space formerly occupied by Mohr MacPherson. Plans call for a 250 seat restaurant with a bar. Work has begun; with the approval of the Boston Licensing Board (hearing date not yet set), Davio's hopes to be open by Labor day.

Outdoor cafés are proposed by M.J. O'Connor's Pub in Park Square and Pigalle on Charles Street South. Hearings are to be scheduled at the Boston Licensing Board; both establishments hope to be open by July.

The renovations at 54 Fayette are in full swing. Betsy Roxby hopes to move in to her new home this summer.

CVS Pharmacy is planning to open in 10,000 square feet of the space formerly occupied by Wollaston's Market on Tremont Street.

Note from the Editor Kathleen McDermott



I hope you enjoy this Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles, information, and advice, including **John Stack, Steve Burdick, Mary Anne Poole, Mike Maddigan, Nan Rubin, Leslie Colburn, Bill Nigreen, Josh Anderson, Madeleine and Irene Burns, Gene Hale, Tim**

Famulare, Daniel Krulewitch, Anne Kilguss, Len Haley, Domenic Mastrototaro, Christine Oschsner, June McCourt, Betsy Roxby, Francine Pellegrino, Barbara Warren, Doug Fiebelkorn, John Shope.

I invite you to use this Newsletter as a forum to tell your Bay Village story. JPEG pictures are welcome or ask me to take a snap. (kathleenmcd@att.net).

SPRING CLEAN-UP, 2002

Bay Village looks beautiful for Spring, thanks to all newcomers and BVNA members who helped out at the Spring Clean-Up: **Mary Teeven, John Stack, Len Phillips, Mary Anne Poole, Mike Maddigan, Ernie Lessa, Domenic Mastrototaro, Jeanne Schaaf, George Hofmann, Andrea Foertsch, Steven Burdick, Alex Sanchez, John Carroll, Christine Oschsner, George Klauber, Marc Grossman, Abby Bok, Kenzie Bok, Sheila Geoghegan, Tim Famulare, Francine Pellegrino, Jo Somers, John Shope, Mee Soon Ellis, Cathy Smith, Barbara Gaffney, Nan Rubin, Christine Colley, Paul and Sarah Buta, Daniel and Carl-Isaak Krulewitsch, Rick Powers, Daniel Spiess, David Keelan, Barbara Peale, Cabrini Pak, Warren Postman, Steve Schram, Hugo Cunningham, George Moccia, Doug Hill, Will Krier.** (List provided by **Tim Famulare and John Stack.**)

Special thanks to **Jamie Hoag**, of the City's Department of Neighborhood Services, who coordinated the event with the Department of Public Works.



Dan Spiess (front) and **Tim Famulare** (back) sport the latest in Spring Clean-up fashion.

THREE GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND HELP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1. **Join BVNA** - Your dues help in many ways, such as improving quality of life, beautification, social activities, and social awareness.
2. **Volunteer** - Throughout the year we ask neighbors to help with clean-up days, the Street Fair, wreath hangings, planting bulbs, and caring for our parks. There are also many things that can be done from home so you won't need to attend meetings or come to events.
3. **Write** to the Mayor and City Councilors and attend public meetings of the Historic District Commission, the Licensing Board, the Zoning Board of Appeal, and the Air Rights Citizens Advisory Committee to make sure our neighborhood is protected.

To get involved, call the BVNA hotline at 542-BVNA and leave a message for your area of interest. Together we make things better!

FIFTY SEVEN RESTAURANT OPENS SUMMER PATIO

The FIFTY SEVEN patio restaurant will open for dinner from 5 PM, seven nights a week, as soon as the weather warms up. It seats up to 64 guests, with a full dinner menu. The patio will be open until 10 PM Sunday through Wednesday and 11 PM Thursday through Saturday.

Information suggested by **Gene Hale** and contributed by **Nina Sirvell**, FIFTY SEVEN manager.



Proudly serving our community for over 150 years.

BRING IN THIS AD AND TRY OUT THE Y FOR A FULL WEEK--IT'S ON US!

There is a place in our community, a place to feel safe, where families feel connected, where self esteem and the whole person is enhanced.

There is a place in our community where adults, families and seniors can go, and where everyone is welcome. That place is the YMCA.

Wang YMCA
8 Oak Street West
Boston, MA 02116
617-426-2237

The Alliance of Boston Neighborhoods invites you to two "Town Meetings"

1) There goes the neighborhood!

Gentrification, affordable housing, middle-class housing, or none at all?

Boston housing is among the most expensive in the country. The city has gained little new housing in recent years, but many jobs. Some people think the result is good -- neighborhood revitalization, "bringing back the middle class," and higher property values. Some see problems -- "gentrification," displacement of long-time residents, and less population diversity. How much new housing do we want in Boston, where, and for whom? How do we get it built? What makes a neighborhood? Do our city policies support neighborhood life? Wednesday, May 15, 6:00-9:00 pm.

2) Boom for whom?

Does urban revitalization revitalize all of us?

