

“Any difficulty — this too shall pass.”

— Bob Veillette

**B**ob Veillette, the former managing editor of the Republican-American, suffered a rare form of stroke earlier this year. The stroke severely damaged the area of the brain stem that links the brain to the rest of the body. For a musician and a communicator this is particularly cruel. Bob can see, hear, feel pain and comprehend all that’s around him, but he cannot move or speak. There is no cure for this condition, called “locked-in syndrome.” Victims often live for decades. The best hope for Bob at this point is that he will be able to develop communications skills beyond blinking his eyes. His physical therapists and family are working with him daily and he has made some limited progress.

Bob grew up in Naugatuck, playing baseball, swimming and studying the piano. After stints at the old Naugatuck Daily News and the U.S. Army, he joined the reporting staff of the Waterbury Republican, rising quickly to city editor and then managing editor. In more than two decades as the managing editor, he helped oversee the newspaper’s conversion to offset publishing, the merger of the morning Republican and afternoon American and the development of dozens of major news stories, including two that were nominated for Pulitzer Prizes.

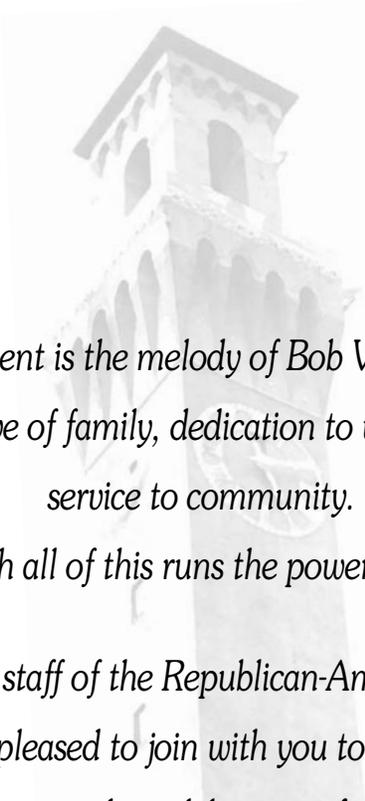
When he wasn’t working, the music flowed: benefits for The Red Cross, United Way, libraries in Naugatuck and Waterbury, and Shakesperience, to name just a few. Wherever a melody was needed up and down the Naugatuck Valley, Bob’s jazz improvisations could be heard. He has touched the lives of tens of thousands of newspaper readers and thousands of music lovers.

---

In addition to our stars, we would also like to extend a special thanks to: Lisa Calabrese, Jonathan Curns, Kathy Luria, Richard L. Sanders, the Public Safety and Maintenance staffs at Naugatuck Valley Community College; Lin Brieve, Diane Grego and P.J. Johns of Seven Angels Theatre; Michael Duval of the Waterbury Club; William J. Pape II, Joan Blatherwick, Mark Hanks, Jonathan Kellogg, Tracey O’Shaughnessy, Allie Mirando, Bill O’Brien, Keith Valliere and Jonathan Wilcox of the Republican-American; Debbie Corso; Richard DeRosa; Norman Drubner; Doug Mahard; Tammalene Mitman; Selim Noujaim; Tim Phillips; Joanne Greco Rochman; Pierre Rochman; Alison Skratt; WATR-1320 AM; and Clyde Bennett, Gary O’Conner and the Country Club of Waterbury staff who provided refreshments for tonight’s reception.

**Without your generosity, this evening would not have been possible.**





*Commitment is the melody of Bob Veillette's life:  
love of family, dedication to work,  
service to community.*

*Through all of this runs the power of music.*

*The staff of the Republican-American  
is pleased to join with you tonight  
in this celebration of  
Bob's love of music and people.*

**RepublicanAmerican**  
Useful. Unique. Local.

*The Bob Veillette Family  
and friends would  
sincerely like to thank*

***Norman Drubner***

*for his generous  
co-sponsorship  
of this program.*



*It is greatly  
appreciated.*

*To Our Friend*

***Bob Veillette,***

*with admiration*

*and care*

*From the Staff at*

**WATR 1320-AM**

**NEWS • TALK**

**GOOD TIME OLDIES™**

## Tonight's Show

Ed Kamienski on chromatic harmonica  
The Spiritual Souls, directed by Patricia Morrison  
Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet  
Tom Chute

William J. Pape II,  
editor and publisher of the Republican-American

Dr. Richard Sanders,  
president of Naugatuck Valley Community College

Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet  
Brooke Tansley  
Michael Barakat  
Shakesperience

Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet  
Thirzah Bendokas, accompanied by Kari Miller  
Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet

Results of 50/50 raffle with Tom Chute and Selim Noujaim

Tom Chute and Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet  
Semina De Laurentis, accompanied by Richard De Rosa  
Carol O'Shaughnessy, with Richard De Rosa  
and the Bob Mobilio Swing/Jazz Septet

"Special Moments with Bob," a multimedia presentation by the  
Republican-American staff,  
with narration by Barbara Davitt of WATR 1320-AM

Finale: Entire Cast

Performing during tonight's reception were  
Elaine Schieffer and Roseanne Elliott

# Tonight's Stars

## Michael Barakat

A Naugatuck native and a graduate of The Juilliard School, Michael Barakat is an award-winning recitalist and singer/actor. He made his debut with the New York City Opera Orchestra as a featured soloist in their presentation, "Showcasing American Composers." On the operatic stage, he has played the roles in Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro," J. Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" and in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte." As a concert artist, he has sung in Japan, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and the United States.



