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JANUARY 2015

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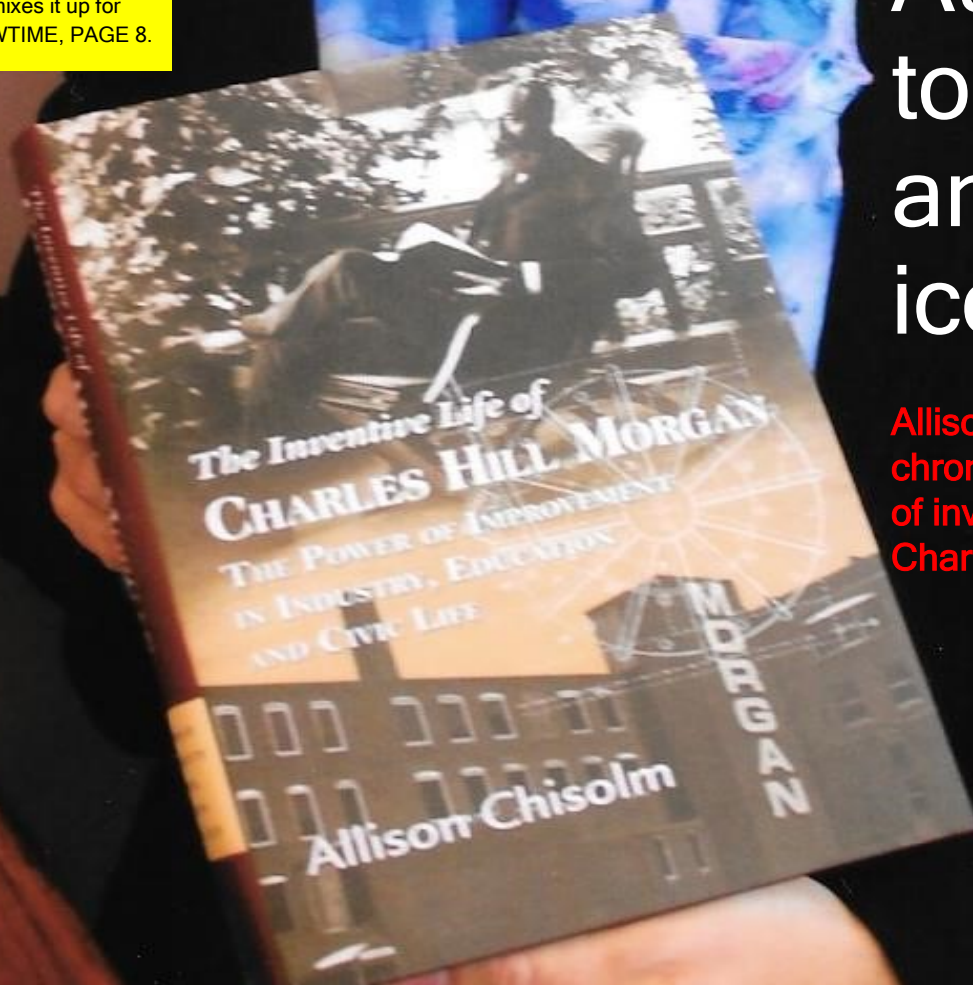
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to
an
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Allison Chisolm
chronicles the life
of inventive genius
Charles Hill Morgan



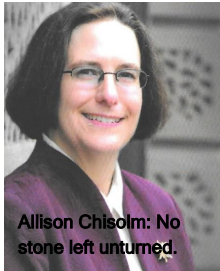
COVER STORY

Forget me not

Allison Chisolm's biography of CHM will help people remember a giant

By ROD LEE

Perhaps one day Allison Chisolm will pen the biography of Edwin B. "Ted" Coghlin Jr. as she has the definitive one of Charles Hill Morgan.



Allison Chisolm: No stone left unturned.

Let's hope so.

Mr. Coghlin, who passed away December 10th at the age of seventy-nine, left a large footprint on the city in his time, mirroring in many ways the impact Mr. Morgan exerted across the Worcester landscape until his own death in 1911—at eighty.

