New Year’s Resolutions Checklist

JUST in case you needed some help to get focused on improving your life in some way, SBT searched the internet for the list of the most popular New Year resolutions. Here is an easy checklist format to eliminate the excuse that you might find for putting this exercise off.

- Lose Weight
- Volunteer to Help Others
- Quit Smoking
- Get a Better Education
- Get a Better Job
- Save Money
- Get Fit
- Eat Healthy Food
- Manage Stress
- Manage Debt
- Take a Trip
- Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle
- Drink Less Alcohol

Whatever you do, resolve to improve either your own life or the life of another. After all, we are a neighborhood of givers. Perhaps one of these poignant quotes on ‘giving’ will inspire you as we enter 2014.

• “Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost.” — Ignatius of Loyola, Jesuit founder

• “The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.”

CONTINUED ON page 4
Claude Raines and later Sgt Schultz of “Hogan’s Heroes” became famous for their comedic willingness to blindly ignore wrongdoing right under their noses. There is nothing funny about Atty. General Coakley’s willingness to look the other way while this administration is taking everything up to the kitchen stove, while the taking is good. They’ll back for the smoke later. The Atty. General is “shocked, shocked” to find the BRA is squeezing in the last minute approval hearings and tax-breaks for favored developers. The A.G. can only reply “I know nothing” when asked why the hole where Filenes used to be is still a hole, the downtown is dying because of it, and the developers, who aren’t administration friends, can’t even get building permits, let alone big tax breaks. If the apolitical blindness prevents her from seeing this obscene grab by the Menino administration on the way out the door, let’s hope the voters develop the same blindness this year when the A. G. runs for Governor.
The Information Center

Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty Has Rights Too

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

The mixed bag of weather we’ve had these last couple of weeks has come with some statistics from the National Weather Service. 2013 has finished among the top 10 coldest years in United States history. And it’s been many years since the Earth’s climate has warmed at all. This is making many ask where Al Gore has been since this news was released. Some people think it’s funny that when record cold temperatures and early massive snow storms are hitting so many areas of the country and around the world that Al Gore always seems to be “unavailable for comment” when he knows questions about his Global Warming predictions need answers. Oh, did we mention how new reports have stated that Artic ice seems to be expanding instead of disappearing? Gore seemed to be much more talkative on the subject in July.

Who would have thought that with all the problems with Obamacare, where millions of Americans have been dropped from their healthcare plans, the Iranians still moving forward with their nukes, millions of people still out of work and the NSA continuing to spy on everything that breathes, the biggest controversy in the media is what Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty said in an interview with some magazine? But it is and it’s still raging even with Christmas in the mix.

The way most people see it, if you don’t like what Robertson said or what this top rated TV show is about, change the channel. Whether you agree with the man or not, he has the right to speak his mind; especially when asked a question during an interview. Though it’s obvious that there are some who hate the fact that people have 1st Amendment rights, this is America and Americans have freedom of speech written prominently into our Constitution. Ah, but here’s the rub on that. So many of those who demand tolerance from all and claim to be tolerant themselves, only want to tolerate those who agree with their views – period. Then they are shocked and ‘offended’ when they discover that there are people who actually do have different views. Then their goal immediately changes to shutting up those who don’t think and believe as they do.

Well, that works with the cowards and weak kneed in this country. The radicals, the thought police, the politically correct fascists, who think that all they have to do is threaten, boycott or otherwise intimidate anyone with opposing views and they will get their way, aren’t dealing with lambs in this situation. The cast of Duck Dynasty, including Phil Robertson, know what they believe and aren’t afraid to say it, especially when you come out and ask them. They don’t back down and A&E Network, which suspended Robertson, along with some sponsors of the show are learning fast that the so-called ‘Duck Commanders’ have millions of supporters ready to stand with them.

Personally, if there is a TV show that I don’t like, I don’t watch it. For example, I wouldn’t watch the cast of clowns on MSNBC if it was the only thing on the air and my TV screen was cemented to my eye lids. But they have the right to express what I consider their sick, warped views all they want. The attempted gagging of Phil Robertson is how it started in so many Fascist and Communist countries. Those in a position of power try to silence and then destroy all opposition. If no one stands up to them, they pull it off and then everyone loses their personal freedoms. But again, this is America, and as Americans, we cannot ever let this happen here.

Incidentally, if you haven’t figured it out, I’m looking forward to watching the new episodes of Duck Dynasty that start in January. I, along with millions of other Americans, like the show and I make no apology for it. If the A&E Network chooses not to air it, which is their right, there are other networks chomping at the bit to get that show. A&E will lose more money than they can afford and a huge percentage of their viewers. Whichever way it goes, it’s about time that those who are so easily offended in this country, no matter what the issue, learn that they cannot silence everyone because of it and should come to grips with the fact that everyone has the right to express their views in America whether they are PC or not. They might want to toughen up and get used to it.
WALSH DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT, REFUTES REPORTS OF TENSION WITH MENINO
(reprinted story By Matt Murphy STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE)

Mayor-elect Marty Walsh on Friday pushed back against reports that there is a simmering tension between his transition team and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, fueled by what has been described as a late push from Menino to win final approvals for several major developments before the mayor leaves office in January.

