



David Stark at the Meridian Ball (Photo by Tony Powell)

EVENTS

MASTER EVENT PLANNER **DAVID STARK**

was recruited to design this year's Meridian ball by his friend, Democratic fundraiser and hostess Beth Dozoretz.

Whether he's turning discarded film reels into centerpieces for the Film Society of Lincoln Center or collecting logs in Maine to accent an elegant wedding, he will always end up doing the unexpected. In the ball's afterglow, **Gwen Moore Holliday** interviewed the New York-based designer.

How does Washington compare to other cities where you have worked?

Washingtonians really push me to break new ground creatively. I always walk away from a party here feeling that we have done some of our best work, and I thank our clients and friends for pushing us to do that.

What cultures have influenced you?

I love to travel and find just about any place interesting. Drop me in Bayonne, New Jersey, and I will find something cool! Our new collection of holiday decorating items for West Elm was initially inspired by a trip to the Dominican Republic.

What adjustments have people made due to the recent economic challenges?

We focus on coming up with interesting new ideas that are all about ingenuity and less about the cash register ringing. People should walk into a party and say, "Wow!" They should not be thinking at all about cost. The value of a good idea is priceless!

24-HOUR PARTY PEOPLE

KELLY ANDRES,
SELECT EVENT RENTALS
Andres has made quite a name for herself decorating tables and tents for exclusive local events. She took first place in the 2008 Table Top Décor Competition.

RITA BLOOM,
CREATIVE PARTIES, LTD.
Founded in 1968 in Bethesda,

Creative Parties provides full-service event planning including invitations and décor. A leader in the green movement, Bloom has overseen weddings of local dignitaries, events in historical houses, and soirées in Italy and London.

FRED ELTING,
EVENT LIGHTING
Since its inception 30 years ago, Frost Lighting has grown into a national success, boasting the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Botanical Garden among its notable clients.

SANDI HOFFMAN,
EVENT PLANNER
Established solely by word of mouth, Hoffman's esteemed reputation has made her the planner of choice for an elite and elegant clientele.

JACK H. LUCKY, OWNER,
JACK H. LUCKY FLORAL DESIGN
The premier florist for high-profile Washington events, Lucky provides extravagant arrangements and decorative services for, among others, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Gallery of Art, and the Phillips Collection.

SARA MCGREGOR,
CAPITOL CATERING
Previously featured in *Harper's Bazaar*, *InStyle*, *Grace Ormonde*, and a host of other publications, McGregor and her team have catered presidential inaugurations, events for the Screen Actors Guild, weddings, and all the inbetweens.

JACK SHANNON, EAST COAST ENTERTAINMENT
Has offices in ten major cities and has provided lighting, costuming, audio, and décor for top events for more than 30 years. Relies heavily on referrals and has expanded into the wedding and corporate markets.

SYZYG, EVENT PRODUCTIONS
Syzygy has won the International Special Events Society (ISES) Capital Award five times within the last two years, and counts the National Portrait Gallery and the Washington Ballet among its big name clients.

ANDRE WELLS, EVENT PLANNER
Events by Andre Wells has been featured in just about every luxury magazine in Washington since its inception, and was recently cited in the May 2009 issue of *Vogue*.



Kerry Washington and Beth Dozoretz



Gene Sperling



Allison Abner, Ron Brownstein, Eileen McMenamin



Capricia Marshall and Wolf Blitzer



Alexandra Wentworth and George Stephanopoulos



Matt Kennedy and Lisa McCandles



Adrienne Arsht and Debra Lee



The grounds of Meridian House



Andrea Cecchi and Dina Mackney



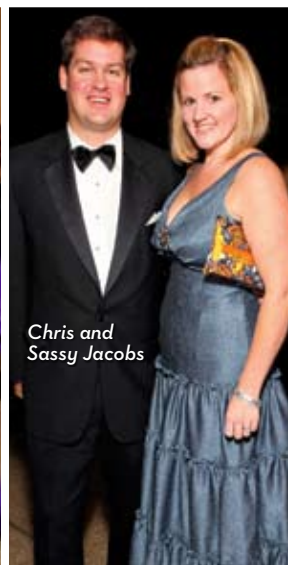
Bianna Golodryga, Peter Orszag and Carol Browner



Brady Arundel and Carrington Tarr



Swiss Amb. Urs and Ronit Ziswiler with Marie Royce



Chris and Sassy Jacobs



Lisa Barry and Jim Gale



Camille Johnston, Lee Satterfield, and Patrick Steel

WL SPONSORED

41ST ANNUAL MERIDIAN BALL

Embassy Residences and Meridian House

PHOTOS BY TONY POWELL

SOME ENCHANTED EVENING: Guests dined at 30 ambassadorial residences, White-Meyer House, and at least one new hotspot (United Arab Emirates Ambassador **Yousef Al-Otaiba** hosted a dinner at the W Hotel) in support of Meridian International Center's global leadership exchange, convening, and cultural programs. All descended on Meridian House later for dancing and desserts amid much exclaiming over celebrity event planner **David Stark's** whimsical black, white, and red interior décor complementing light from a dreamy diaphanous moon. **DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT:** Jazz singers crooned from vintage microphones as actress **Kerry Washington** boogied with **Ebs Burnough**, the White House deputy social secretary. Also spotted on the dance floor: Ball chairwoman **Beth Dozoretz**, **Peter Arundel**, Rep. **Ed Royce**, Mexican Ambassador **Arturo Sarukhan** and **Veronica Valencia**, Raul and **Jean-Marie Fernandez**, Turkish Ambassador **Nabi Sensoy** and **Gulgun Sensoy**, **Ricardo** and **Isabel Ernst**, **Samia Farouki**, **Dan** and **Rhoda Glickman**, **Michael** and **Meryl Chertoff**, **Marlene Malek**, **Beth Wilkinson** and **David Gregory**, **Melanne Verveer**, **Frank Raines**, and **Denise Grant**.

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