The West Ender

Printed in the Spirit of the Mid-Town Journal and Dedicated to Being the Collective Conscience of Urban Renewal and Eminent Domain in the City of Boston.

VOLUME 23, NO 2

June 2007

James Campano, Editor/Publisher  ❚ Email: rnedd@comcast.net  ❚ (617) 628-2479

Camp Gannett Reunion

Date: Sunday, June 24, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Place: Camp Gannett - 174 Lakeview St., Sharon
Admission: Free

Will name change make a difference?

Editor:

So they are changing the name of the Charles River Park to West End Park in hoping that it will lure former West Enders back to help revive a sense of community and ease some of the pain. As an ever brooding card-carrying crazy of the old West End, I also had a focus on the new West End.

There is no way I would ever go back there and settle in as a resident. It is no longer the place which was built by legal immigrants and became a melting pot for so many cultures. It is no longer the place of the Jewish deli, the tub slush or the hole-in-the-wall Italian bakeries.

It is no longer the place of the pushcart peddler, the popular streets or the Italian street festivals. It is no longer the place of the downstairs barber shop, the downstairs Chi.

If you haven’t renewed your subscription to The West Ender, now’s the time — $10 Per Year

The West Ender
P.O. BOX 440-413
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

April $1500 Club Drawing winners

This West End Museum fundraiser continued into 2007 with the second drawing on April 29.

The winners were:

$1500  Iain Kirby
$300  Neal Alsen
$50  Emily Moran
$50  Rick Reynolds
$50  John Frasier
$50  Kay Sills

Next drawing on Sunday, July 29 at 1 p.m.

You still can enter the lottery— The $1500 Club. For $30 you can be in the last two drawings, held on the last Sunday in July and the last Sunday in October.

The West End Museum direly needs your support if it is to continue. You could benefit by winning and even if you lose, you benefit by supporting the museum.

The West End Museum

50’s Dance Reunion

Saturday, November 17, 2007
7:00 p.m. - $30 per person

Irish American Club - 177 West St., Malden, MA
50's attire encouraged - not required
Contact: Paul Joltki - 781-322-4230
or Rich Hartnett - 781-929-7691

The $1500 Club

$30 for the rest of 2007
Museum 817-723-2125
Paul Joltki 781-322-4230

For the rest of 2007

Prizes

$1,500.00
$300.00
$200.00
$50.00
$50.00

DOOR PRIZE - $200
Must be in attendance to win door prize
If no one wins door prize, add $50 to next door prize.

Museum 817-723-2125
Paul Joltki 781-322-4230

DRAwING DATES FOR 2007

July 29 - 1 p.m.  October 28 - 1 p.m.

The West Ender 617-628-2479

$50.00
$50.00

Help Us to Help You

The West Ender is compiling an e-mail data base. Send your e-mail address to rnedd@comcast.net so we can inform you about West End functions & events.

The West End needs financial help. It costs us about $1500 a month to run the museum — Co-op fees and electric and phone.

If you have the ability to adopt a month of expenses it would help. It can be written off as a tax expense. We could find 12 such generous people it would take some of the pressure of fundraising off the organization and more time could be spent on exhibits and talks.

The West End Museum has a website it can’t be reached on a search engine it has to looked up on the HTTP site on the top of the screen. Its address is -thewestendmuseum.org

A DoP'T A MONTH

Directions: Take Rt. 93 (S.E. Expressway) or Rt. 2 to Rt. 128. Take I-95 South (Providence) — Third exit from "128 is Exit 10 (Marked Coney Street, Sharon/Walpole). Take a left to Sharon Center. Cross busy intersection and take immediate right after the intersection. Pass the high school. When you come to the Lake Massapoag there is a rotary. Go half way around the rotary and bear to the right. Keep on the lake side (follow the lake). Bear right after the Sharon Community Center gate. Take a right on Morse St. (small side street). Continue on Morse St. about one quarter mile and take a right onto Lakeview St. (about 100 ft.). You will see the Camp Gannett sign on the right (just before you reach the lake). Distance: 29 miles (S.E. X-Way) or 36 miles (Rt. 2).

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The West End Museum has a website it can’t be reached on a search engine it has to looked up on the HTTP site on the top of the screen. Its address is -thewestendmuseum.org

Please Come Picnic and Relive Your Camping Days on Lake Massapoag

Directions: Take Rt. 93 (S.E. Expressway) or Rt. 2 to Rt. 128. Take I-95 South (Providence) — Third exit from "128 is Exit 10 (Marked Coney Street, Sharon/Walpole). Take a left to Sharon Center. Cross busy intersection and take immediate right after the intersection. Pass the high school. When you come to the Lake Massapoag there is a rotary. Go half way around the rotary and bear to the right. Keep on the lake side (follow the lake). Bear right after the Sharon Community Center gate. Take a right on Morse St. (small side street). Continue on Morse St. about one quarter mile and take a right onto Lakeview St. (about 100 ft.). You will see the Camp Gannett sign on the right (just before you reach the lake). Distance: 29 miles (S.E. X-Way) or 36 miles (Rt. 2).
West End Museum donations
If you are a West Ender and your name is not on the West End Museum’s donation list—it should be. Fill out the donation form below and drop it in the mail.

