

# BLACK TIE

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# Sharing The Vision

Photos by Steve Friedman

Glaucoma, the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States, can afflict anyone at any age. But in nine out of ten cases of blindness from glaucoma, vision could have been preserved through early detection and effective, ongoing treatment.

The Glaucoma Foundation is the premier not for profit organization dedicated to eradicating blindness from glaucoma, the irreversible eye disease that afflicts 3 million people in the U.S. and 67 million worldwide. Focusing on funding and promoting cutting edge research, the Foundation has already invested millions of dollars to identify new treatments and cures. Its goal is to transform these possibilities into sight-saving breakthroughs that will improve the quality of life for current and future generations.

Encouraging innovative scientific study as well as collaborations among researchers in different fields are Foundation priorities for 2002 and beyond. The Foundation is proud of its initiatives in the fight against glaucoma. But public support is vital for the continuance of important research and education initiatives.

The major Foundation fundraising event is its Annual Black and White Ball. In 2001, the Foundation was proud to present its *Kitty Carlisle Hart Award* for Lifetime Achievement to the 41st President of the United States, *George H.W. Bush*. The Foundation is also committed to playing a critical role in raising public awareness about glaucoma. Most recently, the former *President Bush* gave of his time and lent his prestige to produce public service announcements on behalf of the Foundation -- urging everyone to seek routine comprehensive eye exams to detect glaucoma before loss of vision occurs.

This year's 16th Annual Black and White Ball will be held on December 5, at the Regent Hotel in New York City. In addition to the 2002 *Kitty Carlisle Hart Award*, the Foundation will present its second Corporate Visionary Award to Pharmacia, a major corporate partner in furthering the Foundation's mission to eradicate blindness from glaucoma. Black and White Ball inquiries may be made to the Foundation at 212-285-0080, or by e-mail to [ball@glaucomafoundation.org](mailto:ball@glaucomafoundation.org).

"It takes the financial participation of many to get the job done," says *Scott R. Christensen*, President and CEO of The Glaucoma Foundation. Beyond attending the elegant Black and White Ball, other ways the public has helped pave the way toward a world without



Photo - Steve Friedman

Gregory K. Harmon, M.D., Foundation Chairman; Robert Ritch, M.D. Foundation Medical Director and David I.E. Pyott, President and CEO of Allergan, Inc., recipient of The Glaucoma Foundation's 2001 Corporate Visionary Award



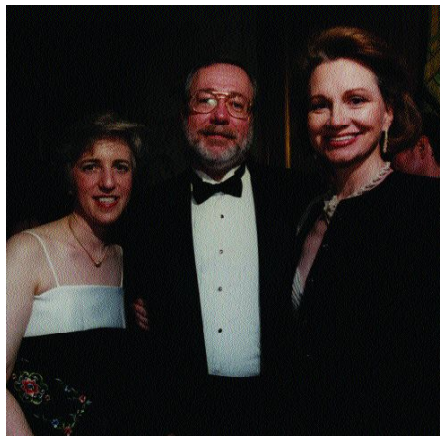
Photo - Steve Friedman

Jeffrey M. Liebmann, Board Member and Chair, Medical Advisory Board; Kevin C. Greenidge, M.D., M.P.H., Board Member and Dawn Greenidge at The Black & White Ball



Photo - Steve Friedman

Joseph La Motta, Foundation Chairman Emeritus; special guest Kitty Carlisle Hart, and Gregory K. Harmon, M.D. Foundation Chairman at The Black and White Ball



Board Member Bebe G. Doyle and Kenneth Doyle with Barbara Willis Hearst at The Black & White Ball

blindness are through individual contributions to the *Joseph M. and Geraldine C. La Motta Endowment Fund* for Glaucoma Research and by joining one of the Foundation's giving societies. *Mr. La Motta*, now Chairman Emeritus, served as Chairman of the Board of The Glaucoma Foundation for seven years.

The Glaucoma Foundation supports research through the Grants-in-Aid Program, which awards seed money to investigators around the world. To gain the greatest impact with precious research dollars, The Foundation primarily funds investigations into optic nerve rescue and restoration and the molecular genetics of glaucoma - two of the most important areas of glaucoma research for the decades ahead. The Foundation welcomes inquiries about sponsorship and naming opportunities for its Grants-in-Aid Program. Contributions are critical for furthering The Glaucoma Foundation's sight-saving efforts.

Glaucoma is not just a disease affecting older people. The Foundation's Web site serves as the gateway to YUP ("Young and Under Pressure"), The Foundation's own e-mail based support community for young people with glaucoma - specifically for people under the age of 35. YUP was created by a young woman diagnosed with glaucoma when she was 15, who tried desperately but was unable to find a support group for people her age. A second cyberspace support group, called YUP Parents, provides a place for relatives of young glaucoma patients to communicate with other families who share similar experiences.

While the primary focus is on research, The Foundation works hard to make the public more aware of eye health, and to help patients better comprehend and manage their disease. The Foundation's Web site, [www.glaucomafoundation.org](http://www.glaucomafoundation.org), is a user-friendly information clearinghouse that allows visitors to download literature for patients and the general public, access updates on new research efforts and link to other related resources.

EARLY DETECTION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTING BLINDNESS FROM GLAUCOMA. PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET YOUR EYES CHECKED

WITH NO RISK FACTORS\*      WITH RISK FACTORS

UNDER 45 YEARS OLD:  
EVERY 4 YEARS      EVERY 2 YEARS

45 YEARS & OLDER:  
EVERY 2 YEARS      EVERY YEAR

\* RISK FACTORS FOR GLAUCOMA: Family history, African descent, diabetes, myopia (nearsightedness), previous eye injury, low blood pressure and long exposure to cortisone.

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