

23rd Street Association holds awards luncheon V.P. of North Fork Bank honored for charity work in neighborhood



By Maciej Wroblewski

Carl Michael Gambino, Senior Vice President and Regional Administrator for the North Fork Bank, was honored with a Distinguished Citizen Award by the 23rd Street Association last week.

Gambino, whose professional career in banking spans more than a quarter of a century and who is responsible for over 250 employees and executives in charge of more than \$1.5 billion in commercial and consumer client's deposits, was recognized for being a wonderful corporate neighbor who has dedicated himself to giving time, talent, and support as a volunteer board member and patron of many local and civic charitable organizations, including the 23rd Street Association and the McBurney YMCA.

"Carl Gambino's passionate commitment and personal dedication to every endeavor he undertakes has made an enormous impact on the many business, families, individuals and clients who work with him or have benefited from his work," said luncheon chair Arlene Harrison, President of the Gramercy Park Block Association, who together with Sharon L. Ullman, President of the 23rd Street Association, presented Gambino with the Distinguished Citizen Award at a special luncheon held at Cipriani 23rd Street on Fifth Avenue.

Harrison credited Gambino with developing several special programs to assist young people in the community, such as his high school internship program that allows students to gain experience working in the financial services sector, and for

initiating programs for families in need, including numerous annual toy drives that have brought joy to countless area children.

The 32nd annual event also celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the 23rd Street Association and acknowledged Sharon L. Ullman for ten years of dedicated service as the organization's president.

Incorporated in 1929 by 22 local business people, the Association has grown to approximately 400 members who work together to maintain and improve the quality of life and secure a wholesome environment for both businesses and residents in the area bounded by the Hudson and East Rivers, from 18th Street to 28th Street.

Ullman, who has been leading these efforts over the last decade, was credited for using her remarkable people skills to organize the Association's many annual projects and programs, such as fundraisers, Christmas parties for neighborhood children and support of the homeless, and for working on major projects that will serve the community for years to come, such as the Association's participation in the \$12 million revitalization project of Madison Square Park.

"She is forever cheerful, optimistic and tireless," Chairman of the Board Robert Frankel, Senior Managing Director with real estate firm GVA Williams, said of Ullman in his presentation speech, citing her most recent efforts to create the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) in the 23rd Street area, including her work with Commissioner Rob Walsh of the City's



Department of Small Businesses Services, that is scheduled to become a reality in early 2005.

"Sharon has maintained a productive relationship for the 23rd Street Association's businesses and residential members with local politicians, city agencies, community boards, local police and sanitation," noted Frankel. "She spearheaded special programs to assist small business, and participated with community boards in planning and zoning initiatives, to name but a few milestones in these ten years."

"We salute Sharon for all of her good work on our behalf, and look forward to more great times to come. Sharon Ullman is a national treasure—but thank goodness she belongs to 23rd Street," he added.

In accepting the award, Ullman thanked Frankel and all the other members of the Association's Board of Directors with whom she has worked over the past ten years. "We have all worked hard through the years on many successful programs and projects. I thank you for making my job such a pleasure and so rewarding."

"And I want to thank the hundreds of members—and probably the thousands of individuals—in the area and across the City who have worked with me and supported me in our efforts to make 23rd Street and the City better places to work and live," she added.

Ullman saved special thanks for Commissioner Rob Walsh and his staff, especially George Glatter, Director of Small Business Services, for helping to make the BID a reality, and Council members

Margarita Lopez and Christine Quinn for leading the City Council in support of the BID.

"This was such a wonderful event because the man we were honoring is such a wonderful man," Ullman told T&V. "It was a personal salute from the 23rd Street Association to Carl Gambino who has worked with us and supported us on many programs and projects through the years."

Ullman also credited Penelope Procops-Wamboldt, Senior Vice President and Regional Manager of North Fork Bank, Anthony DeLorenzo, Vice President and Branch Manager of North Fork Bank, and Marty Moran, Assistant Vice President of North Fork Bank, for their tireless support in helping to organize the celebration.

Also recognized at the luncheon were recent business additions in the area and new members of the Association, The Home Depot and Cipriani 23rd Street.

"From the very beginning, The Home Depot has been a community-minded neighbor from working with the 23rd Street Association to creating 300 local new jobs," said event chair Arlene Harrison, who thanked store manager Joe Losos for working with the community on this exciting addition to the community.

"We would, also, like to thank Cipriani, Scharf Weisberg for providing the audio and visual, and the entire Cipriani team for hosting our event in this brand new venue," she continued, giving special recognition to Arthur Backal, president of Cipriani Hospitality, and Wendy Gordon, Director of Catering at Cipriani 23rd Street.

