



Thursday, March 27, 2003

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P.J. Corkery

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A Merry Christmas to all...

Greetings, friends, and with your festive permission,

Let's revive a grand old 'Frisco tradition,

And celebrate in doggerel or verse,

The folks in town, who in this jolly season, make us shout

"Gawd, I love this city!"

I'm glad to know we're still together, drinking toddies, tossing shots,

Praising all the best among us, especially

Those who bring us laughs and light, enlivening still that

Rare old San Francisco spirit.

First, we toast to the Chief Exec, the best

Ambassador a City could get, Da Mayor,

Dapper Willie Lewis Brown Jr.

Wily and smiling, laconic and tough, snappy and loyal,

Exuberant still, after seven years in a job that's awfully rough.

Hey Ruth Dewson, don't be shy, come on in,

Your hat on high! And say hello to Coach Mariucci,

See George Shultz and the gorgeous Charlotte, aglow in Gucci.

Greet fabulous Denise Hale, as famous as the Bridge, and just as Golden.

Let Tommy Toy be our host -- at running a party, he's the most.

Here's Gavin Newsom and Pat Kelley to show you to your tables.

Grab a chair by Vanessa Getty, she's the boast of a new generation,

Purposeful, smart, laughing, light.

Florence Fang, chic and stylish, have a glass of champagne!

It's okay, the boys have watched the cost.

And thanks to you, Mrs. F., for keeping Our City

A two-newspaper town.

And now the party's getting cozy, led by latte-lady,

Madame whip, smart Nancy Pelosi.

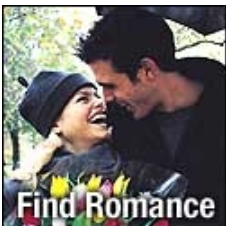
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Waiter, be quick and heavy with that pour! Shining Wilkes Bashford, in Brioni cap, just came through the door.

How about some snacks for quick Rich Gannon, Jeff Garcia, Coley Fanan,

Lit'ry lawyer Peter C. Haley, Tanya Neiman; friend of the friendless client Big Jim Bronahan, Bobby Mulhern, and Be-Bop Bonds? Yahoo an I-message to Much Missed Dusty Baker. Tell him we've got the Willies --

Mays and McCovey -- but sign it, "Wish you were here!"

Over by the Christmas Tree, quaffing Opus '93 are Cadillac-less Carole Migden, caroling Tony Hall, devilish Denton, playboy K. O'Connor, genial, substantive Ed Moose and the kindly, gracious Mary Etta. Than Ed and Mary Etta, I gotta tell ya, they come no better. ...

Is that Mike McCourt and the gorgeous Joannie, having a spot of Irish tea with Mimi Silbert and better-poet Joe O'Donoghue? Yessiree.

Kevin Keating, accept our fondest greeting. ... Paul Price, is this the way you'd plan a party? With Nick Graham, Lord of Balls, running around in his drawers?

Make some room by the burning Yule log for Diana Krall, John Kongsgaard, Bob Mondavi, Mr. Williams (Robin), and the Kaufmans, Peter and Phil, Chris Columbus, peaceful Sean Penn, and all the movie folk among us. Here's their smokin' hostess, hip Jeanette Etheridge!

About the vittles, be not in a quandary. Our roomy house has many Kellers, skillet-skilled Hubert, Loretta and Tom in the Laundry. Or get in a beef with Gus Stathis there. Gus is looking in his prime -- he's 50 years on at the restaurant job! ... Gerald Hirigoyen, where you goin'? Boss of Piperade, pipe up a tune for Farallon's Tyler Williams, and play a do-si-do for Guy and Rose Ferri, Linda Fimrite, sporting tiger Ron, Hadley Roff and all our friends down on The Square.

Send a Ferrari for Sister Patrice Burns, unstumpable Dan Sorkin, that noble Roman Daniella Faggioli, lawyer Tom Peterson, and super generous Nancy Hamon. Toasts of health to Maureen Kennedy Salaman! Treatment de luxe, provide please, for Margot de Wildt and wilder Harry. De poem's getting odd, strange even for de Jim. But hear me out! I've got names to get in. ...

Jeanne Taylor adds that touch of class, as does teacher Suzette Ross. From Le Central, regular as clockwork come Mark Corsi, Ouimet Scholar Bobby Boyle, and man about town Charlie Villanueva, all making way for gracious, devoted Ann Moller Caen, keeper of the proud flame.

Stanlee Gatti, deck the halls with orchids and poinsettias for Filomina Buck, Po Bronson, Bishop Swing, and urbane Mr. Ross Hunter. Egnog now for literary wiz, and brotherly model, Dave Eggers. ... Have you met Kamala Harris? She's the kind of pol our battered town sure needs. Fiona Ma and Bevan Dufty! Have some soup! And get fiscal with brainy Susan Leal, the great Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom, not to forget, passionate Angela Alioto. Share a joke with Ken Maley and Firat Yener. Is that Dr. Seth with forensic Jim Hammer?

