

Get our free LIBN e-alerts & breaking news notifications!

Sign Up!



John Usdan, Lauren Brandt Schloss, Dale Lewis, Debra Lewis. Photo by Jonas Gustavsson

Usdan gala raises \$200K

By: Adina Genn July 26, 2018 0

The recent Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts gala raised nearly \$200,000 for scholarships and programming.

The gala celebrated the Wheatley Height's creative and performing arts camp's 50th anniversary, and honored more than 50 people for their long-term commitment to Usdan.

The evening featured an open-air exhibition of camper artwork, and a concert at the camp's amphitheater, with dinner catered by Port Washington-based H on the Harbor. Dinner included shrimp scampi, tornedos of beef with mushroom duxelle, potatoes o'Brian and sugar snap peas, followed by dessert, buttered pastry leaves with Call chocolate, blueberries and French cream.

During dinner, Usdan's Executive Director Lauren Brandt Schloss recalled the earlier words of Suzanne Usdan – whom the camp was named after, as her father, Samuel Lemberg, was one of its founders. Brandt Schloss noted that Suzanne Usdan deemed the camp as a place where students “create, perform and innovate” and discover “enduring values of inclusion.” It was Usdan's philosophy to “lose yourself for a summer, and find yourself for a lifetime,” a concept that still resonates now, Brandt Schloss said.

Gala honorees included Elaine Panik Gates; Pattie Panik Falber; Heather Bifulco; Michelle, Megan and Amanda Marino; the Incorvaia family; the Keenan Family; Erica Kuhn (in memoriam); the Leeds family; the Lehman –

DiMartino family; Debra and Dale Lewis; Andrew McKinley (in memoriam); Dr. Jerrold Ross; the Schaeffler Family; the Schecher family and the UJA – Federation of New York.

VIPs included philanthropists Jennifer Allan Soros, John and Eva Usdan, Russell and Marilyn Albanese; Angela J. Raoul and Marjorie Bhavnani, Rosemarie Klipper, Esme Usdan and James Snyder, Samantha Gold, Shari Goodhart, Scott Brennan and Amanda Fugazy, William Kramer, Lillian Cohen, Dr. Jerrold Ross, Katie Clark, Dale Lewis (Usdan executive director Emeritus and current director of Long Island Arts Alliance), Jordan Leeds (a Broadway and TV performer), Brianna Perez (a violinist who is featured in the documentary “Joe’s Violin”), Steven Schopp (executive director of New York State School Music Association), Dr. Marian Conway (New York Community Bank Foundation), Jeff Schoenfeld (president, UJA Federation); Eric Goldstein (CEO of UJA Federation).

Gala co-chairs were Michele Lowe (award-winning playwright and screenwriter). Lesley Friedman Rosenthal (CEO and corporate secretary for The Juilliard School) and Brandt Schloss.