

AVENUE

OCTOBER 2005

Sayonara Summer

CAPPING OFF THE SEASON IN STYLE

FALL IS UPON US. SHADOWS ARE LENGTHENING, KIDS ARE BLEARY-EYED FROM READING ALL THEIR ASSIGNED BOOKS IN ONE WEEK, AND THE CITY INVITATIONS HAVE STARTED TO MOUNT. BUT BEFORE WE COMMIT TO TWEEDS AND TAXIS, LET'S REMEMBER THE LAST HURRAHS OF SUMMER.

The biggest hurrah of the East End summer was, without a doubt, the birthday bash given by Harrison and James LeFrak for their father, Richard. Amazingly, with 350 dinner guests and 200 after (the youngsters), no one leaked the surprise. And as Richard entered the drop-dead chic Philip Baloun-designed tent/lounge, it seemed to take him a minute or so to realize that the all-white-attired crowd of best friends from near and far were there for him. He turned to Karen with raised eyebrows, and she simply nodded.

Richard had been told he was going to a NetJets event featuring Warren Buffet and Billy Crystal. In his remarkably funny, extemporaneous remarks, Richard said he was sorry he wasn't going to be able to ask Mr. Buffet about the real estate bubble. He also told us we were all such good liars, and that we should start our own hedge funds. His sons clearly got their funny genes from their father. Harrison told us the party was adapted for an older crowd—the bathrooms were all on one level, the napkins were extra large and the delectable Glorious Foods dinner servings were pre-cut. James anticipated the question, "How did they pay for all this?" by letting us know that the party was underwritten



by Pfizer and that our attendance constituted the release of our images for use in a Viagra ad.

And if the comedy wasn't enough, the lights lowered, the spotlight focused, and out came Donna Summer, belting out "Bad Girls" and luring us all onto the dance floor to let our inner bad girls out. The crowd was a fabulous mix of politics, finance, real estate . . . and tennis clinic (the toughest of all those fields). I'd venture to say that almost everyone reading this column lives on a block owned by

someone at the party. The real estate royalty included: Beth Rudin DeWoody, Billy and Ophelia Rudin, Pam and Ed Pantzer, Jonathan Tisch, Ben and Linda Lambert, Daryl and Steve Roth, Henry and Nancy Silverman, Allison and Leonard Stern, Abby and Howard Milstein, Julie and Ed Minskoff, George and Marianna Kaufman, Mia and Sheldon Solow, and Donald and Melania Trump. Other friends, family and moguls, included: Debra and Leon Black, Christine and Steve Schwarzman, Georgette Mosbacher, Hilary and Wilbur Ross, Judith and Rudy Giuliani, Patty and Marty Raynes, Senga and John Jay Mortimer, Veronica and Raymond Kelly, Gail Hilson, Soledad and Bob Hurst, Charles Gargano, Peter (whose birthday was also toasted) and Brooke Cohen, Emilia, Pepe and Alf Fanjul (all of whom were, happily for us, sailing our seas this summer), Zena and Dick Gilbert, Heather and Steve Mnuchin, Barbie Bancroft, Anne and Keith Barish, Sharon Handler and Ambassador John Loeb, District Attorney Jeanine Pirro and Al Pirro, Maria and Raymond Floyd, Charles Stevenson, Andrew Saffir and Daniel Benedict, Wendy Carduner, Cynthia



Daniel Benedict and Andrew Saffir



Heather Mnuchin



Emilia and Pepe Fanjul

and **Dan Lufkin**, and **Frédéric Fekkai** (engaged!). And, of course, proud grandmother Ethel and loving wife Karen rounded out the list of revelers. I'd tell you more, but my digits are weary. I think you get the picture. It was one great party. Hope there'll be one for Karen (maybe a poodle theme?).



