

# Beverly Hills Sheet

An International Look for People Who Make a Difference

December 2004  
January 2005  
Two Dollars



**Bill Clinton's  
Presidential Library**

----  
**Los Angeles Opera**

Opening Nights

**Carmen, La Bohème and Vanessa**

----  
**Holiday Couture**

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**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

**Young Musicians Foundation**

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**Great Hotels of the World**

*Huntington Hotel and Spa, San Francisco*

*Ballantyne Resort and Spa, Charlotte, North Carolina*



***Kevin Parker** with a \$2 Million Jewelry Wreath of David Webb's Jewelry  
Chairman, of A Musical Evening  
Walt Disney Concert Hall February 23, 2005  
Celebrating the Songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David  
Honoring Hal David*



VALENTINO

# DAVID WEBB

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CHRISTIAN LACROIX

# Young Musicians Foundation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

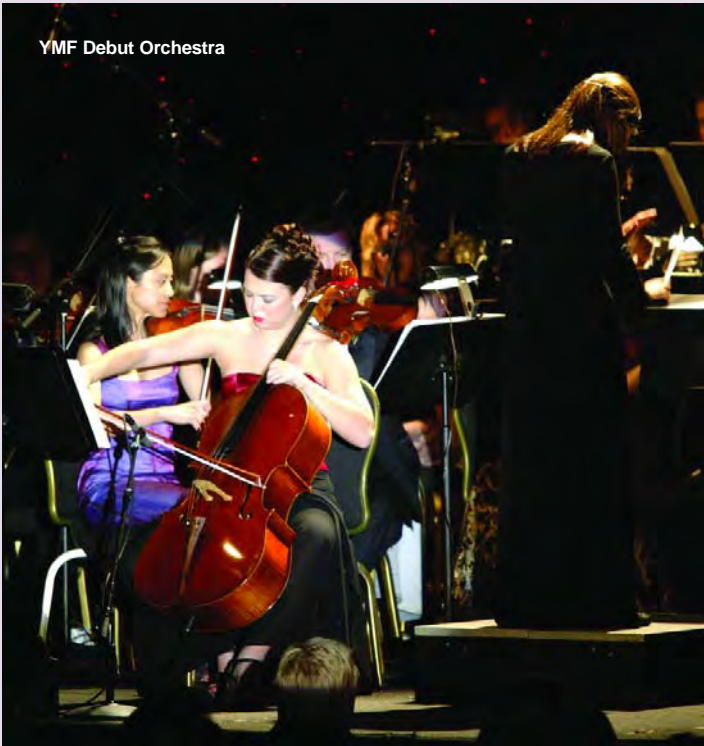
*Honoring John Williams, Merv Griffin and Carl Reiner*

The most fabulous evening at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel was the Young Musicians Foundation Gala. It was star-studded from front to back: John Williams' music was great and the audience loved it. Edye Rugalo has done such a fabulous job with this organization they should all be very proud. Congratulations for another 50 years.

LF



Anne Jeffreys



YMF Debut Orchestra



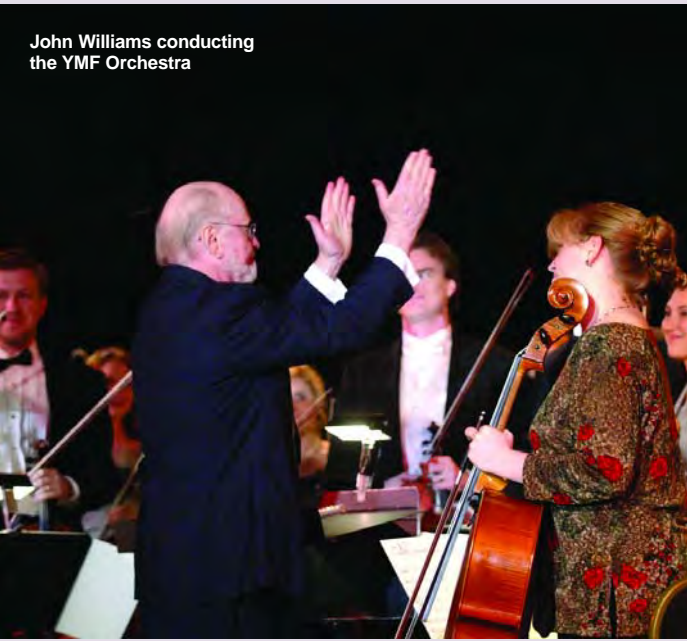
Carl, Merv and John at Gala



Lladro's Anita Reedy



Edye Rugolo and John Williams



John Williams conducting the YMF Orchestra



Brooks Brothers' James Jahant



Merv Griffin on stage at the YMF 50th Anniversary Gala



Montblanc's Janet Shin and Olena Zoytekhouska



YMF Debut Orchestra



Barbi Benton

# LUPUS AWARDS

and

## The Bag Lady Luncheon

Entertainment Industry Icon Wayne Newton and his wife Kathleen received the 2004 Loop Award presented by their good friends Marla and Bud Paxson at Lupus LA's fourth annual "An Evening of Love, Light & Laughter". The event was co-chaired by Carrie and Bernie Brillstein, Marla and Bud Paxson and Gretchen Wayne was held at The Beverly Hills Hotel. In excess of \$350,000 was raised for the Lupus Research Institute for Lupus research. Sabrina's Melissa Joan Hart received the Michael Wayne Public Service, which was presented by his widow and event co-chair, Gretchen Wayne. Comedian Paul Rodriguez entertained the audience along with recording artist Bonnie McKee. Craig Kilborn shared some insights about his friend Wayne Newton and Suzanne Whang served as MC.

