

# Cognac's Corner

## Charity balls, Fundraisers and Red Carpet Events.

Photo by Shana Gritzinger



Cognac-www.cognacscorner.com

All photos by G. Silberman



Joy Behar from "The View" with Cognac



Cancer Survivor Sharon Blin and Michael Imperoli

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ello Darlings,

Welcome to Cognac's Corner. This past season has been a busy one attending charity balls, fundraisers and red carpet events. I recently was invited to the Angel Ball hosted by Denise Rich. The glamorous evening's event started out with the Broadway Sensation 'The Dynamites from Hairspray' entertaining everyone on the red carpet singing one of their exciting renditions from the Broadway smash.

Denise Rich organizes this very special Fundraiser each year in honor of her daughter Gabrielle Rich Aquad who died of this dreaded disease at the age of 27 from AML. Leukemia. I had the pleasure of interviewing A-list Celebrities as they walked down the red carpet. Ivana Trump magnificently draped in an Ungaro gown and bejeweled in a very rare antique piece by Sotheby's expressed her sorrow as she mentioned to me that she was very friendly with Gabrielle Rich Aquad before she died.

Many of the celebrates wore gowns designed by the legendary famous Fashion Designer Lloyd Klein including Denise Rich's spectacular Emerald Green Gown. Jessica Simpson who performed at the event wore two beautiful gowns, one by Luca Luca at the red carpet arrivals looking very much like blonde bombshell Marilyn Monroe and a beautiful black plunging neckline by Roberto Cavalli. She talked to me about her jewels by Chopard, her new album and her sitcom.

Debbie Gibson looked very ala Nancy Sinatra in her sixties inspired gown and Go Go boots by Marc Jacobs. Montel Williams arrived with his adorable daughter, Wynter Grace looking very elegant in a Yves St. Laurent Tuxedo.

I also was very honored to be invited to the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation Gala. The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation is committed to funding research that develops treatments and cures for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and other central nervous system disorders.

The Foundation also vigorously works to improve the quality of life for people living with disabilities through its grants program. This was a star-studded event where many celebrities attended to show their support. John Lithgow expressed to me how he was honored to present the Visionary Award to Michael Graves who was recently paralyzed. Diane Sawyer, Paula Zahn and Joan Collins spoke to me about Chris's incredible heroic spirit and how committed he is to finding a cure.

The most important interview of course was with Christopher Reeve himself. I had the opportunity to talk to Chris about some very important issues concerning spinal injury and victims suffering from Paralysis. "Why do you support Therapeutic Cloning?" I asked. Because it is a very important part of Research. I believe Therapeutic Cloning is necessary in order to use a patient's own DNA that is critical to avoid rejection by the immune system" he replied. "Can you tell us about 'The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act'" I inquired.

"Yes, that is an act that will blanket the entire country and create rehabilitation research, quality of life grants, and medical research for all forms of paralysis" he expressed.

This was Christopher Reeve's first public appearance without a ventilator as a result of all the research the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation has achieved and accomplished. BT

Till the next Fundraiser darlings,

Pink Champagne Kisses  
Cognac Wellerlane

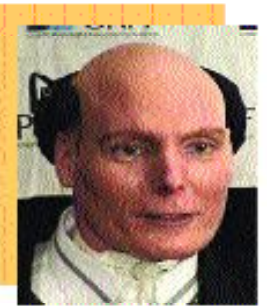
54 BlackTie International



Diane Sawyer



Joan Collins



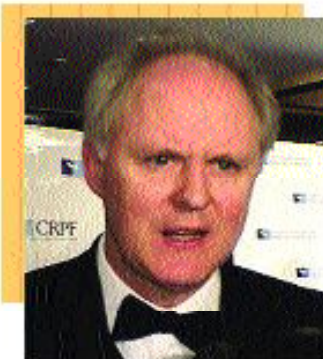
Christopher Reeve



Susie Castillo



Gary and Cognac



John Lithgow



From the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation  
Left to Right: Wade Preston, John Lithgow, Paula Zahn, Wife Dana Reeve, Richard Kind, Miss USA