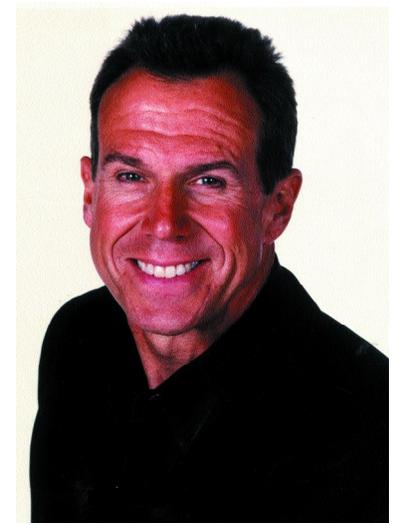


Bill Boggs: A View From the Corner Table

# Save the Best for Last



bill@billboggs.com

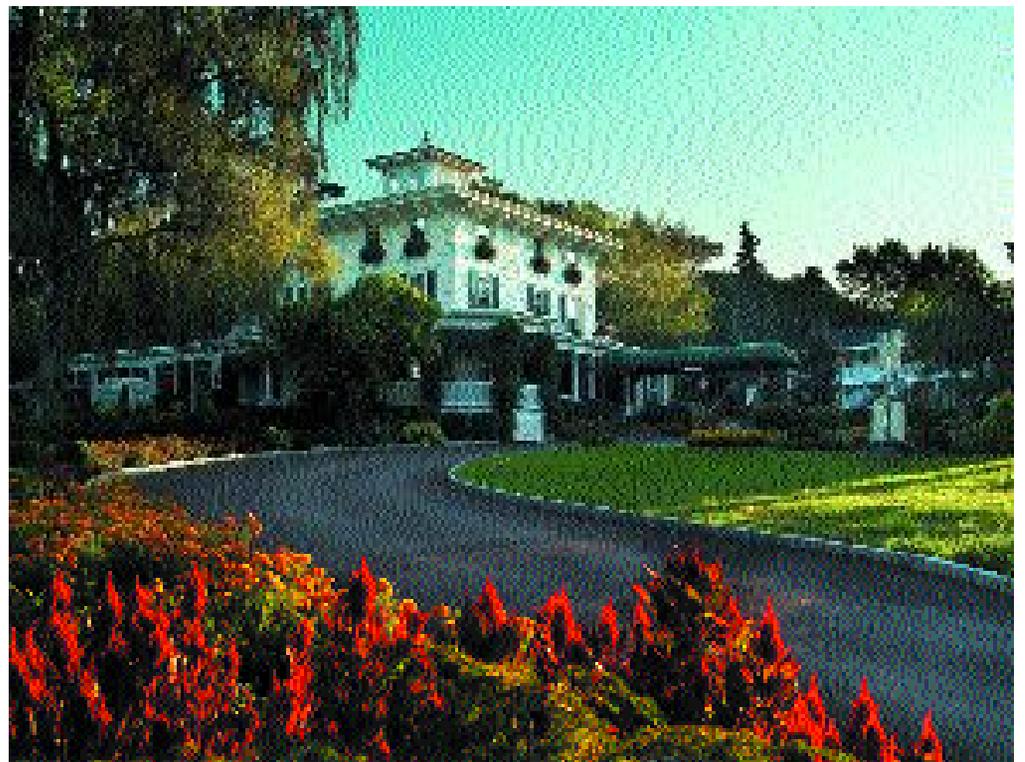
You know when Bill Joel sings, "Some folks like to get away take a holiday from the neighborhood..." and he's talking about that "New York State of Mind," we visualize our own retreats...those special places that we use to escape the impatient tension, noise and stress of our beloved Manhattan Island. I've found a getaway that is an absolutely perfect refuge. Perfect in it's peacefulness, it's food, it's style and most welcome--it's proximity to New York. I speak of the HOMESTEAD INN - THOMAS HENKELMANN, which is just forty minutes from Manhattan in Greenwich, Connecticut. Frequently we mistakenly think we need to "fly someplace" to get out of our environment. For me, The Homestead Inn serves the same purpose, except that I am out there and enjoying my first glass of champagne in about the time it would take to get to JFK airport and clear security.