Other honorees included: Lupus LA founding committee member and advocate Dorothy Ellis, who was introduced by writer/director David Zucker. UCLA's Deborah McCurdy MD received the Medical Visionary Award from Lupus LA founder Daniel J. Wallace MD. Carrie and Bernie Brillstein presented to longtime friends Beverly Sassoon and Avery/Dennison's Philip Neal as Champions of Humanity. Waterfall Film's Adam Selkowitz produced the event.

Lupus is one of the country's most prevalent, unpredictable and potentially fatal medical problems. This autoimmune disease that affects over two million Americans is very difficult to diagnose and there is no cure. Lupus LA was formed five years ago by Daniel J. Wallace MD, one of the country's prominent Lupus specialists, to raise funds for Lupus research through the Lupus Research Institute.

This evening brought together the entertainment, business and medical communities. The guest list included: Brittany Murphy, Ryan O'Neal, Andrea Roth (Rescue Me), Shondrella Avery (Napoleon Dynamite), Julie Benz (Angel), Howie D (Backstreet Boys), Craig Kilborn, Jim Gianopulos (Fox, Chairman), Frankie Avalon (Grease), Patrika Darbo (Days of Our Lives), Dayna Devon (Extra), Scott Grimes (ER), Taraji P. Henson (Hair Show), Kerr Smith (Dawson's Creek, Charmed), Suzanne Whang (HGTV's House Hunters), KaDee Strickland (Anacondas, The Grudge), Alex Yemenidjian, Sally Struthers (Gilmore Girls) and Kellie Martin (ER, Law & Order SVU).



Gretchen Wayne  
and Melissa Joan Hart



Dr. Deborah McCurdy



Actress KaDee  
Strickland and  
Tony Award  
Winner  
Marissa Jaret  
Winokur



Luncheon Co-Chairs: Carol Weisman (the honoree), Carrie Brillstein,  
Marla Paxson, Peri Ellen Berne and Julia van Hees



Actress Julie Benz  
and Melissa Joan Hart



Kerr Smith and  
Julie Benz



Dorothy Ellis & David Zucker



Mario van Peebles and  
KaDee Strickland



Brittany Murphy



Beverly Sassoon, Philip Neal, Carrie Brillstein, Marla Paxson



Actress Sharon Case  
with her donated  
hand bag



Kellie Martin and  
Nicole Paxson



Wayne Newton and  
Craig Kilborn



Bernie Brillstein, Ryan O'Neal and Freddie Fields

## Century Cosmetics

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Sandy & Al Goldman of Party Concepts



Arlene and David Ray



Lee Iacocca, Patricia Kennedy Birthday Girl Bobbye Steinberg and her husband Mort

# Bobbye Steinberg's Birthday Bash

Two hundred people gathered at the Beverly Hills Hotel to celebrate Bobbye's birthday. Everyone was dressed to the NINES and they all had a great time. They were entertained by Wayne Foster and his ensemble of forty. The party was produced by Sandy Goldman of Party Concepts. The theme of the party was Hollywood glamour and glitz. The night was known as "Hooray for Hollywood". Photos by Stuart Townsley of Dahl Photography.



Mort & Bobbye Steinberg & children



Roberta Horwitch and Bobbye Steinberg



Marty and Evi Lutin



Stanly Black, Bobbye, Joyce Black and Mort



Friends



Friends



The Fabulous Wayne Foster Orchestra



The Girlfriends

# 2005, Music Center Launches Groundbreaking Speaker Series

Bill Clinton to speak, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005--

A groundbreaking lecture series that will feature a roster of distinguished experts in the fields of politics, culture, and media. Presented in two separate series, the Music Center Speaker Series includes: appearances by Tom Brokaw, William Jefferson Clinton, David Gergen, Gwen Ifill, Daniel Libeskind, Queen Noor and Charlie Rose. This influential roster of speakers will cover a wide range of topics-from world cultures and the power of the media to architecture and local urban landscapes. The lectures, presented in the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion are scheduled between January and May, 2005 (complete schedule follows).

"We're extremely proud to present this group of powerful and articulate speakers to Los Angeles," said Stephen D. Rountree, President of the Music Center. "In launching the Music Center Speaker Series, we aim to establish a valuable and engaging civic forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions." Tickets available only by subscription. Series A includes Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Charlie Rose, William Jefferson Clinton and Daniel Libeskind. Series B includes: Gwen Ifill, William Jefferson Clinton, Tom Brokaw and David Gergen. Subscribers have the option of purchasing additional tickets to either of the two Clinton events. Lectures are scheduled in the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall with the exception of the two Clinton programs, which are presented in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The Speaker Series is presented by the Music Center of Los Angeles County and produced by Alan Rothenberg and Dan Savage of SR Productions.

For additional information or to subscribe to the Music Center Speaker Series, visit [www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org) or call (310) 271-6631, between 10 am and 6 pm.

