



# NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF CHEVALIER AUDITORIUM AND GENE MACK GYMNASIUM

## Chevalier and the Medford Square Vision

For those who have not had the opportunity to attend the public meetings and participate in the ongoing discussions about the vision and revitalization of Medford Square, this is an update on the progress to date.

At the latest public meeting on December 15, 2004, preliminary plans were unveiled by Sasaki Associates of Boston, the consulting firm hired by the City of Medford. The primary components of their Vision Plan incorporate the following:

- City with small-town feel
- Active street life
- Diverse activities day and evening
- Vibrant destinations/family and cultural activities
- Resident and business participation

Detail information prepared by Sasaki Associates may be viewed on the Medford website, [www.medford.org](http://www.medford.org). Sasaki Associates has invited comments from residents. It will “formulate preferred elements into a concept plan” and in the near future will present a draft to the public for more community input. For all of the volun-



teers who have been working tirelessly for the renovation and revitalization of the Chevalier Theatre, the question is: will Chevalier be included in the Master Plan for Medford Square?

Countless hours, indeed thousand of hours have been spent by volunteers over the past 20 years raising funds, promoting the theatre, organizing and sponsoring stage productions and concerts, making physical improvements in the building, publicizing its history, preserving the property and many other efforts. Who can quantify the value of the volunteers and the hours given by them to the Chevalier Theatre including the Friends of Chevalier Auditorium and Gene Mack Gymnasium, The Mystic Players, the Chevalier Auditorium Commission and many others in our community. Without this volunteer effort, the property which is owned by the City of Medford could have been demolished.

We should also keep in mind that since 1982 more than \$2.5 million dollars have been invested in the building funded by the Medford Community Development Block Grant ( \$ 2 0 0 , 0 0 0 ) , Commonwealth of Massachusetts (\$2 million dollars authorized in 1982), donations by the Friends of Chevalier and Gene

### FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF CHEVALIER AUDITORIUM AND GENE MACK GYMNASIUM  
PO BOX 288, MEDFORD, MA 02155

PRESIDENT: LENA DIGIANTOMMASO  
VICE PRESIDENT: PAUL DONATO  
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RICHARD OBER AND RUSS ROSSETTI

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WINTER 2005



## Spring Fling Breakfast

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10**  
More information inside

## ANNUAL MEETING AT MHS CAFE ELECTRA

Members and friends gathered together at the Café Electra in Medford High School for the Annual Meeting. On October 21, 2004, a delicious dessert table with coffee and beverages was prepared and served for the social hour by students of the Culinary Arts Department at Medford Vocational-Tech High School.

Congratulations and many thanks to Voc-Tech. Director William Mahoney and the students for making an excellent culinary presentation at the FRIENDS meeting. Many residents are not aware that Café Electra is open to the public for breakfast and lunch on Tuesday through Friday. Hours are usually 9:00 AM-12:30 PM. Call ahead 391-1182 to confirm hours of operation. Café Electra

invites you to come and enjoy the good food.

President Lena DiGiantommaso chaired the business meeting in which Treasurer Robert O'Neil presented the Annual Financial Report and the election of Officers and Board of Directors was held. The Nomination Committee, chaired by Amy Fowke, announced the slate of candidates and the following members were elected unanimously.

*President*

Lena DiGiantommaso

*Clerk*

Alva Erickson

*Vice President*

Paul Donato

*Treasurer*

Robert O'Neil

*Board of Directors:*

Heather Anderson

May Marquebreuck

Frank Bradley

Richard Ober

Michael Cerullo

Russ Rossetti



**Officers of the Friends of Chevalier elected at the October 2004**

**Annual Meeting:**

**(from left to right) top:**

**Richard Ober, Frank Bradley, Heather Anderson, Michael Cerullo, Robert O'Neill, Russ Rossetti; bottom:**

**Alva Erickson, Lena DiGiantommaso, May Marquebreuck, (not shown is Paul Donato).**

General Meetings will reconvene in February, and each month thereafter through June, to which all members are invited. At these meetings, we welcome ideas and input from our members about what activities or programs could be organized to promote the Chevalier Theatre and to continue our support of the Gene Mack Youth Center.



### **Friends Meeting Schedule for 2005**

Meetings of the membership and interested persons are held in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Medford High School beginning at 7:00 PM.

**FEBRUARY 17    MARCH 17    APRIL 28**  
**MAY 19    JUNE 16**

The meeting room is handicap accessible.  
Bring a friend. Refreshments are served.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 781-396-9130**

### *In Memoriam*

The FRIENDS are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our member and dear friend, Joan Nastri. Joan lived most of her life in Medford, graduated from Medford High School and gave generously of her time to volunteer activities in the community. She was one of the "founding" members of the Friends of Chevalier Auditorium and Gene Mack Gymnasium, served for 20 years as a Trustee at Oak Grove Cemetery, an active member of the Thursday Fortnightly Club and the Medford High School Reunion Class Committee.

Joan was a caring and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Always ready with a helping hand. We shall miss her smiling face and warm personality.



## MEDFORD SQUARE VISION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mack Gym, The Mystic Players, Winn Management, and dollars contributed by the Chevalier Auditorium Commission.

An enormous amount of time and money have been invested in the Chevalier Theatre. It has the potential to be a great destination in Medford Square, to bring “family and cultural activities” into the revitalization plan for the downtown area, to produce revenue for the City as it was envisioned 20 years ago, thereby giving the community a return on the \$2.5 million dollar investment and contributing to the economic welfare of Medford.

Chevalier is a “hidden treasure” that should be appreciated for its historical and cultural value to the City. This is an opportunity for the community to come forward to support its importance and inclusion in the Master Plan for Medford Square.



On February 17, members of the FRIENDS presented a \$1000 donation to Dorothy Bromage, President of the Chevalier Theatre Organ Society for the restoration of the historic Mighty Wurlitzer Organ (circa 1922) which is being done by that volunteer organization. It will be installed in the Chevalier Theatre for the enjoyment of the community at concerts, silent movie accompaniment, and educational instruction of music students.



# Spring Fling Breakfast

Shake off the winter blues! Come to the Spring Fling Breakfast on Sunday, April 10 at the VFW Memorial Hall, Mystic Avenue in Medford. To help raise funds for our programs dedicated to continuing revitalization of the Chevalier Theatre and support of the Gene Mack Clubhouse, the Special Events Committee is inviting you to a bountiful breakfast, a raffle with great gifts and musical entertainment.

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with danish, muffins, juice, melon, jams, scrambled eggs, home fries, ham, bacon, maple cured sausages, regular tea and coffee, and decaffeinated coffee. Tickets are \$20 per person. Lots of food, fun and camaraderie. For more information call 781-396-9130.



## Spring Fling Breakfast

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT:

- Bestsellers Café, 24 High Street  
Medford Square
- Office of Rep. Paul Donato, 271 Spring Street,  
Haines Square
- Camille's Shoppe, 453 High Street,  
West Medford Square

# Think Spring!



## Spring Fling Breakfast

Sunday, April 10  
VFW Memorial Hall  
Mystic Avenue, Medford

Shake off the winter blues, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and help raise funds for our programs to support the Chevalier Theatre and the Gene Mack Clubhouse.

See details inside this newsletter!



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OF CHEVALIER  
AUDITORIUM  
AND GENE MACK  
GYMNASIUM



THE  
FRIENDS