Surely we can look forward, then, to Mayor Petty or maybe a councilor—Konstantina B. Lukes, Kathleen M. Toomey or Philip P. Palmieri, for instance—proposing that the name of the city's deservedly ballyhooed trade school be changed

from "Worcester Technical High School" to "Edwin B. Coghlin Jr. Memorial Technical High School" in the near future. Given that Mr. Coghlin was aptly regarded as "the godfather" of that fine educational institution.

It would be a shame if a century from now Mr. Coghlin is as obscure a figure on the public's consciousness as Mr. Morgan.

Ms. Chisolm's remarkable *The Inventive Life of Charles Hill Morgan/The Power of Improvement in Industry, Education and Civic Life*, commissioned by the Morgan family and published earlier this year by TidePool Press of Cambridge, is certain to bring the co-founder (with his brother Francis Henry Morgan, in 1888) of Morgan Spring Company back into sharp focus.

Many in the community are aware of Morgan Construction (now part of Siemens VAI Metals). Few know a lick about "CHM."

When Ms. Chisolm during remarks she offered to a recent luncheon meeting of the Webster Square Business Association at Livia's Dish asked for a show of hands as to who was familiar with Mr. Morgan, not one was raised. Thirty people were present.

Even given her credentials as a freelance writer and independent public relations counselor for academic, healthcare and business clients (she is founder of Choice Words/Chisolm & Co.), *The Inventive Life* was an ambitious undertaking for Ms. Chisolm. Probably her stiffest test since her days at Princeton, when, she says, "in order to graduate from university I needed to do a thesis of seventy-five pages." *The Inventive Life* runs to four hundred sixty-two pages. It took her far longer than she or Charles Hill Morgan's great grandson Paul S. Morgan thought would be necessary to complete—eight years, after Paul had requisitioned her to tackle the project at a Siemens lunch. "Every Monday Paul would call me and ask 'where's my book?'" she said (Paul S. Morgan died in September of 2012 after having "read and commented on every chapter of the book," which Ms. Chisolm dedicated to him, posthumously).

The result of Ms. Chisolm's work is a bio masterpiece. It would be easy to conceive of the story of "a self-taught draftsman" and inventor as dry. On the contrary. Through her deft arrangement of the particulars of CHM's life, chapter by chapter ("Cloth, Paper, Wire & Steel," "The Business of Paper Bags," "The Home Front," "The Pull of the Land," etc.), coupled with illuminating insights into his character, his struggles and triumphs, and an abundant use of photographs, diagrams and charts, she has created a book that measures up to scrutiny and then some. As PSM wrote of Ms. Chisolm from Duxbury in June of 2012, "she now knows more about Clinton, Massachusetts (where Mr. Morgan's career began to take shape), paper-bag making machines, cams and American steel plants of long ago than any other living person. We are fortunate beneficiaries of her deep and thorough research."

It is all here, in *The Inventive Life*. Family sorrows including the premature death of Charles' first wife Harriet T. "Hatty" (Plympton) Morgan and their baby son Hiram shortly after she gave birth to the child in July of 1862 and an industrial accident at Washburn & Moen that cost Charles' eldest son Harry his lower right leg. Gleanings from CHM's diaries. Patent battles (Mr. Morgan obtained his first patent in 1857, his last in 1909). An elevator CHM and Milton Prince Higgins invented for the Morgan home on Catherine St. (now a parking lot). A rewarding but ultimately deteriorating relationship with W&M. CHM's steadfast faith and fortitude in action. His role as a founder of Plymouth Church. His position as a trustee of what became WPI, until his death. A man who, Ms. Chisolm says, "fought for his ideas" when such ideas as "trains, the telephone and the typewriter were becoming commonplace."

Ms. Chisolm was asked by Paul S. Morgan to "restore his ancestor's story to its proper place in history."

