

BLACK TIE

INTERNATIONAL

FALL 2002

\$15.00 US

New York Scene

Catherine Saxton

photo's by Rob Rich

Life is back to normal – at least on the New York social scene. The need to raise money to help solve some of the world's ills is oh so necessary, even more with economic uncertainty in our future. So, New York swings back into action after solemn remembrances on 9/11.

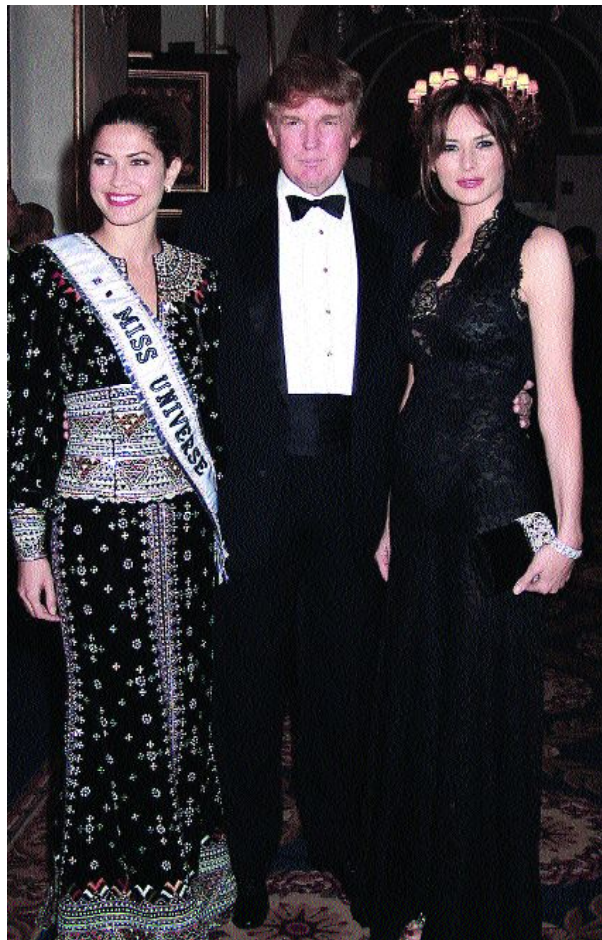
THE USO of METROPOLITAN NEW YORK was a scene ripped from the movies -- all about PRIDE, PATRIOTISM, and good old Yankee "CAN DO"-ism. Gen. John Keane, vice chairman of the U.S. ARMY raised a loud cheer when he told the assembled audience – “We’ll find them, and we’ll kill them, before they can kill any more of us!” The audience of civilians, retired military, and especially the men and women proudly wearing the uniforms of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard cheered the loudest of all. The U.S. Military Academy “West Point” Glee Club sang songs that brought tears to the eyes of everyone there.

Easier on the eyes were the beautiful MISS UNIVERSE, Justine Pasek, of Panama, recently crowned after Miss Russia was dethroned! The lady was breathtaking, and it was easy to see why she was judged one of the fairest in the world.

No slouch in that department is MELANIA KNAUSS longtime companion of the evening's other honoree, DONALD TRUMP. Melania, a Slovenian beauty and fashion model was the perfect model of grace and beauty. Donald, who has been a very longtime supporter of the military, was grace under pressure with all the requests for autographs and photos by the young military.

The USO of Metro New York provides a “home away from home” for the military in transit to far away places. A place to relax, get tickets to favorite shows, make new friends, and always feel at home. The evening raised some \$400,000 for the cause.