“I woke up this morning to a front page story in the Boston Herald that is inaccurate. As far as the transition goes, I think it’s going great. My team is working very closely with department heads and City Hall staff. We haven’t had one complaint from my team,” Walsh told the News Service in an interview.

Walsh and Menino spoke by phone Friday morning about the Herald story, and Walsh said the two men have spoken “pretty consistently” since he was elected in November, with Menino offering advice and guidance. Walsh and his girlfriend Lorrie Higgins plan to have dinner with Mayor Menino and his wife Angela in the coming days to talk about the impact of the office on family. “We’re both on the same page. The mayor has said publicly he wants a smooth transition and he wants me to succeed,” Walsh said.

The Herald published stories on Thursday and Friday quoting anonymous sources close to Walsh describing the mayor-elect’s bewilderment and anger among some on his team about the Boston Redevelopment Authority’s apparent fast-tracking of approvals for major developments, including the Boston Design Center redevelopment on the city’s waterfront.

The stories described Walsh as “puzzled more than angry,” and quoted a Walsh insider who said, “There are lots of people very, very unhappy about this.” The Herald’s Thursday story also quoted an anonymous former BRA official who called the scheduled of a Jan. 2 board meeting days before Walsh’s inauguration “unprecedented.” “Two days after New Year’s Eve, they would have never had a meeting in a million years,” said the former BRA official said in the Herald.

Though the BRA took a vote on a lease change for the Boston Design Center redevelopment off its agenda for Thursday after the Herald made inquiries, according to the paper, the stories also reported that Walsh’s team was unable to see any documents related to the lease change crucial to the development.

Given an opportunity to respond to Walsh’s critique of the newspaper’s reporting, Herald editors did not immediately comment to the News Service.

During the mayoral campaign, Walsh promised to dismantle and replace the BRA with a new development agency that he said would be more responsive to neighborhood concerns. He also suggested at times on the trail that he would have never had a meeting in a million years,” said the former BRA official who called the scheduled of a Jan. 2 board meeting days before Walsh’s inauguration “unprecedented.”

“Two days after New Year’s Eve, they would have never had a meeting in a million years,” said the former BRA official said in the Herald.

Contemporary on page 7

CONTINUED FROM front page 1

— Charles Lamb, English essayist and author
• “Let him who exorts others to give, give himself.” — Latin Proverb
• “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.” — C.S. Lewis, English author and scholar
• “Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours.” — Sinclair Lewis, American novelist and playwright
• “To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.” — Anne Morrow Lindbergh, American aviator and writer
• “A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog.” — Jack London, American novelist
• “The heart of a giver makes the gift dear and precious.” — Martin Luther, German reformer and theologian
• “Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of outdoor exercise.” — Anonymous
• “When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain.” — Anonymous
The New Year’s tradition of making a resolution is taken very seriously at this address. That’s why this year, like all those past, we ask all our readers to resolve to be here next New Year’s Day as your first resolution. Naturally that means being healthy, so that is our first wish or hope, that 2014 brings good health to all, especially those important to our community. Long the force behind the success of the Tynan Community Program, Helen Allix has been experiencing a nagging leg problem. Helen Allix is one of those people who gets things done. A year of improved health for Helen, we need her.

Financial health is also obviously important. In that regard the only advice offered is to scrutinize your credit card bill. As reported, Target stores computers were infiltrated for some 43 million users’ credit information during the end of November to the first week of December. A South Boston resident was contacted by Arkansas authorities and informed a suspect was arrested with the resident’s credit card in their possession. Apparently, the crooks have blank cards and used the information stolen from Target to create counterfeit credit cards. It’s also apparent this is a far reaching operation that is using the information quickly. Check your bills for unauthorized use right away.

The health of the city is also front and center, especially this year. By now, readers have figured out 1614 translates to Jan. 06, 2014, the day we get a new Mayor. Out with the old, in with the new, a proposition easily fulfilled considering Mayor Walsh is new and obviously good compared to the one who is finally leaving. Anyone expecting crocodile tears or false nostalgia at the end of the Menino administration must also be expecting to win the $600 + Mega-Millions too. That didn’t happen and neither will fake praise in this column.

Instead we look forward to a new future for Boston starting today. Hopefully Mayor Walsh will observe a New Day in Boston where once again residents are respected as the reason for the City’s existence and not as impediments, standing in the way of big bucks for favored developers and their supporters. These are the hopes for a new city under our new Mayor.