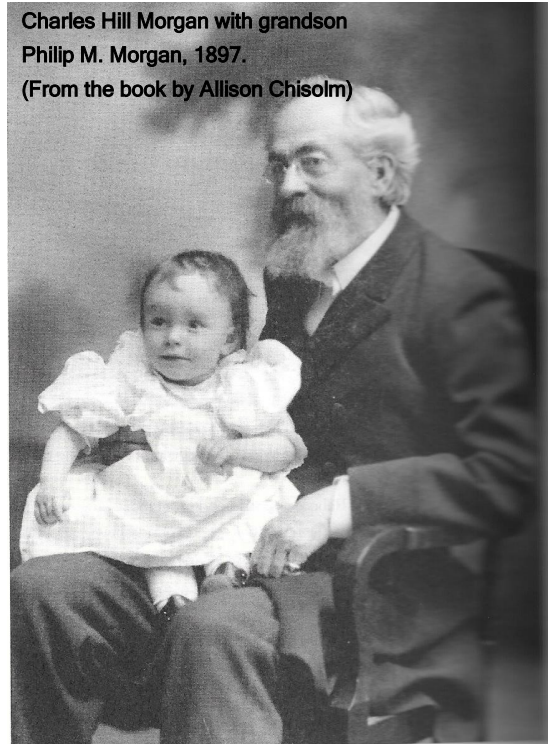
She has done that.

The book in lovely hardcover is a delight to read and savor. It is available through TidePool Press.com and Amazon.

Charles Hill Morgan with grandson

Philip M. Morgan, 1897.

(From the book by Allison Chisolm)



OUR TOWN/ROD LEE

No more 'splitting' hairs

Art Mooradian: A house divided cannot stand



Come November and December, animated, intense discussion of the city's property tax rate takes over the news. It's an annual ritual, like the running of the bulls. Or spring break. Everyone who is anyone weighs in on the subject. It was no different as 2014 dragged to a close. The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce even took out a full-page ad in advance of the City Council's deliberations and vote, enunciating "why Worcester needs a fair and equitable tax rate" and admonishing those with a vested interest to "Show Up. Be Heard." In doing so, the Chamber used the Maykel family of Evo and The Living Earth on Chandler St. as an example of a business that wants to expand but is stymied by "rising minimum wages, the high cost of food and inventory, the constant volatility of energy costs and the city's high tax rate." Since 2012, the ad says, "the Maykels have seen a 13% jump in their taxes." Albert Maykel Jr. is quoted. "Small businesses struggle to make ends meet and it is important to our family to provide our customers with a place to purchase natural and organic foods; that becomes harder and harder with ever-increasing costs," Mr. Maykel said. Meanwhile, the Chamber's Stuart Loosemore was twisting arms as only a man who may have learned his skills as a guard at Gitmo can (just kidding, Stu). Residents checked in too. The writer of a letter to the editor of the T&G, Richard J. Adams, questioned the logic of the AWARE group in calling for a higher tax rate for condominiums than single-family homes in that by having to pay for "my own snow plowing, leaf pickup, water and sewer maintenance" he does not receive the same city services as a single-family homeowner. District 1 City Councilor Tony Economou, noting that "we've reached the tipping point" in the debate, revived the idea that non-profits voluntarily step up to lessen the pain. "When 100 percent of the total property tax is paid by 70 percent of the people, that's a problem," Mr. Economou told the T&G's Nick Kotsopoulos. After the Council set the new rates (\$20.07 for residential, \$31.72 for commercial), AWARE's Joan Crowell—ever the attentive mathematician—fired off an email asking "did someone put a spin on the numbers?" by asserting that media reports that the city was moving toward a single tax rate were "not quite accurate." In actuality, Ms. Crowell said, the gap between commercial and residential widened by thirty-seven cents, over FY 2014. Watching all of this with keen absorption was Arthur Mooradian, an owner of both residential and business property who is known for his straightforwardness. "We cannot be a divided city," Mr. Mooradian said. "It (the split tax rate) was a bad idea from the day they did it. They've been kicking the can down the road ever since. It's very tough. You don't want to hurt anyone. No one wants their taxes to go up. It makes for hard choices. It's tough to rent commercial space in Worcester because of the tax rate. Taxes are almost as much as the rent. People from other areas can't believe it. Taxes on my Park Ave. property (No. 442) are \$25,000 a year, on a 7,000-square-foot building." Mr. Mooradian applauds the Council's latest action. He applauds the concept of a task force as proposed by Mayor Petty, to develop a long-term strategy for balance. "We need a five-year plan," he said. "People want to live in Worcester, with urban conveniences. I don't want to come off like a negative person and I'm happy with the progress we're making. But private investment is not following. GE chose Marlborough over Worcester. We don't have the staff in the Planning department." Most small businesses in the city, Mr. Mooradian said, "are ten or less employees, all hardworking people, paying taxes and fees. I think the vote the Council took was a great vote. I would have liked to see it unanimous. People are seeing the realities. They know lowest residential doesn't work." By lowest residential, largely, until now, "we've created a great windfall for all the towns around Worcester. Many businesses have relocated to the edges of the city...Shrewsbury and Auburn, in large part because of our tax rate. My interest is the city of Worcester. I was born here and I will end here in the city." He wants to believe parity can happen.

