

BBA sponsors annual Best of Back Bay event

On Nov. 10, the Back Bay Association (BBA) sponsored its annual Best of Back Bay event at the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, drawing hundreds of city business leaders and a number of public figures to what has been called the premiere networking event of the year.

This year, 28 companies purchased a table for the event, each of which was given the opportunity to invite eight guests to join them for a dinner at one of the neighborhood's finest restaurants. Guests also received a gift from one of the Back Bay's finest retailers.

While a drawing for restaurant and retail gifts has traditionally taken place live from the event stage, this year was a departure. Amy Moody-McGrath from Goulston & Storrs, a Boston law firm, joined BBA President Meg Mainzer-Cohen on stage to certify that the random drawing for restaurants and retailers had taken place prior to the event. Mainzer-Cohen then announced the results.

Afterwards, a surprise performance from Berklee College of Music students took place. The first group is called "Women Of the World" it is a student group that is made up of Women from a number of countries across the globe. The second group was a collection of students from Berklee's "City Music" program, a scholarship-based program for needy inner-city students pursuing a career in music. The final act was Darcel Wilson, a faculty member at Berklee and one of the youngest people to be featured in the '80s Broadway hit "Dancing in the Streets."



Thomas Stroik, Susanne Hatje, Edwina Kluender and Sala Chnioui from the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.



Harron Ellenson of Harron & Associates shares a laugh with John Connolly of Sawyer Enterprises.

Following the performances guests made their way to the Old Town Trolleys that were waiting outside the hotel, which brought the guests to dinner locations throughout the neighborhood. A group of string players greeted the guests as they boarded the trolleys.

For making the evening such a success, the BBA would like to thank Bill Taylor, general

manager of the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, Fresco Flowers, and Old Town Trolley, as well as the 28 participating restaurant and 31 retail sponsors, including Asana, Atlantic Fish, Avila, Bouchee, Brasserie Jo, the Bristol Lounge, The Café at the Taj, Boston, the Capital Grille, City Table, Davio's,

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Alexander Cooper, director of membership & marketing for the BBA, and Meg Mainzer-Cohen, BBA president.



Meg Mainzer-Cohen, president of the BBA, announces the surprise drawing with the help of Amy Moody-McGrath, an attorney from Goulston & Storrs.

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Eastern Standard Kitchen & Drinks, Grill 23 & Bar, Legal Sea Foods, L'espalier, Morton's Steakhouse, Oak Room, Post 390, Lucca Back Bay (formerly Sasso), Sel De La Terre, Sonsie, Sorellina, Stanhope Grille at the Back Bay Hotel, Stephanie's On Newbury, Top of the HubTurner Fisheries, Via Matta, the Apple Store, Avanti Salon, Barneys New York, Boston Body Worker, Brooks Brothers, Cartier, Copley Flair, Copy Cop, Cross, Dempsey & Carroll, Denise Hajjar, Dorfman Jewelers, Down To Basics, Essence, Galleria

Florentia, Hotel Chocolat, Jos. A Bank, Jari Boutique, Levenger, Loro Piana, Lux Bond & Green, Mizu Salon, Porsche Design, Ralph Lauren, Salon Iisse, Shreve Crump & Low, Sephora, Saks Fifth Avenue, Stilista, Truffles and Vineyard Vines.

Underwriting sponsors for the event were Avalon Bay Communities, Boston Properties, Normandy Real Estate Partners, Suffolk Construction, Simon Property Group, Weiner Ventures, Liberty Mutual and Upland Capital Corporation.



Bill Taylor, general manager of the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston, welcomes the crowd.



Bryan Koop, senior vice president of Boston Properties and chairman of the BBA, gets the crowd going.



Berklee College of Music students perform outside of the Four Seasons Hotel, Boston.



Ron Marcos (right) and the staff from Fresco Flowers.

