

FYI News

New York City's Hotel Concierge Newsletter



Concierge Corner



news from the Front Desk

by Peter Johnson

Revisiting 2007

It has been a year full of many exciting events and changes. 2007 brought us the **First Annual Concierge Choice Awards**, hosted by *City Guide Magazine*. A committee is being formed and *City Guide* will be hosting the Second Annual Award Ceremony in September. The date will be announced soon.

New York City hosted the **Les Clefs d'Or Congress of the Americas**, at which time, **Maurice Dancer** was elected President of Les Clefs d'Or USA. Honorary Membership was given to our own **Janet Barbash**. My General Manager at the Kimberly Hotel, **Mujo Perezic**, was also given Honorary Membership.

Our day of dining at **Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House** and the matinee of **Young Frankenstein**, provided by *City Guide*, was certainly one of the year's highlights. How happy we all were to congratulate *City Guide Magazine* as it celebrated its 25th Anniversary!

Looking ahead, as you read this newsletter, elections will be underway for the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges. We urge all members to attend the meeting and vote. The Association provides us with many spectacular events, but it is also important that members are aware of the business matters, fundraising, charities, etc. It is also important that we keep in touch with our professional ethics.

So, here's to a great New Year ahead. Have a happy and healthy one from everyone at *City Guide*.

If you have any news or events you would like to share with the concierge community through *FYI*, please e-mail jbarbash@davlermedia.com.

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CITY GUIDE's Annual Holiday Party

December 3rd brought us the **Annual City Guide Holiday Party**. This event kicks off the start of an exciting year ahead. As always, it was an amazing turnout. The fabulous **Home & Guest House (532 & 542 W. 27th St. btw. 10th & 11th Aves., 212-273-3700)** was the setting for the evening. In this spacious and festive venue, several restaurants were there to present a delicious feast. **Kellari Taverna, The Blue Point, Ethos, Colors, Angels, Umberto's Clamhouse, Hill Country Barbecue, Delta Grill, and Au Bon Pain** all treated us to a sumptuous buffet. **Garrett Popcorn** placed some of their terrific mix on tables throughout. **Starbright Floral Design** provided the beautiful arrangements.

Everyone was in a holiday mood. Partygoers danced away the night to the music, which was provided by Sweet Caroline's Dueling Piano Bar, which plays Fri. & Sat. nights inside **Ha! Comedy Club**. There were numerous drawings, and many winners went home with great gifts. We have been so lucky to be treated to many wonderful events by our friends at *City Guide* throughout the year. This was the perfect way to see all our friends and colleagues, spread holiday cheer, and bring in 2008! —Peter Johnson



Visit www.cityguideny.com for the most comprehensive listings for NYC visitors, with new additions every day.

Events

Dance

1/2-2/10: **New York City Ballet Winter Season**, New York State Theater, *Columbus Ave. & 63rd St., Lincoln Center*, 212-870-5570; www.nycballet.com

1/10-1/19: **Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet's Winter Season 2008**, Cedar Lake, *547 W. 26th St. (10-11 Aves.)*, 212-244-0015; www.cedarlakedance.com

1/22-1/27: **Armitage Gone! Dance**, Joyce Theater, *175 Eighth Ave. (18-19 Sts.)*, 212-242-0800; www.joyce.org

Events

Through 1/6: **New York National Boat Show**, The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, *35th St. & Eleventh Ave.*, 212-984-7000; www.newyorkboatshow.com

1/1: **The Poetry Project's 34th Annual New Year's Day Marathon Reading**, St. Mark's Church, *131 E. 10th St.*, 212-674-0910; www.poetryproject.com; 2pm

1/4-1/6: **Professional Bull Riders, Inc. VERSUS Invitational**, Madison Square Garden, *4 Pennsylvania Plaza (Seventh Ave. & 32nd St.)*, Ticketmaster 212-307-7171; www.ticketmaster.com

1/7-1/13: **The New York Times' Arts & Leisure Week**, TimesCenter, *41st St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves.*; www.artsandleisureweek.com

