

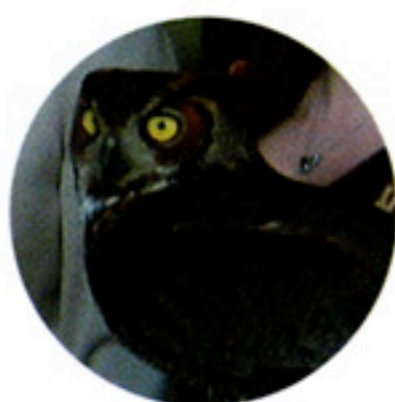
# elements

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF FINE LIVING

*Summer 07*

\$4.99 US, \$6.99 CAN





managed to keep the secret that led up to that momentous door opening! Leni, the consummate and elegant hostess that she is, had cleverly arranged for Harvey to be out of the house early that Saturday, and the moment he left, her contractors arrived and removed all her living room furniture so that when **Peter Schneir's** Regal Caterers arrived they could set up "Chez Leni" where all the sofas and the side chairs once stood! Great camaraderie, impeccable guests, cocktails and champagne, along with a wonderful dinner and touching speeches ensued... *(But you knew that!)*

The Nassau County Museum of Art's many patrons and benefactors came out in droves earlier this spring at not one, but two, receptions held in honor of their Annual Gala on June 9, which will be held, this year, in a surrealist-inspired tent (thanks to designer du jour **Michael Russo**) on the grounds of the former Frick Estate in Roslyn Harbor. The first party, at NuBest Salon and Spa, hosted by NCMA honoree **Michael Mazzei** and his wife **Donna**, featured the renowned artist **Michele Oka Doner**. The guests were treated to the opportunity to speak with Ms. Doner in a casual *(but fashionable)* setting. NCMA Museum Director **Constance Schwartz** spoke affectionately about the beauty of the artist and her art. When Mr. Mazzei spoke, he related how he met Ms. Doner years before and ultimately, over time, purchased many of her incredible pieces to adorn the walls and halls of his homes. Donna Mazzei was wearing a beautiful bracelet designed by Ms. Doner. *(By the way, NuBest, with the help of in-house PR wiz **Richard Piana**, turns into a clubby space quite easily with the removal of all the salon chairs in the main area. A portable marble bar rolls into place and makes for easy cocktailing!)* A fine chamber trio played to the crowd of over 100, including extended Mazzei family members **Nadi Vessio**, **Christian Fleres**, **Jamie Mazzei** *(Michael's son and the handsome in-demand stylist at the salon)* with attractive wife **Violet** and adorable son **Marco**, **Vincent Cascio** *(the other handsome in-demand stylist)*, along with *Vogue* photographer **Jordan Doner** *(yes, the son of artist, Michele)*, Dr. **Herbert** and **Judie Chessin**, Catherine Rosso, local poet **Victoria Crosby**, **Vincent Tona**, Pam Arnowitz, **Lucielle** and **Mike Jacobs**, Brigitte and David Stetson, NCMA's new Development Director **Matt Campo**, **Pat Carpenter**, society photographer **Cyril Morris**, **Lori Bernstein** *(who sells all the pretty jewels at NuBest)* and more who all ohhhed and ahhhed at Michele's fine sculpture, *Europa*—the centerpiece of the party!

The second NCMA reception, the official kick-off for the ball, was at the magnificent home of **Sharon** and Dr. **Stephen Cuchel**. I've reported on this

party many times before, because the Cuchels' home easily lends itself to entertaining a large crowd. Their sunken living room *(a replica of a European country chapel)* is where **Connie Schwartz** spoke about the museum expansion. Did you know that plans are in place to significantly enlarge the museum? Well, the ball committee and everyone else, including **Corky Paston**, **Eva** and Dr. **Andrew Jacono** *(who was just named head of plastic surgery at North Shore Hospital)*, **Nan Gerson**, **Michael Mazzei**, **Jean Baraf**, **Ted Gosman**, Dr. **Diane Levitan**, Brigitte and David Stetson *(I thought I was out every night, but I've got some serious competition from them, huh?!)*, **Scott Neher**, **Linda Correia**, **Angela Susan Anton**, **Elaine Berger**, **Ron Rizzo** and so many others, cannot wait for the new construction to begin.

I've passed this building a million times in Oyster Bay Village and overheard several guests, on arrival, remarking, "What a wonderful space... I've never been in here. It's a beautiful room!" So recently, when I was invited to Save the Children's (STC) reception for photographers **Conny Brunner** and **Doug Going**—who'd prepared an interesting media presentation of their photographs entitled "Nicaragua...A La Orden"—I jumped at the chance to go inside. Where, you ask? Why, the Stevenson Academy of Fine Arts. During the cocktail hour, before the lights dimmed for the presentation, guests mingled among paintings by John Aden Albright *(curated by proprietor-in-residence **Attila Hejja**)* on the second floor gallery. Everyone chatted eagerly about the recent bequest to STC from *American Idol's* Simon Cowell et al. and the funds they would receive through the Charity Projects Entertainment Fund. If you're a fan of that TV show, you already know that *American Idol* has partnered with CPEF and is receiving donations from a variety of individuals and large corporations *(like Texaco, for example)*, and STC is one of the few charities that will be given a grant from this hot, new charitable duo! Eagerly awaiting that all-important FedEx envelope were **Jane Greenleaf**, **Susan Olsen**, **Margaret Floyd-Jones**, **Deborah** and **Michael Held**, **Denni** and **William Pugsley**, **James Kenny**, **Lillian** and **Prisco Soricillo**, **Mary Lindsay**, **Gloria** and **David Kruse**, **Lynn Gundersen**, **Sabina Blohm**, **Debi** and **Bob Hussey**, **Virginia Hanson** and many others who are also looking forward to the upcoming STC's annual Polo Match Benefit, on Saturday, June 23, in Old Brookville. *(I know you already have your hat and tail-gating tickets, so you don't need me to tell you about that!)*

Speaking of fine art, we all know the leading art dealers in New York City *(think Pace/Wildenstein, Gagosian and others)* and those in the Hamptons *(as in Vared, Crystals, et al.)*, but I have to tell you that there is a new game in