



The President's Message



New York, January 2008

Dear Fellow Members:

As we firm up our activities for the year ahead, keep some pages blank in your **2008** calendar so you can set aside the dates for our usual outstanding up-and-coming dinners, outings and celebrations

2007 has been a busy and prosperous year for our group. The following recaps, not only activities, but also our commitment to our charitable endeavors:

January at the Barclay Inter-Continental Hotel where Executive Chef Carmine Marletta cooked his way from New American to Rustic Italian cuisine.

February at La Cote Basque we tasted the fabulous food of Chef/Owner Jean-Jacques Rachou.

March at the W Hotel we were treated to a Latin evening courtesy of Wolfgang Wehen, Director of Operations.

April brought us to Cipriani Wall Street for our 51st Annual Ken Strong Memorial Scholarship Gala Awards Dinner Dance.

May found us at the Helmsley Park Lane Hotel's,

"Room with a View", for Executive Chef Michael Hill's showcase of Atlantic Rim Cuisine and we were honored by award-winning restaurateur and Past Hospitality Professional of the Year, Danny Meyer who presented his book, *Setting the Table*, and gave an autographed copy each guest with the compliments of The Food & Beverage Association.

June brought us to the Loews Regency Hotel for Executive Chef Andrew Ruben to share his take on local seasonal and ethnic ingredients he has infused into the Regency's American Cuisine.

September - Member Declan Connolly, Director of Catering of the Metropolitan Club pampered us with great service while Karl Schmidt, the club's Executive Chef, treated us to a wonderful dinner.

October's Ohana Style dinner courtesy of Chef Roy Yamaguchi, brought the spirit of Hawaiian Fusion cooking to the Marriott Financial Center Hotel.

Another hot topic, **The Golf Outing**, held on October 9th, 2007, was its usual tremendous success. Kudos to Steve Batta, our former First Vice President, for his efforts and hard work. Also many thanks to Uwe Toedter and Kurt Keller for their assistance.

On behalf of the association, I thank Grady Collin, John Doherty, Warren Fondou and Stephane D'Artois for raising their plumes at Peacock Alley, a Waldorf-Astoria classic, for a superb dinner on Thursday, **November 15**, 2007.

A highlight of the International Hotel and Restaurant Show in **November** was the group of industry gurus and members of our association who participated in a provocative panel discussion exploring the hot topic, "Sex and The Restaurant World."

To review of our recent past holiday festivities for the Dunlevy Milbank Center—Children's Aid Society, on **Thanksgiving Eve** we fed 1,200 people and we raffled off 120 (20 lb. each) completely cooked turkeys. The sweat equity and donations accounted for an array of food and beverage treats for all.

In relation to our charitable endeavors for the Children's Aid Society, our Gala Dinner Dance raised

\$50,000, earmarked for the building of their [new kitchen](#).

While our **2008** calendar is a work-in-progress, we have three activities in the works for:

January - a New Member Appreciation Party to be held at the Parker Meridien on Tuesday, January 15th, at 6:30 PM.

February - a Chinese Lunar New Year Reception and Dinner to be held at the China Town Brasserie on Tuesday, February 19th, at 6:30 PM.

March - a Dinner and Comedy at Caroline's Comedy Club on Tuesday, March 18th, at 6:00 PM.

May - Please mark your calendar for our Ken Strong Memorial Annual Gala Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, May 30, 2008, at The "New" Plaza Hotel.

My sincere thanks to the [Board of Directors](#) of the Food and Beverage Association, along with the members and volunteers whose dedication and hard work made this a stellar year for our association.

Our dedicated Board:

- Geoffrey A. Mills - Chairman of the Board
- Steven V. Gattullo - 1st Vice President
- Theresa Nocerino - 2nd Vice President
- Jean-Luc Deguines - 2nd Vice President
- Carrington Paek - Treasurer
- Sean Cassidy - Secretary
- Arline Isaacson - Sergeant at Arms
- Hermann Reiner - Executive Director

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2008. I look forward to sharing ideas and skills with you throughout the coming year and for many more to follow. We appreciate your active membership, creativity and participation.

Very truly yours,

Gladys Mouton Di Stefano
President

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Save the Date

Our 52nd 51st Annual Ken Strong Memorial Scholarships Award Dinner
May 30th 2008 at the Plaza Hotel