## Series A

### Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Her Majesty Queen Noor was born Lisa Najeeb Halaby to an Arab-American family. After receiving a B.A. in Architecture and Urban Planning from Princeton University, she worked on international urban planning and design projects in Australia, Iran, the United States, and the Arab World. She married His Majesty King Hussein in 1978 and since that time, she has directed and sponsored projects and activities in Jordan to address specific national development needs in the areas of education, culture, women and children's welfare, human rights, conflict resolution, and environmental and architectural conservation.

### Charlie Rose

Monday, February 21, 2005

Emmy award-winning journalist Charlie Rose has been praised as "one of America's premier interviewers." He is the host of Charlie Rose, the nightly PBS program that engages America's best thinkers, writers, politicians, entertainers, business leaders, scientists and other newsmakers. He is also a correspondent for 60 Minutes II. Rose has interviewed major international political figures including statesmen Nelson Mandela and Mikhail Gorbachev, Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, and business leaders Bill Gates and Andy Grove. In the artistic arena Rose's guests range from actor Tom Hanks to musicians Bruce Springsteen and Yo-Yo Ma.

### William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

Tuesday, March 8, 2005, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

William Jefferson Clinton was elected President of the United States in 1992, and again in 1996. Under his leadership, the United States enjoyed the strongest economy in a generation and the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. Clinton currently focuses much of his time on the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, established to strengthen the capacity of people in the United States and throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence. To accomplish this mission, the Foundation currently focuses its work in five critical areas: the battle against HIV/AIDS; racial, ethnic and religious reconciliation; citizen service; economic empowerment of poor people; and leadership development.

### Daniel Libeskind

Tuesday, May 31, 2005

Daniel Libeskind is an international figure in architectural practice and urban design and is known for introducing a new critical discourse into architecture. His practice extends from building major cultural institutions, to landscape and urban projects and stage and exhibition design. His designs include the Jewish Museum Berlin; The Felix Nussbaum Haus, Osnabrück, Germany; and Atelier Weil, Puerto de Andratx, Mallorca. He is presently designing and constructing myriad projects including The Jewish Museum in San Francisco; the Extension to the Denver Art Museum; and the Extension to the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Most recently, Daniel Libeskind was named lead architect for the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site in New York City.

## Series B

### Gwen Ifill

Monday, February 7, 2005

Gwen Ifill is veteran journalist who speaks authoritatively with the wit and wisdom that comes from her years of covering some of the toughest beats in Washington. As the moderator and managing editor of PBS' Washington Week, Ifill gives the audience the benefit of her insight on American politics, foreign policy, and the trends that most affect business, family and government. Ifill served as national correspondent for NBC News, where she contributed to The Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, Today and Meet the Press. She served as White House correspondent for The New York Times and covered politics and government for The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun and the Boston Herald Tribune. Recently, Ifill moderated the Cheney-Edwards Vice Presidential Debate.

### William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

Wednesday, March 9, 2005, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

See description in Series A, above.

### Tom Brokaw

Monday, April 11, 2005

Anchor and managing editor of the top-rated NBC Nightly News since 1993, Tom Brokaw has an impressive history of "firsts." He conducted the first exclusive U.S. one-on-one interview with Miksail Gorbachev and was the first American anchor to report on human-rights abuses in Tibet and to conduct an interview with the Dalai Lama. Brokaw has received seven Emmy Awards, including one for China in Crisis and another for his coverage of the Kosovo conflict. He has authored several books including The Greatest Generation and An Album of Memories: Personal Histories from the Greatest Generation, among others. In addition, Brokaw was NBC's White House correspondent from 1973 to 1976 and anchored Today from 1976 to 1981.

### David Gergen

Thursday, May 5, 2005

From Nixon to Clinton, Watergate to Whitewater, few Americans have observed the ups and downs of presidential leadership more closely over the past thirty years than David Gergen. A White House adviser to four presidents, both Republican and Democrat, he offers a vivid, behind-the-scenes account of their struggles to exercise power and draws from them key lessons for leaders of the future. Drawing upon all his many experiences in the White House, he offers seven key lessons for leaders of the future. What they must have, he says, are: inner mastery; a central, compelling purpose rooted in moral values; a capacity to persuade; skills in working within the system; a fast start; a strong, effective team; and a passion that inspires others to keep the flame alive.

**The Music Center of Los Angeles County** is one of the three largest performing arts centers in the nation. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Music Center is home to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. Each year, the Music Center welcomes more than 1.3 million people to performances by its four internationally renowned performing arts companies: the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Opera, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, as well as a full season of dance presented by the Dance at the Music Center. The Music Center Education Division provides the finest in arts education to hundreds of thousands each year while providing leadership to advance the quality and scope of arts education in Southern California.

**The Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County is located at 135 North Grand Avenue.**

**For information, call (213) 972-7211 or visit [www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org).**



# ***William Jefferson Clinton's Presidential Library***



# Saint John's Health Center Foundation

The festivities to celebrated the completion of new North Pavilion at Saint John's Health Center for the donors who contributed to help build new building. The building was blessed by Cardinal Mahony in a special Mass, attended by hospital staff, physicians and friends of Saint John's. The official dedication celebration took place with special remarks by honored guest First Lady of California, Maria Shriver. The North Pavilion is now open to patients.



