

AUDREY'S SOCIETY WHIRL

The Greater Queens Chapter of the Links hosts Masquerade Ball



By Audrey J. Bernard
Society Editor

QUEENS, NY — The Greater Queens Chapter of the Links, Incorporated hosted their 21st Masquerade Ball (GQLB) Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 8:00pm to 1:00am at the luxurious Terrace on the Park set on the storied grounds of the New York World's Fair located at 52-11 111th Street, Meadows Park, NY. Terrace on the Park — which floats serenely above the lush and verdant backdrop of Flushing Meadow Park providing panoramic views of the New York skyline — was the perfect place for the plush party Themed “Leading with Excellence — Serving Greater Queens with Grace,” the sold-out Masquerade Ball exceeded all expectations.

At the start of the strikingly *bootiful* evening, festively dressed GQL members greeted over 600 dressed to the nines guests, who enjoyed a sumptuous cocktail reception that included premium libations, a lavish spread of hot and cold morsels of delight, and the soothing sounds of the “Riffz” Jazz Band. Once inside the Grand Ballroom, surrounded by more breathtaking elegance and sophistication, guests luxuriated on a delectable meal that featured a scrumptious salad, a choice of mixed grill duet, sea bass, or vegetarian lasagna Napolitano followed by scandalous desserts. Fine wines donated by Selena Cuffe, president & CEO of Heritage Link Brands, were served throughout dinner, along with impeccable bar service.



GQL President Jackie Arrington & husband, Marcella Maxwell, Hazel N. Dukes & guest



GQL Member Malikka Karteron & guests



Selena Cuffe, GQL Member Joi Gordon (AJB)



Greater Queens Chapter of Links Members



GQL Member Joi Gordon (center) with Dress for Success staff & guests (AJB)



GQL Member Gwen Dines with Manhattan Motors Audi Car Giveaway participants



Costume contest winners



Errol Gordon, Selena Cuffe, GQL Member Joi Gordon (AJB)



GQL VP Paula Brown Edme

a couple dressed as The Grim Reaper and his Pregnant Bride. Then it was party time and guests spent the rest of the evening on the dance floor cutting up to the hot sounds of **Raymond Williams Entertainment**. A *spooktacular* time was had by all! (Photos by Loray Photography and Audrey J. Bernard)



Fundraising Chair Pamela Washington Parkes & husband Peter Parkes

GQL Member Cheryl Wills served as Mistress of Ceremonies and moved the program along with the same expertise and finesse that has made her one of the most tenured on-air personalities on TV for over 2 decades. Wills introduced this year's scholarship recipients, **Jayson Fox**, who was awarded the Muriel Baldwin Memorial Scholarship, and **Myles**



Scholarship winners Myles Campbell and Jayson Fox, David Banks Eagle Lester Young, NYS Regent

Campbell, who was awarded the Deidre L. Turner Memorial Scholarship. Both young men were acknowledged for their outstanding academic achievements.

Throughout the elegant evening, guests participated in Silent and Chinese Auctions which proceeds will help support the QLB's scholarship fund and other programs of service. The fun costume contest was won by



GQL Organizer Juliette Hansen & escort



Rachid & Ianthe Murad (AJB)



Billy Mitchell, Diane Thompson (AJB)



Fundraising Chair Loleta Beckett-Nicholson & escort



MC Cheryl Wills & husband escort



Scholarship committee Pat Thomas, Model Sealy with Louis & Diane Baldwin, Dennis Walcott

About GQC Links, Inc.

The Greater Queens Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (GQC) was chartered in 1996 with 32 outstanding women. Jacqueline Arrington-Pinkard, president of Greater Queens Chapter said, “I am very proud to now lead 47 amazing women, who, for the last twenty-one years have through their commitment, resources and programs made a tremendous impact to our underserved communities.” The Greater Queens Chapter of The Links, Incorporated delivers programs that enhance the quality of life in Queens in the following areas of focus: health and wellness, services to youth, international awareness, exposure to the arts, and national affairs affecting women, children and families under the chapter's programming theme, “Highly E.S.T.E.A.M.E.D/ Linking Resources Throughout Greater Queens.”

About The Links, Incorporation

Established in 1946, The Links, Incorporated is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women, who, linked in friendship, are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans and persons of African descent, which makes the name “Links” not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service. The Links, Incorporated, is a not-for-profit organization, which consists of nearly 14,000 professional women of color in 272 chapters located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Bahamas.