Nidal El Fakih is manager of the 4 Seasons Grocery & Deli on Park Ave., in a building owned by Arthur Mooradian.



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THE NEIGHBORHOODS

'Boone' times

A leadership award; but is she staying...
...or leaving?

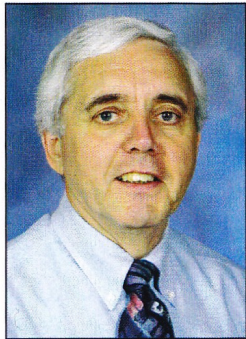
IRVING ST.—Amid occasional rumbles of speculation that this might be “the last go-round” for Worcester Supt. of Schools **Melinda J. Boone** (she must tire of **Brian O’Connell** and **Dianna L. Biancheria** nipping at her heels, like Chihuahuas) comes word that the good woman has been chosen as one of the Institute of Global Leadership’s “Life Leadership Service Award” recipients for 2014. Bestowed on Ms. Boone and others including **Mauro DePasquale** who is executive director of WCCA-TV and Dr. **Sue Foo** who is professor of Education and assistant director of the Center for Teaching Learning at Worcester State University, at All Saints Church as part of the IGL’s recent 15th-anniversary ceremonies honoring “ordinary people living extraordinary lives to restore



faith in humanity;” and, coincidentally, to instill today’s youth age seven and older with the urge to pursue greatness in their own right. Knowing both Dr. Boone and Mr. DePasquale a little, we share IGL’s admiration for their tenacity in advocating for, respectively, the schools and community-access television. Dr. Boone can point to her recent call for a first original Innovation School grounded in a rigorous regiment for advanced learners in the city (to begin in 2016-17) as a resume-enhancer. For his part Mr. DePasquale can hold up his outspokenness on behalf of fair funding for WCCA 13 from the city and Charter Communications, his laments on Charter’s repositioning of Channel 13 to no-man’s land (Channel 194) and his advocacy for an upgrade of the station’s Main St. studio as professional pluses.

No offseason for Bravehearts

JOLMA RD.—The Bravehearts resting on their laurels as Futures Collegiate Baseball League champions? Taking the winter off? Not a chance. Come Thursday, January 15th they will present “Heart Stove Reception” at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester on Tainter St. as a fundraiser for the Club. In another first for the Creedon family and GM **Dave Peterson**, the Bravehearts have assembled a panel of top professionals in the sport, all of whom hail from Central Massachusetts, to discuss with fans particulars of the National Pastime. The lineup? Would you believe **J.P. Ricciardi**, special assistant to the GM of the New York Mets...**Chris Colabello**, newly signed by the Toronto Blue Jays (why did the Twins give up on such a still-promising prospect?)...**Tyler Beede** of the San Francisco Giants...and last but certainly not least Hall of Fame Baseball Writer **Peter Gammons** (one of our favorite commentators on the MLB Network and NESN, a man revered by managers, coaches and players alike for his integrity). Kevin Shea, sports director/sports anchor for Charter TV3, will moderate. For tickets, log on to www.WorcesterBravehearts.com, call 508-438-3773 or email Anthony@WorcesterBravehearts.com. Children twelve and under get in at half-price. Batter up!