WEST END HERO - $15,000 or more
Frank Privitera

GOLD PHILANTHROPIST - $3,000 or more
Bruce Guarino

PHILANTHROPIST - $1,000
Sean Jackman—In honor of his Mother and Father Jim and Claire Jackman

BENEFACTOR - $500
Jim Campano  John DeMarco
Paul Jolli  Leonard Nemoy
Judge Dominic Russo

SPONSOR - $250
Joe Annello  Alan Gropman
Beth & Marshall Arkyn  Kevin McGrath
AI & Anna Cohen  Dorothy (Koresky) Pastore
John Cucinotta

PATRON - $100
James (Jay) Almeida
Alan Berkman—In memory of his father, Oscar Berkman
Robert Bova
Carlo Caccia
Louis & Laura Caccia
Kevin Clifford—in memory of his Father, John Clifford
Bernard Condelli
John Cucinotta
Angie DeLuca
Tony DeMarco
Joe DeSantis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Franchina
Herbert Gants
Arthur Geller
Connie Geller
Agnes Iwanow
Joe Lecco
John Locatelli—in memory of his brother Lee
William MacAuley
Joseph J. Mataro
Richard Neddi
Jim Noe
John Raso
Vincent Raso
Sal Rabbio—in memory of his parents, Frank & Eufemia
Mimi (Baker) Roberto—Remembering Winnie Roberto
City Councilor Mike Ross
Judge Santo Ruma
Andrew Samo
Ms. Margaret Scimeca—in memory of her husband, Michael "Mikey Shoo" Scimeca
William Sharro
Spina & Della Families
William Tomczyk
Robert Vatalaro
Zina Venezia
Arthur Vendetti
Malcolm Zimmerman

SUPPORTER - $50
S. James Albertino
Theresa Arias—in memory of Isabel & Conatito Arias
Santo Aurillo
Louis & Bebe Aurelio
Mr. & Mrs. James Bramante
In Memory of Dominic J. Bruno
Francis Cartolano
Irene Colyer—in memory of her deceased parents
Salvatore Condelli
Joe DiFazio
Josephine Zizzo Dygyla—in loving memory of parents
Rose & Joe Zizzo
MRS. Helen Feeney
Gloria Fernandez

Ed Fitzgerald
June Getchell
Laurence Goodman
Theresa Imbomone
Tom MacDonald
Christopher Nikola
Reginaldo Rasu
Virginia Rosagioli
John Rosato
Barbara Ruchames
Mary Ann Russo—in memory of her parents Bernand & Francesca Betinielli
Vincent J. Russo
Mr. Vincent Saraceno
John C. Sergei
Mark Skiffington
Richard Settipane
Jonathan Slate
Dorothy and Leonard Sudenfield
Richard and Lois Testa
Eleanor Venezia
Bill & Carolyn Wood
Nadine Zdanovich

FRIEND—$25
Bettha and Marshall Arkyn
Salvatore (Terry) Castro
Domenic Calabruso
Tony Carrasso
Irene Colyer
Cecilia Dalestii
Richard DiMare
Joe Dionne
Carol Downs
Joseph Edmunds
Mr. & Mrs. Gandolfi
Florence Gillman
Agnes Iwanow
Joe & Patricia Jackman
Rick Johnson—in memory of "Tut" Johnson
Edwin Kaufman
Harold Kaufman
Cecilia A. Kelly
Theodore Kocyk
Mary Lyons
Josephine Maranto
Gerry Moscattolo
Adelle Bornstein Pechet
Alberta Raneri—in memory of Andrew Raneri
Anthony Sarto
Carmella Scott
Stanley Skiber
Frank & Margaret Spinale
Sandra Stein
Carl & Betty Tedder
Dorothy Ventresca
Gloria Welch
Mary E. Wright
Conraine Zeman—in memory of her mother Rosalie Warren

OTHER
Pearl Brodsky
Gertrude Botman
Eileen Monti
Loren Carvalho
Camille Carter—in memory of Vincent J. negro
Kathleen Dalasio
Alfred Ferrara
Barbara Ianchino
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Jones
Lillian Kawa—in memory of her husband Edward Kawa
Freda Kravetz
Ann Minichello

Edo Monti
Laurenace Goodeman
Irene Colyer
Cecilia Dalestii
Richard DiMare
Joe Dionne
Carol Downs
Joseph Edmunds
Mr. & Mrs. Gandolfi
Florence Gillman
Agnes Iwanow
Joe & Patricia Jackman
Rick Johnson—in memory of "Tut" Johnson
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Anthony Sarto
Carmella Scott
Stanley Skiber
Frank & Margaret Spinale
Sandra Stein
Carl & Betty Tedder
Dorothy Ventresca
Gloria Welch
Mary E. Wright
Conraine Zeman—in memory of her mother Rosalie Warren

The West End Museum needs a fundraiser who has the ability to explore all phases and avenues of fundraising. If you know of anyone with these skills please contact the museum: PO Box 8996, Boston, MA 02114.

The West End Museum is open.
For museum hours please call
617-723-2125 for up-to-date information.

The West Ender
PO. BOX 440-413 • SOMERVILLE, MA 02144
TEL. 617-628-2479
Staff

JAMES CAMPANO
Co-Founder

RAYMOND J. PAPA

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The West Ender will return pictures if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, but will retain all rights to publish them and to use the images.

The West Ender is a quarterly publication.

West End Museum Donation
I wish to donate to The West End Museum to hasten its progress so the story of the West End will not be forgotten. Send donations to:
PO Box 8996, Boston, MA 02114

West End Hero $10,000+ Sponsor $250
Gold Philanthropist $3,000+ Patron $100
Silver Philanthropist $2,000+ Supporter $50
Philanthropist $1,000+ Friend $25
Benefactor $500 Other

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City __________________________ State/Zip

Donations to The West End Museum do not support or in any way go to the West Ender Newsletter.
Let's not repeat the failures of urban renewal

by Jennifer McCauley Logue

At a recent public hearing, Quincy city officials revealed that their much vaunted "downtown revitalization plan" would likely result in the destruction or displacement of up to twenty dozen downtown businesses - a dramatic increase from the two parcels city officials initially claimed would be required for this plan centered around an unnecessary four-lane roadway straight through the heart of Quincy Center.

Now that the project's full impact on downtown Quincy is becoming clear, it's time for city officials to stop euphemistically referring to this proposal as "revitalization" and start calling it what it really is: urban renewal.