The Wiebe Twins just blew in, along with those other glamour gals, the Misses Dotson, Narrisa and Larrisa. ... Ross McGowan, Tori Campbell, it's too early to be goin'! Dino Dinovitz, you're givin me fitz, stop watchin the tube! David Landis, spin around, and along with Judge Dearman -- there's a man with a will -- say hello to the Fourth Estate.

Leading that curious pack -- and aren't you glad he's back? -- is Bruce Bellingham, yukking it up with Stu Smith, Tom Walton, Susie Biehler, classy Leah Garchik, Ed "Scoop" Walsh, cogent Arthur Evans. Find a cruller or cannoli for my pal Hank Donat!

Here's Dave Burgin -- old friend of the long shot -- and his lovely Judy to work the room. That means the party's truly cool. Warren Hellman, Danielle Steel, Gary Radnich, Larry Baer, Harry Parker, Bob Sarlatte, Al Guthertz, Jim Haas, Will Durst, Patrick Hannan, Nelson Mui, Susan Horsfall, Meagan Levitan, and fine gentleman Tom Jordan -- you're companions of

honor on this festive day.

Punch some cups full for the bevy of polished, if unrelated, Puccinellis, Lori and Debi. Have some ribbon candy, suave Charles T. Condy? Or maybe some aquavit?... Michelle Heston, what would hit the Mark for you? Anything you want. Same for you discreet Tom Wolfe, hospitable Stanley Bromley, Diane Shields, Diane Green, Eleanor Bertino and Alice Waters. ... Jerry Matters, Lee Houskeeper, John Konstin, hear the gospel according to the quippy Matthews -- Regan and Ward. Toot the foghorn for Rich Marianetti, Bill Dayers, Colma99, Jim Corrigan, tasty Bay Gelldawg, and don't short Vanessa Bortnick! ...

Ronn Owens, Michael Krasny keep talking right. Lawrence Ferlinghetti, declaim the noble words of dissent. Ray Taliaferro, we could listen to you all night. Mike Lipskin, Mike Greensill, play something light and gay for President Ammiano, Mark Leno, the Freedom Band, and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus. ... Kisses for the Huggins, sweet Donna and loyal San Franciscan, hubby, Chuckie. ... Martin Fay, Mayor of South Beach, smooth sailing, but splice the main brace with us first. ... Susie T. Buell and Summer Tompkins, for you we unfurl banners and hoist piOatas. ... Dede Wilsey, sit by me and take a glass of Napa's best for all that you do to make the de Young de best. John Traina, you're the beau ideal of the perfect guest. ...

Sound the sirens for Chief Earl Sanders, in braids of gold. Quick, some cheer for Alex Fagan. Ring the tocsin for Chief TreviOo, Denise DeBartolo, and Dr. York. Sam Singer, emulate your name! Terrell Owens, here's a Montblanc with which to write your fame. ... Some other scribes we're happy to see: Rip Rense, Doug Crichton, Martha Smilgis, Alvin Guthertz, Mark Miller. Give the Examiner's editor, Zoran Basich, a day off from keeping tabs. Let me pour him a big glass, a columnist owes a strong editor lots of thanks. ...

We have some saints to remember: Father Louis Vitale, the Rev. Rob't Cromey, and sage teacher Rabbi Michael Lerner ... And since it's the season of goodwill, here's a hearty handshake for battlin' Chris Daly. Jake McGoldrick, you can take a joke. Aaron Peskin, c'mon in, we're sincerely askin'. Bruce Brugmann glad to see ya. Find Warren Hinckle, if you can. Look near lovely Linda Corsi! And have a nibble, Ms. Jean Dibble! ... Artful Sydney Goldstein and Judge Breyer have you met Matt Gonzalez, esq.? Sophie Maxwell? Gerardo Sandoval? ... Geoff Brown and Loretta Lynch, please keep the Christmas lights a burning... Stellar Carole Vernier, won't you draw nearer? Ellen Shuck, Kristina Thorpe, Allison Speer, Sarah Stabile, Laurie Armstrong - with ladies like these here, our gala's in luck. ...

Drs. Missirian, Lanzerotti, Ikeda, Miller, Lueong, and Fechtner -- I couldn't forget ya! Nor you, dear Paula Fillari, Randi Berkowitz. See you 'round the Bella Farrow lobby!

And if in this elongated space, your name I neglected to mention, forgive your faulty versifier. You're welcome just the same to come right in. But no slap please, I'm standing under the mistletoe! ... Let's lift a cup of kindness to all who are here, and to friends who are absent at this poignant time of year. In this hour, remember, as well, those for whom things aren't so swell. They're our City too. And for all, from palace home to box on the street, here's a heartfelt wish for a happy holiday and a happier New Year. Peace, so elusive! Maybe it will come. Meanwhile, thank you one and all for being here, and making our San Francisco worthy of The City's sainted namesake's aim. ...

And to you, dear reader, most of all, I send a smile and for much indulgence, much thanks. ...

Your, P.J.

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