An 18th Century Farmhouse has been imaginatively transformed into a charming hotel and restaurant set on three acres surrounded by specimen trees and spectacular grounds. It's a sophisticated and relaxing experience over seen by the husband and wife team of Thomas and Theresa Henkelmann. During our stay we enjoyed three spectacular meals with outstanding wines at Chef Henkelmann's exquisite restaurant, which is easily better than many places considered three-star dining hits in New York. This outstanding RELAIS AND CHATEUX property which offers activities like golf, biking, polo, fishing and even hunting deserves to be considered the very next time you are in a mood to get away from your neighborhood. (homestead@relaischateaux.com)

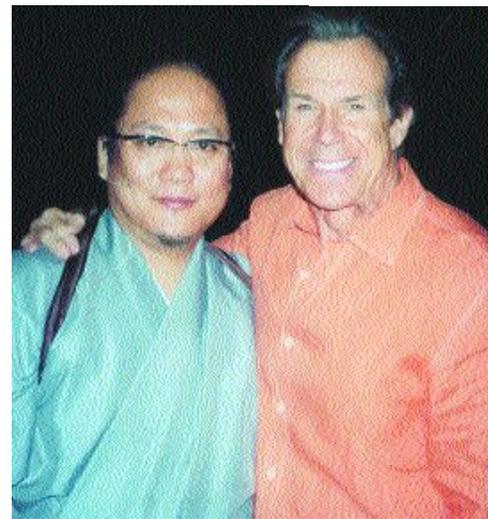
Once again, I've switched into the touring gear, and have criss-crossed the country as host of the nation's largest and most successful culinary road show, "Simon Super Chefs Live" where I've shared the stage with a variety of the country's top TV-celebrity chefs like Iron Chef Morimoto, who wow'd a packed house in Philadelphia with his wizardly culinary display. Who knew you could do so much with a noodle?

I had a good time at my beloved Friar's Club hanging out with a few of the softies who play hard guys on "The Sopranos" and had the chance to catch up with my old friend, the now legendary Frankie Valli, who has much to be proud of with the excellent Broadway Show based on his career, "Jersey Boys." By the way, the cast album to "Jersey's Boys" is a spectacular mood lifter. I've got it in my ipod and have probably listened to it around 50 times. Try it.

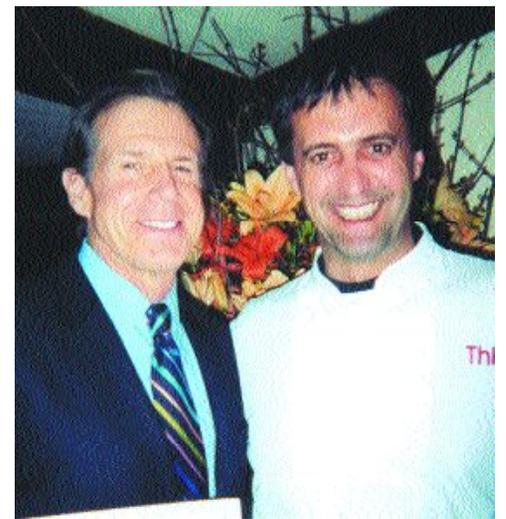
I'm happy to say that you'll soon have more to read from me that this column here in BLACKTIE. On April 10, 2007, HARPER-COLLINS will publish my book, "GOT WHAT IT TAKES?"--successful people on how they made it to the top. Don't get in the bookstore line right now--you have time, but I think you'll like this effort. I set out to interview leaders (45 in all) in a wide range of fields-- to explore some of their personal qualities that helped enable them to be so successful. My goal is to help and direct people who really want to make something of their lives, so in a way the book is a guide based on storytelling--the provenance of success, if you will.



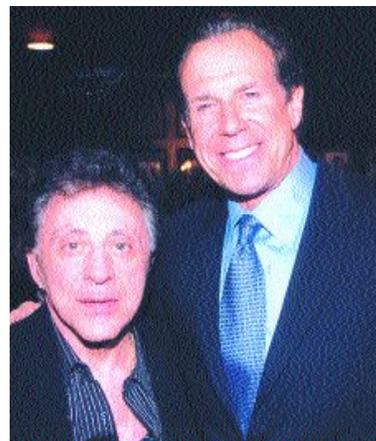
The Homestead Inn. Photo by:Paul Johnson



Iron Chef Morimoto



Chef Thomas Henkelmann

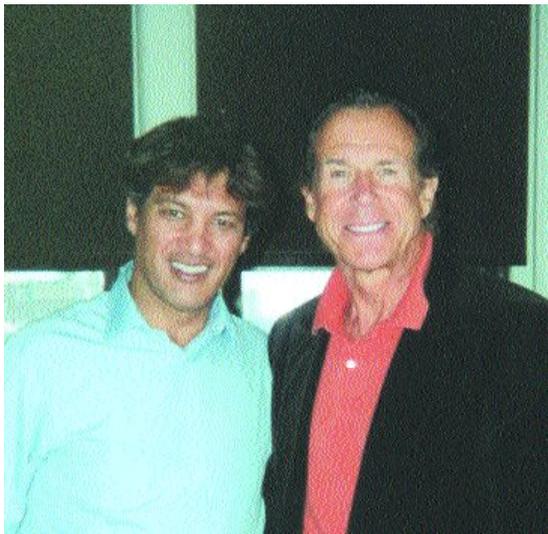
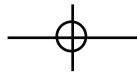