Gail Hilson and Jeanine Pirro



Rand Araskog

AVENUE

OCTOBER 2005

LALLY WEYMOUTH
PORTRAIT OF A
JOURNALIST

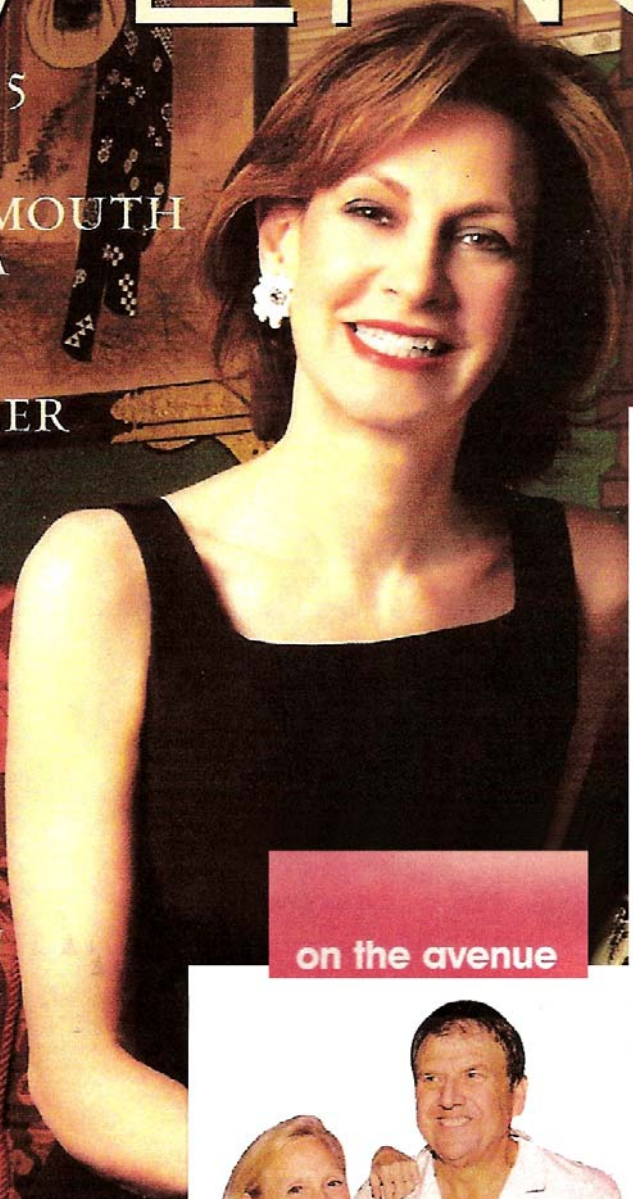
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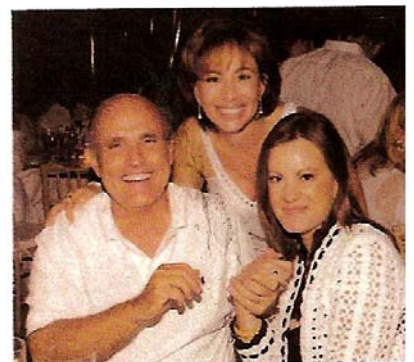
- ROGER AILES
- CLIVE GILLINSON
- HOWARD LORBER
- PETER SOM

AVENUE'S
A-LIST:
NEW YORK'S
MOST INFLUENTIAL



on the avenue

White Night guests dressed in their coolest summer whites celebrated Richard LeFrak's birthday at a surprise party thrown by his sons Harrison and Jamie. After a delightful summer dinner, Donna Summer had everyone grooving on the dance floor.



• Rudy and Judith Giuliani with Jeanine Piro



• Karen and Richard LeFrak



• Karen and Richard LeFrak, Howard Lorber, and Melania and Donald Trump

hamptonstyle

Dan's Magazine 9 | 5 | 2005

Patrick McMullan's Hamptons 2005

- Meet the Exceptional
Whitney Mayer Nathan
- Mattie Siegal talks with
Liam McMullan
- Behind the Lens
with Patrick

The Best and Most of Summer



Best All Around Party: Harrison and James LeFrak's surprise party for their father, Richard LeFrak's birthday. Three-hundred and fifty white-clad pals in Philip Baloun's chicest white loungey tent, fed by Glorious Food, serenaded by Donna Summer (LIVE!), and brought to tears (both by laughter and sentiment) by the boy's toasts, and Pop's hysterical, spontaneous retort.

8/05



Karen LeFrak, Melania Trump, Richard LeFrak, Howard Lorber and Donald Trump at Richard LeFrak's surprise 60th Birthday Party



HAMPTONS

The Best Party of
the Summer

CRAZY FOR YOU



Melania Trump at Richard Lefrak's surprise 60th birthday party.



Joanne de Guardiola and Julia Koch at
Richard Lefrak's surprise 60th birthday party.

I always pay extra attention to an engraved

invitation. It's a clear signal that your hosts have planned ahead and that you're in for a special treat. The top of this invitation was stamped **TOP SECRET**, a witty touch that instantly made you an accomplice to what promised to be an intriguing evening. We were instructed to wear all white, with no jackets or ties. And, even though it was a birthday party, we were asked to bring no presents.

Harrison and **James LeFrak** were requesting the pleasure of my company at a surprise birthday celebration for their father, **Richard LeFrak**, at Southampton College. I didn't waste any time in saying yes, as I, along with everyone else who knows the LeFraks, love the LeFraks. They don't come any better than **Karen** and **Richard LeFrak**, period. Although the whole town was there, Richard was genuinely surprised. He was also the only person at the party in a blue shirt. Karen got him to the college by telling him they were going to an economic symposium led by **Warren Buffett**, which would be followed by a performance by **Billy Crystal**. A clever ruse, which worked. When Richard thanked his sons for giving the party and the guests for coming, he also pointed out the large number of people who had lied to him all day about what they were doing that night. His witty remarks were some of the funniest off-the-cuff comments I've ever heard. Among those I saw laughing were Richard's mother, **Ethel LeFrak**, former Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** and his wife **Judy**, **Melania** and **Donald Trump**, Police Commissioner **Ray Kelly**, **Anne Eisenhower** and **Wolfgang Flottl**, **Jamee** and **Peter Gregory**, **Mai** and **Ridgely Harrison**, **Kathy** and **Rick Hilton**, **Marty Richards**, **Andrea** and **John Stark**, **Allison** and **Leonard Stern**, **Wendy Carduner**, **Jessie** and **Rand Araskog**, and **Anne** and **Keith Barish**.

