

Presidents Message - June 2005

A cold, dark and very rainy month of May has thankfully come to an end, as Memorial Day ushers in what we've been waiting for -- some relatively decent weather! However, for a moment, I must return your thoughts to May to speak about the ECB's May 16th meeting held at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston. This unique meeting was held in one of the many private dining rooms at MGH, usually occupied by many of MGH's high profile guests and families. ECB members and guests were greeted with passed appetizers, a fruit and cheese display and a complimentary bar. After the business of the club was conducted, I, along with Scholarship Committee Members Jeffrey Barr, Denise Graffeo, CEC, AAC Anthony Graffeo, CEC, AAC and Despina Makredes, CCE awarded 3 scholarships to Bunker Hill Community College and to Newbury College. After these presentations, I introduced our speaker, Lorraine Allan, MBA, RD, LDN of MGH, who spoke about how the MGH dieticians, nutritionists and chefs work together to prepare healthy foods that meet the dietetic needs of patients as well as taste good. Speaking of "good", ECB members and guests received 1 hour of CEH for attending this meeting.

Dinner began with a choice of 3 wonderful salads: Mixed Greens Salad with Marinated Mushrooms; Roasted Beets, Walnuts and Blue Cheese Salad and Marinated Cucumbers and Vidalia Onion Salad. Our entrées were served on an elegant buffet consisting of Champagne Chicken with Barley Risotto and Bay Zucchini; Tamarind Honey Lamb Kebobs with Mashed Sweet Potato and Grilled Cajun Salmon with Potato Salad Provencale. Dessert consisted of a delicious Chocolate Dipped Chocolate Cheese Cake; Fresh Berries with Whipped Cream and Blonde Brownie with Ganache Icing.

Sincere thanks are expressed to Host Chef David Gauvin for a wonderful meeting, Lorraine Allan, the kitchen and service staff at MGH, the ECB Scholarship Committee. Our appreciation also goes to all of the hospital staff, nurses and doctors who have given outstanding care to many of our ECB members and their families throughout the years.

Our June meeting will be held on Tuesday June 14th, at the beautiful Café Escadrille in Burlington, at 6:00 p.m. We will again be co-hosting a joint meeting of the ECB and The Pioneer Valley Culinary Association of Springfield. Please note that we are expecting a large turnout for this meeting, as we have invited all of the ACF Chapter Presidents in New England, as well as their members. This meeting will also offer unique opportunities to meet and network with your fellow N.E. ACF colleagues, renew old acquaintances and of course, make some new ones. The ECB hosted this meeting in 2003 and co-hosted it in 2004, and both times it was a great success! It is certainly worth noting that last year was the only the second time since the 1980's that many of the New England ACF Chapters met at a venue other than at the ACF Northeast Regional Conference or at the ACF National Convention. Another important reason to attend this meeting is that the ECB will be awarding 8 additional scholarships to the following schools and colleges: The New England Culinary Institute, Montpelier, VT; The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY; Johnson & Wales, Providence, RI; Endicott College, Beverly, MA; North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA and Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA. Therefore, it is our hope that you will attend this event for all of the above reasons, as well as a wonderful meal, as always at The Escadrille!

Also in June, the ECB will be hosting our 6th annual "Children's Charity Golf Classic" Tournament. It will take place on Monday, June 27th at Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland. Please note that Golf Committee Chair Jim DiMarzio, CEC is in need of prizes, hole sponsors & foursomes, so please contact Jim DiMarzio or Steve LaCount, CEC, AAC if you would like to lend a hand. We thank you in advance for your help with this great event. Speaking of Steve LaCount, we have some exciting news. Steve and Joe Rocco will be soon leaving The Country Club to embark on a new adventure, the opening of a restaurant in Westwood, MA. We're all very excited for Steve and Joe and want to wish them the very best with the September opening of the restaurant!

In closing, I wanted to share some news with you regarding my continuing research on the Epicurean Club's history. After several years of searching, I have finally located the first printed story of the forming of the Epicurean Club!! Of course I have to share this with you, so you will find two stories about the forming of the Club in this newsletter. Please note that the date of the very first meeting was

**June 11, 1894. The ECB uses the date of November 2, 1894 as our founding date because this is the date that the State of Massachusetts granted the ECB a charter officially recognizing the ECB. I hope you will find these stories as interesting as I have!
I look forward to see at our June meeting.**

Warmest regards,

Rico DiFronzo, CEC, AAC