Yes, urban renewal is a term that rightly strikes fear in the hearts of those old enough to remember the 1950s and '60s, when stary-eyed city leaders across the nation cheerfully authorized the bulldozing of entire city neighborhoods, all in the name of "progress" and the "greater good." The concept was tantalizing: Once city officials "cleared" the downtown of undesirable storefronts and unsightly tenements, private developers would come in and transform sad and sagging business districts into gleaming, modern metropolises. Dilapidated slums would be replaced by clean and comfortable affordable housing. Then, the tax revenues from all this new development would start rolling in.

At least, that's what city officials said would happen. As anyone old enough to remember knows, the reality of urban renewal fell far short of the promises of politicians and city planners. True, bulldozers did succeed in leveling many an urban neighborhood and downtown district, and thousands of families - most of them low-income, working poor - were forced out of their homes and into higher-priced slums, all in the name of "progress."

But in many cases, the promised private development never materialized, leaving acres of formerly tax-producing property vacant. Moreover, those districts that were rebuilt didn't live up to the shiny, space-age renderings proudly presented at all those public hearings. Instead, developers turned shabby yet historically quaint districts into unattractive, concrete ghost towns like Boston's Government Center.

Interestingly, much like Quincy's current proposal, Boston's 1950s urban renewal plan also included a highly touted new road that was hailed as the answer to the city's traffic woes. It was called the Central Artery. It took five years to build, required the demolition of a thousand buildings, displaced 20,000 people and effectively severed the North End and the Boston waterfront from the rest of the city. And we just spent the last decade and $15 billion to get rid of the dam thing. But hey, it was all for the greater good right? Fortunately, not all communities fell for the promises of urban renewal's social engineers. One Massachusetts city that learned from urban renewal's failures was Newburyport. In the 1960s, the city came perilously close to implementing a plan that would have bulldozed the historic downtown area to make way for acres of strip malls and parking lots. Cooler heads prevailed, however, and at the eleventh hour the strip-mall plan was cast aside for one that emphasized historical preservation over scorched-earth destruction. Today, Newburyport has an attractive, thriving downtown district - all because a few key leaders didn't let the pipe-in-the-sky promises of planners and special interests overrule their common sense.

It's not too late for Quincy to do the same. Let's not repeat the failures of urban renewal. Instead let's learn from the successes of cities like Newburyport and change course now, lest Quincy Center end up another barren, concrete monument to government waste and stupidity.

Jennifer McCauley Logue is a Quincy resident and a candidate for councilor-at-large.

West End's return is hardly new

Tom Palmer's excellent, detailed article on the "return" of the West End (Once supplanted by Charles River Park, the West End returns," May 17 - Boston Globe) told about the complex of buildings that replaced the former West End, originally named Charles River Park. He article informed readers that the owner, Equity Residential Properties Trust, is now calling the complex West End Apartments, a statement emphasized by a map and picture caption.

In fact, however, Equity does not own a number of the major properties in the complex: Hawthorne Place and Whitner Place Condominiums as well as Amy Lowell House and West End Place. This leads to the question of how the owners of properties in that part of the West End feel about a public announcement that they now live in "West End Apartments." I, as one of those, am not pleased and hope that the Globe will correct that impression.

As to resurrection of the West End and its sense of community, credit is due to the intense activity of the West End Civic Association that succeeded in reestablishing the West End as a discrete section on city maps in 2004. It was celebrated with banners proclaiming the West End on lampposts in the area. The West End has been returning for years.

Paul Schratter
Boston
Remember the West End curb eminent domain

by Sal Giarratani

Back in 1958 when I was only ten years old, the City of Boston apparently decided to revitalize the area that made up Boston's West End through the use of bulldozers which razed one tenement building after another. My childhood memories of the old West End have faded over the years but I can still remember that old neighborhood and listened attentively to my father talking about it.

In a few years the old West End crumbled to the ground. I remember when they imploded the old Madison Hotel on Causeway Street back in 1983. There one second, gone the next. That's what the politicians did to the old West End. Much of that neighborhood was replaced by a developer's dream with the motto, "If you lived here once, you'd be homeless now."

The razing at the West End was part of the urban renewal idea popular in the late 50s and 60s. Today what happened to the West End is taught in our colleges and universities as an example of terrible urban planning, a symbol of what not to do again.

Recently the US Supreme Court decided that municipalities could use eminent domain powers to seize private property. State Rep. Bradley Jones. R. North Reading is pushing legislation in the homes of avoiding another West End. He has filed a petition, a bill and a proposed constitutional amendment here in Massachusetts aimed at limiting the use of eminent domain. Defenders of the use of eminent domain say seizing blighted property actually helps improve neighborhoods and creates much-needed housing. I think that was the same argument back in the late Fifties to destroy the "blighted" West End wasn't it?

Susan Elsbree, a spokesperson for the Boston Redevelopment Authority said, "We are wary of any further restrictions on the Massachusetts law. Eminent domain is a very important tool for cities and towns across the Commonwealth," However, the writer Jane Holtz author of "Lost Boston" counters that B.R.A. picture saying, "It (the West End) was the classic melting pot." She also believes that eminent domain "is a really deadly weapon ... in the wrong hands."

Back in high school I had to read Herbert Gans' 1962 book, "The Urban Villagers." He was writing about the West End and what a rich community of people it was. But many urban planners only saw a slum needing to be torn down.

Most Bostonians today were born after the West End got "revitalized" as the B.R.A. might say but they believe it is one thing to allow government to take property to build a school, a library, but certainly not someone's home for private commercial development. But that is exactly what the US Supreme Court did this past June when it ruled 5-4 that New London, Conn. had the authority to take homes for a private development project.

They would have loved the old West End. They seem to appreciate what was lost, I'm sure. Look at the new blue marker on Staniford Street welcoming people to the West End, that sign is about all that's left of the neighbor A sign can't replace a neighborhood or repair all the damage done.

J. Almeida (Bomber)

Will name change make a difference?

Continued from page 1

The narrow streets we once traversed and played upon have been smothered and all traces of its European look have been erased. The West End has been transformed into high-rise luxury apartments and condos which have irrevocably altered its character.

