

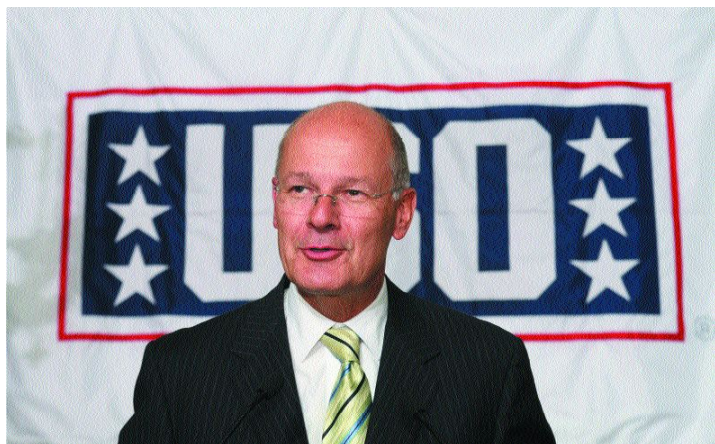
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New York Scene

USO WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Harry Smith Photo by: Richard Lobell

Four of New York's most impressive women were honored at the USO of Metropolitan New York's 40th Annual Women of the Year Luncheon on June 7th. "This is our most successful luncheon to date," USO chairman Stephen Scheffer proudly proclaimed at the afternoon's end. But his words came as no surprise, since the Grand Ballroom at the Pierre was packed with the admirers and fans of honorees Francine LeFrak, Abbe Raven, Betsy Bennett, and General Margrit Farmer.



Rita Cosby, Joyce Randolph, Francine LeFrak Photo by: Richard Lobell

Guests rubbed elbows with TV heavyweights and trendsetters. Harry Smith brought wit and sincerity to the podium as MC, and Bill Kurtis presented the Entertainer of the Year award to Abbe Raven, president of A&E. Multiple-award-winning producer Francine LeFrak was recognized as Humanitarian of the Year, owing in part to her involvement with the Chris and Dana Reeve Resource Center. Rita Cosby was there to introduce Francine, and to pay tribute to the military men and women in attendance. Ms. Cosby has a unique respect for the U.S. armed forces: Her Polish father, a WW II POW, led a daring escape from his prison camp, and was rescued by American troops.

THE MEDITERRANEAN PRESCRIPTION

Renowned physician Angelo Acquista treated friends to recipes from his new, hit book, The Mediterranean Prescription. The May 23rd guests – including Lee Mellis, Lenny Toboroff, and FOX News star Laurie Dhue – could be heard discussing just one thing: Who knew dieting could taste so good? Prescription is part health guide, part cookbook: Its aim is for readers to live long, live healthily, and live well. Serafina owners Vittorio Assaf and Fabio Granato sent over their newest creation, "Pizza di Angelo," topped with a wasabi, tuna tartar and caviar.



Dr. Acquista with his culinary creations Mediterranean Prescription. Photo by: Stefano Spadoni



Dinner guests

The rest of the night's never-ending recipes, all of which Dr. Acquista whipped up himself, came straight from Prescription. In this post-Atkins age, the dinner conversation was how anyone could ever have given up pasta, when it is as tasty as Acquista's?



Stefano Spadoni and Laurie Dhue

THE BOYS TOWNS OF ITALY

The elegant Peter Duchin Orchestra brought guests to their feet to jump and jive as The Boys Towns of Italy celebrated its 61st Anniversary with their annual Ball of the Year Gala. Held at the Pierre Hotel on April 7th, guests dined on a fantastic four-course meal, and toasted to life and happiness!

Among the extravagant silent auction items: a trip to Italy, upscale dinners, jewelry, paintings, home décor and much more! The fund-raiser benefits the organization, founded after WW II. Fourteen countries participate with refugees from every war torn region around the world.



Peter Duchin, Robin Domeniconi, Vittorio Assaf, Fabio Granato and Rock Positano Photo by: Rob Rich

Those honored that evening were Mr. Vittorio Assaf and Mr. Fabio Granato, as "Men of the Year," Ms. Robin Domeniconi as "Woman of the Year," Mr. Rock Positano receiving the "Humanitarian Award" and Mr. Peter Duchin as the "Musical Ambassador."

BOMBARDIER PARTY AT AER LOUNGE

Meatpacking hotspot AER Lounge hosted a party for Bombardier Learjet May 18th. The event boasted specialty cocktails created especially for the occasion, to spotlight the company's premier jets: the Challenger, the Global and the Learjet. Bombardier continues to show its commitment to charity, as they presented a check for \$25K to Ms. Denise Rich, founder of the G&P Foundation for Cancer Research.



Jahid Fazal-Karim and Denise Rich
Photo by: ©Patrick McMullan / Photo : Chance Yeh PMc

World renowned recording artist Kathy Sledge and the Sledge Sisters performed and brought the house to its feet! Among those in attendance was Jeanine Pierro, who, while having to run out, was lured back in for a minute by the dark chocolates Learjet served at the end of the evening!



NY State Attorney General candidate Jeanine Pierro
Photo by: © Patrick McMullan / Photo: Chance Yeh PMc

THE NEW YORK POPS

"O What a Night, I'll remember, O What a Night!" The New York Pops 23rd Anniversary Gala, "88 Keys for Skitch" was definitely a night to remember! On May 8th, musical greats joined forces at Carnegie Hall to show their support for their dear friend Skitch Henderson, who sadly passed away last year. This was not your "average" concert at Carnegie Hall. It was a real mosh pit of performances from the sublime Liza Minnelli to hard core Kid Rock to new heart-throb Paolo Nutini to "Broadway's Jersey Boys." The guests sat enchanted for most of the evening, especially when Mr. Rock screamed "Get off your ass and dance" or when vivacious Elaine Stritch thought Damon Dash (hip hop mogul, being honored that evening) worked back stage and asked him to get her some water...oops!



Kid Rock, Catherine Forbes, Damon Dash
Photo by: Rob Rich



Jersey Boys. Photo by: Rob Rich

On a serious note, The New York Pops honored legendary Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun, for his musical expertise. There wasn't a dry eye in sight but the smiles kept on shining.

Later on, down the street at The New York Athletic Club, guests danced, dined, and bid on one-of-a-kind auction items. It was a long night of fun for all! Across town, the Young Friends committee wasted no time getting down and dirty at FIZZ Nightclub. Committee chair Catherine Forbes and her friends even got a late night surprise from Kid Rock, who joined for some drinks!

The NY POPS definitely popped and went out with huge bang...raising \$844,000!

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