Frankie Valli

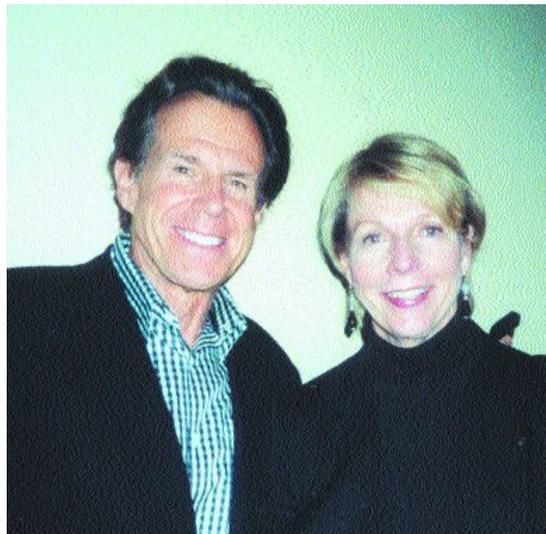


Cast of the Sopranos





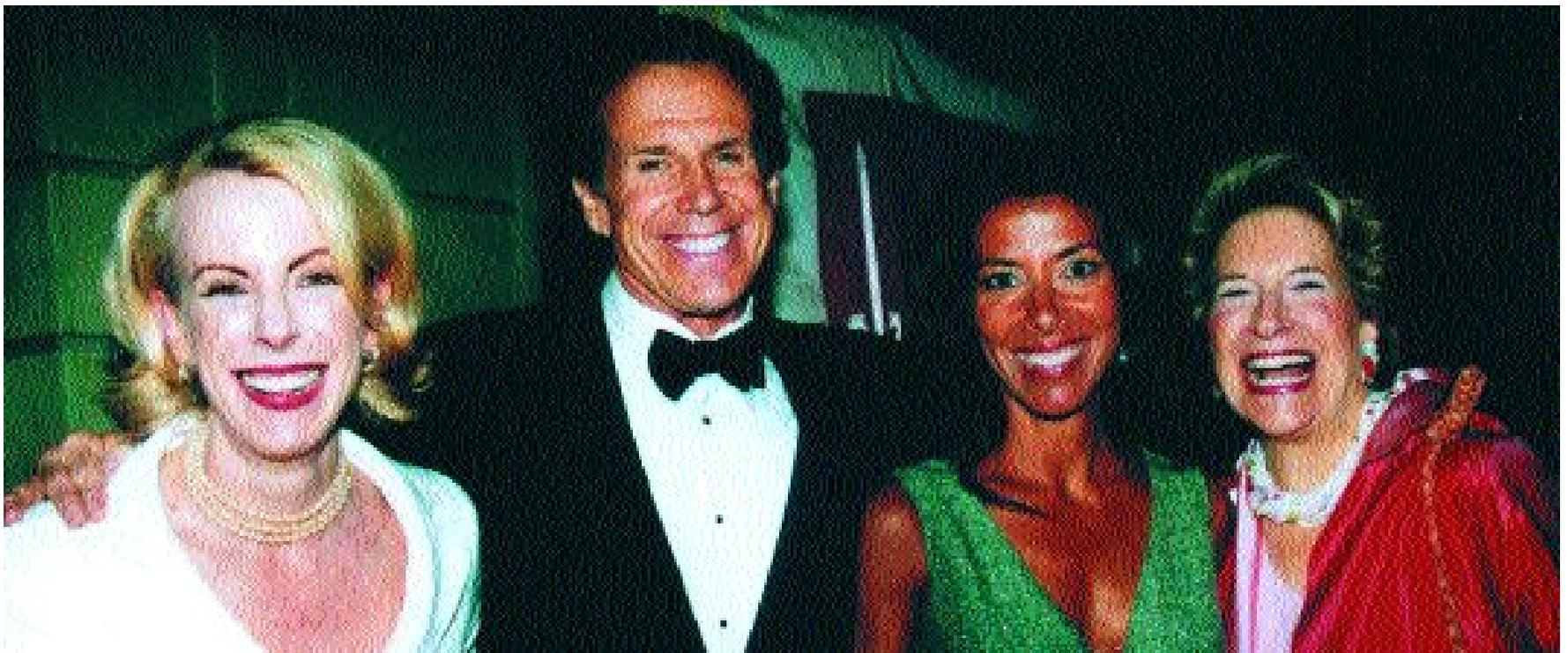
Fredrik Fekkai



Cathie Black



Sir Richard Branson



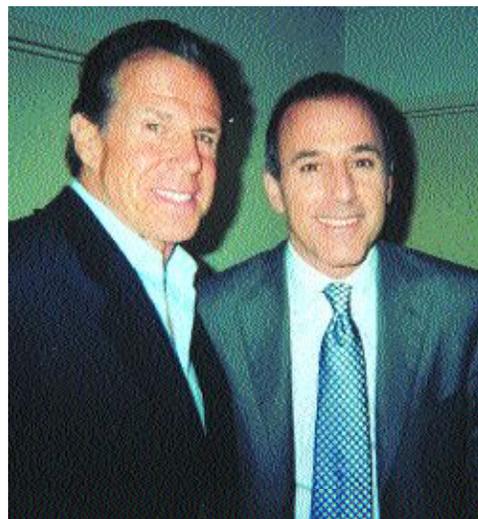
Carol Campbell, Bill, Marilena Greg, and Diana Feldman