State Senator Sheila Kuehl; LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Sister Joan Sue, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth; Bruce Lamoureux, CEO of Saint John's Health Center; A. Redmond Doms, Chairman of the Saint John's Health System Foundation Board, Sister Marie Madeleine, President of Saint John's Health Center, Carl W. MacKinzie, Esq., Chairman of the Board, Saint John's Health Center dedication.



Sister Marie Madeleine, President of Saint John's Health Center, George Fenimore and Mary Davis, trustee of Saint John's Health Center Foundation and Bruce Lamoureux, CEO of Saint John's at the donor dinner.



President of Saint John's Health Center, Robert Wagner, trustee of the Saint John's Health Center Foundation and wife Jill St. John, and Bruce Lamoureux, CEO of Saint John's Health Center.



Sister Marie Madeleine, President of Saint John's Heath Center, Dr. John Robertson, cardiovascular surgeon and member of the Board of Trustees of the Saint John's Health Center Foundation and his wife, Jill, a member of the Irene Dunn Guild, a volunteer group at the hospital, and Bruce Lamoureux, CEO of Saint John's Health Center.



Dr. Maggie DiNome, surgeon at Saint John's Health Center and her husband Girard DiNome



First Lady of California Maria Shriver and Sister Marie Madeleine, President of Saint John's Health Center in front of The Maria Shriver Nursery in the new North Pavilion.



The new hospital



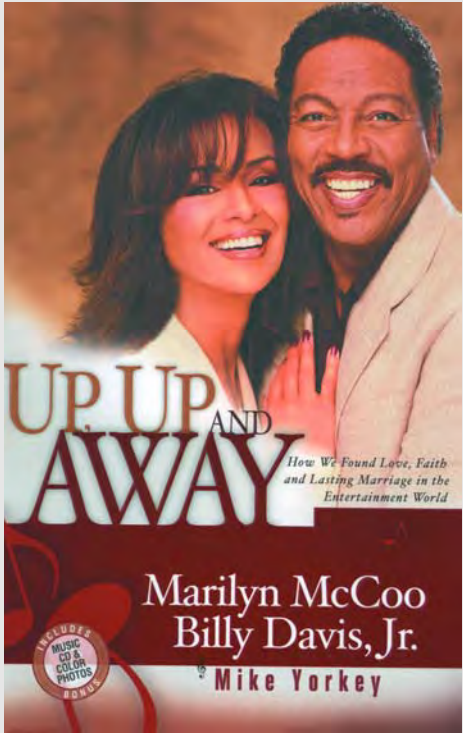
Saint John's Health Center Foundation trustee and Sister Marie Madeleine, president of Saint John's Health Center



The new North Pavilion at Saint John's Health Center is officially dedicated.

## Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr.

Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr. first gained international fame fronting one of the biggest groups of the late '60s, The 5th Dimension, whose many hits include, "Up, Up and Away" and "The Age of Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In!" They make their home in Los Angeles, California. This book is a must-read!



**Hal David**  
*to be Honored at*  
**Walt Disney Concert Hall**  
**February 23, 2005**

**A Musical Evening**

**Celebrating Burt Bacharach &  
Hal David's Music**

**Hal David** to receive **THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Presented by Burt Bacharach  
Dr. Keith Black and Dr. Carol Bennett**

to receive **HUMANITARIAN AWARDS**

**A Special Tribute  
to  
The Music of Ray Charles**

**Starring:**

**Freda Payne**

**Broadway Star, Eugene Hurbin**

**Gay Men's Chorus, Los Angeles**

**Organist, Bob Ralston**

**Side Orchestra Tickets \$65, \$85,  
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For ticket information call:  
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Kevin Parker,  
Chairman

# Shrek 2 Spago's Bash

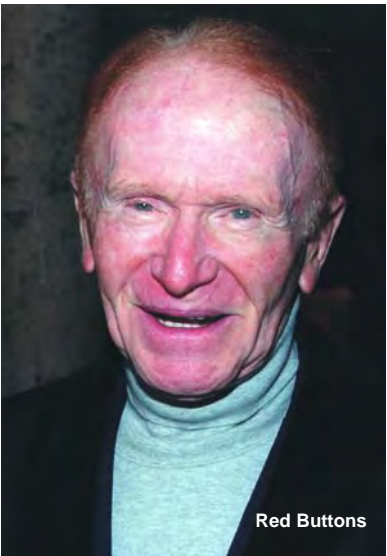
Dale Olson

**DreamWorks** turned the entrance to Spago into Far Far Away, the Castle of the King and Queen in "Shrek 2," for more than 200 revelers celebrating the DVD release of the picture, named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the top-grossing animation feature in history.

Entering to Royal splendor were: Eddie Murphey (Donkey), Mike Myers (Shrek), Larry King (Ugly Stepsister) and Julie Andrews (Queen), as well as Executive Producer Jeffrey Katzenberg. Also on hand were: directors Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon and producers Aron Warner, David Lipman and John H. Williams, most of them filling out voices of other characters in the popular fairy tale. Larry King brought along his two sons to enjoy the festivities, including decorating gingerbreadmen for Christmas ornaments, which Jayne Meadows and Carol Doheny enjoyed all evening. Among other industryites surrounding the groaning Wolfgang Puck tables and overflowing bars were such as Marion Ross and Paul Michael, Earl Holliman, Joanne Worley with Tom Williams, Red Buttons with America's top folk artist Jane Wooster Scott, Charlotte Rae, Jack Carter, Camryn Manheim, and Tyler Hoechlin. Maybe the DVD will be cited by Guinness, too. It took in another \$200 million in just the first weekend. Is there another "Shrek" Oscar? I suspect so.