Boston's revitalization strategy has not changed in 40 years: use tax money, public land, and zoning relief to stimulate large-scale real estate investment. Some think it's the only way to succeed; others think long range planning could create more widely shared economic vitality. What did we build with this decade of opportunity? Who benefited, and who paid? Will large-scale development spin off support for sustainable community prosperity, or could public resources be used in a way that's more equitable, and would better preserve the livability of our city? Thursday, June 6, 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

All meetings held at the Boston Public Library Copley Square (enter on Boylston Street). They are free of charge and everyone is welcome.

RSVP: shirley.kressel@verizon.net or **Bob Terrell** at 617-445-1999. Sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency's Urban Environmental Initiative.

Provided by **June McCourt**.

TASTY TIDBITS

A new column of fun, small bits of news.

Tom Perkins is engaged to be married to a Williams College classmate; the couple will reside at 33 Melrose Street. **Carroll Tickner**, one of the founders of the Street Fair, is placing her house at 50 Fayette Street on the market; **Stephen Burdick** of Piedmont Street is a winner of Summit Creative Awards, bronze trophy, for design and illustration of a direct mailer; the Summit Creative Awards celebrate the accomplishments of smaller creative companies around the world. Fayette Street resident **Katherine Alberg Anderson** won the Grand Prize award in the MIT/EPA Charles River Stormwater Design Competition to improve the water quality of the Charles River through improved stormwater management. **John Carroll** and **Christine Ochsner** of Isabella Street will wed on July 6th at Thompson Island in Boston harbor. **Carl-Isaak Krulewitsch** and **Sarah Joy Buta**, of Fayette and Knox Streets, respectively, celebrated their third birthdays recently. *Tea Cakes or Cannoli*, a film written and produced by **Francine Pellegrino** of Fayette Street, is showing at the Somerville Theatre and Belmont Cinema. After 15 years in Bay Village, most recently at 36 Melrose Street, the law office of **Richard Landoli, Esq.**, moved to Appleton Street in the South End; the Melrose Street property is expected to be put on the market. Welcome to our new Fayette Street neighbors **Mary Grace McCaffrey** and **Mark Kukulski**.

Email me at kathleenmcd@att.net with short news items: promotions, recognitions, children's success, new neighbors, pets, life transitions, and any other developments worthy of note.



Carl-Isaak, celebrating his third birthday, gets ready to blow out the candles.

MADDIE BURNS, WINCHESTER ST. RESIDENT SINCE 1958, TURNS 90

If Bay Village were a person, she would not be very large, she'd have a passion for preservation and history, a highly persistent manner, sharp elbows, and a talent for eloquent protest. No one exemplifies that public spirit better than **Madeleine (Maddie) Burns**, who turns 90 on May 16.

Along with her youthful sister, **Irene**, who is 80, Maddie Burns has devoted her prodigious energies to fighting the blight of urban renewal. She began her civic work in earnest in 1960, in response to the passage of the "Prudential Law," Boston's urban renewal legislation, which also created the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

"There was no historical preservation movement back then," she recalled in a recent interview. "Any area of the city was fair game." The very first "home" produced by urban renewal, Maddie pointed out indignantly, was the New England Aquarium -- a "home for fish."

The sisters helped to organize many Boston neighborhoods threatened by urban renewal, including Mattapan, Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, the South End, and downtown. From their base of operations at 49 Winchester Street in Bay Village, they fought this battle through the mid-1970s: rousing neighbors and neighborhoods, attending hearings, and writing countless telegrams and letters of protest.

Maddie and Irene moved to Bay Village in 1958, after searching the city for a single-family home. The sisters bought their house for \$6,000 and paid \$500 a year in taxes. At the time, Winchester Street was primarily industrial. A floor-tiling company, for example, filled the building to their right (where the UUUM is today), and a large parking garage operated across the street.



Maddie (left) and her sister Irene Burns.
Photo by **David Turk**.

The sisters are passionately interested in genealogy, and have a collection of City of Boston Directories and Almanacs dating back to the 1830s. Both Maddie and Irene have been longtime volunteers at the New England Historical Genealogical Society, and the sisters also volunteered, after retirement, for a seven-year stint at the City of Boston Registry Archive of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. What a treasure trove of Bay Village and Boston history!

