

# SPOTLIGHT

## On *Father's Day*

by Clint Hamblin



Lev and Emmi Sorokin

### A Russian Father's Day

The Sorokin Father's Day table is set with crystal, caviar, chilled vodka, many pickled items, salads and pierogi. The main courses, the desserts and the after-meal snacks follow.

Lev Sorokin's gifts include handmade Father's Day cards and several action movie DVDs, and in a continuing effort to Americanize her Russian-born dad and his wardrobe, daughter Emmi gives Dad things to wear. "Almost all of the clothing my father wears comes from what I've given him over the years on Father's Day."

The conversation for Father's Day is always dominated by Lev Sorokin and the

more senior members of the Sorokin family telling stories from the old days in Russia.

"We wanted to leave Russia, but the government wouldn't let us go. My mother went to the American Embassy in Moscow and asked them to forge a letter stating that her long-lost aunt in Jerusalem needed the family to return to the motherland," Emmi explained.

It worked, and the Sorokin family was able to travel to Jerusalem, then on to Rome and finally to Queens in New York City. "We would take family trips to the supermarket in Queens just to stroll the aisles of so much food," Emmi laughed. Soon after, the entire family moved to



Son George and George DiVenuti Sr.

Boston when Sorokin's mother took a job as a radiologist with Harvard Community Health Plan.

Everyone agrees how grateful they are to be living in the United States, where Father's Day has become a tradition in the Sorokin family and celebrated much like any American family, with lots of food, toasts, familial stories of the past and, as Emmi says, "a million hugs."

### Father's Day with the DiVenuti Clan

The DiVenutis are very close, talking by phone several times everyday. "Jean DiVenuti, our mom, passed away about 18 months ago," George Jr. said. "We miss her wisdom, laughter and the way she would chastise Dad whenever he crossed the line. Mom's passing has made us all closer than ever."

This Father's Day will find the entire DiVenuti clan, along with relatives and friends, at sister Trisha's home, savoring the barbecued chicken, shrimp and spicy sausages, all served with a side dish of Dad's wisecracks.

George Sr. loves candles and anything red, white and blue. "Mary Jean will bring salads and Trisha will provide the barbecue. Bobby hired a bagpipe player to play for Dad's 84th birthday. Who knows what he'll bring for Father's Day?" George Jr. said.

"I'll probably buy dad a new tie," said George Jr., salesperson at Barney's New York at Copley. "Somebody has to keep an eye on dad's wardrobe."

**Take Dad Fishing.** Turner Fisheries located at the Westin Copley Place in Boston offers overnight suite accommodations with a fishing excursion for four out of Boston Harbor. The in-room gift basket includes a fishing vest and supplies.

**Father's Day Brunches** are everywhere, including The Oak Room at the Copley Plaza, where you can get a three-course Father's Day brunch in a stunning oak and gold-leaf environment.

**If Dad needs grooming,** you might want to try the Barbershop Lounge located at 245 Newbury Street in Boston, where dad can get a haircut, scalp massage, shave, hand and foot treatment, 60-minute massage, shoeshine and lots more.



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