Finally, perhaps another reason for this year as being the best one yet - As of this writing Laney Brown is still alive. Laney is an eight year old girl in Pennsylvania, who has a rare and fatal form of cancer. Despite the best medical treatment, she recently had a setback. So much so, that it was feared she wouldn’t last till Christmas, her favorite holiday. She especially loves Christmas carols. With the wonders of the internet, Laney’s story went viral overnight. This past Saturday night nearly 10,000 strangers gathered on Laney’s street and sang Christmas songs. If you saw the story and remained dry-eyed then you have no heart. Unable to remove her oxygen mask or even open her eyes Laney still managed to text “I hear you and hear your love.”

If we can go forward this year with an ounce of the courage this little girl showed, it will be a good and healthy year for us all.

Take care till next week.
2014 To Break MCCA Record for Economic Impact and Hotel Room Nights

New Year packed with groundbreaking meetings and conventions in Boston

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority is predicted to break two major records in 2014, hosting events generating more hotel room nights and more economic impact than ever before in the city’s history, according to MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney.

2014’s meetings and conventions are projected to generate a total of 629,000 hotel room nights throughout Boston and the region, and $680 million in economic activity, the most since the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) opened in 2004. The New Year is expected to break 2006’s record of 616,000 hotel room nights and 2012’s economic impact record of $656 million. Split between Boston’s two convention centers, 2014 will generate 390,000 room nights from BCEC events and 239,000 room nights from events at the Hynes Convention Center.

“Breaking these records in 2014 is more proof that Boston has arrived as a premiere convention destination in the world,” said Rooney. “This record number of hotel room nights will generate another record in new taxes and revenue that benefit Boston and the Commonwealth, as well as record opportunities for our events to connect with the engines that drive our economy. These are not just heads on beds. These are people and businesses from around the world looking to connect and do business in Boston and Massachusetts.”

Events generating the largest hotel room nights next year include:

- 38,358 American College of Rheumatology (Nov. 16-19 @BCEC)
- 35,475 American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (April 26-29 @BCEC)
- 33,450 International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (Oct. 12-15 @BCEC)
- 32,850 American Bar Association (Aug. 8-12 @Hynes)
- 27,780 National Science Teachers Association Annual Convention (April 3-5 @BCEC)
- 23,220 Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) (Sept. 29-Oct. 3 @BCEC)
- 23,220 Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIBOS) (Sept. 29-Oct. 3 @BCEC)

June of 2014 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, around the same time the center is expected to generate its 1 millionth taxi trip from the front door of the BCEC on Summer Street. “One million taxi trips means about $30 million has been spent transporting people to and from the BCEC by our taxi industry, economic activity that would have occurred in another city if not for our public investment in the BCEC,” said Rooney.

2014 kicks off in a major way in January as Boston hosts the Prudential US Figure Skating Championships Jan. 5-10 at the BCEC, where a full-size competitive skating rink will be constructed, followed by the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) Jan. 12-15, a group representing more than 6,000 meeting industry leaders and decision makers from around the world – a “marketing home-game” for Boston.

In addition, 2014 marks the debut of two Boston events that will be co-owned by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, a first for the MCCA and Massachusetts. On June 10, the MCCA and Intelligence Summits LLC will launch the Culinary Intelligence Summit, a conference at the Hynes focused on managing food allergens for large-scale food service operators. September 23-24, the MCCA and Sitaran Corporation will launch the Advanced Audio + Applications Exchange (AAE) at the Hynes, an international trade show, conference and social network exchange focused on new technologies that are transforming the music industry.

Annual events in Boston continue to thrive in 2014, including the amazing PAX East (April 11-13 @BCEC), which sold out in November. Yankee Dental Congress brings 26,000 attendees (January 30 – Feb. 1 @BCEC) and the International Boston Seafood Show (March 16-18 @BCEC) and Anime Boston (March 21-23 @Hynes) are both expected to draw 18,000 attendees each. New England Grows takes place Feb. 5-7 at the BCEC, the largest and most popular horticultural and green industry event in the Northeast with nearly 13,000 attendees.

The New England International Auto Show arrives Jan. 16-20 at the BCEC with an estimated 32,000 attendees and the Progressive New England Boat Show runs Feb. 22 to March 2 at the BCEC with an estimated 41,500 attendees. Finally, HubSpot’s wildly popular Inbound 2014 conference moves from taphouses to the BCEC from Sept. 15-18 with 12,000 attendees. Continuing our efforts to attract multicultural conventions, Boston will also see a significant number of diversity-based events in 2014, including Sigma Pi Phi Beat Bowl (1,300 attendees), the National Association of Black Journalists (2,400 attendees), and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Eastern Regional Conference (2,400 attendees).

