

"HOLIDAY ON BROADWAY"

Every year, the Holiday Concert gets more polished and sophisticated under the direction of Vice Chairwoman/singer/impresario Nancy Gustafson. We even had a program that looked like a Playbill (thanks to graphics arts wizzes Jason Lynch and John Murphy). And for the second straight year, the event moved to a larger venue - the Shaw's Center this time - and sold it out.

The Guild invited Elizabeth Marcus, director of the Brockton Library, to attend the concert and write about it in this newsletter. She ended up writing a letter to The Enterprise in which she said: "The performers were all fabulous; the choice of music celebratory. Every piece was so well sung." Amen.



Nancy Gustafson sang an Italian carol with the accompaniment of special guests Fred Niccoli and Amy Korim.



Karla Semeter, third from left, a thrift shop manager, with Shirley Fraser, Lorraine Lalli and Lillian Canfield.



Alan Thomas made his Holiday Concert debut.



Diane Prince, a Guild board member, and Vin Macrina.



Rivers Pokraka, Mia Otero and Julie Vu sang with the Trinity Catholic Chorus.



Alexandra Albanese, one of the singers, and her brother Benjy.

Photographs by Diane and Alex Prince

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World Traveler Lands at The Charity Guild



Iêda dos Santos working in the thrift shop.

If you've stepped into The Charity Guild on a Monday or Wednesday, you're sure to remember Iêda dos Santos. She's the pint-sized Brazilian woman with the memorable zest for life. She has the energy of a woman half her age – and she's been that way for as long as she can remember.

Iêda moved from Brazil to the United States in 1985, giving up a stable 15-year career testing products for Nabisco, a car, her own apartment in the mountains, and all her friends and family. She spoke no English and had no job. And, she did it all for a reason she knew many people wouldn't understand: Iêda simply loves adventure. She thought the move would be an exciting challenge and she was eager to take the risk and see what she could achieve on her own.

Twenty-eight years later years later, she's passed her own test. Iêda recently retired after spending more than 25 years as a self-employed house cleaner. After working hard to learn English, she made some of her closest friends through the profession and is proud to say she was even asked to be the godmother of a client's daughter. Luckily for The Guild, another client was Laurene Frederick, our former assistant treasurer and longtime supporter. She's responsible for introducing Iêda to The Guild and giving us one of our most loyal volunteers. Iêda is very grateful for meeting the Fredericks and bragged that she still gets lunch with Laurene every month at Mainha in Avon, their favorite

Brazilian restaurant. As Iêda tells it, the tradition started when she and Laurene ate lunch there many months ago. Laurene enjoyed the food so much that she asked to go on the first Friday of every month. Iêda, who might be slightly partial to her native cuisine, was not surprised by the request!

When you speak to Iêda, you get the sense that she's lived her life with tremendous purpose. She's made every day count for something. The key, she says, is to constantly try new things and to treat everyone with respect. Iêda believes that good things happen when you are kind and do the right thing. And, she thinks it's so important to open your mind by visiting foreign places and learning about other cultures. She's visited all the states and capitals of Brazil and she's traveled throughout South America, Europe and the United States. Some of her favorite trips include going to Machu Picchu, Venice and Jerusalem.

The Guild is extremely fortunate to have Iêda on board. Her energy is contagious, and she's fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, so she often finds herself interpreting for clients who are new to the country. Iêda loves coming to The Guild, meeting fellow volunteers, and helping anyone in need of a friendly face. — JASON LYNCH

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Name: Iêda dos Santos
Age: 74 years old
Hometown: San Luis, Maranhão, Brazil
Time With The Guild: Nine years
Volunteer Days: Monday and Wednesday

Can You Really Cash That Check?

Mutual Bank uses the slogan "That's My Bank," and for the Charity Guild that is actually true. The Guild is a longtime customer and also the recipient of much corporate generosity from Mutual. As an example, William J. Morse, president and chief operating officer of the bank, took the initiative to nominate the Guild for a grant from the Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation. To date the foundation has given more than \$1.2 million to nonprofits around the state. Kevin F. Kiley, CEO of the bankers association (left), and Mr. Morse visited the Guild to present an oversized check for \$5,000 to Diane Nadeau, president of the Guild. The Guild also received a normal-sized check.



Photograph by Michael Molyneux