



Susie Costaregni
The Dish

Cosby, friends bid farewell to MSNBC partying ar hotspot

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Greenwich native and former MSNBC journalist Rita Cosby celebrated her farewell party last weekend at The Plumm in Manhattan.

Cosby hosted the prime time show "Live and Direct" until it was canceled last summer. She recently covered the Anna Nicole Smith drama and was the first to report her death.

Among the 300 friends, colleagues and dignitaries, including her favorite security guard, at the party were Randy Jones of the Village People; celebrity photographer James Edstrom; Fox News legal analyst Lis Wiehl and attorney Michael Sherman; MSNBC anchors Contessa Brewer, Alison Stewart and Chris Jansing; NBC anchor Carl Quintanilla; Lisa Bloom and Diane Dimond of Court TV; and actor Bobby Abid. Boyfriend and singer/songwriter Tomaczek Bednarek wrote a song for the occasion, "You Make the News."

Cosby isn't taking a break. This week, she hosted a two-hour radio show on Sirius satellite radio. She heads to her alma mater, the University of South Carolina, next week to teach for a day. Then she travels to the Middle East, where she will speak at a conference.

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Scene . . . Presidential hopeful and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and friends were seen dining recently at Sole Ristorante on Elm Street in New Canaan.

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Out there . . . 112 patrons attended the benefit to fund scientific research for the treatment of Down syndrome on March 29 at the Ferrari showroom of Miller Motorcars in Greenwich. Serving as guest speakers were professor William Mobley, director of the Neuroscience Institute at Stanford University, and Emily Perl Kingsley, the author of "Welcome to Holland" and a scriptwriter for "Sesame Street."

Kingsley has received 12 Emmy awards.

The event raised \$100,000 from ticket sales and a live auction, which boasted items including a drumhead signed by Ringo Star and Zak Starkey, a guitar signed by Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys and a Maserati for the weekend.

Sponsors included the SAC Foundation, Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress and the Michael Bolton Charities.

For more information on the charity, call 838-8834.

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Scene . . . Neighbors Lara Spencer, host of celebrity gossip show "The Insider," Cathy Breck, Megan Logue and Danielle Clark joined forces last weekend to sell some of their treasures at a tag sale in the Riverside section of Greenwich.

Some of the items for sale included Persian rugs, antique and country furniture. All sorts of knickknacks were snatched up in a heartbeat.

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Out there . . . Greenwich resident Jerry Porricelli will be honored at ARC's "Life's a Beach" gala at the Greenwich Hyatt on April 27.

He will receive ARC's Leadership Award at the benefit, which will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing and an auction. ARC supports people with special needs in the Greenwich-Stamford area. For more information, contact Carolyn Russell at 531-1880, Ext. 123, or e-mail russell@arcgreenwich.org.

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Out there . . . Artwork from the Greenwich Senior Center art class is on exhibit at the Nathaniel Witherell on Parsonage Road in Greenwich.

The exhibit includes more than 25 individual student paintings and a 3-foot by 4-foot mural of the town titled "Greenwich on Canvas," where each student contributed by painting a town landmark.

The exhibit runs through the end of the month.

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Scene . . . Greenwich resident and talk show host Regis Philbin, who is recovering from triple bypass surgery, and his wife Joy were seen having breakfast last Sunday at Glory Days Diner in Greenwich.

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Out there . . . Carolyn and Jay Haverson of Haverson Architecture and Design of Greenwich attended last week's opening party for Spotlight Live in Times Square. Actress/singer Jennifer Lopez christened the stage at the restaurant.

Designed by the Greenwich-based architects, and owned by entrepreneurs Jen Worthington and Paul Krug, Spotlight Live a venue where diners can perform on a Broadway-style stage.

The Haversons' other projects in the works include Prime Blue Grille in Miami, the Flying Dish in Fairfield and Palomino in Old Greenwich.

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Out there . . . Blues legend Buddy Guy will perform at the Ridgefield Playhouse at 8 p.m. on April 17. For tickets, call 438-5795.

And that's all for now.

Happy Easter and Passover.

Later . . .

Susie Costaregni

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