International rotating events – events that choose one American city to visit during their worldwide annual rotation – coming to Boston in 2014 include the World Congress on Biomechanics (2,500 attendees), the World Congress on Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (5,000 attendees), the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) (8,000 attendees) and the International Society for Computational Biology (2,000 attendees). These knowledge-based global events bring thought leaders and scientists from around the world to Boston.

“The record 2014 for hotel room nights in Boston and all of our other robust activity points to the growing need to expand our capacity in the meetings and convention industry and secure our future role,” said Michelle A. Shell, chair of the MCCA Board of Directors. “With the hopeful passage of legislation next year to expand the BCEC without the need for new fees and taxes, and the push to build more hotel space around thebe, we’re on firm ground to break even more records in the coming years.”
Joyce told the News Service, “There is a concerted effort by some to try and create controversy and division. In reality, the transition is going smoothly. The mayor and mayor-elect speak regularly and we are preparing together for a great Jan. 6 that the public can be proud off and their city services won’t miss a beat.”

Asked whether Menino was trying to speed up the approval process for some developments in the closing days of his administration, Joyce said, “It’s complete sensational efforts to distort the actual facts, which are that these projects are ready. They’ve been through the process and it’s time to move forward.”

Walsh said members of his transition team, with whom he spoke Friday morning, were equally concerned about the perception of a schism between the incoming team and Menino.

“It’s definitely not coming from us,” Walsh said. “I’m not shy, if there were problems.”

### Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

Your Guide to the Southeie Scene and the “Southeie Senses”

South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southeie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southeie. From City Point to Fort Point to the South Boston Waterfront, there are so many opportunities to put your senses to good use!

Stepping Up: Give Someone a Brighter Future

While most of us are winding up and getting ready to enjoy a little (or in my case, A LOT) of merriment over the next 7 days, 2013 is winding down. But it doesn’t mean there are no more opportunities to do some good AND start your New Year resolutions a little early. I know I want 2014 to bring me more endurance, in the gym AND life in general, a little more self-control and a Skinner/put-together/immelie me. Most of all, I want to remind myself every day to be thankful for what I have and NOT what I don’t. On that note, there are a few occasions over this 7 day stretch to support someone else’s wishes, wants and needs for 2014.

South Boston Grows- Donate goods (materials and tools), services (teach a cooking class) and/or give a monetary donation online before the end of the year and receive a tax deduction. Give those who benefit from this amazing program (local shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens & SB youth) a chance to do the same in return. bostongrows.org

District Hall- District Hall is hosting a NYE bash penned #glow2014 at Gather Boston. Tickets are $25pp, 9pm-2am and for $40pp, additional entry to LAUGH Boston’s 7:30pm show. A percentage of ticket sales will be shared with the Venture Café Foundation, “a not-for-profit organization that provides resources for the entrepreneurial and innovation communities that enable conversations and collaborations.” Another example of how the Innovation District wants all of South Boston to grow with them. eventbrite.com/e/glow-the-first-new-years-eve-party-at-district-hall-glow2014-tickets-9632251323

vencaf.org

bostinnostreetwise.co

2014 Out to Pasture at William’s Tavern- Dan Tartar, motivated by his brother Ben’s autism, started Rolling for Autism, an event where rollerblading is the main movement to push forward the cause. After seeing the response to the event, Tartar created ADK Charities, where support is given to pull off a large, fundraising event. This NYE, all are invited to purchase a $30 ticket that gets you light apps and a toast @12am. All proceeds benefit The Brain Tumor Society. Event is ticket-entrance only, 9pm-2am, cash only bar. Have fun and feel good doing it! eventbrite.com/e/nye-2014-out-to-pasture-tickets-9772440633

adkgroup.com

Puppy Doe and The Hanley Insurance Agency- This is a time of year that many of you renew your home/auto insurance so why not give a local business your business? The Hanley Insurance Agency is donating $5 for every new policy written by 01/01/2014. Puppy Doe was a malnourished and severely abused dog that had to be put to sleep because life was too hurtful and uncomfortable for Puppy Doe to live. Outrage, front-page headlines and the support of people like you and me, brought the abuser to the surface. With almost $500 raised for the MSPCA in Puppy Doe’s honor, there’s still time. allstate.com/jillianfacebook.com/pages/Justice-for-Puppy-Doe/730535090297199

Stepping Out: Party Like It’s 1999

Unlike many of you (hopefully), I have not taken any of my own advice, and will be scrambling around Southeie today like the blonde Target lady on Black Friday, to START and finish my Christmas shopping. So there is very little time for witty quips and creative language. Here is a list of places where you can ring in the New Year next week. Yes, it is going to be 2014- get over the fact and get out and celebrate making it through another year. So after you return those actual ugly sweaters, the 5 out of 10 lavender/vanilla candles gifted upon you, swear off anything cheesy/creamy/salty/pasta-y/ chocolaty/tasty and take ride on the wagon for a week (or 4 days), you may want to check out something other than your couch and leftover Franzia. Bells will be Ringin’...

