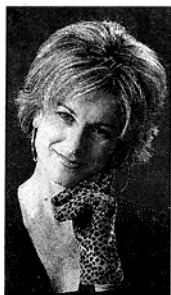


Big prizes on tap at Down syndrome benefit

THE
dish

with susie



Out there ... A Benefit to Fund Scientific Research for the Treatment of Down Syndrome, inspired by **Ophelia Kirwan** and **Isabella Rizzi**, will take place

at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at Miller Motorcars on West Putnam Avenue in Greenwich.

The event, chaired by **Pari Hirsch** along with **Markley Rizzi** and **Chelsea Kirwin**, will feature cocktails, light fare and an auction including a signed drum head by **Ringo Starr**, a week at the Mews House in London, box seats to the American Ballet Theatre, VIP tickets to the **Michael Bolton** Charities Concert and a Gold Foursome at Glen Arbor.

Professor **William Mobley**, director of the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford University, will serve as guest speaker along

with Emmy-award-winning author **Emily Perl Kingsley**, author of "Welcome to Holland."

For more information, call **Dr. Laurence Kirwin's** office at 838-8844.

Scene ... Westport residents and actors **Paul Newman** and **Joanne Woodward** were seen dining at their popular and crowded new restaurant, the Dressing Room, behind the Westport Country Playhouse.

Woodward served as artistic director at the playhouse until her retirement in September 2005.

Out there ... Seems like there is a lot of work in progress in the town of Bedford, N.Y., at actor **Richard Gere's** new acquisition, Squirrelly Acres.

The Pound Ridge, N.Y., resident purchased the 14 acres of property with wife and actress **Carey Lowell** and real estate developer **Russell Hernandez**.

Plans are under way to turn the 18th-century buildings, one of which housed the former Hoppfield's and popular Nino's restaurants, into a 125-seat restaurant and lodge, a cafe and yoga studio in the restored barn, along with riding trails and stables. Stay tuned or take a drive on Route 121 in Bedford and check it out.

Out there ... Greenwich resident and restaurateur **Joe Bastianich** has partnered once again with chef **Mario Batali** as the

new owners of the former Tarry Lodge restaurant in Port Chester, N.Y.

Scene ... Greenwich resident **Gayle King**, **Oprah Winfrey's** best friend and business partner was seen last Saturday at Tiffany Nails on Greenwich Avenue.

Out there ... The Chabad of Greenwich will celebrate its 10th anniversary at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29 at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase Collage in Purchase, N.Y. The evening will feature dinner, an auction and stand-up comedian **Jackie Mason**.

For more information and tickets, call 629-9059.

Scene ... Greenwich resident and former New York Knicks star **Allan Houston** was seen last Thursday night shopping at CVS in the Riverside Shopping Center.

Out there ... Greenwich resident and Olympic gold medalist in swimming **Donna de Varona** will serve as guest speaker on **Ken Kieffer's** radio show, "Keeping the Rumor of God Alive," on 1490 WGCH at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 18.

De Varona is a recent winner of the Norman Vincent Peale Award from Positive Thinking. Previous winners included **Ronald Reagan** and **Colin Powell**.

Music scene ... Cos Cob resident **Milo Fuscaldo** and his band, Road Trip, will play at Route 22 in Stamford from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday. For more information, call 323-2229.

Out there ... A sold-out crowd attended the Near & Far Aid annual Spring Gala last Friday which raised money for those in crisis within Fairfield County at Mitchell's in Westport.

The '70s theme gala featured the **Hal Prince** Band, dinner, a fashion show, and a silent and live auction led by auctioneer **Gary Braswell** which raised a record-breaking \$1 million.

Wine enthusiasts spent \$58,000 on rare wines. Fashion designer and Bedford, N.Y., resident **Joseph Abboud** once again led the event with honorary emcee **Dr. Mehmet Oz**.

Last year, Near & Far Aid donated more than \$1.3 million to qualified nonprofit agencies in Fairfield County.

Question of the day ... Where did Grossman Shoe Store on Greenwich Avenue go?

And that's all for now.

Later ...
Susie Costaregni

— Got a tip? Seen a celebrity? E-mail Susie Costaregni at thedish@scni.com