



SUSANNA'S NIGHT OUT

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City landmarks take their bows

Living monuments get day in sun



TABLE TALK: Marlina Golding and Joe Barrett. | DARKROOM-DEMONS.COM~PHOTOS FOR THE SUN-TIMES



GOOD GALA: Event co-chairs Catherine Handelsman (left) and Madeline Gelis.



BEAR OUT: Chicago Bears running back Cedric Benson.



CIVIC TREASURES: Maria Pappas and honoree Victor Skrebneski.

GIVING BIG: Alessandra Aiores and Richard Driehaus.



In a city known for its soaring skyscrapers, a group of historic preservation bestowed their highest honor on four Chicagoans: They were deemed "Living Landmarks" to mark their monumental contributions to civic life.

Honorees included photographer **Victor Skrebneski** (who recently redesigned Water Tower Park); Joffrey Ballet co-founder **Gerald Arpino**; Second City co-founder **Bernie Sahlins**, and his wife, **Jane Nicholl Sahlins**, who co-founded the International Theatre Festival of Chicago.

The third annual gala was hosted by Landmarks Illinois, an organization that preserves structures important to the history of the state.

"These are people who have reached an iconic status in Chicago, just like a landmark building," explained party guest **Donna La Pietra**.

Nearly 500 guests attended the \$500-per-person black-tie bash at the Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton. Many of the city's most prominent people attended the gala, such as Cook County Treasurer **Maria Pappas**, auctioneer **Leslie Hindman** and television journalist **Bill Kurtis**.

"I think it's important to recognize people in the here and now," said philanthropist **Richard Driehaus**, one of the evening's sponsors. As honorees were introduced, each received a chorus of cheers and standing ovations from the crowd.

"Over the years, I've been nudged to move to New York, but I've come to appreciate the great people who have accomplished so much in Chicago," said designer **Maria Pinto**, who has achieved national recognition for dressing Michelle Obama. "Chicago has its own vitality."

About \$400,000 was raised to support a \$5 million campaign for an endowment fund benefitting **Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House in Plano, Ill.**