## Thirzah Bendokas

Naugatuck resident Thirzah Bendokas is a concert cellist who has been soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra, as well as with virtually every symphony in her native Connecticut. Since graduating from The Juilliard School, she has performed at Tanglewood and throughout the United States, as well as in Austria, Mexico, Portugal, Italy, Canada Switzerland and Spain. She teaches privately at the Taft School in Watertown.



## Tom Chute

Tom Chute has appeared in numerous stage productions, including performances at Waterbury's Seven Angels Theatre and in many sold-out cabaret shows. His credits include: "Anything Goes," "Finian's Rainbow," "Fiddler," "Pippin" and many other productions. A successful broadcaster for 35 years, he is general manager at WATR 1320-AM in Waterbury where he hosts the No. 1 rated morning radio program in the Waterbury area, "Tom Chute and You."



## Semina De Laurentis

Semina De Laurentis is one of the founders of Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury and has been artistic director for 16 years. As an actress with numerous stage and TV credits, she originated the role of Mary Phillips in "Have I Got a Girl" and Sister Amnesia in "Nunsense," for which she received the New York Outer Critics Circle Award and was honored with an Al Hirschfeld caricature from the New York Times. She also received the Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Direction of a Musical for "My Way."



it  
starts  
with a  
dream

*Naugatuck Valley Community College  
is proud to co-sponsor*

*"The Stars Come Out for Bob"*

*We join in celebrating the life  
of a giving community member  
through the joy of song and music.*

**N** Naugatuck  
Valley  
Community  
College

750 Chase Parkway • Waterbury, CT 06708  
www.nvcc.comnet.edu

# The Country Club of Waterbury



*Bob,*

*Members and Staff*

*are missing you entertaining*

*us at the Piano*

*You are thought of often*

## **Bob Mobilio**

An accomplished pianist and vibraharp player, Bob Mobilio has enjoyed the honor of playing for three U.S. presidents. He played for President Jimmy Carter's inauguration and performed at events attended by President Ronald Reagan and President Bill Clinton. A U.S. Navy veteran, he is also secretary/treasurer of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 186 of the Greater Waterbury Area. His Swing/Jazz Septet includes John daSilva on trumpet, Joseph Meo on clarinet and saxophone, Ken Andresen on trombone, Joseph McWilliams on piano, Joseph Choomack on bass and Tony DiLonardo on drums.

## **Carol O'Shaughnessy**

Dubbed "Boston's First Lady of Cabaret," Carol O'Shaughnessy has been named the city's "Cabaret Entertainer of the Year." Her one-woman shows were named in the "Top 10 Best Cabaret Shows" for 2002 and 2003. She has appeared with Joan Rivers and David Brenner, and is also an accomplished actress. Her daughter, Tracey O'Shaughnessy, is an award-winning columnist and writer at the Republican-American newspaper.



## **Shakesperience Productions**

Shakesperience Productions was founded in 1996 as a nonprofit professional educational theater for youth. It serves schools across Connecticut and in neighboring states, aiming to foster in young people an appreciation of literature through live theatrical productions. The troupe relates the themes of classical literature, which transcend ethnic and economic distinctions, to the day-to-day life of today's young people in hopes of advancing the education of students from all cultural and social backgrounds.



## **The Spiritual Souls**

Led by director Patricia Morrison, this family gospel choir has been performing together for more than 20 years. It includes Morrison and her three sisters — Valerie, Vicky and Tammy Howard — and her daughters, Rema Morrison Fountain and Shawn Morrison. Morrison and her family began singing as children and have matured to deliver a repertoire of gospel music encompassing quartet, traditional and contemporary arrangements. The group's motto: "A family that prays together stays together."

## **Brooke Tansley**

When Brooke Tansley appeared as Belle in "Beauty and the Beast" in 2004-05, she became the first Waterbury actress to play a lead on Broadway since Rosalind Russell in 1953. She has also appeared on Broadway in "Hairspray" and, before she left Waterbury for New York, appeared at Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury. She will soon be appearing alongside Hugh Grant in the upcoming feature film "Music & Lyrics By."



