

AIDS: Our heroes, homes & hearts



30 YEARS AGO, the mysterious set off a wave of fear and loathing. But good has come from all that suffering.

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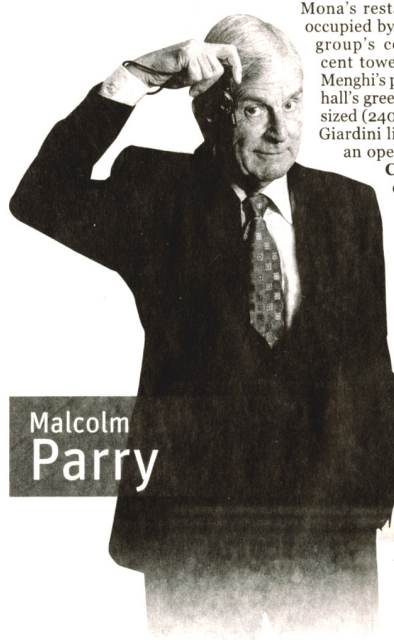
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2013 | BREAKING NEWS: VANCOUVERSUN.COM | ☆

WESTCOAST NEWS II A19

TOWN TALK

VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation aims high in gala fundraising goal

\$2-million goal: Bruce Diemert, Devi Sangara hosted event that sparkled



Malcolm Parry

SHINING BRIGHT: With major charitable galas routinely raising \$1 million, the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation targeted twice that for its recent Night of a Thousand Stars. **Bruce Diemert** and **Devi Sangara** chaired the event, which reached the goal. **Doug Whitehead** and wife **Wanda Costuros**' \$500,000 donation was matched to benefit the **Joseph and Rosalie Segal** Family Health Centre, due for 2017. Attending Segals didn't include Joe, who is recovering from a neck fracture that, a little lower, might have entailed quadriplegia. Many Iliches were on hand to see the Leadership Award go to a foundation the late **Milan Ilich** and surviving wife **Maureen** founded.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE? Possibly taking power naps, the top 10 finishers on Vancouver magazine's Power 50 list often avoid the annual awards ceremony. But gold medalist **Christy Clark** made it to the Vancouver Club event this week. The premier delivered a familiar barn-burning speech, extolling liquefied natural gas and saying: "We intend to change this province forever ... so that it can take the role it should have 100 years ago." Perhaps recalling a predecessor, she stressed the "we" and added: "We all require each other to make this province work."

AT THE CADDY SHACK: Dueck auto dealer **Moray Keith** served red and white **Wayne Gretzky** Okanagan wines to match the 2014 CTS Cadillac's launched in his S.E. Marine Drive showroom Thursday. He had hoped to lease one to **Christy Clark**, who settled instead for a more modest Buick Enclave. Pity the Caddy wasn't powered by LNG, or she might have ordered two.

GARDEN TO GROW: Umberto Menghi locked the door of his Il Giardino di Umberto restaurant April 13, seemingly forever. Turns out it'll reopen further up Hornby Street next year at the former Black Forest and Mona's restaurants' site, presently occupied by the Glowbar restaurant group's commissary. The adjacent tower's strata council OK'd Menghi's proposal Wednesday. City hall's green light would see a same sized (240-seat), courtyard-style Il Giardino like the original but with an open kitchen. Even **Bobby Copiak** will be there welcoming guests. "He's a piece of the furniture," Menghi said. "Like me."

HERE'S GIANNI: Another Il Giardino fixture is about to resurface. Chef **Gianni Picchi**, who left in 1995 to open his own South Granville restaurant and then others, will do it again at 13th-off-Lonsdale, North Vancouver.

STILL STANDING: Rated 28th and 33rd on the Power 50 scale, Fairchild Group CEO **Thomas Fung** and architect **James Cheng** returned to the tennis court this week. After an earlier game, Cheng felt a slight numbness in his upper lip that quickly resulted in quadruple-bypass surgery. "Pay heed to those little signs," he advises.

INKY DOODLES: Cardiologist **Victor Huckell's** wife **Jo-Anne Thomas**, who is a cardio-nurse herself, might jolt patients with her upper-arm peacock tattoo. It replicates one her father **George**, now 92, had after surviving hazardous times as a Second World War bomber's navigator. Jo-Anne has other tattoos, but lower on the fuselage and often hidden.

TOP TO BOTTOM: That's the nifty name of the Colon Cancer Canada charity's recent fundraising tournament between Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver physicians.

ANY MINUTE NOW: Reaching further into the greying community where he figures much gold is to be mined, **Moses Znaimer** has added an element to his ZoomerMedia concern's JoyTV channel. CarmenTV, which launched at Loungeworks Thursday, has familiar promotions person **Carmen Ruiz y Laza** conduct 60-second interview-visits sponsored by — who'd a guessed? — Vancouver's Medical Rejuvenation Centre.

BAX'S TWEET: The Powell-Salisbury area can experience unpleasant aromas from the nearby West Coast Reduction plant. But the sweeter scent of money settled there this week when affluent folk filled painter **Athena Bax's** studio for her annual exhibition and sale. Attendees included zillionaire **Frank Giustra**, who complemented Bax's oils with a bottle of his own. Recently named world's best, it was **Domenica Fiore** olive oil from Giustra's estate in Umbria, Italy. With her large canvases hung, Bax figured that a horse in one was focusing on something close. Grabbing a brush she added a tiny bird that began staring back just as guests arrived.



Here with cardiologist-husband Victor Huckell, Jo-Anne Thomas displays a replica of the tattoo her father and Second World War bomber navigator has on his forearm.



Shortly before guests attended her annual studio show, painter Athena Bax added a bird to one of her large equine canvases.



Dueck dealer Moray Keith and wife Pam launched Cadillac's CTS but couldn't lease one to Christy Clark, who chose a Buick instead.



Vancouver Magazine editor John Burns welcomed Christy Clark as No. 1 in the magazine's annual Power 50 ratings.



He's not crowing about it, but Umberto Menghi will open a successor to Il Giardino restaurant on the same Hornby Street block.



TV-biz veteran Rosario Ruiz y Laza feted sister Carmen at a launch for the latter's CarmenTV on ZoomerMedia's JoyTV channel.



Bruce Diemert and Devi Sangara co-chaired the Night of a Thousand Stars gala that reached its ambitious goal to raise \$2 million.



VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation head Barbara Grant escorted her spouse, technology minister Andrew Wilkinson to the 1000 Stars gala.



Following one of Thomas Fung and James Cheng's tennis games, the latter's lip numbness soon resulted in quadruple-bypass surgery.

CELLAR'S ROOTS: Saxophone player **Cory Weeds'** Cellar Jazz Club will end a 13-year gig on West Broadway Feb. 24. Let's hope it'll relocate in the East Broadway alley

behind Main Street, where the original Cellar opened six decades ago.

DOWN PARRYSCOPE: Anybody else waiting for **Justin Bieber** and

Rob Ford to get up to something together?

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