

Ana Costa's Biography

Ana (Storlazzi) Costa was born on May 18, 1919 in East Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Italian immigrant parents who rose to success and prominence in their adopted country. Growing up, Ana's proclivity for charitable endeavors was encouraged beginning with her first project providing transportation for underprivileged children to a Rowe's Wharf swimming pool.

Manuel Costa, her future husband, grew up in the Azores, and founded Costa Fruit & Produce Company. When in 1949, fire destroyed his building, Ana, then a buyer for Jordan Marsh Company helped the company resume business.

"It was the best investment that I ever made," she says. They wed the following year, and together established a company whose hallmark is quality and service.

As the company grew, Ana's charitable activities meshed with Costa ideals. She zestfully pursued fundraising, contributing her energies to The Carroll Center for the Blind; The Speech & Hearing Foundation; The Spinnazola Foundation; Emerson Cutler Majestic Theater, Buddy Dog Humane Society; The Orphans of Italy; and, The Civic

Symphony. For nearly 50 years, she has shone her light on Les Dames d'Escoffier Boston's scholarship fundraiser to further the education of young chefs.

A jolt of lightning on Boston's charitable giving circuit, Ana introduced the "silent auction" to glamorous Kennedy-era parties which became the highlight of each season. Ana's family has always considered charitable

fundraising her true life work, although she usually deflected honors.

Finally accepting recognition by the Don Orione Home in East Boston in 2005, she was lauded as "dignifying the elderly with love and care." At Les Dames d'Escoffier

Boston, she was twice named "Dame of Distinction," and served as Chapter President in 2007-08. Ana is Boston's 2009 nominee for the International Grande Dame Award.

Costa Fruit & Produce Company, now led by son, Manuel Jr., has gone on to national prominence as one of the 50 largest food distributors in the US, and is recognized for its leadership in the hospitality industry.