Spago entrance converted to castle Far Far Away



Red Buttons



Chance (5) and Larry King



Jeffrey Katzenberg, Julie Andrews, Mike Myers



Marion Ross with Paul Michael in the background



Joanne Worley



Eddie Murphy, Mike Myers, Julie Andrews



Camryn Manheim



Tyler Hoechlin



Kelly Avery, Director of Dreamworks Home Video, and directors Kelly Asbury, Conrad Vernon, Jeffrey Katzenberg, David Lipman

## Dascha's

### White Glove Brunch at McDonald's

Dascha Stuart threw a dressy white glove brunch at McDonald's, yes at McDonald's on Pico. The waiters wore white gloves to serve McDonald's food to an elegantly dressed crowd with tablecloths and fresh flowers. All 45 of Beverly Hills and Aspen elite were there. Lita Heller the grand dame of Aspen flew in for the brunch. It was great fun! Everyone raved.



Ruth March and Charles Kenis



B irthday Girl  
Helga Auerbach-Jennings



Lita Heller



Baby Ida and Katarina Allen-Auerbach



Betty Deutch



Roni Heller

Dascha Stuart

Phyllis Wiseman

### B irthday Girl, Margaret Kott



Margaret Kott, Kevin Parker and Millicent Posen



Bunny Gottlieb, Margaret Kott and Lila Jadri

# The Blue Ribbon's The Writer, The Singer, The Song

If you missed it, **Shame on you!** It was without a doubt an old-fashioned star filled evening of stories and songs and how they were written and in many cases who they were written about, old loves, etc. and new ones too.

The program brought together songwriters and the voices who made their songs come alive, whether they were a hit or not, but 98% were hits. The program featured Hal David with Herb Alpert, Bill Withers with Peabo Bryson, Carol Bayer Sager, Jimmy Webb with Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr. singing "Up, Up and Away!", Paul Williams, songwriter and the MC for the evening, Charles Strouse, who remarked that the theme song for All in the Family, he was paid \$200. The audience had a good laugh out of that. It was so great, you should put it on your 2005 calendar not to be missed again!



Joyce and Kent Kresa with Cheryl and Horst Osterkamp



Chairman and event producers Hal and Eunice David



Diner co-chairs Joni Smith, Shannan Swanson Binder, and Jenny Jones



Dwight Kendall

Dona Kendall



Allan and Joan Burns



Suzanne Marx



Sheila and Wally Weisman



Brindell and Milton Gottlieb



Steve and Judith Krantz



Buzz and Lois Aldrin

# Carousel of Hope



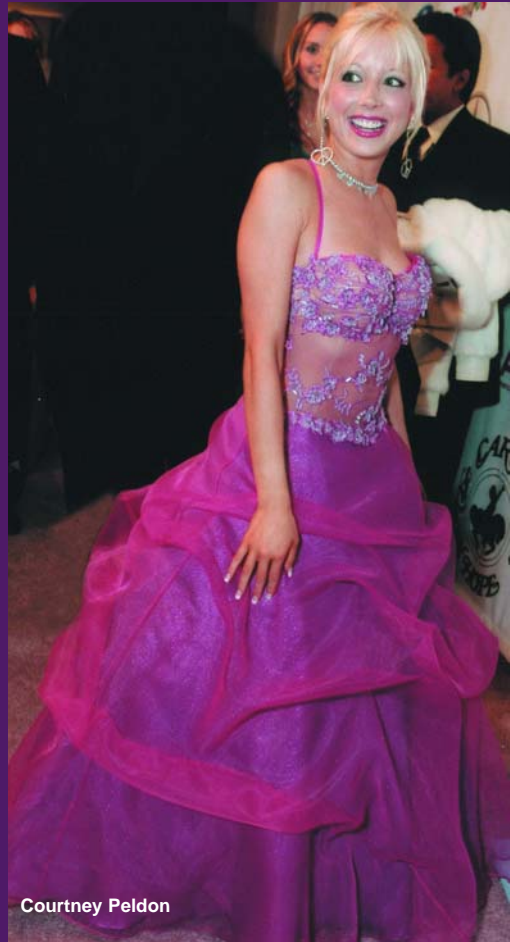
Joan Collins & Guest



Rebecca De Mornay



Nicolette Sheridan & Eva Longoria,  
Hot, Hot Desperate Housewives



Courtney Peldon



Kristin Davis



Beyonce & Muhammed Ali



Barbara & Dana Davis



Cheryl Tiegs & Guest



Sidney Portier & David Foster



Lara Flynn Boyle



Shakira & Michael Caine

# *Carousel of Hope*



Beyonce Knowles



Richard Riordan & wife Nancy



Barbara Sinatra



Ivana Trump



George & Jolene Schlatter



Jane Seymour



Rod Stewart & Penny Lancaster



Robert Graham Jr. & Anjelica Houston



Berry Gordy & Clive Davis



Halle Berry



Jamie Lynn DiScala & Amanda Bynes

# La Bohème



Jackie Applebaum and Opera Administrative Director, Elizabeth Kennedy



Underwriters of La Boheme, Richard Seaver and Sara Jayne Kimm



Dennis and Elizabeth Tito



Gil and Sookie Garcetti



La Boheme cast members: Roberto Alagna (Rodolfo), Shelley Jameson (Musetta) and Marco Berti (Rodolfo)