Oh, You Fancy, Huh?
The SB Waterfront is host to a mecca of fine dining locales. Have someone you want to impress with your fine dining skills? Or just want to treat yourself after you have done so for others this holiday season? Make reservations at one of these eateries, and you will be bubbly with delight!

Del Frisco’s- Taking NYE reservations, with a limited but unbelievable menu, like a $79 8oz Filet & Lobster special delfriscos.com

Morton’s- Taking NYE reservations, with a full menu available mortons.com

Aura at the Seaport- Taking NYE reservations, dancing, toast @ 12seaportboston.com

Mentor- Taking NYE reservations, two types of prix fixe menus available. A Casino Royale Celebration, fancy dress is encouraged, with dancing and a roulette table mentorboston.com

Sportello- Taking NYE day and night reservations, serving their sophisticated menu all day long sportelloboston.com

Rosa Mexicano- Taking NYE reservations, prix fixe menu available, including their famous guacamole, a RM must Empire Lounge- Taking NYE reservations, book 5-7pm receive 14%, DJ empireboston.com

Blue Dragon- Taking NYE reservations, amazing East-West off-the-menu-menu available, $50pp, 6-9pm ming.com

Tavern Road- Taking NYE reservations, hors d’oeuvres, raw bar, toast @ 12, $65pp, 10pm-2am tavernroad.com

Lucky’s Lounge- Taking NYE reservations, 6-9pm with music by the Sinatra Jazz Trio. NYE party starts @9:30, with hors d’oeuvres, toast @ 12 and party favahs luckylounge.com

Barlow’s- Taking NYE reservations, full menu available, as well as 3-course for $39.95pp, AND 3-course for $99.95pp w/ btl prosecco. DJ 10pm-2am, NO COVER barlowsboston.com

Stephi’s in Southie- Taking NYE reservations, full menu available and 3-course prix fixe, $65pp WITH wine pairings, 1/2bl Veuve or 6 Miller High Lifes and ½ oysters for $40, DJ @10pm stephisisouthie.com

Local 149-Taking NYE reservations, $65pp prix fixe, 5-9pm, DJ @10pm, $5 cover local149.com

Touche’s Shamrock Pub- Dinner 4-10pm, music, 10pm-2am, Midnight Chinese Food Buffet, $25pp Bring in the Noise For some, NYE is all about squeezing in all the indulgences they want to rid themselves of for the foreseeable future; unfortunately statutes say that 1/3 of those made ‘em, break ‘em by the end of January. Reigning in spending, changing eating habits, cutting down on drinking and adjusting sleeping habits are just the main decree, and are always at the top of my list. So get out, buy that outfit, get your hair done, and dance the night away. You may not feel so hot on 01/01, but you sure will look good doing it!

Jerry Remy’s Seaport- Black & White Bash, $50pp includes a complimentary drink, toast @12am, hors d’oeuvres, 9pm-
Southie Senses:

Things to touch, see, taste, smell and hear in Southie

**Touch: Hands On**

Though it shouldn’t be so, the holidays can be very stressful. Need to unwind? Check out Awaken Massage Therapy, located at 75 Dorchester Street. Anne Marie Collins is a talented massage therapist who comes highly recommended; she also specializes in reiki. Don’t know what to get a loved one for the holidays? Or can’t think of what to ask for? Awaken Massage Therapy is offering 20% off gift certificates for a one-hour massage through January 6th. Baby let me rub you down!

**Awaken Massage Therapy**
75 Dorchester Street
617-268-6666

**See: With the Naked Eye**

Thrill seekers unite! On New Year’s Day, L. St. Brownies, new and old, perform a 100+ year old ritual: the Polar Bear Plunge! Registration at the K St Women’s Bathhouse starts at 8am, with the dip at 9:30am. Make a $1 donation and you will receive an L St. Brownies membership and bragging rights. Whether you want to take part in the oldest neighborhood tradition, or want to ring in the New Year in a very different way, be sure to wear your black/white dress and bring your own noisemakers and hats and ring in the “almost” new year. And the show cannot be missed. The donations also benefit the South Boston Sports Hall of Fame. Fun to follow at the L St Tavern.

**Lincoln Southie**
10pm-2am, photo booth, specialty cocktails, NO COVER facebook.com/events/268878449928563/

**Drinks: Drinkboston.com**

They’re not just for brunch anymore! Join Lincoln for regular dinner w/toast @12am
drinkboston.com/open

**Smell: Get it All Done in the Same Breath**

New, Year, New Do, New You. Salon De Cheveux is giving up their time to get ready to get us done up instead. Make an appointment with any of their amazing and talented stylists on 12/31/2013 to get your haircut done for a mere $45 ($65 value) OR add a wash and blow dry on to make it $80. This deal sure smells sweet to me!

