

Rites of Spring

MAY 6, 2019



Sana Sabbagh, Kip Forbes, Elizabeth Segerstrom, Didi Pei, Beatrice Pei and friends at American Friends of the Louvre's gala dinner.

PARTY PICTURES • BY: NYSD STAFF

American Friends of the Louvre hosted a gala dinner in New York this past April to celebrate the 30th anniversary of I.M. Pei's Pyramid and modernization of the Louvre Museum. The gala followed a week-long series of events in Paris commemorating this milestone which will continue through the end of the year. The dinner was co-chaired by AFL Chairman **Christopher "Kip" Forbes** and board member **Joan Kahn**.

The black-tie event was held at Sotheby's and featured cocktails along with champagne courtesy of Bollinger, an exquisite three course meal with wine provided by Château Boutsisse, and a performance of popular French songs by

renowned soprano **Abigail Fischer**. **Ben Doller**, Chairman Americas and Executive Vice President of Sotheby's, conducted the live auction of art and luxury items and experiences whose proceeds will support the mission of American Friends of the Louvre. In addition, funds were raised for the Louvre Endowment Fund, supporting accessibility programs for visitors with special needs and conservation of the museum's collections.



Soprano Abigail Fischer performing popular French songs.

Honored guests included Mr. Pei's son **Didi** and his wife **Beatrice**, daughter **Liane** and her son **Matthew**, and granddaughter **Anna**. **Anne-Claire Legendre**, Consul General of France in New York, was also present. AFL board members in attendance were **Andy Barth** and his wife **Avery**, **Manuel Camelo**, **Fiona Cibani**, and **Hans and Françoise Miller**. International Council and Chairman's Circle members from across the U.S. were there to support the effort including **Elizabeth Segerstrom** and her guest **Douglas Runte**, **Lizze Lynch** and **Bill Helvie**, **Naoma Tate**, **Sana Sabbagh**, **David Sadroff**, **Cynthia Friedman**, **Lysa and Greg Rohan**, **Bobbo Jetmundsen** and **Paul Yaworsky**. Also participating in the festivities were artists **Michael Halsband** and **Chellis Baird**, **Mike and Missy Perlis**, **Jean and Martin Shafiroff**, and **Allyson Tang**.



Didi Pei, Beatrice Pei, Consul General Anne-Claire Legendre, Joan Kahn, and Franck Laverdin.

American Friends of the Louvre (AFL) has entered its second decade as an important support organization in the United States for the Louvre Museum. Through the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations, AFL has supported a variety of worthy projects at the Louvre, including educational tools for English-speaking visitors, gallery restorations, conservation of works of art, exhibitions and related publications, acquisitions and contemporary art programs. Through its partnership with the Louvre, AFL raises awareness of the museum's collections and scholarly expertise and helps makes its vast resources more accessible in the U.S. and around the world.



Christopher Laconi, Paul Yaworsky, and Bobbo Jetmundsen.



L. to r.: Naoma Tate, Tim White, and Cynthia Friedman; Lysa and Greg Rohan.



Matt Wallace, Jeff White, Pedja Arandjelovic, Manuel Camelo, Daniel Kokhba, and Peter Forbes McDowell.



Hans Miller, Francoise Miller, and David Sadroff.



Raina Miranda, Nicole Salmasi, Serra Goren, Isabella De Conti, Elizabeth Segerstrom, and Douglas Runte.



