



Fashionably Fortunate

Notable New York do-gooders celebrate in style

FAITH IN FASHION

Andrea Stark hosted a tea party for Mark Badgley and James Mischka (www.badgleymischka.com) at the designers' elegant new store in Palm Beach. The fête featured a lively discussion between The House of Faith and Fashion's Tobi Rubinstein-Schneier and the designers, who cited Catherine Zeta-Jones as "the epitome of old school Hollywood glamour." They also chatted about first ladies: "Michelle Obama looks great in clothes, but Carla Bruni, who has been on our runway for years, is so chic it's ridiculous!" The talk was followed by a showing of their beautiful spring line with a percentage of sales going to MorseLife (www.morselife.org), a senior living center in Palm Beach. Among those applauding were Charlene Nederlander, Ellen Levy, Betsy Green, Whitney Schneider, Terri Schottenstein, Lorraine Malasky and others of that ilk and stripe.

DIFFA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Cindy Crawford and Rande Gerber hosted the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDs (www.diffa.org) gala. The Dining by Design event raised more than \$450,000 for AIDs education across the country. The parties featured vignettes by 27 designers, including Ralph Lauren, Vicente Wolf, David Beahm, Michael Tavano, David Rockwell, Campion Platt, Rona Landman and Richard Mishaan. Jeannie Ziering, Madame Paulette's John Mahdessian, Melissa Berkelhammer,

lighting guru Bentley Meeker and Richard Steinberg, who was taking bows for sales at the new family-friendly apartment at 180 East 93rd Street (www.180e93.com), were among the 8,000 visitors checking out the table tops, some of which were created by students from FIT, NYU and NYSID with the support of Benjamin Moore. Bravo Benjamin!

FRENCH FOR FASHION

Marc Jacobs (www.marcjacobs.com) was the speaker at the French Institute (www.fiaf.org) Alliance Française Fashion Talks Series. Jacobs took to the stage noting, "This is the first time I've worn jeans in a long time! I've been wearing a kilt for two years. Maybe now I'll start wearing jeans again." About design he said, "There is no master plan in the way Ralph Lauren creates a dream. He is inspirational. We're more spontaneous." He went on to add, "I don't find dresses sexy; I think people are sexy. You can put a sexy woman in a sheet and she's still sexy." Jacobs, fresh after the Saint's Black Party, says that he thrives living between New York City and Paris with his partner Lorenzo Martone. He ended by quoting Sigmund Freud: "Work and love are a measure of a man." Who else would tell you these things?

SWEET TREATS

"Gossip Girl" star Amanda Setton helped christen the