It is a different world and I have no desire to ever inhabit the place that Jerome Rappaport built.

The old West End molded me into the person that I am. I loved the old West End, I loved my roots — it's part of my character. Therefore, I will always be a part of that crowd on the bandwagon who proclaim, "The old West End forever."

J. Almeida (Bomber)
In memory of my dad, Sebastian Ternullo, February 5, 2007

Mr. Campano,

Attached is a tribute I wrote for my dad, Sebastian Ternullo. Our family came from Augusta Sicily, and we lived in the West End for many years on Hale St. and then moved to Medford.

I hope that you will be able to print this in one of your upcoming West Ender newspapers so that we can let everyone know that he passed away. Please make any edits necessary.

Love getting The West Ender thank you so much, for keeping the memory alive.

By the way, my husband and I live in a suburb of New Orleans.

Sebastian Ternullo

My dad was a survivor. He survived World War II when the ship he was on was bombed, throwing him and his shipmates into the water. He survived a childhood that took his mother from him in infancy. Later in life, he survived bouts with cancer.

Born in Augusta, Sicily, Italy, as a young adult, he followed his father and brother to the United States and found work in a shipyard. This made it possible for his wife, Domenica, and his children, Maria and Antonia to join him in the United States, and they made their home in the West End of Boston on Hale Street.

When the buildings were to be torn down to make way for the new Government Center, my dad and mom bought a home in Medford where they lived until his death. Mom and Dad went to night school to learn the English language and eventually became proud United States citizens.

Dad was a boat builder by trade and an accomplished carpentry craftsman. He could make anything out of wood. He would take all the time and patience needed to make it right. He was acclaimed and sought after by boat owners to repair their boats and even leas and we were very lucky and blessed not to have much damage to our home. We were able to return after a few weeks and make repairs, including a new roof to our home.

Please tell everyone that New Orleans is a very special city, very much like Boston in many ways, and deserves all the support that can be given to rebuild and protect from future storms such as the one we had with Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath of that storm.

Thank you,
Marie (Ternullo) Lee
2820 Britannica Drive
Marrero, LA 70072

Christine Viscione

Christine Viscione, of Everett formerly of the West End died March 8, 2007 at age 88.

Beloved wife of the late Anthony Viscione for 66 years who died in 2005. Loving mother of Joseph Viscione and his wife Joan of Andover, Annette Olivieri of Woburn, Rose Fitzgerald and her fiancée Carl Borgioli of Revere and the late Peter Viscione. Also survived by 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Christine was a very active member of St. Anthony’s Parish in Everett who devoted many hours of her time and talent to charity.

Funeral was from The Salvatore Rocce & Sons Funeral Home, Everett. In lieu of flowers donations in Christine’s memory may be made to the Alzheimers Assoc, 311 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Josephine (DeStefano) Giso

Josephine (DeStefano) Giso of Somerville formerly of Boston’s West End, died on April 26, 2007.

Beloved wife of the late Michael Giso. Devoted mother of Marie Giso of Revere, Michael Giso and his wife Andrea of Somerville, Laurie Bologna and her husband Joseph of Methuen. Loving grandmother of Jamie and Cinzia Bologna, Sister of John DeStefano of Naples, FL, Mary Ferrara of Medford, Pat DeStefano of Melrose, Phyllis Barbuzzi of Lynn, Frances “Chickie” Cuzuppe of Woburn and Sr. Mary Leonora DeStefano of Turkey.

Memorial contributions may be made in Josephine’s memory to the charity of ones choice. Arrangements were by the Dello Russo Funeral Service of Medford.

Domenic J. Bramante

Domenic J. Bramante died April 21, 2007 at Winchester Hospital after a brief illness. He was 86.

Mr. Bramante was born in Boston on August 6, 1920, and was a resident of Somerville for 50 years, formerly of the West End of Boston. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He worked as a tanner for a leather manufacturer before retiring in themid-1970s.

He was a member of the Somerville DAV Post 27, the James A. Logan Post VFW 6800, and the Retired Men’s Club of Arlington.

He was the husband of Josephine C. (Martino) Bramante; father of Frank A. and James D. both of Somerville and Christina M. Bramante-Duffy of Acton; grandfather of Frank A. Jr. and Christopher D. Bramante; and brother of Mary Costanzo of Boston, James of Melrose, Concetta Mirisola of Braintree, Domenica Sicari of Somerville, Rose Pagliarulo of Melrose, and the late Salvatore Bramante.

Funeral was from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, Somerville. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Edward J. Resnick

Edward J. Resnick, 82, a resident of Revere for over 40 years, died on March 21, 2007 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston after a long illness.

Born in the West End of Boston on September 4, 1924, he was the son of the late Henry & Annie (Weinstein) Resnick. Edward was raised in the West End, attended the Boston Public Schools, & graduated from Boston English High School.

He enlisted in the United States Army on May 25, 1943 and began active duty on June 8, 1943 in Boston. He served with the Co. A 762nd Tank Battalion and earned the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He honorably discharged with the rank of TEC 5 on September 30, 1946 at Ft. Devens, MA.

Upon returning from military service, Edward joined the Teamsters Union – Local 259 and worked in the transportation industry providing service to numerous newspaper companies including the Record American, Boston Post, Boston Herald, and the Boston Globe. He retired from the Globe in 1987.

He was a former member of the West End House. Edward was an avid card player who loved cribbage, he was a world-wide traveler, a ballet dancer, and sports enthusiast.

He will be lovingly remembered as a very caring and generous man who always cared for his family. Those whose lives have been touched by Edward are truly saddened at his passing.