**Salondecheveuxboston.com**

**Hear: Bing! Bang! Boom!**

A familiar sight and sound of summer in South Boston are fireworks on the harbor. Unfortunately, the weather is not comparable with what usually accompanies the fete but all can get an earful this NYE at midnight with a wondrous display of bright lights and beautiful sounds. Even if it won’t feel the same, the memory will sure to make us warm. Get a front row seat at Sam’s at Louis, and ring in the New Year right!

**Embrace All Of The Southie Senses:**

Get schooled. The time has come when kids in Boston rejoice: this year Christmas and New Year’s Day are on a Wednesday, so there are 2 WEEKS of vacay play to be had. I can only imagine the thrill and excitement they feel. Their parents on the other hand, I feel only empathy. The ICA has a week’s worth of activities planned for the rugrats and the ‘rents to do together. Boston Children’s Museum has reopened the Recycle Shop, a much-missed part of their operation, through December 31st and is having a ‘Countdown to 12pm’ on December 30th, where kids can make their own noisemakers and hats and ring in the “almost” new year. And the Murphy Skating Rink has extended school vacation hours 12/26-12/31. One suggestion- cash in on some of those babysitting promises and offers that loved ones have given. And take back your night (or a couple hours).

**ica.boston.org**

**Boston Children’s Museum**
mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/recreate/christmas-week-public-skating-hours.pdf
Sal’s on the corner of L Street and 8th in South Boston offers a complete menu of authentic Italian food including pizza, calzones, pasta, hot & cold subs, wraps, salads, Italian traditional dinners, paninis, soups, seafood and specialties from the grill. Sal’s also has side dishes and is now offering deserts to finish your meal.

If you’re interested in breakfast, Sal’s specializes in omelets, sandwiches and their “eggs any way you want it” specials. They are also now also open on Sundays from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Sal’s also has a complete list of party platters available for New Years Eve, New Years Day and for all of your football parties. If your hosting a party or need to bring a dish to one, let Sal’s help you do it by preparing a delicious platter to take with you. Their catering menu includes:

- Party meat & cheese platters
- Party size calzones
- Assorted small & large size salads
- And an array of small, medium and large hot trays including everything from A to Z; steak tips, baked ziti, veal or chicken parmesan, lasagna and sausage pepper & onions to name just a few.

To help you celebrate the New Year, Sal’s will be open to serve you from 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM on New Year’s Eve and from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM on New Year’s Day.

But if you’re just interested in pizza, then Sal’s is also the place to go. Check out some of their specialty pizza like: Vegetarian Primavera mozzarella, Chicken & Broccoli, Quattro Formaggio, Shrimp Scampi or The Meat Lovers.

And to make ordering easier, Sal’s is now accepting orders on line for delivery or take-out.

Sal’s has been serving authentic and home-style Italian food in South Boston since 1986. Sal’s prides itself in quality food, fast delivery and great service. All of their pizzas, pastas and meats are prepared fresh daily in their kitchen. To check out Sal’s Ristorante’s complete menu on line go to www.salsofsouthie.com or call 617-268-5800 to place an order.

Like their menu says: Sal’s Ristorante & Pizzeria…..”A Touch of Sicily in Southie”
Local 149 will be hosting a New Year’s Eve party on December 31st with a prix fixe menu, complementary appetizers starting at 10:00 PM and a mid-night champagne toast. The party kicks off at 10:00 PM with DJ Jaz from Kiss 107.9 & Jam’ n 94.5. There will be two seatings for the prix fixe menu from 5-7:00PM and 7-9:00 PM. The prix fixe menu will include 3 courses prepared by their Chef de cuisine, Christian Ellis especially for New Years Eve. Some choices from the menu are:

1st Course: Winter Citrus Salad, Roasted Cauliflower Bisque, Foie Gras Crème Brûlée and Roasted Beet Carpaccio.

2nd Course: Baked Stuffed ½ Lobster, Statler Chicken Roulade, and a Filet Mignon.

3rd Course: Profiteroles, Apple Walnut Bread Pudding, Fried Fluffernutter and Pumpkin Bread Sundae.

You can be sure that there is something exceptional on the menu for everyone. A $5.00 cover begins at 10:00 o’clock for those who don’t wish to dine.

To make a reservation, please call 617-269-0900; or email info@local149.com.

Local 149 is a place where people can eat, drink and celebrate together and is located at 149 P Street (between 6th Street & Columbia Road) in South Boston, MA. Local 149 features 20-plus tempting draught beers at the bar which is the centerpiece of the room along with a wood burning fireplace. Craft cocktails, fusion drinks with house made garnishes and ingredients and friendly service makes Local 149 the place to be for New Years Eve. Eat, Drink, Celebrate & Be Local!!!
Well, Christmas 2013 brought with it all the joy, warmth and laughter that are part of the season. Thousands flocked to South Boston’s Churches during Christmas week and on the day itself to be part of the celebration of the birth of Jesus. But in addition to the many Masses and Services that come with the day and the Holy time of Advent, this season brought some beautiful Christmas concerts to neighborhood houses of worship that thrilled the crowds and added to the spirit which is so unique to this time of year.

