

Veni, veni o oriens! Solare nos adveniens.

Merry Christmas 2008.

David and Mary kicked off 2008 with cocktails at the **Taj Hotel Boston**. Winter festivities continued with our January 27th **ROBERT BURNS NIGHT** celebration, the first of five literary evenings of 2008. Read about what our friends read at those gatherings at readingaloud.org.

Mary says, "It was a dream come true to own and operate my own rewarding and successful business where I (me, me, me) was the boss! But after 13 years of **MARY FOR NAILS, ETC.** natural nailcare salon the time came to say good-bye to the lovely ladies on the half-hour." In April we closed down the shop, however, Mary keeps a hand in the manicure business with her bi-weekly **ALL THAT ZAZZ** column in the *Post-Gazette*, the Italian-American voice of Massachusetts.

David well remembers that Easter week-end in 1995 when Mary first set up shop on Main Street in Andover—his job was to paint the place! His former training in carpentry and painting were put into service again this April when he took the bath in **Alec DiZazzo's** house back to the original green and black 1950s tile. Now semi-retired, Mary enjoys a few days every month at her father's house in Methuen—the house she grew up in. Dad is doing well and looks forward to his 89th birthday January 5th.

Mary has kept busy as leader of the **Culinary Discussion Group** at the **BOSTON ATHENAEUM**, finding interesting topics and speakers monthly. Along with our theatre subscriptions and Boston's museums, Mary finds time for classes at the **CAMBRIDGE CENTER FOR ADULT EDUCATION** where she has made many friends.

The summer of 2008 in New England will be remembered (and cursed) as the summer it rained almost every weekend, but the sun smiled on us all but one day of our week in **PROVINCETOWN** this year. Vacation snaps are on David's facebook. Mary has also joined the hordes wasting time on facebook, or as our friend, and president of the **Dorothy Parker Society**, **Kevin Fitzpatrick**, calls it "crack book."

We saw Kevin and other Parkerites in October for the **ROBERT BENCHLEY SOCIETY** Sixth Annual Gathering and Awards Dinner at the Harvard Club of New York. **Madeleine Begun Kane** is this year's winner for her essay, [Guide for the Opera Impaired](#). The New York

weekend was also something of an homage to the TV program *Mad Men*, as we stayed at the **Roosevelt Hotel**. It was grand seeing everyone, especially **Tom and Terri Saunders** of the Ann Arbor, Mich, *A Moderate State of Preservation Chapter* who have not been able to attend a gathering since 2005 in Boston. Of course we cannot give enough thanks to **Horace Digby** for all his efforts arranging and promoting the competition, including lining up this year's celebrity judge, **BOB NEWHART**. Photos are on the website robertbenchley.org.

Jumping back a month—Mary enjoyed a day of sight-seeing and museum-going in our nation's capital—she can't say enough about the **News eum** (newseum.org)—while David was in government meetings all day on the seventh anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. **The Industry Trade Advisory Committee** that David serves on is non-partisan and he will continue as an advisor to the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of Commerce in the new **Obama Administration**.

While the November election did not go our way for us McCain voters (And we love **Sarah Palin!**), David as former vice president of a local branch of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** is glad that if the "problem of the Twentieth Century [was] the problem of the color-line," we have, in a major and public way put it behind us.

We just received the last White House Christmas card from **George and Laura Bush**. In November we were in Bush country—Kennebunkport, Maine—enjoying Thanksgiving week at the **KENNEBUNKPORT INN**, feasting on lazy man's lobster on Turkey Day. We were rejuvenated by excellent spa services at the Inn. The holiday was further enlivened by a visit by our friend **Claire D.** who stopped by for cocktails and piano sing-along one evening.

Obligations at home and the weak dollar combined to nix foreign travel for a time, but cannot hold us back much longer and we are making plans for another **ROMAN HOLIDAY** in the coming months.

Wishing you all the best for 2009, we remain,

Your obedient servants,

David and Mary Trumbull