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**Pre-Press**  
Camlan Graphics

**Printing**  
Ken Granville - Clover Graphics  
631.471.2323



Dear Black Tie Readers,

Welcome to our Spring edition of Black Tie Magazine. We are so proud to have the legendary Kirk Douglas on our cover. His lifetime achievements include 85 films, 9 plays, 8 books and a host of other contributions to the arts, his country and his fellowman. Eighty-six years young, Mr. Douglas not only survived a disabling stroke, he rose above the difficulties and despair to write a book "My Stroke of Luck," which I believe will give countless stroke victims the much needed will to live. Mr. Douglas, together with his wife Anne, also donates millions of dollars to build and restore neglected playgrounds in addition to their many other charitable affiliations. Mr. Douglas, his son Michael and grandson Cameron have also just premiered a new movie, *It Runs In The Family*. We wish them continuing health and happiness.

Congratulations to Marty Richards. The movie *Chicago* is a welcome tonic for our times. Marty has brought back the American movie musical, and we all hope that this is the beginning of a great new revival. Among his other accomplishments are serving on the Presidents Council for Gay Mens Health Crisis as well as being on the Board of Directors of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids. He has also established The Mary Lea Johnson Richards Institute for organ transplantation and research.

Rod Gilbert, the *Hockey Hall of Famer*, endured two spinal fusion operations early in his career. It was his belief in the spiritual that Mr. Gilbert credits with getting him through those arduous times. Presently Rod works for the New York Rangers as Director of Community Relations, daily organizing their support of a litany of charitable causes. The "affable iceman" now battles opponents such as poverty, disease and family misfortune with the same tenacity he used to shake off hulking defensemen blocking his path to the net.

On a lighter note, we have fine dining, art, travel and of course lots and lots of events. I hope that this issue brings joy to your day. May we all stay safe, and may our troops return soon.

As always,

Joyce Brooks  
Editor-in-Chief