1/19-1/20: **The Sun Winefest '08**, Mohegan Sun, *Uncasville, CT*, 888-226-7711; www.mohegan.sun.com (tickets: Ticketmaster, 860-886-0070 or ticketmaster.com)

1/21-1/25, 1/28-2/1: **Winter Restaurant Week**, 212-484-1222; www.nycvisit.com

Exhibit Openings

1/8-4/13: **In the Light of Poussin: The Classical Landscape Tradition**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, *1000 Fifth Ave. (82 St.)*, 212-535-7710; www.metmuseum.org

1/9-2/25: **Selections from the Richard Bellamy Papers**, Museum of Modern Art, *11 W. 53 St.*, 212-708-9400; www.moma.org

1/18-5/4: **The Collections of Barbara Bloom and Archive Fever: Uses of the Document in Contemporary Art**, International Center of Photography, *1133 Ave. of the Americas (43 St.)*, 212-857-0000; www.icp.org

1/18-4/13: **Close Encounters: Irving Penn Portraits of Artists and Writers**, Morgan Library & Museum, *225 Madison Ave. (36 St.)*, 212-685-0008; www.themorgan.org

1/22-5/11: **Lee Friedlander: A Ramble in Olmsted Parks**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, *1000 Fifth Ave. (82 St.)*, 212-535-7710; www.metmuseum.org

Continued on Page 3

CITY GUIDE & PROMENADE

Holiday Party Door Prizes

Dozens of generous sponsors donated door prizes for the City Guide & Promenade Holiday Party. Davler Media Group would like to thank them for their wonderful assistance in making the party a great success.

Here is a complete list of donors and prize winners:

DONOR:	WINNER	DONOR:	WINNER
AJ Maxwell's Steak House	Isabelle Hogan, The Carlyle	Kellari Restaurant Group	Christine Spencer, Renaissance
American Museum of Natural History	Tom Adams, Millenium Broadway	Madame Tussauds	Ivette Munroe, Pierre
Apollo Theater	Jorge Chaves, Fitzpatrick Thomas Merkl, Park Lane	Manhattan Helicopter Tours	McKinley Winston, St. Regis
Art Brown Pen Shop	Juliet Markowitz, The Alex	Marmara Hotels & Residences	Jocelyn Ricci, Grand Hyatt
Bice	David Moreno, Gramercy Park	Mickey Mantle's	Polina Roze, Marriott Marquis
Bike and Roll	Celso Moreira, Four Seasons	NBA Store	Gilmar Scantamburlo, W Times Square
Bloomingdale's	Kathleen Nugent, Regency Tino Merli, Omni	New Balance New York	Todd Burke, Morgans
Carmel Car Service	Philip Accorso, Millenium Broadway	New York Party Shuttle	Jackie Rosado, Hilton
Century 21 Department Store	Eva Olsson, NY Helmsley	NY Skyride	Erick Pinedo, Renaissance
Circle Line 42nd	Jonathan Henthorne, Waldorf=Astoria	Niketown	Nelson Diaz, Marriott Marquis
Circle Line Downtown	Heather Kave, W New York	Nintendo World	James Lambogla, W Hotel
Cockpit USA	Anya Orlanska, The Benjamin	NY Waterway Tours	Melanie Bruno, Westin NY
Curtains	Roel Francisco, The Plaza	On Location Tours	Gunter Kleeman, NY Palace
Dave and Buster's	J.C. Tzarnota, Marriott Courtyard Times Square Raita Sawai, Kitano	Ripley's Believe It Or Not	George Matiosla, W Union Square
Dial 7 Car & Limousine	Michael McAvoy, Bryant Park	Ross Art Group	Cathy Grahame, Waldorf=Astoria
DivaGrams	Denise Bethune, Phillips Club	Sofrito Restaurant	Abigail Michaels, Sheffield Residents
Garrett Popcorn Shop	Akisa Sherman, W Hotel	Statue Cruises	Michael Yee, Gansevoort
Gray Line	Maro Berna, Jolly Madison Michael Baffuto, Sheraton Suites Anastasia Meehan, Hudson Steve Kyriakides, Hotel 3030 Anthony Breen, Colonial House	Super Runners Shop	Michael Cerrato, Pierre
Greene County Tourism	Susanne Carter, Ritz-Carlton Central Park	SuperShuttle	Rosa Arias, Hilton NY Sergio Nieto, InterContinental
Hairspray	Sarah Pesek, The Benjamin	Tent & Trails	Eric Valencia, NY Palace
HBO Shop	Jonathon Powley, Ritz-Carlton West Hester	Three Mo' Tenors	Peter Johnson, Kimberly
J&R Music and Computer World	Maria Bortoluzzi, Parker Meridien	Top of the Rock	Lek Kidkarndee, Waldorf=Astoria
		Toys "R" Us	Zoila Terrero, NYC & Company
		Voice Works	George Domenick, Ritz-Carlton Central Park
		World Yacht	Domenic Alfonzetti, InterContinental
		Zarin Fabrics	Krista Sorrentino, W Hotel