Last Friday night saw the return of ‘Maeve’ to the South Baptist Church location at the corner of L and E. Fourth Street. The concert was sponsored by the New Covenant Church of South Boston and it was Maeve’s 3rd year performing at this location. The packed Church was treated to some of the finest Yuletide sounds that could be heard anywhere. Maeve, which is an all-female trio consisting of Courtney Reid, Rollyn Zoubec and Rachel Taylor has its own distinct and beautiful sound. On this night they played and sang a mixture of cover favorites, traditional Christmas Carols and their own creations to produce a sound like no other. Their instrumentals and voice harmonies are called ‘angelic’ by many who have heard them perform. They mix in with their set a combination of festive and upbeat songs with slower ballads which easily change the mood in the Church from song to song.

The Church itself was decorated with red and white Christmas flowers highlighted by dozens of flickering candles which added to the warm and cozy atmosphere of the night and blended perfectly with Maeve’s incredible performance that easily won them a standing ovation at the end.

The following evening brought more beautiful Christmas music, this time to the Fourth Presbyterian Church, located at 340 Dorchester Street here in South Boston. If you are among those who still have not heard the Fourth Presbyterian Church Choir, you definitely want to hear them perform. If you like upbeat Gospel style music and singing, this choir can compete with the best – anywhere. They are fantastic and the Christmas concert they put on last Saturday was rousing, inspirational and a whole lot of fun. They had the large crowd clapping and singing along and even up on their feet several times. The performance was so powerful, it was said that Heaven itself was entertained. The music and the vocals were that moving. This reporter isn’t sure if this group has ever considered making a recording of their music but if they haven’t,
they may want to give it some very serious thought. They are that good. In fact during some of their songs, I gave a glance or two up at the roof to see if it would remain intact or blow right off the rafters. Some in the audience commented that they wished they had brought a video camera. They said it would be a pleasure to watch it over and over.

Later that evening brought us a few blocks up the street to the St. Augustine’s Chapel at 181 Dorchester Street for still another musical treat and Christmas Concert. This was the fourth annual ‘Celtic Christmas in the Chapel’ and it was sponsored by the South Boston Community Health Center and the South Boston Arts Association for the benefit of The South Boston Youth Ambassadors to help their Young at Arts programs. Once again, those in attendance were not disappointed as Katie McD and the Irish Cross Country Band featuring along with Katie McD, Martin Butler and Dan Keller. This was a Christmas concert with an Irish theme to it that had the audience thrilled by the beautiful sound and delivery. In addition to the wonderful music and soothing, yet powerful vocals and the songs that spoke of ‘Home’ in Ireland, there were stories and there was poetry that fit in perfectly in what was surely a fantastically coordinated concert that also brought out the true spirit of the season. Each song was followed by enthusiastic applause from a very pleased and satisfied crowd.

But Katie McD and the Irish Cross Country Band had a surprise for the audience in the form of some very special young guest performers. Three of South Boston’s own very talented Irish Step dancers from the Peggy Woods School danced for the appreciative crowd. As always, they did a great job.

South Boston is fortunate to have as part of its Christmas traditions, such good concerts that have become important parts of how this neighborhood celebrates the true meaning of the season. We at South Boston Today are fortunate as well that we were able to be there to report on these great events and enjoy such great performances.
DANNY PICARD: Going into Sunday’s game against the Baltimore Ravens, how confident were you? Not on Wednesday or Thursday, but when you heard that Nate Solder would be officially out, what was your confidence level going into this game when he was ruled out?

JERRY THORNTON: It was not so good. I would love to do a certain kind of revisionist history here, and paint the picture like I saw this coming all along, but no.

For the first time all year long, in 15 games, this was the first time I picked against the Patriots. And I spent the week trying to talk myself out of it. I was able to do that with the Denver game, because there were factors that I said would go in the Patriots favor. But I just felt like, Danny, with these two teams, every game is fought with trash can lids and broken bottles. And it always comes down to the end. I did the math, and in the last seven meetings between the two, there’s been five games decided by six points or less. And the only ones that weren’t were the playoffs, and oh by the way, Baltimore came into Gillette and kicked the Patriots right in the bows of holly. So it just seemed to me like this one was going to come down to the end, and I just felt like without Solder and basically with their receivers looking like -- as Tom E. Curran said -- the Hickory high school team in Hoosiers, I just didn’t feel like the Patriots were going to get the breaks that they needed, and boy, it felt good to be wrong.