When I arrived at the college, Harry LeFrak was out front greeting the guests, a very classy welcoming gesture. I entered the first of the two enormous white marquees that had been set up on the lawn. These were the very same tents **George Soros** had used the week before to celebrate his 75th birthday, though all com-



Jamie LeFrak and Caroline Bierbaum at Richard LeFrak's surprise 60th birthday party.

parisons between these two parties end there. Richard, by the way, was celebrating his 60th birthday with a nod to his and Karen's 35th wedding anniversary as well. A great party needs an enchanting setting, and **Philip Baloun** had created two all-white interiors that were nothing short of magical. The décor was inspired by the all-white décor of the LeFraks' beautiful Southampton home. The cocktail tent had been draped in white linen and dotted with comfortable canvas-covered sofas and ottomans.

The women looked amazing—especially Karen, who glowed in a white cocktail dress and pearl-and-diamond earrings. Other standouts included **Joanne de Guardiola** in a pair of semi-scandalous leather-and-lace pants by **Valentino**; **Julia Koch** in a goddess gown; **Princess Yasmin Aga Khan**, **Barbie Bancroft**, and **Audrey Gruss**, who wore a knit peekaboo dress. Everyone came in white attire except Richard LeFrak and **Donald Trump**, who both wore blue blazers; the

Donald marches to his own drummer.

The dining tent was draped in white gauze and laced with tiny firefly lights; the ceiling was strung with a forest of gigantic white balloons of different sizes, which cast a flattering glow on all the guests and made the room appear more intimate. The balloons were anchored with silver ribbons to centerpieces of orchid-filled crystal cubes that were tied with more silver ribbons, like presents. **Glorious Food** served grilled shrimp followed by steak, French fries, and corn salad; the dessert was vanilla ice cream and chocolate cake, yummy. Seating a dinner party intelligently is a nightmare, but this one was done right. My hats off to **Polly Onet**, the event planner who helped pull this fabulous night off.

After dinner, the curtains on the 50-foot stage parted to reveal the night's biggest surprise: a 20-piece orchestra fronted by **Donna Summer**. The room went wild; everyone jumped up and danced as Donna sang her greatest hits.

I saw **Tinsley** and **Topper Mortimer**, **Wendy Vanderbilt Lehman**, **Alfy Fanjul**, **Tiffany Dubin**, **Jonathan** and **Somercia Farkas**, **Charles Stevenson**, **Patricia Patterson**, **Ralph Destino**, **Gail Hilson**, **Jacques Leviant**, **Sharon King Hoge**, **James Coleman**, **Beth Rudin DeWoody**, **Marina** and **Francesco Galesi**, **Howard** and **Lynette Gittis**, **Michael Gross** and **Barbara Hodes**, **Harry Platt**, **Cornelia** and **Martin Bregman**, **Bettina Zilkha**, **Harry** and **Linda Macklowe**, **Sandra McConnell** and **Christopher Obetz**, **Jamie Niven**, and many more of this ilk and stripe on the dance floor. A blizzard of white balloons and confetti rained from the ceiling after Donna sang "Happy Birthday" to Richard. Around 11:30, everyone moved back to the lounge, which had been turned into a discotheque and filled with 200 of the hosts' friends. I swear I saw Karen LeFrak dancing on a banquet so she'd be eye-level with **David Koch**—priceless! When I left around 1:30 a.m., the party was still in high gear. Kudos to Harrison and Jamie LeFrak, who gave the Party of the Summer: a job well done. Their parents are very proud, and rightly so.

HAMPTONS



Dining in Sagaponack & Wainscott!

Picture-perfect
pool houses

Fabulous Fall Escapes

At Home with Christie Brinkley
& Peter Cook

A cool cocktail,
a knockout recipe

Exclusive!

**Lindsay
Lohan**

Lets us in on
life in the
Hamptons

CRAZY FOR YOU

The Best Party of
the Summer

Ten years ago, **David Koch** gave a Fourth of July party for the 400 to celebrate life (he'd just beaten prostate cancer) and christen his new house on Meadow Lane. The waiters offered guests a choice of three vintage Champagnes—Louis Roederer Cristal, Dom Pérignon, or Taittinger Comte de Champagne—to wash down the endless supply of beluga. There was dinner, dancing, and fireworks. This fête rocked.