

In the Bleak Mid-Winter.

Merry Christmas 2009.

We started with a surprise when David, who thought she was simply taking him out for a **BIRTHDAY DINNER**, was dumb-struck to see that Mary had hired a car—a magnificent stunning white Bentley—and driver for an evening that started with dinner in Cambridge, and proceeded through a drive up to Revere Beach, a stop in front of the Boston nightclub where they first met, and cocktails and piano at the *Taj Boston* hotel bar.

In March David was promoted to Vice President, International Trade at the **NATIONAL TEXTILE ASSOCIATION**. Recognizing increased travel to Washington, the job includes membership in the **UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D.C.** Mary also enjoys visiting the museums and other attractions of our national capitol and looks forward to having the Club as a “home away from home.”

June brought a bitter-sweet reunion of New England textile men and women when the **TEXTILE CLUB**, of which David was treasurer, met for the 947th time and voted, after 118 years as a dining club, to dissolve. The \$10,000 in the Club’s Scholarship Funds was given to the *Dick Bourdon Flock Fund* at *UMass Dartmouth* and the records, artifacts, and operating funds went to the *American Textile History Museum* in Lowell. Many long time members of the Club came out for the historic event, which Mary arranged, at Boston’s *L’Espalier* restaurant. It was a huge success and was reported on at length in the textile trade press.

In March David agreed to carry the party standard as **REPUBLICAN NOMINEE** for State Representative in a June Special Election to fill a vacancy. Local press seemed to enjoy the story of an urban Republican with a libertarian bent and reported frequently on the race. Unfortunately few registered voters took an interest and in one of the lowest turn-out elections in Boston a Democrat was chosen. A shout-out is due to campaign volunteer **SHAWN BURKE** who dedicated many hours to this hopeless race on behalf of a hapless candidate.

Campaign manager **RICH JOHNSON** treated Mary and David to a night-at-the-circus fundraiser for the Cambridge organization *The Theater Offensive*. Plied with pomegranate martinis at the totally over-the-top event—really you should see the photos, including the ones we didn’t dare put on Facebook—Mary got caught up in the spirit of the fundraising auction and bid an outrageous sum for a New York City **THEATRE**

WEEKEND that included orchestra seats to *Billy Elliot* and dinner at the celebrated *Le Cirque*. The hotel for the package was *The Standard*—the hottest new hotel in New York’s newest “in” neighborhood, the Meat-Packing District—directly across from *Hogs and Heifers*, the bar that inspired the movie *Coyote Ugly*. If you’re in that area be sure to visit the *Ground Zero Museum Workshop* where we saw actual artifacts recovered from former World Trade Center site.

This year we compensated for no foreign travel by extending to a week-and-a-half our customary week in **PROVINCETOWN**. Friend **DOUG** from the *West End Salon*, across from the *Rose and Crown* where we stay, was feted with a “Slum Dog Birthday Party” at the *Boatslip*. All came in Indian dress. And wouldn’t you know—the only DVD we brought along from home for rainy-day entertainment was Bollywood *masti* (music videos) and was the only Bollywood-themed party supply they lacked until we showed up!

With a break for summer, Mary’s **Culinary Discussion Group** at the **BOSTON ATHENÆUM** continued to meet to hear guest speakers such as local chefs or just chat among themselves about gastronomic topics. The Athenæum, a membership library, first opened its doors in 1807, and its rich history as a library and cultural institution has been well documented in the annals of Boston’s cultural life. If you live in the Boston area and you are not a member you really should consider joining. Mary and David will be pleased to sponsor you.

Mary continues to avail herself of Boston’s many venues for concerts and live theatre as well as taking literature classes at the **CAMBRIDGE CENTER FOR ADULT EDUCATION**. Her own literary talents are displayed biweekly in the *Post-Gazette*, the Italian Voice of Massachusetts where she writes the **ALL THAT ZAZZ** column. This spring Mary branched out from writing to public speaking and with the support of **JANET BUDA** at the *North End Branch Boston Public Library* delivered a series of “You Look Marvelous” talks which were well attended and covered by the local press.

In January Mary’s dad **Alec** celebrates his 90th birthday—don’t say anything, we have a surprise planned!

Wishing you all the best for 2010, we remain, your obedient servants,

David and Mary Trumbull