

Celeb Staff

PERSONAL ASSISTING HAZARDS

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DREAM TEAM

Household pros even Angelina Jolie would hire

THE TOPS

18 of the world's best household staffing agencies

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Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay, and a grand scale entrance hall with spectacular spherical staircase. A total of six bedrooms, six full baths and two half baths. Five fireplaces. Completely remodeled. Fabulous pentroom with cathedral ceilings, entertainment center, wet bar, billiard table, fireplace and lounging banquette. Luxurious and spacious master suite with his and hers baths, sitting area with fireplace, terrace, and panoramic views of the Bay, Golden Gate Bridge and Palace of Fine Arts. Beautiful family room adjacent eat-in gourmet kitchen with butler pantry, three sinks, granite counters, cooking island, Miele, Gaggenau, Thermador and Sub-Zero appliances, and hardwood floors. Wine cellar for 1000 bottles and fur storage. Three car side-by-side garage plus motor court for six cars. Elevator to all levels. Approximately 10,340 square feet as per appraiser.

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We have just celebrated our second anniversary and are so pleased that our readership keeps growing and the feedback is so positive. We thought it befitting to commemorate this defining moment in *Celeb Staff*'s life with a grand celebration, which was held at the Beverly Hills Four Seasons Hotel. We hope that you will enjoy the memorable pictures we have for you on page 96.

This issue's theme focuses on the "Best of the Best." Household staffing agencies abound worldwide, but which ones are the best? We have selected 18 of the best from around the globe—ones that have shown themselves to be reliable and of excellent repute. Not forgotten are the candidates who have dedicated their lives to the service of their employers to ensure that their lives and homes run smoothly. We have chosen candidates who have made it their career to support the lifestyles of their high-profile employers and have made a success of it. Enjoy the stories of these exceptional individuals on page 71.

There is so much talk in the news these days about hiring illegal aliens. When employing staff for your home it is important that you select candidates who are legally in the U.S., but do you know how to make sure you are on the right side of the law? Michael McCann's "Alien Candidates for Household Help" (page 36) will get you up to speed on what you need to know—especially after the changes of September 11.

Our Personal Assistant column (page 30) is in response to the disturbing murder of New York Realtor® Linda Stein, allegedly at the hands of her personal assistant. Mandie Green addresses the issues in personal assisting that can push some assistants over the edge.

When it comes to choosing your childcare provider, would you hire a nanny over a nanny or vice versa? Britney Spears seemed to like her nanny just fine, but are they for you and your children? Find out more in "Nannies vs. Mannies," by professional nanny Justin Womack on page 32.

Our cover feature is on Mike Rowe, of Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs*, who shares his story about his humble upbringing and how he got to where he is today (page 54). An authentic man with a growing fan base that has not affected his modesty, his story is really inspiring.

Gilda Radner was an inspiration to us all as well. In our "Giving Back" section (page 128) Merle Goldberg takes a look at Gilda's Club with an inspirational quote "You can't charge what's freely given, heart to heart."

There is so much information in this issue, we are proud to say that you might consider keeping it around all year for a reference, or pass it on and share the "Best of the Best" with your friends.

Most important, enjoy this issue, and let us know what you think of our "Best of the Best" picks. **C**

Rita Cook
Editor-in-Chief



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February

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Helping gifted children reach their potential

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**96 CELEB STAFF CELEBRATES ITS
SECOND ANNIVERSARY**

By MICHELE SEGAL



COVER AND THIS PAGE *Mike Rowe. Photography by Marta Elena. Hair and make-up by Bahram for Bahram on Sunset/Smash Box. Styling by Gozie Azuike, Jr. of Prima Moda*

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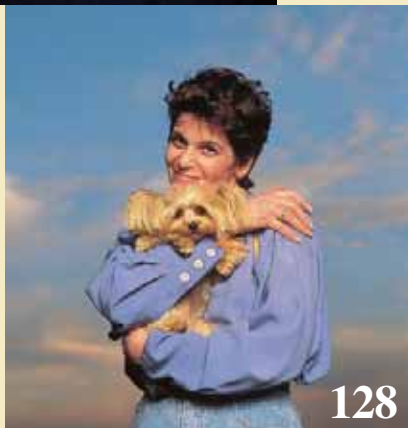
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VERSACE

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Chef Robert Irvine is a former chef to the Royal Household and the star of *Dinner: Impossible* on the Food Network and the owner of two restaurants, Ooze and Schmooze, in St. Petersburg, Florida. His first book, "Mission: Cook!" published by HarperCollins is on sale in bookstores. According to him what is "best" is determined by the diner as you will read on page 43. But a good chef will always do his best no matter what!



Marjorie Hope Rothstein is a "Luxe Lifestyle Consultant" and spa trends expert specializing in creating resort-like living at home for her clients. As a spa trends specialist her passion is finding the latest in leading edge beauty treatments. Marjorie has been writing on the luxury lifestyle and exotic travel for publications such as *Malibu*, *The Art of Living Well* and *Agora Publications*. In her column "Living the 5-Star Life" (page 48) she gives us a glimpse of the perfection of the Golden Door Spa. She lives in Los Angeles.

