



# THE ENCORE Connection

From Our Heart To Yours

## Encore Presents its Heart to Heart Awards at its Annual Spring Benefit at Mutual of America

The lovely Penthouse Floor at Mutual of America on Park Avenue set the stage for this year's Heart to Heart Awards Presentation and Benefit on May 22nd. The Heart to Heart Awards are presented to individuals, groups and corporations who have made contributions to the betterment of New York City, especially the Times Square/theater community. This year's recipients were Ralph DiRuggiero, Senior Vice President of Property Management at Paramount Group and the Coalition of Broadway Unions and Guilds (COBUG). The evening's program began with welcoming remarks from our Benefit Co-chairs, George and Christine Stonbely, Encore's Board President, William K. Flynn, and Mutual of America's Tyrone Gollatt. The Reverend John Duffell provided an invocation. Serving as Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Joseph Benincasa, President of The Actors Fund.

**Ralph DiRuggiero** has had a distinguished career in property management and public service before joining Paramount Group, Inc. as Vice President of Property Management in 2001. Mr. DiRuggiero began his career as a Budget Analyst at the Office of Management and Budget for the City of New York. He then joined the County of Essex, New Jersey as Assistant Budget Director, rising to become its Assistant County Administrator for New Jersey's largest urban county. In 1987, Mr. DiRuggiero joined Williams Real Estate Company as a District Manager and, shortly thereafter, was promoted to Assistant Vice President. Mr. DiRuggiero then joined Swig Weiler & Arnow Management Company

*continued on page 4*



Executive Director Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt, on left, with Heart to Heart honoree, Ralph DiRuggiero (center), Senior Vice President, Property Management, Paramount Group, Inc. and Scott Salmirs, Executive Vice President of ABM Onsite Services.



Tom Viola, (far right), Executive Director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, presented the Heart to Heart award to Frank Connolly, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer and Business Agent of the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, IBT and Cecilia Friederichs, National Business Agent of United Scenic Artists, Local 829, IATSE, who accepted the award on behalf of COBUG.

### inside

Greetings from the Executive Director  
Page 2

Have Trip Will Travel  
Page 3

A "Good" Mobile App for Tech-Savvy Shoppers  
Page 3

Heart to Heart Pictorial Spread  
Page 5

**Executive Director**  
Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt

**Board of Directors**  
William K. Flynn, President  
Robert Esposito, Vice President  
Carol O'Rourke, Treasurer  
Joseph DeNardo  
Peter Fitzpatrick  
Julius Lang  
Kendall Messick  
Jeffrey Mullen  
Lori Raimondo  
Joseph Sirola

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Encore Community Services is to provide care and service to the elderly of the Clinton/Times Square/Midtown communities, and to any elderly person who comes to us; to assist those who are vulnerable and frail, poor and homeless, homebound and lonely, frequently desperate, most often ignored; to help them with their daily needs that they might live as independently as possible, with dignity and decency, in a non-institutional manner, in a safe and caring environment . . .

(Board of Directors, 1982)



*The Encore Connection* is a publication of Encore Community Services, a nonprofit, nonsectarian agency serving the needs of the elderly. Encore provides in-home and congregate meals, recreational, educational and social activities, shopping and escort services, benefit and entitlement counseling, crisis intervention, mental health services, friendly visiting, weekend meals and housing for the homeless and low-income seniors. These services are provided at the Encore 49 Residence, 220 West 49th Street, the Encore Senior Center, located at St. Malachy's, The Actors' Chapel, 239 West 49th Street, and the Encore West Residence, 755 Tenth Ave., between 51st and 52nd Streets.

Encore Community Services: 212-581-2910

ECS Administrative Staff: 646-726-4299

Encore Senior Center: 212-581-2910

Encore 49 Residence: 212-581-3490

Encore West Residence: 212-991-3727

[www.encorecommunityservices.org](http://www.encorecommunityservices.org)

**Editor/Director of Development**

Gina Curran



The mailing of *The Encore Connection* was underwritten by a locally based accounting firm. Encore extends its gratitude for its generosity. If your firm would like to underwrite one of Encore's mailings, please contact Gina Curran at (646) 726-4299, ext. 106. ♥