Husband of the late Lorraine (Wolk) Resnick, Edward is survived by his daughter, Lenore Resnick of Revere; his son and daughter-in-law, Elliot and Jennifer Resnick of Revere; 2 brothers, Donald and Jack Resnick of Revere; 4 grandchildren, Sarah, Catherine, Lauren, and Nicholas; and several loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Burial was in the Ohavi Sedeck Cemetery, Grove St. West Roxbury. Those wishing may remember him through donations to the National Kidney Foundation, 85 Astor Ave. #2, Norwood, MA 02062 or to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 1131, Fairfax, VA 22038-1131.

In Memorium

Philoina Spina has passed away. She asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be given to The West Ender. The following family and friends donated in her name:

Anna M. Rameiro
Rose Mercadante and Catherine Zymazaki

The YMCA Boot Camp - Elizabeth Schultz, Jeanne Smith, Rosemary Crosby
William Townsend - Mass. Society of Public Accountants
Anthony J. Imperato
Anthony J. Imperato of the West End of Boston died on May 12, 2007. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of Korean War.


Funeral was from the Frank H. Carr Funeral Home, Charlestown. Interment was at St. Michael’s Cemetery, Roslindale. Memorial donations in Anthony’s name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Daniel J. Imperato
Daniel J. Imperato, of Bolton, formerly of the West End of Boston, died on May 20, 2007.


In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Joslin Diabetes Center Development Office, One Joslin Place, Boston, MA 02215.

Mario “Brad” Bradanese
Mario “Brad” Bradanese of Kingston, formerly of Needham, died on March 5, 2007 at age 90.

Beloved husband of the late Ann Anacone Bradanese. Loving father of the late Mary Ann Bradanese. Survived by his devoted son Peter Bradanese of Glastonbury, CT and his loving daughter Diane Bradanese Fletcher, and son in law George Fletcher of Duxbury. Adoring grandfather to Arlana Bradanese of San Diego, CA, and Alyssa Fletcher of Duxbury. Caring step grandson to Scott Felcher of Franklin and Adam Fletcher of Somerville. Loving brother of Olga English of Needham and many nieces and nephews.

As a decorated World War II veteran, a graveside service was held at the MA National Cemetery in Bourne.

Judith E. (Meldrum) Grasso
Judith E. “Judy” (Meldrum) Grasso, of Medford, died on May 29, 2007.


Funeral was from the Dello Russo Funeral Home, Medford. Burial was at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford. Contributions may be made in Judy’s name to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Oscar Berkman
Oscar Berkman, of Waltham formerly of the West End of Boston, died on March 11, 2007.

Beloved husband of Beatrice (Stearm) Berkman. Devoted father of James and Bonnie Berkman of Spring, TX, Alan Berkman and Judy Rice of Waltham and Amy McPherson of Kensington, NH. Dear grandfather of Stacy, Sara and Seth McPherson, Jason, Jarad and Jaime Berkman. Loving uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Berkman was a life member of the John M. Sullivan VFW Post 10334, Waltham, MA.

Burial was at the Kovner Cemetery, West Roxbury. Remembrances may be made to a charity of your choice.

Angelo “Sonny” Mercurio
Angelo “Sonny” Mercurio died on December 11, 2006 in Little Rock, Arkansas at 70. Born on July 11, 1936 to Nicholas and Helen in Boston’s West End, he managed the family business, Pearl Bakery, Malden, and later was proprietor of Vanessa’s Italian Food Shop, Prudential Center. A devoted father, Mr. Mercurio is mourned by his daughter Vanessa, and her mother Deborah DiBisceglia Eastman of Medway; sister Lorraine Carvalho of Woburn, brother Michael and wife Nancy of Arizona, and friend Judith Torrey Gopoian of Florida.

Alphonso “Al” Micale

Beloved husband of Rita J. (Frongillo) Micale. Devoted father of Rosemarie Carroll and her husband Charles E. and Debra A. Hunt and her husband Paul C. all of Stoneham. Dear brother of Frances Pasquarello of Cambridge, Paul Micale of Peabody, Vincent and Richard Micale both of Malden and the late Frank and Charles Micale. Cherished grandfather of Kerry and Brian Carroll and Ashleigh Hunt. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral was from the Lynch-Cantillon Funeral Home, Woburn. Donations may be made in Alphonso’s memory to the Voluntary Services, Edith Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, 200 Spring Street, Unit 62 C&D, Bedford, MA 01730.

Concetta (Passanisi) Zani
Concetta (Passanisi) Zani died on May 10, 2007, formerly of the West End and Charlestown in her 103 year. Past member of the Society of St. Domenic.

Sister of the late Anna, Maria Stella, and Josephine Spinale and Guy Privitera. Survived by many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and great great nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held from the Berglund, Williams, O’Brien Funeral Home, Arlington. Interment was in St. Michael’s Cemetery, Boston.

Dear Editor
RE: Obit notice.

In memory of...
Hi Jim;

Please renew my subscription to a publication that I thoroughly enjoy reading! The little extra is in memory of my mom & Dad Rose and Phil Pisano of Eaton St. and Allen St.

Continued success in keeping memories alive!
Best Regards,
Phil

Dear Jim;

Enclosed is my subscription to The West Endor, also a donation in the memory of Joseph Celino for the West End Museum. Thank you for the great work you do.

I think of someone or something most every day about the the best place to have lived, the West End. Carmella “Spinale” DePasqua

2007 West Enders Memorial Circle
The following West Enders have contributed $100 or more in memory of their loved ones for 2007. Now is the time to send in your donation to be included in the 2007 West Enders Memorial Circle.