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THE NEIGHBORHOODS: Providence Street: Gifts for elders at the Senior Center.

Gift-giving is never quite so much fun as when Councilor Gary Rosen from “beautiful District 5” is running the show, as he did as president of the Friends of the Senior Center on December 19th. Here, Mr. Rosen’s District 3 counterpart George J. Russell is helping him out during a raffle for a great assortment of prizes including casino spending money, Dunkin’ Donuts gift cards and holiday baskets. A roomful of elders soaked up every minute!

Canal’ers are wrapped for success

CANAL DISTRICT—You might say Canal’ers passed Marketing 101 with flying colors. These are the people that give us the recent Santa Claus Pub Crawl. Canal-o-Ween. Mardi Gras. As of last June, Paul Collyer’s NOLA festival. CanalFest. And so on. The Canal District Alliance is always dreaming up new ways to self-promote, a big reason for the neighborhood’s success. Recently, **Dave Maki** of worcesterweb.com on Water St. visited **Steve O’Neil**, executive director of the WRTA, with an idea that piggybacks on smart-phone signage and walking-map initiatives designed to further identify the Canal District as a destination to be reckoned with.



Mr. Maki’s suggestion: A bus wrap for the CD. “Absolutely,” Mr. O’Neil responded. So that is in the works, as CD businesses sign on as advertising sponsors. More good news: The CDA has received

grants from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and Sam’s Club totaling \$6,000 to go with funding from the Worcester Cultural Coalition and CD merchants for a seventh season of horse-drawn wagon tours directed by former South High administrator Elizabeth Bacon. Away we go!

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THE NEIGHBORHOODS

No place for protesters

WOODLAND ST.—We couldn't resist asking the question of several people in attendance, upon joining a crowd of invitees to "A Holiday Celebration" hosted by Clark University President **David Angel** and Ms. **Jocelyne Bauduy** at Harrington House (just a short walk from the campus proper) on December 7th. Given that Clark



"Tree" huggers: Dr. Angel and Ms. Bauduy at Harrington House.

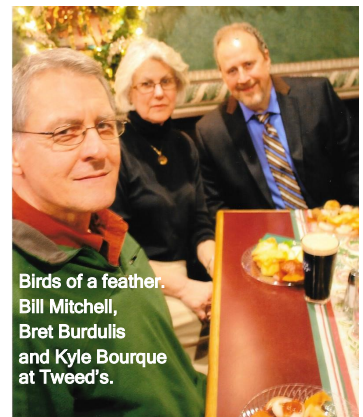
students were among those who marched in streets downtown in the wake of perceived police brutality in Ferguson, Missouri, Staten Island and even here in Worcester, our query was, "Where did you spend your undergraduate days and were you involved in any protest movement at that juncture of your life?" All of those cornered on the subject professed their innocence, starting with Dr. Angel himself. "Cambridge in the UK," he said. "No, not really. That wasn't the time. Not like now." **Leo Velasquez**, who is director of Clark's alumni fundraising arm, expressed similar sentiments. "Clark in the 80's," Mr. Velasquez said. And "no" (his affability suggested to us even before he responded that he wasn't the type who would buck authority). But, he added, my daughter Emily took part in the Worcester protest, because of Ferguson. She is a freshman here at Clark." Working our way across the room (admiring, in doing so, the resident Christmas tree, which may be the largest this side of Rockefeller Center), we caught up with **John and Anne-Marie Monfredo**. Here, we surmised, are surely a couple of malcontents whose reputation as bookworms, Pied Pipers for "The City That Reads" initiative and practitioners of the civilized life of the written word must surely mask a proclivity for causing disruption. It was not hard to picture the Monfredos organizing a sit-in over inferior food in the cafeteria at Worcester State. Alas, nothing of the sort. Mr. Monfredo was editor of the student newspaper, Mrs. Monfredo an

able assistant. The closest they came to ruffling feathers was with intended publication of lines written for a skit that included the phrase "Mary doing what comes naturally," which never got past the censors, Mrs. Monfredo said, laughing. The Monfredos will not go down in history, therefore, as dissidents on the order of a Martin Sheen or the Kerrigan brothers—or **Kevin Ksen** here in town. They did marry, however, and have lived happily ever after. Genuine lovebirds. Those state schools...they fall woefully short in breeding revolutionaries.

