



L to R: Joseph Spinnato, Esq., CAE, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; Floyd Reece, Welcome Ambassador, W New York—The Court; John Fitzpatrick, CEO, North America Fitzpatrick Hotel Group—N.A., Chairman of the Hotel Association of New York City.

New York's Brightest Stars

On Nov. 11, the **Big Apple Stars Awards** were presented by The Hotel Association of New York City (HANYC) at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Jim Ryan, former member of the *CBS 2 News This Morning* team and former co-anchor of *Good Day NY*, emceed the event. The winners were:

★ FULL-TIME CONCIERGE:

Susanne Carter, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park

★ FULL-TIME DOOR PERSON:

Floyd Reece, W New York—The Court

★ FULL-TIME HOURLY WITH GUEST CONTACT:

Ana Kilom, Doubletree Guest Suites

★ FULL-TIME HOURLY WITH NO GUEST CONTACT:

Judith Dennis, New York Marriott Marquis

★ FULL-TIME ROOM ATTENDANT:

Dorota Wojtowicz, The Pierre, a Taj Hotel

★ MANAGERIAL BELOW GENERAL MANAGER:

Paul RidGuard, W New York—The Court & W New York—The Tuscan

★ BEST OF CLASS:

Floyd Reece, W New York—The Court

The 2008 Finalist Judges were Merrie Davis (President and Publisher of MVP/NY), Gerald McQueen (President & CEO of Jacob K. Javits Convention Center), Dr. Laila Rach (Ed.D., Associate Dean, New York University), Preston Robert (Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism & Sports Management) and Dr. Kathleen Voute MacDonald (Dean, College of Professional Studies, St. John's University). Congratulations to all nominees, finalist and winners!

Silver Plumes—Save the Date!

On Monday, **February 2, 2009**, MVP/NY's 2008 Silver Plume Awards (honoring distinguished hotel Concierges and General Managers nominated and voted on by their peers) will take over the Broadway Ballroom at the New York Marriott Marquis for a fabulous gala putting the spotlight on the hospitality community. Save the date for the **Silver Plume Nomination Party** taking place on Tuesday, **January 6, 2009**, 6–8 p.m., at **The Water Club**. We'll celebrate all the nominees and present each with their very own nomination plaque!



The nominees for 2008 Chef Concierge of the Year are: Thomas Meckl, The Helmsley Park Lane; David Moreno, Gramercy Park Hotel; Raphael Pallais, The Plaza; Michael Romei, The Waldorf Towers; and Karen Shor, The Madison Hotel. The nominees for 2008 Concierge of the Year are: Susanne Carter, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Isabella Ibragimov, The New York Palace Hotel; Hank McKee, Newark Liberty International Airport

Marriott; Harald Mootz, The St. Regis New York; and Melanie Portsche, The Westin New York at Times Square. The nominees for 2008 Best Supporting Manager of the Year are: Scott Geraghty, The St. Regis New York; Shane Krige, The Plaza; Leland Lewis, InterContinental The Barclay New York; Scott Lundahl, Gramercy Park Hotel; and Mujo Perezic, The Kimberly Hotel.

MVP/NY would like to thank the 2008 Silver Plume Nomination Committee: Jon Adler, The St. Regis New York; Maurice Dancer,

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The Pierre, a Taj Hotel; Peter Johnson, The Kimberly Hotel; Gunter Kleemann, The New York Palace Hotel; Maria Trejo-McDonald, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Ivette Munroe, The Pierre, a Taj Hotel;

and Melody Williamson, The Plaza.

First organized 19 years ago (in 1990) by *Where New York* magazine, the award has since grown to other parts of the country. Today, the Silver Plumes are

annually presented in our sister cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Hawaii, Miami, Phoenix/Scottsdale and St. Louis. The Silver Plume Awards are presented under the umbrella of the **Hotel Excellence Awards**

(which also includes the **Hotel Experience Awards** honoring top hotels) on one spectacular night full of great food, drinks, dancing and fun. We look forward to seeing you there!