Al Cohen from Anna Cohen
Edward W. Kawa from Lilian Kawa
Catherine Logjudice and Mario Stancato from Charlie Larosa
Anthony Manzelli from Mario Manzelli
Bill MacAuley from Jim Campano
Barney, Ida, Manny, Sheff and Lillian Sheff Walluck, Ruth Sheff Rosenberg from Michael Sheff
Rose Tringale from Richard Tringale
Gaetano & Josephine Privitera from Frank Privitera
Jack, Miriam & Frank Gropman from Al Alan Gropman
Philomena Spina from Rose Mercadante
Philomena Spina from Anne Rameor
Vincenzo & Rosaria Interrante, Salvatore & Olympia Bramante, Mary & John Marchesini & Rose Interrante from Joseph Interrante
Joseph & Anita Russo, Donald & Sylvia Grey, Moe Guarino, Joe Solano and Carmine Steriti from Vincent J. Russo
Anthony (Junior) Comperchio, William (Bossy) Hoar, James (Gussie) Guszkiewcz, Roger Jackman & Joseph Lanza from Tony LoVooulo and Ralph Santoussouso
MEMORIES

In memory of Philomena Spina

Dear Staff of The West Ender,

Our friend and colleague Cheryl Marcocelli recently lost her mother, Philomena M. Spina. Cheryl was a devoted daughter and her family shared their home with Mrs. Spina for the past 25 years. The members of the Marblehead/Swampscott YMCA Philomena (DeLia) Spina died April 29th at 91 years of age.

We lived on Stanford St. After family and church, she loved the old West End. Many times she would run up to Filene's basement, then have me try on the clothes at lunch time and make the big decision to keep or return. On the way home she had to stop at Dorothy Muriel's Bakery on Tremont St. for a Boston creme pie. It was my job to pick up chicken legs at Neisser's 5 & 10 on Washington St.

Dad owned the Scollay Grille on Cambridge St. till it was time to move to Lynn in 1956.

Please accept this donation in her name, to keep the West End memories going.

Anne M. (Spina) Rameior

In memory of Bellissimo / McManus

Hi Jim,

What a surprise to see my picture! #21 Peter Faneuil School - Class of 1960 (March 2007 edition). I didn't know the paper was still around. What memories of Hale Street and the West End.

Enclosed is a check for my subscription and a donation to The West Ender in memory of my mother and father, Ida and Jim Bellissimo and my sister Margie Bellissimo McManus.

Again, thanks for the memories — those were the good times.

Nelson S. Bellissimo

In memory of... Jim:

Enclosed please find my check to cover the cost associated with my renewed membership as well the following listing in the Memorial Circle:

"Vincenzo and Rosaria Interrante; Salvatore and Olympia Bramante; Mary and John Marchesini; and Rose Interrante - Joe and Joseph Interrante" Keep up the good work. We enjoy the paper and especially articles and photographs directed toward life in the good old West End.

Sincerely,
Joseph Interrante

Dear Sirs;

This donation is in memory of Philomena Spina, a former resident of the Wst End and an advocate of your paper. Respectfully,
Rose (DeLia) Mercadante and Catherine (DeLia) Szmaczi

***

To Whom It May Concern;

Please find enclosed donation in memory of Philomena Spina of Marblehead, the grandmother of our loyal employee Lisa Rameoir.

Our hearts go out to Lisa and her family at this time of loss.

Sincerely,
William Townsend

LETTERS

Those were the days...

Hello,

Just our dues and a small donation for stamps. I was Marie Calitri of So. Russell St. before marrying Alec Alexander of Allen St.

My sister Dolores was very active and quite well known — Dolores (Calitri) Giuliane. Alec had joined the Marines early 1942 and I joined the Marines in February 1942 (World War II). We both got out of the Marine Corps in January 1946 and married in February 1947 at St. Joseph's Church in the West End.

My son Ken, also a Marine, served in Vietnam for 13 months.

The Alexanders were well known on Allen St. Brothers Ray and Richard belonged to the Mercury and other clubs.

"Those were the days my friend," as the song goes. Your newspaper is always well received in our home.

Good Luck and God Bless, Marie (Calitri) Alexander

Others altered our lives

Editor:

During all the year I had been a resident of the West End. I never, from any quarter, ever heard of the neighborhood referred to as a slum until — the ghastly words urban renewal popped up alongside the uncollected trash and garbage.

Condemning property a developer wants through eminent domain, is a controversial practice in which the state takes private properties at fair market prices, ostensibly for a public purpose. Where on earth does the destruction of sturdy brick buildings and the construction of condos and high-rise luxury apartments fall under that category?

Rather it means big bucks for the developer and increased revenue for the city. Urban renewal, "the movement of people" made the old West End the earliest case of induce gentrification. For me it will always appear as if it all took place just a few days ago. In other words I will never forget that others altered our lives completely.

J. Almeida (Bomber)

PS: Donation enclosed to help The West Ender contend with the increasing cost of postage.

Thanks for all the hard work

Hi Jim:

Thank you for your continued hard work in putting together The West Ender. It is much appreciated and enjoyed greatly.

Also, thanks to the Committee who worked very hard in organizing the West End Reunion back in October. It was a fun time and great to see so many people and the food was delicious.

Enclosing a check for subscription, plus a little extra for postage. Sorry this is a little late.

Thanks so much.
Dottie (Sidor) and Arnold Ventresca

Carol Downs: Do you remember me?

To The West Ender,

I am receiving your newsletter and I look forward to receiving it. I have moved, please change my address.

I also noticed the name of Carol Downs as a friend of the newspaper. I think I went to school with her in the West End. If she remembers Roberta Levine could you give her my address.

Thanks again,
Roberta Schechter
LETTERS

Photos from Maye Hatch’s club
Dear Jim;
The enclosed photos are from Maye Hatch’s club on Chambers St. They are of me (Dorothy Bornstein) and the rest of the “club girls” circa 1937-38. Hope these photos can appear in the paper.
Sincerely,
Dorothy (Bornstein) Sarevitz
Ed. Note: I put these photos aside to see if they could be used and they got lost. I’m sorry. So here they are four years later - Jim.