Stuart Loosemore

'hoops' it up at NWBA party

GROVE ST.—As general counsel and director of government affairs and public policy for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, **Stuart Loosemore** is not someone who is easily hoodwinked or blindsided. Hence Mr. Loosemore's determination to not let anyone else latch onto a beautiful framed color photograph of five Boston Celtic legends (Auerbach, Bird, Cousy, Havlicek and Heinsohn) that was unselfishly contributed by District 1 City Councilor and RE/MAX Advantage One Realtor **Tony Economou** for the North Worcester Business Association's recent holiday social at Tweed's Pub. Mr. Loosemore's bid of eighty dollars won him the prize, one of dozens donated by NWBA members (gift certificates, bottles of wine, Celtics tickets), which prompted a choked-up Association President **Ed Bourgault** of Bollus Lynch to say "you are the most generous group of people I know." "I'll hang in it my office at work," a beaming Mr. Loosemore said. The photograph is liable to be quite the conversation piece, when people drop by...the fab five with long cigars in their mouths and obviously in an ebullient mood (following another championship, perhaps?) as they mugged for the camera. The best part is, proceeds from a host of raffled items (as announced by Mr. Bourgault, **Neil Brosnan** of Easy Sweep Vacuum & Pet Goodies and host **Jim Donoghue** of Tweed's) help fund the NWBA's annual holiday food-basket distribution—organized by Tony and **Maureen Economou**. This year's output from Carriage House Lane was fifty baskets!



Birds of a feather. Bill Mitchell, Bret Burdulis and Kyle Bourque at Tweed's.



A very merry...Maureen Dunn's day was brightened by a gift basket from the NWBA by way of District 1 City Councilor Tony Economou and his family. She resides at Colony Retirement Homes on Grove St.

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THE ECHO CHAMBER

Mayor Joseph M. Petty (listening to the Sullivan Middle School Chorus sing at the Webster Square tree-lighting): "I was in the band at East Middle. We were awful!"

Kyle Bourque, VP of Commercial Lending, Spencer-Bank (on the profile of Illustrator **JeanPaul Raymond** that appeared in the December issue of I.W.): "I know JP personally. He is very talented and a quality guy...it's nice to see him get some press."

Kevin O'Sullivan, president, MBI (on people mentioned in the last issue of I.W.): "**Sue Mailman** is a 'rock star' right off (dad Ted Coghlin's) block. (City Councilor) **Sarai (Rivera)** is a real sharp, smart, committed, reasonable lady. **Troy (Siebels)**, executive director of The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts is a wonderful 'external masses' marketing addition to the Worcester team!" (NOTE: Mr. Coghlin died after taking a fall, shortly after Ms. Mailman's appearance at a North Worcester Business Association luncheon).

District Attorney Joe Early Jr. (on a change in his appearance, during remarks he made at the Worcester Senior Center): "I had black hair when I started this job; and there's a story behind every one of the gray one's!"

Jack Foley, Clark University: (on the much-discussed prospect of Common Core standards being implemented in the Worcester Public Schools): "It's a foundation to build from." (the controversial curriculum will be explored in full in the February issue of Inside Worcester, with comment from Worcester School Committee members Mr. Foley, Tracy Novick, John Monfredo and others).

Virginia Ryan, Arbutus Rd. (on single-payer, or "Medicare for All," health care, in an email to Inside Worcester): "I am on Medicare and went for physical therapy today. A young man was on the phone in the waiting room and when he went up to the desk I heard him say that his insurance company had just told him they wouldn't cover his PT. He already had three sessions at I believe \$260 each so now he owes \$780 and he told them he couldn't pay it today. I called to him and told him if he had single payer that he would not have had that problem."