Natsumi



with a sushi bar, and offers an extensive wine and sake list, as well as creative cocktails. In addition to their list of 20 sakes, plum wines, and hot sake, Natsumi Bar and Lounge also offers house-infused fruit-flavored sakes, in flavors including blueberry, pear, lychee, and plum. 226 W. 50th St. btw. Eighth Ave. & Broadway, 212-258-2988

A strikingly original new destination in the Theatre District, **Natsumi Restaurant and Natsumi Bar and Lounge** offer two separate experiences in two adjacent sites. Featuring Japanese-Italian fusion cuisine, the restaurant's menu combines flavors in ways that NYC hasn't seen before. Diners can experience the signature New Style Carpaccio (fresh raw yellowtail dressed with aged balsamic vinaigrette) or pork filet mignon with porcini mushrooms and mustard sauce. "Although the unlikely Japanese-Italian combination is the attention-grabber here, sushi and sashimi (especially the tuna and California rolls) are its strength," according to *City Guide* restaurant reviewer Richard Jay Scholem. The bar/lounge is a Tokyo-chic space

Empire State Building Observatory

As you surely know, the Empire State Building, one of the magnificent seven wonders of the modern world, features the **Empire State Building Observatory** 86th-floor observation deck, which offers panoramic views of the city. However, don't forget about the recently reopened 102nd Floor Observatory—additional \$15 tickets are required for the highest indoor views of New York. Have your hotel guests stop by after dark for a romantic nightcap and an opportunity to watch the stars come out over the greatest city in the world. Whether they're "Sleepless in Seattle" or having "An Affair to Remember," this is one of the most romantic spots in all of NYC. Open daily 8am-2am; last elevator at 1:15am. 350 Fifth Ave. & 34th St., 212-736-3100



Azza

Entering **Azza** is like waltzing into your most romantic dream. However, the extraordinary setting of Arabian/European décor does not outweigh the delectable French/Moroccan cuisine and its beautiful presentation. Organic tagines, couscous, and signature cocktails are just a part of the dining experience. The knowledgeable and courteous staff will guide you through an extensive menu of traditional Moroccan favorites with a French flair. The organic element of the cuisine, overseen by the owners and the kitchen, assures a fresh and natural quality.

Dining is just part of the experience at Azza. In the warm, exotic and luxurious lounge, described as "North Africa meets Europe," you can savor sophisticated cocktails and shared platters. Cozy private areas make for a perfect social gathering. Perhaps a round of billiards in the classic billiard room will entice you? The club at Azza is a truly impressive venue to host a private party. Luncheons, seated dinners, buffets, cocktail receptions, private screenings, photo shoots, and fashion shows are all perfect for Azza. Since the opening, Azza has become a place to see and be seen. It has been featured in numerous publications such as *US Weekly*, *Time Out*, the *New York Post*, *Variety*, *Metro*, the *Daily News*, and *People Magazine*, to name a few.