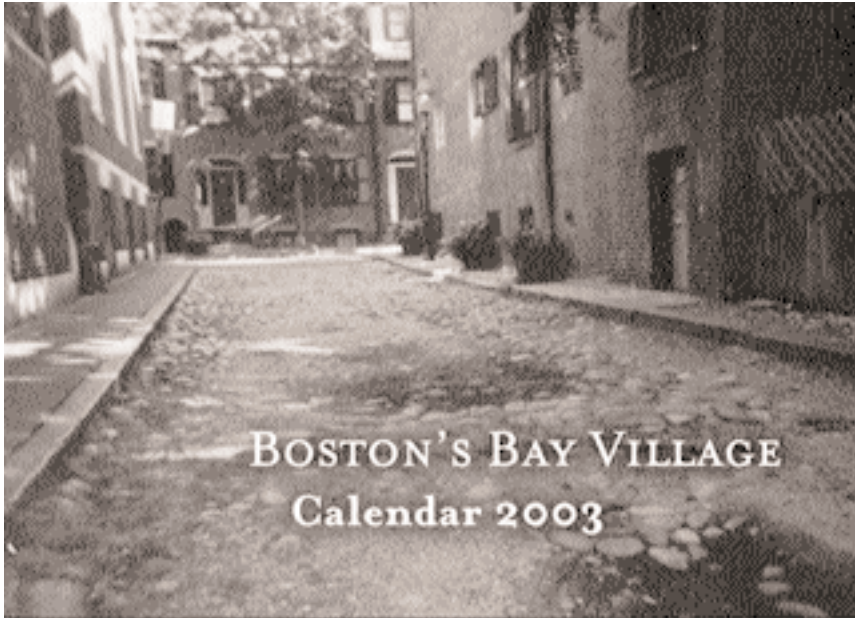
Although the vital ethnic neighborhoods and rich historical architecture destroyed by urban renewal are lost forever, the legacy of the Burns sisters endures in those parts of the city -- including Bay Village -- that they helped to save. They were preservation pioneers and community activists *forty years ago*, and their cause -- the livability of urban neighborhoods -- is much more socially respectable and broadly supported today. "They called us the lunatic fringe," said Irene proudly, "because they were scared of us."

Bay Village wishes **Maddie** a very happy 90th birthday!

By **Kathleen McDermott**.

COME ONE! COME ALL! FLEA MARKET ON SATURDAY, MAY 18

The Ellis South End Neighborhood Association and the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology are co-sponsoring a FLEA MARKET on the BFIT campus at the corner of Tremont and Berkeley on SATURDAY, MAY 18 FROM NOON TO 4 PM. Reserve a seller's table by using the contact information below or just show up. Cost of space is \$10, collected at the event. The event will take place inside BFIT if it rains. From **Betsy Boveroux**(Bboveroux@eatonvance.com /617-426-0989).

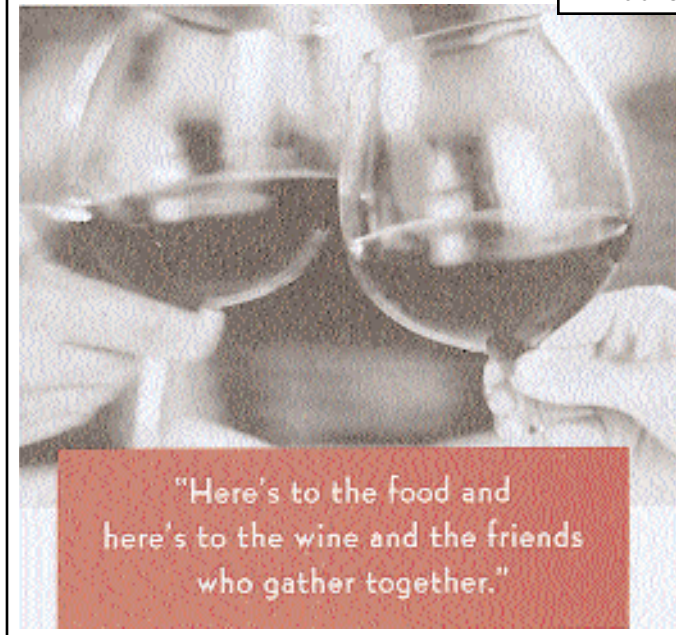


2003 BAY VILLAGE CALENDAR

Bay Village residents **Gene Hale, Mike Maddigan, and Betsy Roxby** have been hard at work putting together the 2003 calendar. This year's edition features period maps, vintage photos of the neighborhood, as well as contemporary photos of the newly restored Bay Village Neighborhood Park at Church and Melrose, and building projects at 45 Church, 54 Fayette, and 41 Winchester.

The calendar will be sold for \$12 at the Street Fair on June 8 or you can contact **Mike Maddigan** at (617) 451-2593. All proceeds will benefit BVNA.

An advertisement.



"HERE AT FLEMING'S, it's our mission and my pleasure to bring you the best in stylish steakhouse dining and memorable times.

So don't forget to ask for me the next time you join us. I'm here to ensure the evening is one you won't soon forget. And I personally look forward to the pleasure of your company."

Mike Dearing, Proprietor



Bay Village Neighborhood Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail address: _____

Street address: _____ Unit/Apartment#: _____

Would you like to receive e-mail alerts of neighborhood meetings and events? Yes ___ No ___

Type of Membership:

- Individual \$ 10.00
- Family \$ 15.00
- Business \$ 50.00
- Senior \$ 5.00
- Student \$ 5.00
- Donations \$ _____

Interests:

- ___ Beautification
- ___ Fundraising
- ___ Social Activities
- ___ Communications
- ___ Public Relations
- ___ Crime Prevention
- ___ City Services
- ___ Archives
- ___ Membership
- ___ Planning/Zoning
- ___ Licensing
- ___ Website

If you chose Family membership, please list individual family members below:

* Mail membership form to Registrar PO Box 1296, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.