

SPOTLIGHT on *Boston*

by Clint Hamblin

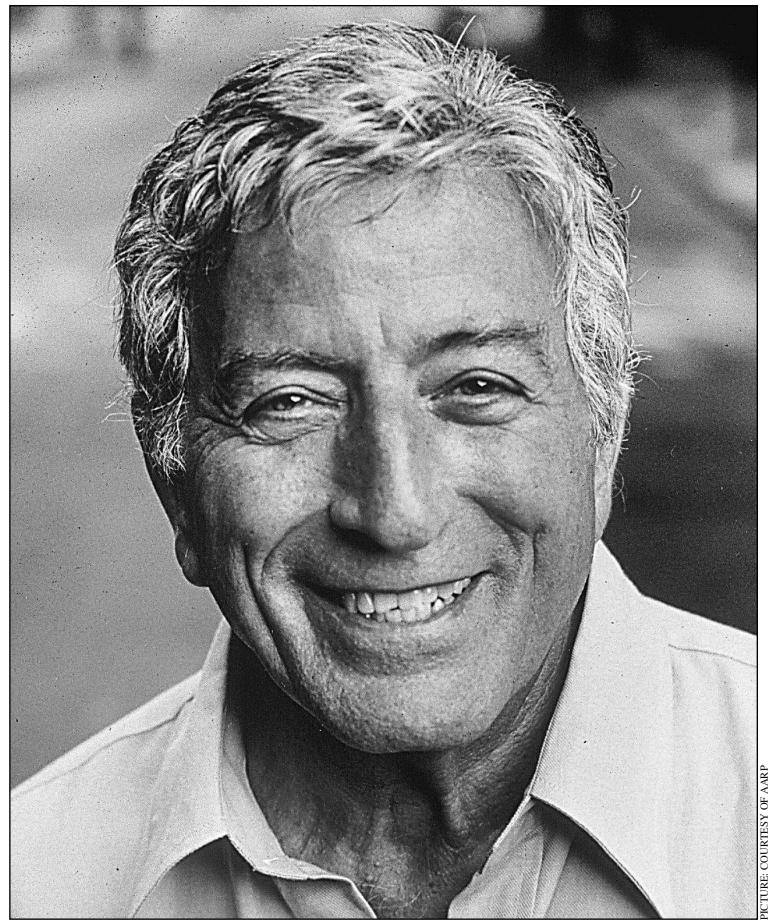


Sapphire admirers Carolyn Faye, Lisa Swirn and Cathy Cronin

Sapphire Gin & Jewels. Excelsior restaurant located at 272 Boylston Street recently hosted a four-course pairing of cocktails and cuisine by Bombay Sapphire Gin and chef Eric Brennan coupled with a dazzling display of sapphire jewels from Alpha Omega Jewelers. Each table included a stunning centerpiece of sapphire stones ranging in price from \$14,000 to nearly \$50,000 each.

Brennan's special menu was exceptional and included Coriander Smoked Nantucket Bluefish with Lump Crabmeat and Preserved Lemon paired with a Sapphire Gin Mango Apricot Martini. Additional dishes included Carolina Duck breast and Venison all paired with Sapphire gin cocktails.

And the jewels? Dinner guests were fondling loose stones, earrings and trying on rings in between dinner courses. A small and stunning sapphire valued at more than \$25,000 managed to slip out of a guest's hand and escape under a table. It took a joint effort of no less than three people to retrieve the beautiful blue-green stone and return it to its velvet vault under a giant glass cube.



Tony Bennett

The Boomers are Coming, The Boomers are Coming! Defying the perception that retirement comes somewhere in your 60s, 13-time Grammy winner and entertainment legend Tony Bennett continues to alter the retiree stereotype by recording new albums and touring the world at the remarkable age of 80. It is no wonder that the profoundly multi-talented Bennett was one of several luminaries chosen to appear at AARP's Life@50+ National Event & Expo held last week at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

The theme for this AARP Class Reunion covered home, travel, health, and high-tech along with a summer concert weekend of fun for everyone. AARP is one of the world's largest member organizations with more than 38 million members.

"Life@50+ is all about celebrating life and recognizing that it just gets better," said Bill Novelli, AARP CEO. "This is a one-of-a-kind event that is both an educational and fun environment for our members and brings top-notch entertainment, notable speakers, and interactive exhibits straight to them."

In addition to Bennett's concert, Lily Tomlin and Earth, Wind & Fire along with pop singer Rod Stewart were part of the AARP entertainment lineup.

According to AARP, advance registration for this event surpassed any other national event in AARP's history. Out of the more than 25,000 attending, 40 percent of those pre-registered were under 60 and 80 percent were under 70.

For Tony Bennett, Boston is just another stop on his "The Best Is Yet To Come" tour for AARP and a series of one-nighters throughout the US and Canada. Look for Bennett singing "Steppin' Out with My Baby" with pop diva Christina Aguilera at this year's Emmy awards. Audiences continue their love affair with Bennett who continues to redefine the senior citizen label.

Boston's Food Bank event promises pearls. On Thursday, October 18 from 6 to 9 pm, Alpha Omega Jewelers and Pearl Vodka join the Algonquin Club of Boston at 217 Commonwealth Avenue hosting "Sweet Harvest," a fund-raiser offering delicious food, spirits and a giveaway to benefit The Greater Boston Food Bank. More than 200 people are expected to enjoy Pearl vodka martinis and an "oyster bar raffle" with one of the event's lucky attendees winning a pearl right out of an oyster.

The Greater Boston Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, and one of the largest food banks in the country distributing nearly 26 million pounds of food annually through its network of more than 600 hunger-relief agencies in eastern Massachusetts.



Unloading donated food for the hungry

It's difficult to imagine that in 2007, Americans are going without food. The Food Bank makes quite an effort to rectify this by offering direct service programs, including Kids Café, a charitable meal service program for children; Brown Bag, a supplemental groceries program for families and seniors; Second Helping, a perishable prepared foods program donated by caterers, hotels, academic institutions and other food service establishments; and Perishable Foods, a program that distributes wholesome food near its expiration date to Boston Housing Authority residents.

More than 14,000 community volunteers donate their time annually to the Food Bank. For more information, visit www.gbfb.org.

We're inviting our neighborhood!

Please join us for **Homecoming at King's Chapel**. You'll experience a friendly, spiritual service, great music, and an inspirational sermon. We invite you to stay for lunch, so please call us so that we might prepare for you. Easy parking instructions are on our website.



**King's Chapel
Homecoming
Sunday, September 16
11:00 a.m.**

Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston

The Reverend Earl K. Holt III, Minister
www.kings-chapel.org 617/227-2155

*King's Chapel, a Unitarian Christian church