## From the Desk of . . .



**Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt**  
**Executive Director**

**This day in July is hot** and ever so humid, which is no surprise to anyone! And as we, here at Encore, reflect on our Heart to Heart Awards Benefit which, as most of you know was on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were delighted with this year's annual event and celebration! As you review the "story" and photographs, I hope you will be able to see the many smiles

of the honorees, the invited guests, and all who attended. Encore happily honored the achievements of Ralph DiRuggiero, Senior Vice-President, Property Management, Paramount Group, Inc., as well as The Coalition of Broadway Unions and Guilds (COBUG). And we cannot forget the generosity of Christie's who once again provided an auctioneer, Katie Jacobs. Encore remains forever grateful for all who support this event in multiple ways with special mention for the generous support of Mutual of America for their wonderful venue and services!

This event is a celebration to honor the contributions of the honorees, and also provides Encore with needed support, which is an enormous help assisting Encore with providing critical services to seniors in need who are daily served by Encore. I know I speak for all here as I say thank you! thank you!

Encore also remains ever so grateful to George and Christine Stonbely, who again served as our gracious Chairpersons for this annual event and who provide support and assistance in multiple ways. We also recognize our friend, Joe Benincasa of The Actors Fund, who was our amiable emcee. Bravo to all who helped make this annual event the "best" ever!

As we reflect on this past winter, we do so with gratitude: for our loyal employees who all made it in to work enabling us to provide meals to our homebound seniors, who depend on Encore on a daily basis. Even with the ice and snow, which on some days seemed as if it would never end, our three vans, packed with deliverers and with multiple hot or frozen meals for the homebound never missed a day! When I was passing one day as the vans were being loaded, one of the drivers remarked, "What's going on? This is Manhattan, not the North Pole!" ...and on some days it certainly appeared as if they were stepping into the Arctic.

On behalf of Encore, I look forward to these summer months, when life seems to slow down. In closing, I leave you with a final question to contemplate: It has been said that these questions were asked by Benjamin Franklin daily, first thing in the morning and before going to sleep: "What good shall I do today? What good have I done today?" When we finally come to understand this, we act on it, no matter how small that act is...and believe it or not, it will take you where you need to go!

Finally, Encore sends gratitude to all of our readers for your generosity, support and caring....we simply could not "do what we do" without all of you!

# GOOD NEWS AND RECENT HAPPENINGS

## Thank You, Sr. Eileen Gannon, for Your Service to Encore



Encore extends its gratitude and very best wishes to Sr. Eileen Gannon who recently resigned from Encore's Board of Directors this past June, after twenty-six years of dedicated service. Sr. Eileen, a Sparkill Dominican Sister, was an integral part of this organization's stewardship, providing leadership and direction as its Secretary and Vice President during her tenure on the Board. All at Encore appreciate her service, and know that she will remain a close friend and supporter of Encore's work with the elderly. And, as we express our gratitude for her commitment to Encore, we wish her all best wishes in the future!

## Encore Hosts A Special Ceremony to Salute its Volunteers

For many nonprofit organizations with limited resources, volunteers are their lifeline in helping them to carry out their mission. This is especially true for Encore whose dedicated volunteers assist in many ways, from visiting homebound seniors, to serving meals during lunchtime at the Senior Center and delivering meals to our homebound, to working behind the scenes on holiday celebrations and parties throughout the year. In appreciation, Encore held a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on June 26th, followed by a wine and cheese social in honor of its many volunteers. Each volunteer was presented with a pin and a Certificate of Appreciation by Executive Director Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt.

Encore extends its gratitude to all its volunteers for their dedicated service, including our corporate friends, our volunteers from Citymeals-on-Wheels, the Friendly Visitors, our volunteers from various community-based organizations and, of course, our many individual volunteers.

Genie Cameron, Encore's Volunteer Coordinator, acknowledges that our volunteers truly make a difference in the lives of our seniors. Anyone interested in learning about Encore's volunteer opportunities can call Genie at 212-581-2910, ext. 110 or email her at [volunteer@encorecommunityservices.org](mailto:volunteer@encorecommunityservices.org).



Executive Director Sr. Elizabeth Hasselt, on left, with our Senior Center volunteers.