LA Opera Orchestra Conductor, Lawrence Foster

## Beverly Hills Sheet

### Credits

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#### Beverly Hills Sheet

is published bi-monthly by Forbes Publishing  
Editor-in-chief, LaVetta - Editorial and Advertising offices at  
5455 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1508, Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tel 323.806.0191

Not responsible for unsolicited materials

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Cover photo Kim Canazzi, other photographers:  
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Opera Board President, Frank Baxter, Underwriters Sara Jayne Kimm and Richard Seaver, Ana Maria Martinez (Mimi") and Opera Artistic Director Edgar Baitzel

# Los Angeles Opera Opening *Carmen*

"Lillas Pasta" (a character, portrayed by) Worthie Meacham



Board Members, Nick Ciriello, Dave Barry and Alice Coulombe



"Carmen" director, Emilio Sagi with the "other Carmen" Catherine Malfitano



"Micaela" singer, Carmen Giannattasio



John and Leslie Dorman



First opening night "Carmen", Milaen Kitic with Board Chairman and CEO, Marc Stern



Placido Domingo and performer of the "Don Jose" character, Richard Leech



Sebastian and Marybelle Musco, "Carmen" underwriters, flank, Erwin Schrott, who plays "Escamillo"



Reneé Kumetz, A stunning "Carmen"



alternate "Micaela", Angela Marambio, Catherine Malfitano, the conductor, Nicola Luisotti and alternate "Don Jose", Mario Malagnin



"Carmen" Underwriters, Sebastian Musco (left) and his wife Marybelle Musco (2nd from right) mingle with Marta (2nd from left) and Placido Domingo



Stanley and Joyce Black, former Cal. Governor and now Oakland Mayor, Jerry Brown



# Los Angeles Opera Opening Vanessa

Starring Kiri Te Kanawa as Vanessa. She was great! The role of Erika was played by Lucy Schauer. The role of the Baroness was played by Rosalind Elias, who was the original Erika in 1958 when Vanessa was first introduced. This is a must see. The opera is in English. It has all the things we like in an opera, a lavish home, sex, adultery and of course betrayal. L.F.



Michael and Claudia Margolis

Star of the evening,  
Kiri Te Kanawa

below:  
Nicole Videriksen



Kathy and Opera Board President Frank Baxter with "Vanessa" conductor, Simone Young