DP: it wasn’t just breaks that they needed, I thought that defensively, if you could come up with game-changing turnovers, which they did, and even the stop on 4th-and-1 on Ray Rice, those are championship plays. If they made those against Miami the week before, the Patriots win 20-17, and maybe so many people wouldn’t be picking against them going into Baltimore. Even though they scored 41 points, I thought the difference was the defensive plays that they made. I call them championship plays.

JT: Yeah, that’s very fair. That Miami game, like any game in football at any level, any game that comes down to one score, there are at least a dozen plays that you look at and you say, “That could have made the difference.” The Patriots made those plays [against Baltimore], and it was a pleasant surprise. You mention the stop on 4th-and-1 by Ninkovich, the guy who made that play to me was Siliga, who stunted around and shot a gap and got into the backfield and disrupted Rice. Of all the defensive players to help you make a big play in a big situation, Sealer Siliga. I mentioned [Sunday], I’m just now getting my auto-correct to learn his name and stop trying to fight me every time I type him, because I’m typing him a lot. He’s come out of nowhere to do a really good job for them, as so many guys did. And the red zone thing, give credit to Josh McDaniels, who has his critics, God knows. But he schemed some terrific plays down there. For crying out loud, he was using James Develin to free up Shane Vereen down by the goal line. I mean, three guys followed Develin, who has seven touches on the year, and they left Shane Vereen all alone on the flat for the touchdown. So, kudos to everybody. They figured out a way to make the red zone work for them, they made plays on defense, and like you said, that’s what champions do.

DP: I love that play to Vereen on the touchdown, and not just the Develin part of it, but I loved the quick, aggressive throw. You don’t have to throw the ball to a guy who’s standing in the end zone, to score in the red zone. And that play right there, the quick out to Vereen, get it in shotgun, fire it over to him, and let him make the play at the pylon, let him try to get in. I love that play, Jerry.

JT: And it all just developed faster than Baltimore could react to it. That’s having a good situational awareness between your quarterback and your receiver, and it’s probably a play that they’ve run thousands of times in practice. And it shows. That execution was flawless. And speaking of flawless execution, Blount’s second touchdown was

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with his makeshift offensive line, where guys are sort of just cobbled together, and they’re playing out of position, there’s an undrafted rookie, and they ran an inside zone run that was just perfectly executed. Blount made a perfect cutback, and as the cliche goes, that was just another guy stepping up, and the next man up, and nobody complaining about how many injuries they have, just they guys that are in there doing their job.

DP: Shane Vereen now has a groin issue and left the game. Let’s say he misses some time now. I mean, you can’t be in panic mode, right Jerry, because we keep seeing major pieces go down, and somebody steps up. It’s cliche, I know, but I tweeted this too, “Pats win, when are people going to learn?” This Patriots team is going to have someone step up and step in. And I think maybe with the way we saw Bolden a couple times on Sunday, maybe he’s somebody that will step in and catch some of those passes that Vereen was catching out of the backfield. How do you think they will replace him if he does miss time?

JT: I think Vereen gives them a skill set that nobody else has, but I think, given a heads up on this, and hopefully they take care of business next week and then get him a couple weeks to rest up. But, without that, that’s two weeks that they have to try and, once again, for the 50,000th time this season, re-invent themselves on offense, and go to more of a power running game. And I’ll tell you right now, Stevan Ridley put on his big-boy pants [against Baltimore]. When they were trying to run the clock out, and they needed a drive to keep their defense off the field, and keep Baltimore from essentially making a game of it, they put the ball in Ridley’s hands. And he was immense. He had two consecutive 2nd-and-8 plays, where he just carried five guys across the first-down marker.

And I love Blount. Sneaky, he has become my favorite thing to watch in this offense. He gets nothing and turns it into something. And then he’s big enough and tough enough to tackle, where he turns that something into a lot of things. And he’s just relentless, and I love watching him play. Vereen is probably the only guy who can do specifically what he does. But in the absence of him, I’m confident that they’ll figure out a way to do some other damn thing.

DP: When you look at this Patriots defense, and the turnovers they created, and the big plays they made, are you convinced that, even as banged up as they might be and regardless of personnel, are you convinced that this is going to be a defense that’s going to give the Patriots a legitimate shot to make a serious run in the playoffs?

JT: I still am going to advise caution on that. If they’re not healthy in the secondary -- and that really is the big question here. If they can go six deep with their top six guys, I like their chances. But we can’t forget, they just made Ryan Tannehill look like 1994 Steve Young. He had a 120 passer rating against the Patriots. So, I would advise caution, but there’s no taking away what they did [against Baltimore], which was tremendous. It’s not so much about where you came from. It’s about what you do going forward, and on a day in which they had three interceptions and the defense outscored their opponents’ offense, then believe me, I’m going to feel good.

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