## Seniors Enjoy A Day Trip to Long Island

The seniors pictured here were delighted to take a bus trip to Pindar Vineyards on the North Fork of Long Island on June 26, a popular destination for many New Yorkers. Encompassing more than 500 scenic acres, Pindar Vineyards offers magnificent vistas and informative lectures on winemaking. Afterwards, seniors headed over to a local restaurant offering waterfront dining, where they enjoyed a delicious luncheon while relishing the lovely water views of Long Island Sound. Our seniors agreed the day offered a welcome reprieve from the crowded streets of the city.



Encore seniors head home after a fun-filled day at Pindar Vineyards on Long Island.

## Newsworthy Alert for All Tech-Savvy Shoppers

**Are you a mobile shopper?** Here's a "good" idea that can help Encore and save you money at the same time. Goodshop's new iOS App makes it easy for mobile shoppers to get the best deals and coupons at your favorite online stores while earning donations for Encore.....no matter where you are! This free app is available for iPhones and iPads. You can save money while you shop at more than 5,000 stores and a donation will be made to Encore for virtually every online purchase you make. You'll also receive the latest promo codes, deals and offers as soon as they come out, and receive alerts every time Encore earns a donation. Since there is no extra cost to you, except of course, for your online purchase, why not download the app today at [www.goodsearch.com/mobile](http://www.goodsearch.com/mobile) and make a "good" impact with every online purchase.

# HEART TO HEART AWARDS ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

Encore extends its thanks to  
our friends and supporters



...continued from page 1

overseeing operations for a six million square foot, Class A office-building portfolio in Manhattan.

In 1989, Mr. DiRuggiero joined Equitable Real Estate Investment Management as Asset Manager, and for the next ten years, was responsible for establishing the New York regional office of Compass Management & Leasing, a subsidiary of Equitable. In 1994, Mr. DiRuggiero was promoted to Senior Vice President responsible for the national corporate accounts for Compass, including: AT&T, Lucent Technologies, AMP Inc. and General Motors Corporation. When the firm merged with Jones Lang LaSalle, Mr. DiRuggiero was promoted to Executive Vice President.

In 1999, Mr. DiRuggiero joined the Trammell Crow Company as Senior Vice President of Property Management and Regional Director for TCC's Northeast Metro region responsible for clients including HSBC Bank and American Express.

In 2001, Mr. DiRuggiero joined Paramount Group. As Senior Vice President of Property Management, Mr. DiRuggiero is responsible for all aspects of property management operations and security. The current portfolio is 14.25 million square feet located in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

Mr. Scott Salmirs, Executive Vice President of ABM Onsite Services presented the Heart to Heart Award to Mr. DiRuggiero. Encore was delighted to have the opportunity to recognize Mr. DiRuggiero and to thank him for his support and friendship to Encore.

**The Coalition of Broadway Unions and Guilds (COBUG)** was established to strengthen the position of unions and guilds within the theatrical industry. Founded in response to the tragic events of 9/11, COBUG participates in making key decisions that affect Broadway and the theater community at large. It strives to educate the broader community about the collective role unions play in keeping the industry vibrant and healthy. COBUG's member organizations address such issues as collective bargaining, health care, workplace safety and the impact of media and technology on live theater.

Member organizations of COBUG include: Actors' Equity Association; American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA); Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM); Dramatists Guild of America; IATSE Local One, Stage Hands; IATSE Local 306, Ushers and Ticket Takers; IATSE Local 751, Treasurers and Ticket Sellers; IATSE Local B-751, Mail Telephone Order Clerks; IATSE Local 764, Wardrobe and Guardians; IATSE Local 798, Make-Up Artists and Hair Stylists; IATSE Local USA

829, United Scenic Artists; Local 30, Operating Engineers; Local 802, American Federation of Musicians; SEIU Local 32BJ, Theatre Division; Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC); and Theatrical Teamsters Local 817.

The Coalition, along with The Broadway League, co-founded "Broadway Salutes," an annual event that recognizes artists and employees who have worked on Broadway for 25, 35 and 50 years or more.

Encore was honored to present its Heart to Heart Award to the Coalition of Broadway Unions and Guilds whose various member organizations have been long-time friends and loyal supporters of Encore. Tom Viola, Executive Director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS presented the award to Frank Connolly, Jr., Secretary-

Treasurer and Business Agent of the Theatrical Teamsters, Local 817, IBT and Cecilia Friederichs, National Business Agent of United Scenic Artists, Local 829, IATSE who accepted the award on behalf of COBUG.