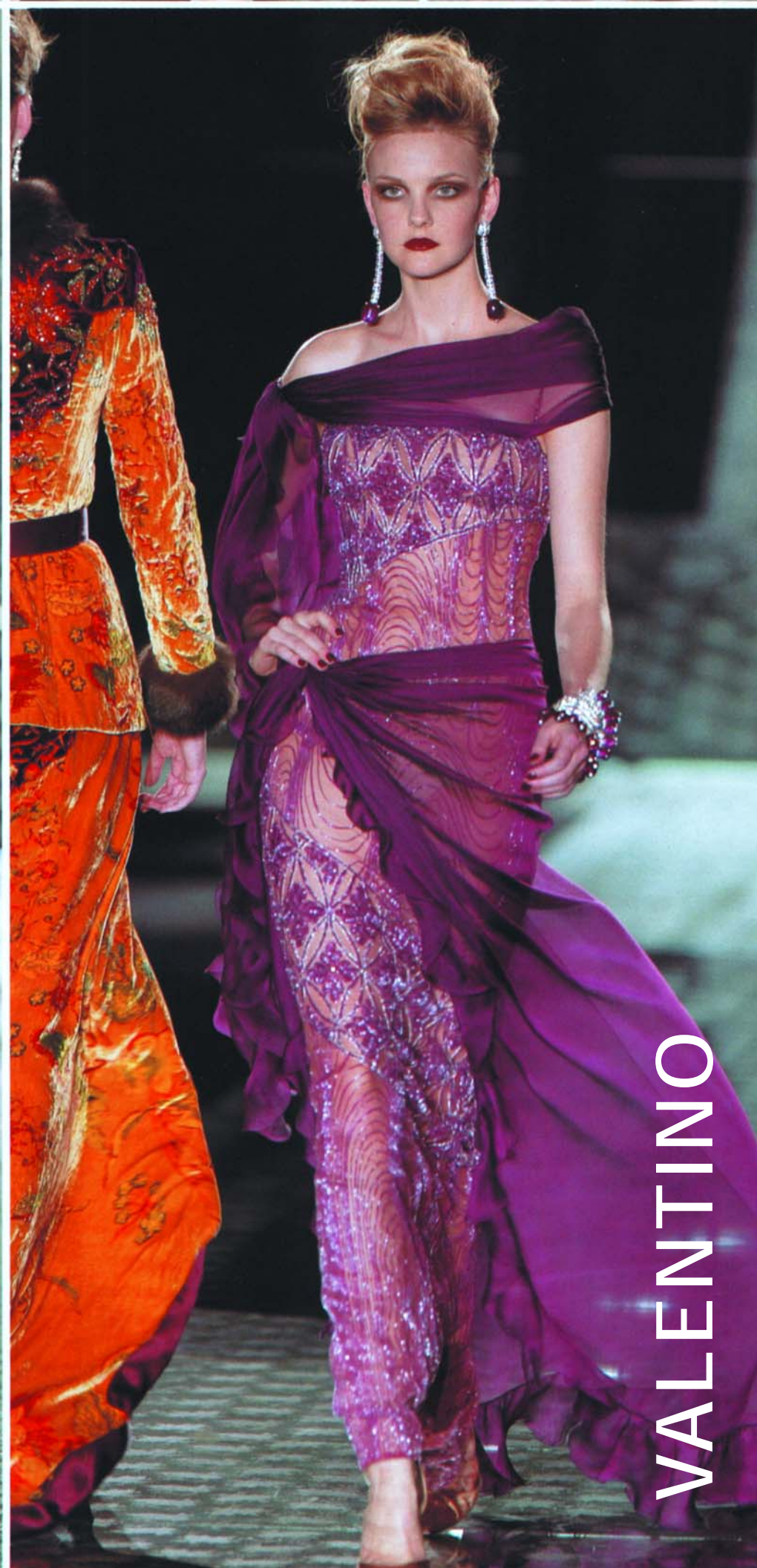


Rosalind Elias ("The Baroness")

Lucy Schauer ("Erika")







VALENTINO

# Ballantyne Resort and Spa

## Charlotte, North Carolina



Out of a beautiful marriage, and according to Sara H. Bissell... "a labor of love", an urban oasis blossomed. Smoky and Sara H. Bissell, the highly qualified hoteliers's and driving force of the Bissell Companies, have created a first-class and opulent Ballantyne Resort in Charlotte, North Carolina. Sara's father, the late James J. Harris, left 1750 acres of property in Charlotte to his three children. Thus, the Bissell's dream for a beautiful resort began. Smokey bought 525 acres from the family and started plans for office buildings and the hotel. Equipped with their hotel operating experience, and the expertise of Wayne Shusko a longtime Bissell Hotel's manager, they developed a boutique hotel surpassing the elegance of their Park Hotel in Charlotte. They named the hotel in honor of a great-aunt Barbara Ballantyne. Graham Asher, the new Ballantyne Resort General Manager brings his expertise and experience from some of the world's finest hotels including the Regent International Hotels of Hong Kong, and the Helmsley Hotel in New York City. He also managed the estates and palaces of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States.

Upon entering this magnificent property I was in awe of the "grand-rotunda" lobby that overlooks the golf course. The large floral arrangements are exquisite. The majestic breakfront that once resided in the office of Prince Charles' philanthropy sits regally in sight. The beautiful antique furnishings throughout the hotel were purchased from several English countryside shops and Paris Flea Markets. Carpets were hand-loomed in England. Two silk prints in the Magnolia Room originated in Singapore. The hotel luggage racks are replicas from the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok. All 214-deluxe rooms and suites have a separate soaking tub and shower; marble flooring; a two-tier European-style vanity, and plush fabrics. One of a kind collection of fine oil paintings by Vermont artist Tom Vieth that depict parts of Charlotte adorns the hotel walls.

"Conte Naste Johansens" named the Spa at Ballantyne one of the Top Three Spas in North America. It has 17 treatment rooms and features over

60 spa experiences. Judy Stell, Spa Director, graciously met me upon arrival and personally assisted with arranging my spa treatments. My experience was replete with an Aromatherapy facial and the "Ballantyne Swedish Massage". Ironically, each of my very skilled service providers was named Lisa. They both provided me with a fulfilling, relaxing and comfortable experience. Following my treatments I relaxed in the lovely women's lounge that was stocked with a variety of complimentary herbal teas, beverages, and fresh snacks. I was able to look directly out onto the golf course, indulge myself with the repast, read and nap...I did all of it. Later when I decided to get into the wave-lap pool I realized that it was co-ed and oops! I had forgotten my bathing suit...oh well it's something I hope to do on my return visit. Before leaving the spa I completed my evaluation sheet with excellent marks to each question.



An oriental "Tuk Tuk", which is a small truck that was used many years ago in Hong Kong to transport produce throughout busy streets to hotels, sits prominently in a corner just steps away from dining in The Grill Room and Traditions. Under the fine helm of Executive Chef Adam Long, who shops regularly for fresh produce at the Farmer's Market, I enjoyed lunch at the Grill Room where I had a wonderful fresh vegetable burger and sampled his delicious buffet items. For dinner at Traditions I savored an appetizer special of succulent pan-seared Diver Scallops and Heirloom tomato wedges placed on top of Frissee Greens-dressed with light Champagne Chervil Vinaigrette. My Entrée Special was a beautifully plated pan-seared Black Grouper, Acorn Squash Gnocchi, Lobster, and sautéed spinach perched in a delicate Sherry Reduction Cream. A Grand Marnier of stewed strawberries crowned with fresh vanilla ice cream was my divine finale. I especially appreciated Traditions kind and attentive service provided by my server Sa'eed Yasin. The moment I arrived Sa'eed noticed that I was wearing black. He immediately retrieved a black napkin from a sixteen-drawer antique chest in the dining room to protect my black dress...now that represented the exceptional service that continued throughout the resort.