Checking in from the West Coast
I am enclosing my subscription to the West End paper. I really look forward to receiving it since I can see how many people I knew are still around. I enjoyed the article on the guys who went to Florida for a reunion. That was great. I knew all of them (a little grey around the edges ha! ha!). It was nice to see them getting together.
I have been living in San Diego for 35 years and the people out here don’t compare with the West End and Boston. I miss it, especially the food. Although I like it here, I miss the friendliness of people.
I get to see my sister, Dorothy, who lives in Las Vegas quite a bit. She comes here for the summer to get away from the heat.
Anyhow, keep up the great work of this paper I love reading it. The article on Peter Limone and Salvati was great. I knew Peter and went to school with his sister Helen. Glad to hear he’s getting along after all that time.
Maryanne Cordaro
San Diego, CA

Enjoy reading the paper
Dear Jimmy:
Here is a check to be split up between the West End Museum, raising me from patron to sponsor; the West End’s Memorial Circle, to memorialize Jack, Miriam & Frank Gropman; the West End’s Century Club; for a subscription to The West Ender, and some above the subscription amount as a donation.
Keep up the good work Jimmy, I enjoy reading the paper.
Respectfully,
Alan L. Gropman
Distinguished Professor of National Security Policy
Industrial College of the Armed Forces

Min St. photo
I was wondering if you could print this picture. It was taken on Wall Street right around the corner of Minot St. Everyone is the picture lived on Minot St. Top, standing from left: Josephine Sicari, Bunky, Carol Lofarelo, Dottie Sidor; bottom from left: Cookie Sario, Josephine Laneri
Mrs. A.M. Ventresca
PS: This letter was hidden in a crack in my drawer. I’m sorry . . . things happen - Jim

Keep up the great work
Thank you for your reminder that my subscription was about to lapse. My wife and I would hate not receiving The West Ender. Wish we could send more. Keep up the great work you people are doing.
Frank & Vera Staskawicz
Malden, MA

Love the paper
Hi Everyone!
Enclosed you will find my check for subscription to The West Ender. Love the paper.
Keep up the wonderful reports and memories.
The extra money is for whatever it can be used for. Love you guys! God bless the West Enders.
Always,
Eddie & Marlene (Stancato) Sicari

Wrong email
I sent you my wrong email, please correct it for me. Shirley Stancato, 147 Chamber St., West End. If anyone remembers my family, Mary and Paul Stancato, 11 kids - my address is Shirley Stancato, 1149 N.W. 15 St., Stuart, FL 34994; theshirl2@aol.com. I would like to hear from anyone who knows us. Thanks a lot.
Shirley Stancato

Enclosed is my renewal check. I always enjoy getting the paper and hope to continue reading about the West End for a long time.
Sincerely,
Tony Salmeri

Thanks for reminder
Thank you for reminding me to renew my subscription. Please keep sending it as I really look forward to reading The West Ender.
Lena Giso

66 years removed
Sixty-six years removed from the West End. I look forward to receiving The West Ender. We teenagers of the 30s keep dwindling. I see a few old family names that I grew up with. I am in touch with Nappy Kaplin, Nathan Patt, the Portanova’s. Lived on the Hill.
Keep up the good work.
Thank you,
Vito Portanova
Camarillo, CA

Lived on Hale St.
Hello To Everyone,
We lived on Hale Street and we were one of the last of the families to relocate. Frank and I enjoy reading The West Ender and hearing from old friends. Keep up the good work.
Enclosed is my donation for the paper and the museum.
Sincerely,
Josie & Frank Della Penna
Roslindale, MA
Hi my family of West Enders,

My West End brother, Phil Oddo, told me about the West End reunion. I brought my daughters and granddaughters along to join me. They only came to see what the great West End was all about.

They couldn’t believe the stories about the West End. Well let me tell you, they can’t stop telling people about the warm reception they got. They told me, Ma these people really care about you. Ma they act they knew us forever, WOW. That’s what they said and more.

Their uncle Phil Oddo was so real. Then Phil invited us to his Christmas party. His buddies put on such a nice show.

Then I saw Mary Parker. Oh my, she remembered me through all these years. She recognized me right off the bat. She is still so pretty. We shared so many memories. We went way back down memory lane. Her devoted husband stood by her side the whole time. He kept looking at us and smiling. When I got ready to leave he told me Mary has alzheimers, but all the while we talked she remembered things I had forgot.

I’m so glad Mary and I had the chance to share our past together. I want to thank everyone who planned this wonderful event, and also all who came.

God bless you all for showing my family how it was and still is to be a West Ender.

Annie Kay Stevenson Grant

COMING SOON—West End's legendary entertainer, Al Tabachnick, performing in his greatest role “Fiddler On the Stoop.”

A little bit of Italy in San Diego

Dear West Ender,

These pictures are of Maryanne Candaro, Dorothy Cardanelli (below) and Mike Cardanelli (below) formerly of the West End. These pictures were taken in San Diego's “Little Italy.” It was the Italian Fiesta which we have twice a year. It’s pretty nice but not as big as Boston’s. Anyhow, thought some of our former West Enders would enjoy these, especially the “T” shirts!! Italian style.

Thanks,
Maryanne Candaro
San Diego, CA

PS: Keep up the good work! Also, Mike’s eating an eggplant sandwich.

Help Us to Help You

The West Ender is compiling an e-mail data base. Send your e-mail address to rnedd@comcast.net so we can inform you about West End functions & events.
You make my day

Hi Jim;
How are you? Good I hope. Thanks for all your efforts in writing and publishing pictures of our past. You make my day.

God Bless,
Don Nicolosi

Keep memories coming

Hi Jim;
Keep the memories coming. Have coffee or a drink of your choice on me.

Joe Edmonds

Memories of Connie and Saint Joseph’s organ

Dear James Campano,
I have written this article to tell how the Saint Joseph’s Church was associated with the people of the West End. It was for the people who lived together in harmony and goodness. I hope this letter will be printed in The West Ender. There will be more coming for the next issue.
Please continue my subscription to The West Ender. Enclosed is a check, use the balance on something else.

Joseph Azzalina
Stoneham, MA

I attended the West End Memorial Mass on September 24, 2006 with my daughter Kathleen and my son Angelo and his wife Darlene. I was born on 3 South Margin Street and my children were born at 16½ South Margin Street — all in the West End of Boston.