## Our Stars on Bob

“The effect that Bob Veillette and his family have had on my life is truly unique. His daughter, Stephanie, was my kindergarten class monitor; his son, Greg, was a fellow band member in high school. Throughout my upbringing in Naugatuck, the Veillettes were a presence and a genuine example of hard work, dedication, and kindness. It is a privilege to be able to return a small part of that spirit this evening.” — *Michael Barakat*

“I am proud to know Bob and am really in awe of him, not only because he is a fellow Naugatuck resident who has risen to the top of his field, but also because he has such a big heart, as well, and one that is filled with music.” — *Thirzah Bendokas*

“I have had the chance to work with Bob many times at various community functions as well as our annual Election Night WATR broadcasts at the Republican-American. Bob’s love of people, music, and the ‘news of the day’ has always been infectious.” — *Tom Chute*

“I’m honored to participate in this worthy event that both acknowledges the affection the community has for Bob and celebrates the countless hours of joy he has brought to so many people.” — *Semina De Laurentis*

“According to Shakespeare, ‘Talking isn’t doing. It is a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are not deeds.’ Bob’s good deeds have been many and more than just words.” — *Emily Mattina, producing director of Shakesperience Productions*

“I first heard about Bob from his father, Albert, who was a very fine show drummer. Albert once mentioned he had a son who was studying piano and then, later, I came to know Bob from the times he and I would both play dates at the Waterbury Country Club. My thoughts and prayers are with Bob and his family.” — *Bob Mobilio*

“It was clear to me from our first conversation that Bob is a kindred spirit. His deep and abiding love for the Great American Songbook, the music of Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, the Gershwins, Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen can instantly light up a room and warm the heart.” — *Carol O’Shaughnessy*

“Bob has done so much to keep music in the ears and hearts of Waterbury area residents that he has been an inspiration, showing us all that you should never stop doing what you love.” — *Brooke Tansley*

*Best Wishes Bob*

*Always thinking of you...  
We miss seeing you at lunch.*

*Your friends at  
70 Central Avenue*

*John & Maureen Ford*

*Paul & Dawn Belval*

*Dan & Danielle Ford*

*Jodie & Jay Segetti*

*Jackie & Mike Morton*

*Linda Bordonaro*

*Bob Mastropietro*

*Bill Moriarty*



# NAUGATUCK Community Band

*Supports our friend and  
fellow band member,*

## **Bob Veillette**



# LET'S GET BOB HOME!

*NCB*



**People caring  
about people.**

**NAUGATUCK SAVINGS BANK**   
*Experience the Difference.*

Personal and Business Banking | Insurance | Investments

Ansonia Cheshire Middlebury Naugatuck  
Oxford Prospect Southbury Waterbury  
Watertown Woodbury

203.729.4442 phone | 877.729.4442 toll-free  
[www.naugatucksavingsbank.com](http://www.naugatucksavingsbank.com)

Member FDIC

*Bob,  
For all your unselfish moments...  
We thank you.*

*Debbie Corso*

*Shear  
cellence*

25 Cedar Street, Naugatuck 203 729-1827



**The Rotary Club of Naugatuck  
District 7980, Club 6378**

Aresta, John	Gerber, Ed	Smith, Mary
Barrett, Brian	Gray, Jeff	Steir, Michael
Beebe, Chuck	Grele, Milt	Steinway, Bruce
Brennan, Brian	Griffin, Giovanna	Stephens, Duncan
Chipokas, Jeff	Kelly, Tracy	Stuart, Jackie
Connolly, Mary	Lobdell, Jane	Sutherland, Bob
Corso, Debbie	Martins, Marcelo	Tatigian, Jack
Csanka, Barbara	Mauritz, Cathie	Vieira, Manuel
DaSilva, Jose	McCormack, Jack	Vorgeli, Louis
Defrensne, Peggy	Merrill, Jennifer	Walsh, Jane
Dowling, Ray	Prior, Jack	Warner, Donna
Drawbridge, Geoff	Pryor, Stephen	Wheelahan, Debbie
Elser, Mike	Purcaro, Jr., Anthony L.	Yelding, Laurie
Ford, John	Roman, John	Zandvliet, Rebecca
Ford, Maureen	Rupwani, Rupri	Zehnder, Donald

*Friends Support Friends!*

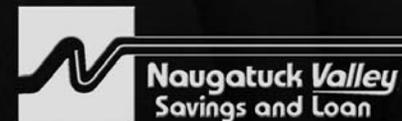
*Scenery is fine...*

*but Human Nature  
is finer. John Reats*

**Everyone who knows Bob knows that  
it is simply his nature to lend a hand  
wherever he can, as it is needed.**

**And now it's our turn.**

**May we do him proud.**



**Beacon Falls • Cheshire • Derby • Naugatuck  
Seymour • Shelton • Southbury • Waterbury**