2008 CHEF CONCIERGE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

DAVID MORENO



Gramercy Park Hotel

MICHAEL ROMEI



The Waldorf Towers

THOMAS MECKL



The Helmsley Park
Lane Hotel

RAPHAEL PALLAIS



The Plaza

KAREN SHOR



The Madison Hotel

2008 CONCIERGE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

SUSANNE CARTER



The Ritz-Carlton
New York,
Central Park

**ISABELLA
IBRAGIMOV**



The New York
Palace Hotel

HANK MCKEE



Newark Liberty
International
Airport Marriott

HARALD MOOTZ



The St. Regis
New York

**MELANIE
PORTSCHE**



Westin New York
Times Square

2008 BEST SUPPORTING MANAGER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

SCOTT GERAGHTY



The St. Regis New York

SHANE KRIGE



The Plaza

SCOTT LUNDAHL



Gramercy Park Hotel

LELAND M. LEWIS



InterContinental
The Barclay New York

MUJO PEREZIC



The Kimberly Hotel
New York

CONCIERGE CORNER

Q: What are your favorite venues to ring in the New Year in the Big Apple?



GEORGE DOMENICK, CONCIERGE, THE RITZ-CARLTON NEW YORK, CENTRAL PARK

Being a native New Yorker, I have given up on the New Year's Eve party scene. But for our guests who want to enjoy the Times Square revelry I recommend **Maison**. It's perfectly located on Broadway between W. 53rd & W. 54th streets with a great view of the ball drop. After that, turn around and watch the fireworks in Central Park! Sheep Meadow in Central Park is also a great spot for viewing the fireworks and the ball drop and it's uniquely New York as you won't run into too many tourists there. For dance clubs, you're sure to have a great time at **Mansion** and **Pink Elephant** where the club kids meet to tear it up!



IGOR MORARU, CONCIERGE, THE LIBRARY HOTEL

Out of tons of great cabaret places I would point out **Groove**, **Fat Black Pussycat**, **Cafe Wha?** and **Wicked Willy's** in Greenwich Village and **Lucky Cheng's** in the East Village. I also like **Plunge** and **Garden of Ono** in the Meatpacking district, **Mansion** and **Bungalow 8** in Chelsea and Brazilian parties at **Bembe** in Williamsburg (Brooklyn). My restaurant picks are **Benjamin Steakhouse**, **Chanterelle** and **Papacitos** in Greenpoint—the best fish tacos ever!



MARIA SERRANO, CONCIERGE, THE CARLTON HOTEL ON MADISON AVENUE

Jay-Z's **40/40 Club** is great due to the many rooms and the hottest of hot music. As an avid pool player, I thoroughly enjoy shooting pool there while partying with my friends! Their drinks are always just right and the food is tasteful—making you want to come back

for more. **Capitale** is huge, the crowds there are always colorful and fun, and you get this feel of elegance while you're dancing the night away. I've had the pleasure of celebrating both Halloween and New Year's at Capitale and always smile when someone starts a sentence with, "I'm going to Capitale for a party..." Parties at **Duvet** are always elegant, always fun, always vibrant—but in a low-key way. It's like holding a party on your bed and not worrying about washing the sheets...I always have a great time there. **Sequoia** is fun, fun, fun—with a view! The food is spectacular and the drinks are superb. Even when it gets crowded, the backdrop of the water just seems to make the place more spacious.



POLINA ROZE, CONCIERGE, NEW YORK MARRIOTT MARQUIS

The holidays are fast approaching and that means the year is almost over. It's time to celebrate! Let's kiss 2008 bye-bye, ring in 2009 with style and party all night long. Here are my dream venues: Let's start with a Parisian-style dinner near Times Square at **Chez Josephine**, where the ambience is sophisticated, romantic and classy. Next, get swept away by the sultry voice of Michael Feinstein performing at his cabaret, **Feinstein's at the Regency**. Lastly, dance and mingle with the stars at the ultra-sleek and plush, 1940s-inspired, Hollywood-era nightclub **Mansion** to music spun by the greatest DJs.



MCKINLEY WINSTON, CONCIERGE, THE ST. REGIS NEW YORK

The music at **Mr. West** is fabulous and it's an intimate club. I also love **Apotheke** on Doyers Street. They have the coolest drug store interior design—the bartenders wear lab coats! They also have a DJ who plays slamming music. For small and intimate restaurants, I suggest the lovely, rustic **Erminia** for a romantic evening, or **Daniel** for an elegant evening with music. If I were going to take a walk on the wild side, I'd go to **Megu** and ring in the New Year sitting next to the ice Buddha sculpture.