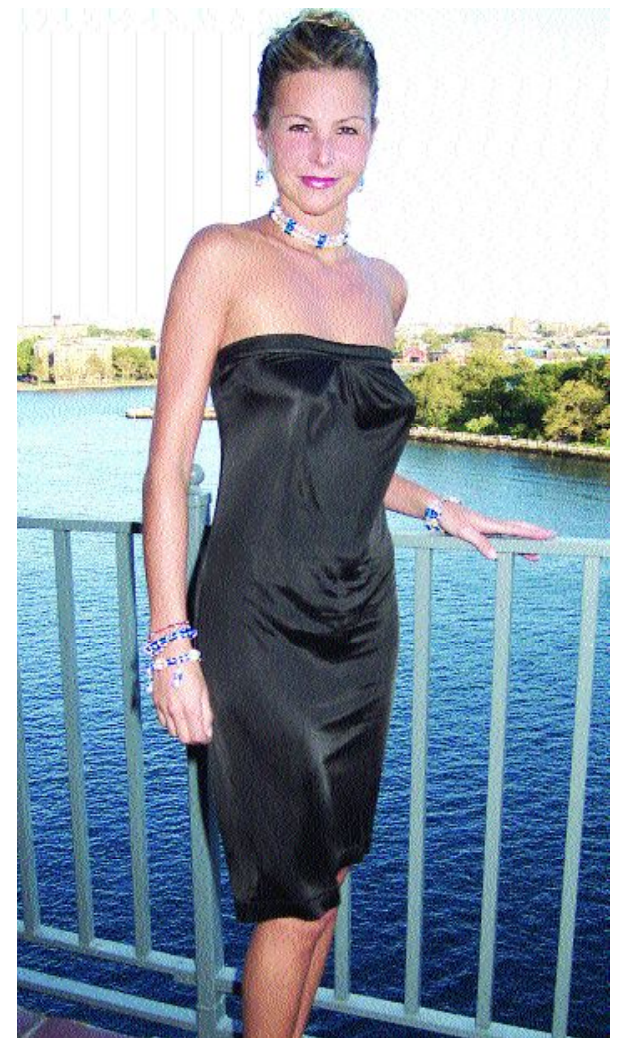
The wife of the Turkish Ambassador to the U.N, Mrs. Dilek Pamir, gathered a group of U.S. and Turkish friends to her breathtaking apartment to show the latest line of jewelry by Tansa Mermerci. Tansa is fast becoming one of the hot young jewelry designers in New York, with three exciting lines based on the ancient tale of the EVIL EYE! Americans aren't fully tuned into the legend of the Evil Eye – but with Tansa's jewelry to boost it, the Evil Eye story is set to become a huge U.S. bestseller. Tansa made her premier appearance in world class Bloomingdale's where she practically sold out. A more discreet crowd attended the Ambassador's home, but sales were just as brisk..



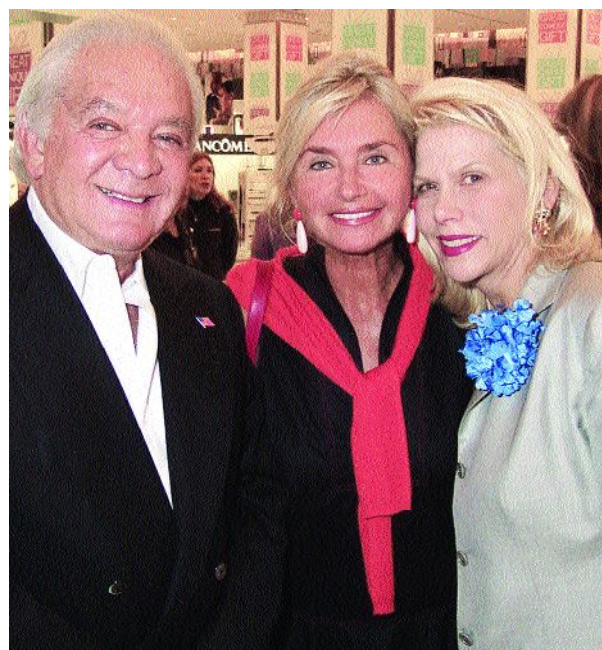
Miss Universe Justine Pasek joins Donald Trump and Melania Knauss at the USO's 41st. Annual Gold Medal Awards Dinner where the Donald was honored



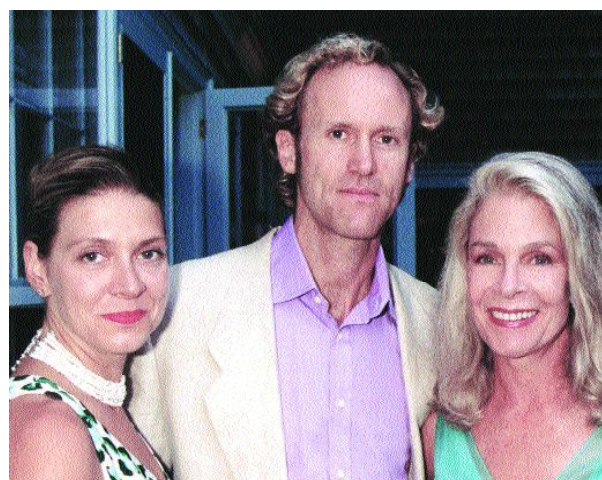
General John M. Keane speaking at the USO's 41st Annual Gold Medal Awards Dinner



