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# QUEST

Women of Substance & Style

## PHILANTHROPY ISSUE

MRS. BRIAN "MILA" MULRONEY  
WITH GRANDDAUGHTERS MINNIE AND THEA LAPHAM  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARRY BENSON



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left right after daughter. That was not fate; that was Debbie. And Carrie.

Molly Jong-Fast reveals similarly, writing, "Sometimes, in memoirs, children of famous people lionize their parents and grandparents. I wasn't taught to write like that." Erica told her she was "supposed to do as Hemingway once said: 'Sit down at the typewriter and bleed.'"

Mission was accomplished with this wonderful piece where the child acknowledges that, even at 40, she's not over her childhood. She's now in the process of learning that all of life is a playing out of childhood, at least it is if you're a writer.

Coincidentally, I was reading the March 21st issue of the *New York Review Books* and found in the letters to the editor that Molly's mother Erica Jong had written a letter referring to an article by Elaine Blair in the February 21st issue about Henry Miller and his writings about sex. I've never read Henry Miller, so I can't agree or disagree. When I was a teenager, Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* was first published in this country to great debate (and best-selling numbers). Because it was about sex, Erica knows.

Back to the benefits. Music in the air. The Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra held their gala kick-off par-

ty at Sylvia Hemingway's Fifth Avenue residence with guests of honor Ambassador Donald Blinken and Governor George E. Pataki attending. The hostess served Hungarian wine from her DHP Vineyard. "Egészségedre!" toasted Sylvia. ("Cheers!" in Hungarian.)

Friends chairman Stephen Benko, flew in from Budapest for the occasion and announced in his toast that the benefit dinner and concert at Carnegie Hall will be held on April 6th. There are also plans for a second Vicenza Opera Festival, opening October 20, 2019.

Among those attending were: Daisy Soros, Kristi-

na Allegra, Steven Aronson, Ambassador Nancy Brinker, Dr. Karen Burke, Joan Hardy Clark, Aaron Feinstein, John and Carole French, Susan Gutfreund, Cheri Kaufman and Bill Sclight, Michèle Gerber Klein, Aimee and William Maroney, Reni Rothschild, Stephanie Stokes, Barbara and Donald Tober, Annette Vass, and Máté Vincze (director of the Hungarian Cultural Center).

Then, on a Monday night at a private club here in New York, the Vienna Philharmonic Society presented the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra performing "Sextet in G Major, Op. 36" by Johannes Brahms. This was a beautiful

ANNUAL PALM BEACH WINE AUCTION AT THE KRAVIS CENTER



Cindy and Ted Mandes



Cynthia and Henri Jean



Cory and Debbie Lipoff



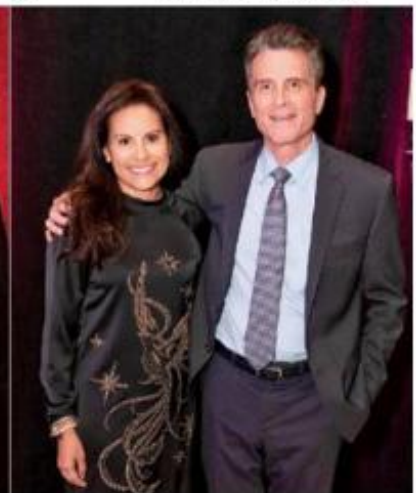
Tamara and Ron Broadrick



Stephanie and William Eady



Kathryn and Leo Vecellio



Roslyn and Jim Horton



CASTLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT BRICKTOP'S IN PALM BEACH



Robert Barrett



Jim Mitchell and Virginia Melhado



Marianne and John K. Castle



Augustus Mayhew and Mona de Sayve



Bryan Huffman



Virginia Burke and Michael Harris



John Terwilliger and Laura Codman

evening benefit, black-tie, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. for approximately 100 guests, with a concert at 7:15 followed by dinner at 8:15.

Once everyone was seated for the concert, **Marife Hernandez**, who chairs the Society, introduced the musicians and gave us a little history of Brahms' piece. It had its world premiere in Boston in 1865. It features a classical cast of two violins, two violas, and two violoncellos. It also is known among connoisseurs as being very demanding to perform.

Personally, I am always amazed and in awe of the musicians. I can't play a stringed instrument—those who

achieve it seemingly at ease with what looks, to these eyes, as something so complicated—with what looks like such ease.

On a Tuesday evening mid-month at the David Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, the School of American Ballet was celebrating its 85th anniversary. This was a beautiful evening. Again, like the concerts of the Vienna Philharmonic last week, this Winter Ball is an annual fundraiser.

It was first organized in 1934 by **George Balanchine**,

the Russian choreographer, **Lincoln Kirstein**, and **Edward Warburg**, who was also involved in the early days of the Museum of Modern Art. Warburg's childhood home on Fifth Avenue is now the Jewish Museum in New York.

What amazed me to read about these masters of our culture who created/established their interests in the arts for the world were that they were very young men. Balanchine was 30 and Kirstein was 27. Eddie Warburg, who was 26,

was a teacher and patron of the arts as well as a philanthropist. The intention of the men was to develop a ballet company but first beginning with a school, they created an institution—training to make a company—as Balanchine was trained at the Imperial Ballet School in St. Petersburg in the late 19-teens and early 1920s.

Many of the early teachers at SAB were émigrés from the Russian Revolution. They understood the intent. Eighty-five years later, the founders are immortals in the ballet world, and the New York City Ballet is considered one of the finest ballet companies in the world. I am not a balletomane,