Mayor Petty is among those looking on as Alhambra 88 Council K of C Grand Knight John Reed speaks at the recent tree-lighting at Webster Square. Also, State Rep.-Elect Kate Campanale, Councilors Lukes and Rosen and City Manager Augustus.

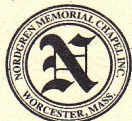


Jack Foley, center.

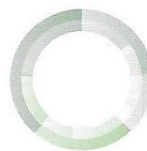
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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE TO BE TREATED LIKE ONE

SHOWTIME!

A Claus in her contract...South High Principal Maureen Binienda and Santa (Assistant Principal Peter Sherman) share a moment at the Webster Square tree-lighting event.

The spoils of victory. Maureen Raillo and Chris Liazos claim their raffle prizes from hosts Tracey King and Joan Cusson at the Webster Square Business Association's holiday social at Goddard House.

**First Night!**

Facepainting, fireworks, psychics, Alex the Jester, musicians...welcome the new year right here in the city...at the Armenian Church of Our Savior Cultural Center, Crossroads Community Church, Courtyard by Marriott, Epworth UMC, Ralph's Rock Diner, Trinity Lutheran, Tuckerman Hall, Veterans Inc. (Old Armory Building), Wesley UMC, the Worcester Art Museum.

Brides & Bulls

DCU Center mixes it up, for winter wow

Those who adhere to the principle that variety is the spice of life will be pleased to know that the **DCU Center's** winter-into-spring lineup of entertainment is nothing less than a full smorgasbord. How much different can you get than the Worcester Bridal Show Expo running Jan. 17-18 (presented by Jenko Productions, which boasts thirty-two years' experience) and then Professional Bull Riders ("We don't rope



"Giddy up. Check that...whoa, baby!"

calves, and we don't chase barrels...this is bull riding, and the first rule is to stay alive") coming in for shows Feb. 7th and 8th? Talk about rags to riches: PBR, headquartered in Colorado, began when a group of twenty professional bull riders broke away from the traditional rodeo scene seeking mainstream attention for their sport of bull riding. Each invested a hard-earned \$1000. When Spire Capital Partners purchased the rights to what those riders had started, in 2007, the return for the visionaries was in the millions. Fast forward to 2015. By now it is understood that PBR—bull riding—is "a fierce, rough, grueling sport with roots deeply embedded in American culture...America's original extreme sport." How appropriate that PBR is followed on the DCU's Center calendar by an equally thunderous production: Monster Jam (2/13-15)...10,000 pound machines turned loose. For those whose hearts won't stand the test, there's the Worcester Auto Show (1/23-25), the Central Mass. Flower Show (2/27-3/1) and the Worcester Spring Home Show (3/6-8).

The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts, meanwhile, is sticking to tamer but no less worthy fare starting with our personal favorite: Million Dollar Quartet, the Tony award-winning Broadway musical (1/9-11). Also Sesame Street Live: Make A New Friend (1/16-18), the Australian Bee Gees Show: A Multimedia Tribute Concert (2/4), and 50 Shades! The Musical Parody (2/5). Worcester's Best Chef Competition at **Mechanics Hall** on 1/25 caps a month that otherwise features scintillating music at the venerable old venue (St. Petersburg Symphony, 1/13 and Canadian Brass, 1/23). A sobering postscript to a raft of merry holiday fun at the **Worcester Art Museum** is "Africa's Children of Arms"—startling photographs by Marcus Bleasdale, Robin Hammon and Andre Lambertson of boys and girls recruited or abducted into armies as messengers, spies or combatants; through 5/31 in the Hiatt Gallery. All-new art classes with Christina Giza (ten weeks, on Tuesdays) start 1/6 at the **Worcester Senior Center**. What better place for A Great Books Discussion (of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" led by Jackie Belisle) than the **Worcester Public Library** (Wed., 1/7).