Best Robata in Town

Restaurateur Jeffrey Chodorow's ambitious vision marries Jeffrey Beers' imaginative design with an inventive menu incorporating both traditional and modern Japanese cuisine in this hot Meatpacking District location. **ONO** at the **Hotel Gansevoort** (18 Ninth Ave., at W. 13th St., 212-206-6700) features the freshest sushi that melts in your mouth, the house specialty, *robatayaki* (a Japanese method of grilling on skewers over an open flame), and even a "sake sommelier" to guide you through their impressive list. Beers beautifully blends four elements—fire, water, earth and sky—to create the enchanting environment that dazzles and transcends the senses. A centerpiece reflecting pool surrounded by a retractable roof, cabanas and special heating highlights the Japanese-style Garden of ONO. Oh, but the food! Toro with crispy garlic and jalapeño; ribeye steak with *sichimi togarashi* crust and red wine teriyaki sauce; and warm chocolate miso cake are just a few of the tantalizing choices that will leave you both satisfied and intrigued. chinagrillmgt.com/ono

CONCIERGE ON THE MOVE

Damien Banner is the new Concierge at Gild Hall, a Thompson Hotel.

Walter Carmona moved from the Library Hotel to Chef Concierge at Stay Hotel.

Ivan Garosi moved from the Grand Hyatt New York to the Hilton Times Square Concierge Desk.

Jared Gullekson has been promoted to Chef Concierge at The London NYC.

William Hinds is the new Concierge at the Smyth TriBeCa (opening in January 2009).

Manny Kenouryakis moved from Hotel Mela NYC to the Concierge Desk at The London NYC.

Hatsumi Komiya moved from The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park to The Plaza.

Nathaniel Wade is the new Concierge at The Muse Hotel.

HOTEL NOTES

Stay Hotel is now open

The **Super 8** (on 46th Street) is now the **Hotel at Times Square**



L to R: Eric Valencia, Concierge, The New York Palace Hotel; Chris Alwell, Concierge, 60 Thompson; Patrick Guerrier, Concierge, Tribeca Grand Hotel; Gabriel Popeti, Concierge, The Pierre, a Taj Hotel; Michael Cerrato, Concierge, The Pierre; Maria Trejo-McDonald, Assistant Chef Concierge, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Thomas Meckl, Concierge, The Helmsley Park Lane; Kathleen Nugent, Chef Concierge, The Loews Regency Hotel; Katherine Hsia, Concierge, The Benjamin; Lek Kidkamdee, Concierge, The Waldorf=Astoria; David Almada, Concierge, W New York; Sophia Qureshi

PROJECT CONCIERGE RUNWAY

On Oct. 14, 10 fabulous Concierge models lit up the catwalk and showed off some of the best fashions **Bloomingdale's** (E. 59th Street at Lexington Ave., 212-705-2098) has to offer at the **13th Annual Concierge Fashion Show**. Michael Cerrato from **The Pierre, a Taj Hotel** emceed this exciting event, which started at 6 p.m. at **Le Train Blue** (212-705-2100), where Concierges enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. More than 15 prizes were raffled off. Katherine Hsia won the Maximilian Fur boa. The lucky winner of the \$1,500 Bloomingdale's shopping spree was Marga Schnyder, Concierge at The Iroquois New York. **MVP/NY, Maximilian Fur Salon** (212-705-3335) and **Starbright Floral Designs** (150 W. 28th St., btw Sixth & Seventh aves., 800-520-8999, 212-229-2623) sponsored the event. bloomingdales.com, starflor.com

Tell us!

We want your comments, suggestions and ideas

for our next newsletter.

We'd love to hear about job announcements (such as Concierge, Director of Sales and Marketing and General Manager changes), hotel restaurants and bars you'd like to see featured in the February newsletter or events going on at your hotel. To find out how you can be on our next Concierge Advisory Board, please e-mail Adeline Tafuri (adeline.tafuri@morris.com).



L to R: John Morales, Residential Concierge, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Raita Sawai, Concierge, The Kitano New York; Stanley Wong, Concierge, The Waldorf=Astoria; John Powell, Concierge, The Plaza



L to R: Dan Near, Manager, Retail Sales and Marketing, NHL; Merrie Davis, MVP/NY; Michael Chute, Consumer Products Marketing, NHL; Tino Merli, Chef Concierge, Omni Berkshire

ICING AND DINING

Concierges caught hockey fever on Oct. 30 at the **NHL Powered by Rbk Store** (1185 Sixth Ave., at W. 47th St., 212-221-6375). **BICE Ristorante** (7 E. 54th St., btw Fifth & Madison aves., 212-688-1999) provided delicious Italian nibbles. All Concierges were invited to save 50% off everything at the store and won prizes in a raffle, including iPods, Xbox and Playstation games, and even a grand prize: two Rangers tickets (won by the lucky Carmi Spiegel from the Manhattan Club). Every Concierge was also able to customize a free pair of sneakers! nhl.com/store, bicenewyork.com

News You Can Use

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