The beautiful Lodge at Ballantyne has 35 large executive rooms adjacent to the first fairway at the Resort's golf course. With the highest level of privacy it is an ideal location for executive conferences and training groups. Guest rooms are equipped with high-speed Internet access and many have private balconies overlooking the golf course. There are 2000 square feet of meeting space with a conference room, 4 breakfast rooms and an outdoor patio for cookouts. The spacious hallway extends into an expansive great room called Timbers. I was invited in to see its vaulted spruce ceilings, custom furnishings, and a grand two-sided floor to ceiling stone fireplace that sits in the middle of the room. There is plenty of comfortable plush seating to watch the wide screen TV. I was tempted to sit in one of the rocking chairs on Timbers porch with perfect views of the golf course. The 2nd floor has a loft appointed with a "snooker" table, game tables, and a view overlooking the entire first floor and the wide screen TV. I was delighted to have an opportunity to see this private and exclusive facility.

The Bissell's luxurious Ballantyne Resort and the city of Charlotte certainly do provide visitors with the ultimate in genuine Southern hospitality. I highly recommend that you plan to visit this gracious city and enjoy Ballantyne Resort as "The" place to stay.

Marcia





# The Huntington Hotel and Spa San Francisco

**T**he Huntington Hotel and Nob Hill Spa sit atop San Francisco's world famous Nob Hill, with spectacular views of one of the most romantic cities in the world. Guests can indulge in the sweeping vistas, and grand views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, the beautiful San Francisco bay, and of course the famous little Cable Cars to the stars. Arriving at the Huntington Hotel is like coming home, if your home is a 135-room mansion with gorgeous private guest suites, a spectacular full treatment spa, and The Big Four, one of Gourmet magazine's top 20 restaurants in San Francisco. The Big Four is named for the four largest railroad tycoons of the day, all of whom resided on Nob Hill: C.P. Huntington, Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, and Mark Hopkins. This distinguished in-the-know hotel, under the stewardship of P.R. Director Devon Beddard, was fully recognized in 2003 as one of Conde Nast's Gold list best places to stay in the world, and by Travel and Leisure as one of the 500 best hotels in the world!

Located high atop Nob Hill with extraordinary views of the city, the Huntington Hotel defines class, sophistication and timeless charm. With a reputation of quiet, understated luxury and its unsurpassed location within the "crown jewel" of San Francisco, the Huntington Hotel still maintains its long-standing tradition of high standards and gracious service – and now boasts the Nob Hill Spa, recently named by Allure magazine as the "One of the Best Hotel Spas in the Country." Since 1924, the Huntington has been consistently ranked as one of the most distinguished San Francisco luxury hotels and as one of the finest places to stay in the world.

Each illustrious, celebratory space within the Huntington Hotel offers a rich, elegant décor and an unsurpassed ambiance that exudes tradition and old-world style. As a full-service, four-diamond property with a strong, time honored practice of hospitality, this San Francisco luxury hotel provides attentive service with the grace of yesteryear. Their seasoned event staff will work closely with you to conceptualize and carry out the affair of your dreams.

Withstanding more than three-quarters of a Century atop San Francisco's prestigious Nob Hill, the Huntington Hotel is regarded as one of the last bastions of the city's deep historic roots. It's the ultimate venue for magical moments and precious memories.



## The Spa

Nestled inside the Huntington Hotel you will find a tranquil sanctuary, the Nob Hill Spa. Embark with them on a journey towards longevity. They have gathered inspiration from cultures long represented in San Francisco to create a memorable experience for you. Unwind, relax and reconnect to the gentle pleasures of life. The spa, overlooking the glorious city skyline down to the San Francisco Bay includes an in door pool (for guests 16 yrs. And older), whirlpool, fireplaces, wellness studio, fitness equipment, men's and women's locker rooms with saunas and steam rooms. The treatment rooms are comfortably designed with one-of-a-kind cultural antiques and accents, and the facility is carefully arranged according to the ancient theories of feng shui. While on your journey, enjoy the unique massages, facials, nail services, body treatments and wellness activities that reflect rich healing traditions, for a complete spa retreat, in the heart of San Francisco. They welcome you to share in their gentle expression of quality life and Longevity.

## ScenTao

Experience the calm...Based on the oriental philosophy of health, the goal of this unique two-part wellness treatment is to bring free flow to the body's energy. Using Asian plant extracts such as Ginkgo, Green Tea and Bamboo, the journey begins with a full body aromatherapy exfoliation. Heated stones are then used with massage along meridians to enliven the Qi. Green Tea is served to bring health and a Scentao aromatherapy facial follows to create a feeling of total well-being.

Guests of the Huntington Hotel, sixteen years and older, have complimentary use of the Nob Hill Spa facilities during their stay. For visitors not staying with them, the daily fee is \$35 and is available Monday through Thursday. The fee is waived with a purchase of a 50 minutes body treatment, facial or massage appointment. They recommend arriving 30 minutes before your appointment in order to shower and relax before your spa service.

L.F.



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