This year's benefit included a "Live Auction" that successfully raised over \$10,000 for Encore's Home-Delivered Meals Program, which provides hot and nutritious meals to homebound seniors. Our appreciation is extended to Katie Jacobs of Christie's who served as the evening's auctioneer, our many benefactors who contributed auction prizes, and to Clear Channel Spectacolor for

providing ad space on its Digital HD LED screen on 47<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. Benefactors who contributed \$500 will have their names or a message appear on the digital billboard in Times Square for an entire month.

Capping off the evening was our popular raffle drawing of assorted theater tickets and gift certificates for dinners for two. Encore is most grateful to Philip Smith and Robert Wankel of The Shubert Organization and Paul Libin of the Jujamcyn Theaters for donating theater tickets to several popular shows, and to Dennis Riese of National Restaurants Management and Peter Fitzpatrick of Allied Management for donating an assortment of gift certificates to its restaurant establishments. Encore also extends its gratitude to all the restaurants and benefactors who contributed prizes for our auction and raffle.

Encore also wishes to thank our Heart to Heart honorees, our Benefit Chairpersons, George and Christine Stonbely, all our program participants, guests and our generous benefactor, Mutual of America and Mr. Thomas Moran, for making the evening such a memorable occasion.



Encore staff members, Sr. Lillian McNamara and Sr. Peggy McGirl, prepare to draw the lucky winners of tickets to Broadway shows and dinner gift certificates in the raffle.

# HEART TO HEART AWARDS BENEFIT OUR PHOTOS

Photos: Ben Asen



Encore's favorite pianist, Robert Lamont, entertains guests at the Heart to Heart Benefit.



On left, William J. Flynn, Chairman Emeritus of Mutual of America, and William K. Flynn, President of Encore's Board of Directors.



Benefit Co-chairs, Christine and George Stonbely.



Tyrone Gollatt, Mutual of America's Senior Regional Field Vice President for New York City and Queens, welcomes guests to the Heart to Heart Benefit.



Long-time friend and supporter of Encore, Chris Miller, successfully bids on an auction prize while Encore staff member, Elvira Yanes, looks on.



Loyal friends and supporters of Encore, Joseph Benincasa (on left), President of The Actors Fund, and Philip J. Smith, Chairman and Co-CEO of The Shubert Organization.



Assisting the evening's auctioneer, Katie Jacobs, are Encore Board Member, Robert Esposito, Benefit Co-chair, Christine Stonbely, and Encore staff member, Sr. Peggy McGirl.



Encore staff member, Sr. Margaret Rose Moran, helps a guest with taking a few chances in the raffle.

## BULLETIN BOARD NEWS

### October 25, 2014 Is A Date To Remember!

Come join the fun at this year's 40th Annual Americana Jazz Festival, to be held on October 25, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vendors will line 52nd Street, from Seventh Avenue to Fifth Avenue, selling a variety of clothing, jewelry and delicious food for you to enjoy. Encore is the official sponsor of this Street Fair which helps raise money for Encore's many fine programs. The 52nd Street Fair is always a great way to spend a leisurely Saturday afternoon, so come browse and join in the festivities. Don't forget to drop by Encore's booth to say hello.

### Mark Your Calendar for Encore's *A Taste of Italy Benefit* to Be Held Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Encore's Annual *A Taste of Italy* fundraising event, a benefit for Encore's Home Delivered Meals Program will be held on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Da Marino Restaurant, 220 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City. Enjoy an evening of good food, fine wine and entertainment while helping to support your favorite charity...Encore! An individual ticket is \$150.00. For information, call Gina Curran at 646-726-4299, extension 106.

### A Good Deed Can Help An Encore Senior

Many of our seniors do not own burial plots and are too poor to purchase one. Your family may have purchased a plot years ago which it may no longer need. Please consider deeding a burial plot to Encore. If you would like to donate a plot or would like to make a monetary gift for burials or cremations, please call Sr. Peggy at 646-726-4299, ext. 105. Thank you.



### Encore Community Services

Located at St. Malachy's, The Actors' Chapel  
239 West 49th Street  
New York, New York 10019-7493

*"Broadway's Longest Running Act of Loving Care"*