Jewelry Designer Tansa Mermerci



Producer Marty Richards, Ender Mermerci and Francine LeFrak



Jana & Lang Phipps & Frances Hayward



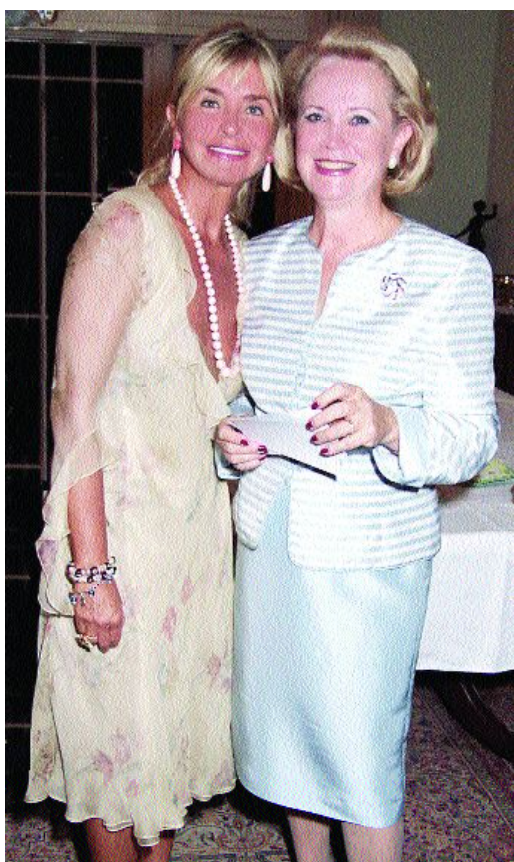
Luly Duke, George Plimpton, Frances Hayward, author Michael Connors



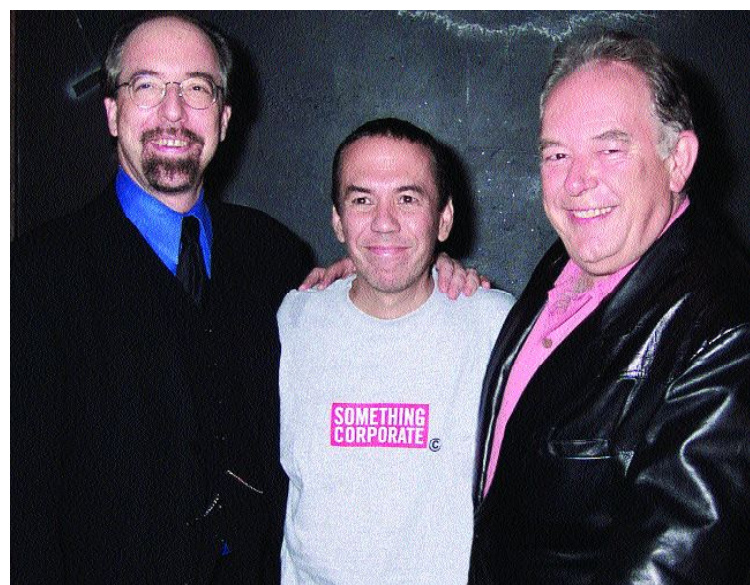
Dennis Basso and "his girls"



Hal Rubinstein, Darlene Daggett, Lisa Robertson and Dennis Basso



Ender Mermerci with the wife of the Turkish Ambassador to the U.N, Mrs. Dilek Pamir



Magician Jamy Ian Swiff, comedian Gilbert Gottfried and Robin Leach

“See you next month – there’s a ton of parties in my immediate future”



Lady Anne Greenstock and Madame Jeane Davide Levitte

Frances Hayward is fast becoming one of the premier hostesses of all things charitable in New York. In the summer, she co-chaired DANCE ON THE DUNES for the local conservation society. Then she hosted her legendary CONCERT AT SUNSET in the breathtaking setting of GREY GARDENS in Easthampton. Now she is gathering everyone up for her annual ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS GALA at the Rainbow Room in November, which she co-chairs. The event raises money for the fabulous collections in the Royal Academy in Piccadilly, London. Frances, who maintains homes in New York, London and the Bahamas, loves to bring people together for a great cause, and her committee meeting on October 3, was a starry gathering. Just wait for the Gala!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC??? Upclose and Magic is one of the most exciting shows you’ll ever see. A group of five imaginative and entertaining Magicians weekly work their magic in the famed Rainbow Room. The magic is as breathtaking as the view and the evening was launched by ROBIN LEACH a devotee of this spellbinding entertainment. GILBERT GOTTFRIED, of Saturday Night Live fame came by to support his friends. It’s every week in the Rainbow Room, so call early for your reservations, you won’t be disappointed.

BREAKFAST IN BED WITH DENNIS – that’s Basso you know. Famed for his out-of-this-world luxury furs, Dennis launched a new bed line – “Ralph (Lauren) had better watch out, it’s far better quality and design than his home furnishings line,” several cognoscenti noted. If your taste runs to Pratesi or Frette, but you have a beach or country house, this is the line for you. There’s also the most divine faux fur throws and pillows you’ll ever want to snuggle into! See you on the cold wintry nights in our future. It’s available on QVC, and Dennis is slowly becoming Mr. Europe QVC which his clothing and now home furnishings line show up there.