We were all sitting in Saint Joseph’s Church waiting for the Mass to start when my daughter arose from her seat saying, “I am going to the lower level of the church to see if the organ that Mom said she played in the church is still here.”

About ten minutes later Kathleen returned with a smile on her face saying, “It’s here, it’s here, the organ that Mom played is here. It’s a large organ, the pipes are almost touching the ceiling. And the organ keyboard and two bellows are here also.”

I married Connie Mandello on October 5, 1947. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Mondello. They owned a three family house on Norman Street and a three family house on 36 South Margin Street with a store on the corner of Norman and South Margin streets. It was called Mondello’s Meat Market, with imported cheese and olive oil from Italy. The store was operated by Mr. Mondello, his wife and two employees.

Connie’s parents bought her a piano that played piano rolls and Connie showed such an interest to play the piano that her parents hired a piano teacher for Connie.

She soon became an accomplished pianist. Attended Saint Joseph’s School, involved with the nuns and performances on their stage, taught the children in Sunday school and had a beautiful singing voice.

Being an accomplished piano player, it was easy for her to play an organ that was in the lower church. Before Connie played the organ she picked two boys to press the two bellows so that the air going through the organ pipes would make music when they keys were pressed by Connie. If the boys got tired pressing the bellows, not enough air went through the pipes causing the music to falter and Connie would be heard saying, “Keep pressing, keep pressing.”

What a wonderful feeling for my children to see that the organ that their mother played in Saint Joseph’s Church many years ago was still here.

There is more to say about Connie and the children of the West End of Boston. They were students of Saint Joseph’s School and the nuns produced plays for the students which they performed on stage.

My loving wonderful wife passed on August 10, 2004 at age 84. To know her was to love her.

--Joseph Azzalina
Thanks for reminder

Gentlemen;
Thank you for reminding me about the renewal.
Tell Raymond Papa “Hello”. He lived across the street from me on 38 Dana St., Revere. We were good friends. I sold the house 12 years ago. I live in a condo down the beach.

Estelle Corin

Thanks for the memories

To the West Ender;
Enclosed is my subscription. Your paper is a joy to read and a wonderful reminder of the past. Thanks for the memories.

Marie Troyan

Message to Peter Limone

For Peter Limone:
I’ve been reading about your lawsuit. What was done to you is an outrage, that you and yours can never be compensated enough for all those miserable years.
Best wishes and good luck.
Irene Kortwright

P.S.

Keep up the good work

Thanks, Jim, for keeping up the good work. Here’s my renewal and put the rest where it’s needed.
My mother Grace Reed is 98 and lives in San Diego. We lived on the hill until ‘56 when we moved to Ca. I was baptized at St. Joseph’s and went to St. Joes, where I graduated in ‘53.
Thanks again,
Gail Reed Minichiello

Hello to the Papa’s

Please say hello to the Papa’s—a great family.
Tom Raucci

West End pride

I strongly resent the suggestion in the May 17 Boston Globe Business article, “Once supplantated by Charles River Park, the West End returns,” that the old West End was a slum. I am 90, and I lived on Minot and Leverett streets for nearly 30 years until 1954. I was a neighbor to wonderful, respectful, and hardworking people from many ethnic backgrounds. Residents took great pride in their homes, many of which were decorated with wrought iron railings and marble stairs. On any given day, tenants could be seen scrubbing staircases leading into their apartment.

The way in which city planner approached urban renewal and West End residents was deplorable. Rather than having the right to ask a selling price, owners were told what the city would give them for their property. At that point, feeling forced out of their homes, some residents did take less of an interest in their properties.

Mary Pietrafitta

Wakefield

Nice surprise

Enclosed is a donation towards The West Ender.
I received a copy in the mail this evening. Imagine my surprise when reading over the letters to find my godmother, Elise Lockhart, had given me a gift subscription.
The West Ender was responsible for connecting my godmother Elise with my sister Barbara (Pasqua) LoVo­lo. It’s wonderful to be in touch after many years! Also, a note of thanks to my sister Barbara for passing the information on.

Regards,
Kathy (Pasqua) Bellerose

Enjoy paper

Can’t tell you how much we enjoy The West Ender. Keep up the good work—enclosed a small contribution.
Thank You,
Joan (Collins) Mihaih

2007 West Enders Century Club

The following West Enders have contributed $100 or more to our cause in 2007. We salute them! Now is the time to send your check in the amount of $100 if you are interested in becoming a member.

Beth and Marshall Arkin
Santo Aurelio
William Corcoran
John Cucinotta
Bruce Guarino
Kevin McGrath
Robert Vatalaro
Frank Privitera
Alan Gropman
Ted Kozul

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The West End Museum needs your help...
If we sell 300 fundraising tickets we have our condo fees for the year (condo fees are $1200 a mo.)
PLEASE HELP!!

Donations to The West Ender
The following West Enders have donated above the subscription amount:

Alec Alexander
Jay Almeida
Joseph Amara
Joseph Azzalina
Kathryn Belleras
Fran Belfiussimo
Nelson Belfiussimo
Anna Caisis
Sandy & June Catania
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Domenic Spinaiole
Margaret Spinaiole
Carl & Betty Tedder
William Tomczyk
Anthony Tricomi
Richard Worob
Frances (Jaworski) Zaleski

The West End Olive Oil
Remember the olive oil your mother used to keep? Recapture the flavors of your childhood and support the West End Museum. This robust olive oil is bottled in small batches to ensure freshness, and is currently available exclusively to West End Newspaper readers. A portion of the profits will be donated to the West End Museum.

For a 12-ounce bottle, please send a $20 check or money order to:
Nicholas Bellistreri
69 Captain Vinal Way • Norwell, MA 02061

Thank you and be sure to include your name and shipping address.

The West End Museum is open.
For museum hours please call 617-723-2125 for up-to-date information.