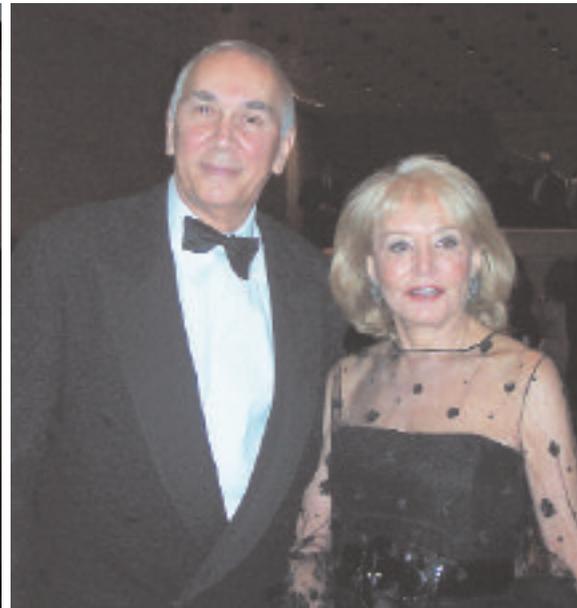


# Literacy Partners Annual Evening of Readings

Photos by: Joyce Brooks



Honorees, Arnold Scaasi and Parker Ladd



Frank Langella and Barbara Walters



Alexander McCall Smith and Honoree, Liz Smith



Vanessa Redgrave with Bob and Lee Woodruff



Honoree, Liz Smith, Special surprise guest appearance by Bette Midler, Honorees, Arnold Scaasi and Parker Ladd and Chairman, Cathleen Black. Photo by: Greg Partanio

Literacy Partners, a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization that teaches adult and family literacy in New York City, honored the two decade long stewardship of Gala-Co-Chairs Liz Smith, Arnold Scaasi, and Parker Ladd at its annual **Evening of Readings** at the New York State Theater in Lincoln Center.

“It is a privilege to honor three individuals whose commitment to adult literacy has changed the lives of thousands of New Yorkers and their families over the past two decades, said Peter Brown, Chairman of the Literacy Partners Board. “Liz Smit, Arnold Scaasi, and Parker Ladd have been constant, energetic, and passionate in their support of Literacy Partners. We are deeply grateful to them.”

As Co-Chairs of the May Gala An Evening of Readings over the course of the past twenty years, the trio has raised more than \$20 million to support Literacy Partners. Through their efforts, more than 25,000 adults in New York City have learned to read. To mark the occasion, Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared May 7, 2007 Literacy Partners Day in New York City.

In their annual gala message, Ms. Smith and Mssrs. Scaasi and Ladd wrote, “Everything in life comes full circle. Just as our annual Evening of Readings is a time to celebrate the magic of the written

word, for us, it is a time to look back on our long association with Literacy Partners with considerable pride and satisfaction. That you honor us tonight is humbling. Our work together has truly been a labor of love.”

The star-studded event raised more than \$1.2 million to support Literacy Partners free classes. Highlighting the evening, Academy Award winning actress Vanessa Redgrave, stage and screen actor Frank Langella, ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff and his wife Lee, and author of the internationally acclaimed “No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency” series Alexander McCall Smith, offered dramatic readings of selected literary works.

More than 3.7 million New York City adults are unable to read beyond fifth grade level. Literacy Partners has helped thousands of New Yorkers learn the basic reading, writing and math skills needed to succeed in day-to-day living. Through the successful collaborations with major corporations, community partners and benefactors, Literacy Partners offers small, welcoming classes taught by enthusiastic, highly trained volunteer tutors. Literacy Partners is the only nationally accredited adult literacy program serving New York City. For more information please visit: [www.literacypartners.org](http://www.literacypartners.org)