

The 8th Annual Ellis Island Family Heritage Awards

Photos by: Diane Bondareff



Host, Candice Bergen speaking to the crowd in Ellis Island's Great Hall

In the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island five esteemed individuals were honored by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. for their contribution to the American Tapestry.

The 8th Annual Annual Ellis Island family Heritage Awards, given annually to a select number of Port of New York and Ellis Island immigrants or their descendants, along with the B.C. Forbes Peopling of America Award were presented by Stephen A. Briganti, President and CEO of the Foundation, and Thomas L. Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and parks, in an 11:00a.m. ceremony hosted by actress Candice Bergen at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

The honorees were: Joe Namath (Sports), Dr. Eric R. Kandel (Science/Medicine), Jerry Seinfeld (Entertainment), and Gloria and Emilio Estefan (B.C> Forbes Peopling of America Award). This year's event initiated the B.C. Forbes Peopling of America Award, sponsored by the Forbes Family in honor of family patriarch B.C. "Bertie" Forbes, who immigrated to America from Scotland in 1904.

The Ellis Island honorees received a framed copy of the original ship's passenger manifest documenting the arrival of their family in America. The Foundation's database of ship's passenger arrivals are available online at www.ellisland.org. The web site has documents and arrival records of the more than 25 million

immigrants, travelers and crew members who came through America's Golden Door and the Port of New York from 1892 - 1924. Forty percent of Americans have family immigration records in this database.

www.ellisland.org



Thomas L. Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Actress and Event Host, Candice Bergen; Honorees: Jerry Seinfeld; Dr. Eric Kandel; Gloria Estefan; Emilio Estefan; Joe Namath; Robert Forbes; and President and CEO of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., Stephen A. Briganti