Some of those who were generous with their time to help with the book include Playboy's publisher Christie Hefner, the great chef Daniel Boulud, who now has outposts in New York, Palm Beach and Las Vegas, and celebrity hair stylist Fredrik Fekkai. I sat on the bench and talked to Yankees manager Joe Torre, went behind the scenes at "The Today Show," with the debonair Matt Lauer, and scaled the corporate heights at Hearst Publishing to talk to its president, magazine queen, Cathie Black. The globe-trotting Sir Richard Branson came down to earth to meet me in Manhattan at tea time. For more information on the book, check out my new web site, [www.billboggs.com](http://www.billboggs.com), and also look for the schedule of my Off Broadway show, "Talk Show Confidential." I'd love to have you in the audience. I'll have a piece of pie with you after the show, but you'll have to see the show to know why "pie."

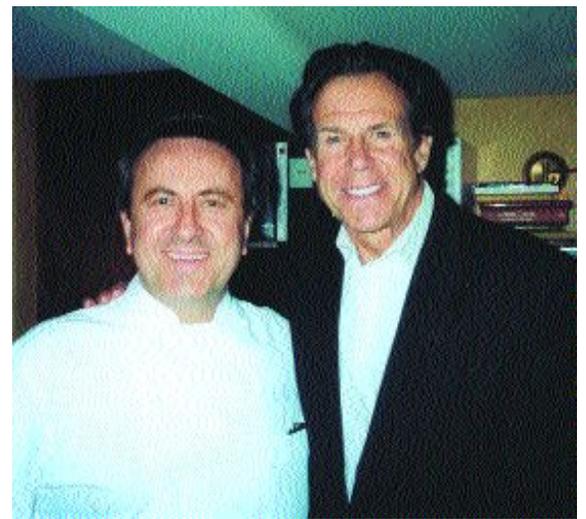
I faced a glittering and beautiful audience recently at the St Regis Hotel, where I had the privilege of being the "MC" and auctioneer for the gala spring fundraiser for The American Cancer Society. I'm happy to say we raised thousands of dollars to help that worthy cause and I thank Diana Feldman and Marilena Greg of the Cancer Society for inviting me to help out. Sarah Ferguson will be the guest of honor at their next event, if you get an invitation--support this cause!

Glad to be with you again, and hope that you enjoy every moment of this wonderful season.

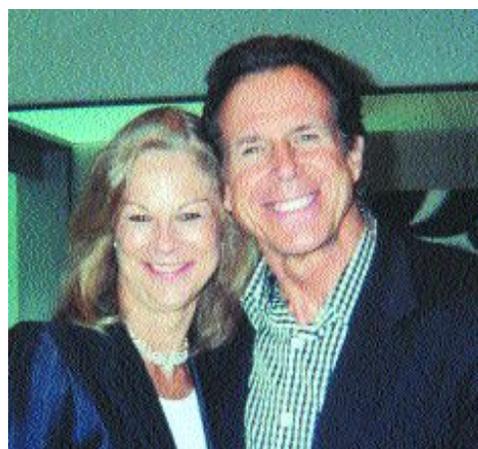
Until next time, your man at the corner table,  
Bill



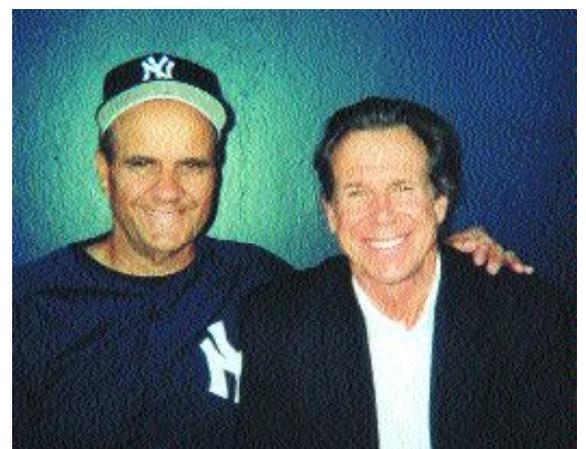
Matte Lauer



Daniel Boulud



Christie Hefner



Joe Torre