Visitors will often come to the concierge desk, looking for an unusual, high quality dining or night club experience. The unique menu and ambience of Azza make for the perfect choice. The rooms are so inviting, you feel like you have been transported away from the quick pace of the city streets. Be sure to make a visit to Azza, and be sure to recommend it to your hotel guests. It is a treasure! 137 E. 55th St. btw. Lexington & Third Aves., 212-755-7055; www.azzanyc.com

Statue Cruises

Statue Cruises (877-LADY TIX (877-523-9849); www.statue-cruises.com) was recently selected by the National Park Service as the only provider of ferry transportation to the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island from Battery Park, as well as from Liberty State Park in New Jersey, beginning January 1, 2008. Tickets are \$12 adults/\$10 seniors/\$5 kids (with Audio Tour: \$18/\$16/\$11). Statue Cruises has tickets available for cruises through Mar. 31; tickets for Apr. 1 and beyond go on sale Jan. 15.

Statue Cruises is a division of Hornblower Yachts, Inc., a California-based company that also operates charter, dining, and sightseeing cruises. Alcatraz Cruises (www.alcatrazcruises.com), a subsidiary of Hornblower, provides ferry transportation for visitors to Alcatraz Island, part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Hornblower Cruises & Events (www.hornblower.com), established in 1980, operates 32 luxury yachts in San Francisco, Berkeley, Long Beach, Marina del Rey, Newport Beach and San Diego. Hornblower Marine Services manages ferry operations at locations throughout the United States and around the world.



Upcoming Concierge Events

- 1/15 *Come Back, Little Sheba*
- 1/24 *Crimes of the Heart*; venue TBA
- 1/29 *Sunday in the Park With George*; venue is a Bloomingdale's restaurant TBA

Events

Continued from Page 2

1/23-4/14: **Jan De Cock: Denkmal 11**, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St. (5-6 Aves.), 212-708-9400; www.moma.org

1/25-4/20: **Michelangelo, Vasari, and Their Contemporaries: Drawings from the Uffizi**, Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Ave. (36 St.), 212-685-0008; www.themorgan.org

1/26-5/4: **From Berlin to New York: Karl Nierendorf and the Guggenheim**, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. (89 St.), 212-423-3500; www.guggenheim.org

Family Fun

1/19-2/24: **A (Tooth) Fairy Tale**, Vital Theatre Company, 2162 Broadway (76 St.), 212-579-0528; www.vitaltheatre.org; Sat.-Sun., 11am & 1pm

Music

1/21: **Grand Piano Marathon**, Merkin Concert Hall, 129 W. 67th St., 212-501-3303; www.kaufman-center.org; 2pm

Parades

1/4: **Three Kings Day Parade**, El Museo Del Barrio, 1230 Fifth Ave. (104 St.), 212-831-7272; www.elmuseo.org

Theatre

1/3: **Come Back, Little Sheba** begins previews for a 1/24 opening at the Biltmore Theatre, 261 W. 47th St., 212-239-6200

1/4-1/12: **New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players' G&S Fest 2008**, New York City Center, W. 55th St. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves., 212-581-1212; www.nycitycenter.org

1/10: **The Little Mermaid** opens at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 205 W. 46th St., 212-307-4747

1/15: **The 39 Steps** opens at the American Airlines Theatre, 227 W. 42nd St., 212-719-1300

1/17: **November** opens at the Ethel Barrymore Theater, 243 W. 47th St., 212-239-6200

1/18: **Sunday in the Park with George** begins previews for a 2/21 opening at Studio 54, 254 W. 54th St., 212-719-1300

Trade Shows

1/11-1/15: **Association of Performing Arts Presenters**, Hilton NY, 1335 Sixth Ave., 212-586-7000; www.artspresentersconference.org

CityGuide Annual Holiday Party Photos Continued



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Mystery Photo



How well do you know NYC? Can you identify this photo? Be the first to e-mail jbarbashi@davler.com with your answer and be mentioned in next month's FYI.

Tom Rice, Special Events Coordinator/Concierge at the New York Marriott Marquis Times Square, was first to identify October's photo as the Sun Triangle in the lower plaza of the McGraw-Hill Building near Rockefeller Center (Ave. of the Americas btw. 48th & 49th Sts.). The sculpture, by oceanographer, inventor, and sculptor Athelstan Spillhaus, aligns with the sun at noon (1pm during daylight time) on the summer and winter solstices and spring and autumn equinoxes.