Owan Swaby is the Vice President of Fifi & Romeo that has a flagship boutique in Los Angeles and 10 other stores in Japan. The store caters to a celebrity clientele such as Christina Aguilera and Jessica Alba, to name a few. With years of experience catering to pets and their owners, Owen has many guidelines on caring for pampered pets. His article on providing your pet with the best essentials for an enhanced life (page 88) gives sensible advice to pet owners who care about the well-being of their four legged friends.



Glenda Ross has been the director of Celebrities Staffing Services for the past ten years and has catered to the Who's Who internationally. As a connoisseur in the staffing industry her expertise is highly valued, so much so that some of her celebrity clients work exclusively with her agency to staff their various estates. Her article "The People Upstairs are Bringing Uniforms Back!" (page 26) bring much insight into this issue that many estates are having to deal with.

Karen Walker Ryan, the Founder and President of Estate Staffing by Heartland, has been screening private service applicants for 23 years. She is on the board of directors of the International Association of Private Service Professionals and the International Butlers Guild and a member of the Association of Premier Nanny Agencies and the International Nanny Association. On page 24 she encourages employers to provide household workers with vehicles if they need them to run errands rather than have the employees use their own cars—her reasons have good cause.



Justin Sky Womack is a professional nanny with over six years' experience under his belt. He loves working with children and has mentored, cared for and tutored boys and girls of all ages. His charges look up to him as a role model which allows him to reach out to them and help them in reaching their goals. On page 32 he discusses the differences between nannies and mannies and why families prefer one over the other.

Mandie Green is a former personal assistant who has worked for top celebrities in Hollywood. Her experiences have shown her the real ups and downs of assisting in tinsel town—indeed more than once she found her self in a very tight spot. Her article on page 30 was written as a result of a recent murder of an employer by her personal assistant. Mandie delves into some of the extreme work situations that assistants have to face on a daily basis that may push some of them over the edge.



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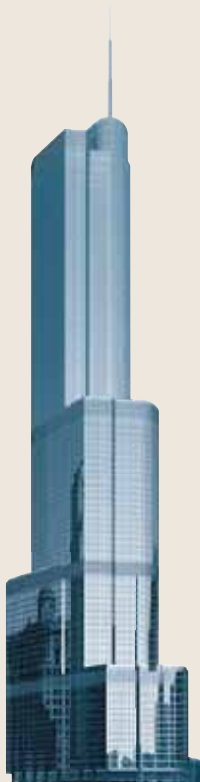
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Have Your Say...

MAGNIFICENT ROGER

I was so pleased that you featured Roger Williams in your holiday issue. I have been a great fan of his for many years, and he has never ceased to astound me with his talent, showmanship, and artistry. He is a brilliant man and a musical genius. His music comes deep from within him, and you can hear and feel it with every chord of music. This is a man who is one with his music. Indeed, he plays with genuine and earnest feeling, which makes his music so powerful. I believe that he will still be playing to crowds at the age of 100—he has that much zeal and tenacity!

*James K.
Madison, TN*

HEDGE FUNDS GOING TO THE BEADS

What an amazing story Joan Hornig has—very few people with a financial head on their shoulders also have creative hands and minds. Well, Joan has certainly proved the opposite is true. I can understand her husband's bafflement at her wanting to string beads when she should have been dealing with other more “serious” issues! It takes a really courageous and confident person to follow her heart and switch careers so drastically. Donating 100% of the profit to charity she makes on each jewelry piece is equally admirable. I believe that we will be hearing a lot more about Joan in the coming years.

*Katherine M.
Houston, TX*



SUPERWOMAN KATHY

How does Kathy Ireland do it—a thriving billion-dollar business that requires much of her time, plus a husband and three kids who need her full attention, and yet she is able to survive without a nanny or a personal assistant! I am a mom with two children and I can't imagine my life without our nanny or my personal assistant. Reading about Kathy Ireland's hand-on dedication to her family does make me feel somewhat guilty. But then, perhaps if she had high-spirited children like mine she would have a quick change of mind and hire a nanny.

*Melinda T.
Beverly Hills, CA*

DON'T FORGET THE PETS

I must commend your Owen Swaby for the tremendous gift resources for pets and their owners he provided in your December issue. I found the list very useful and as a result was able to order three great Christmas gifts for friends with pets. Thanks, Owen, and keep up the good work!

*Sally K.
Chesapeake, VA*

SECURITY WIZE

Thank you so much for the Miriam Wizman column in your magazine. I had a wake-up call when I read her advice on disability income protection. I am a house manager and my wife is a housekeeper/cook. We have been fortunate to have consistent work for the last six years since we have been together. We now have two children, and I realize that a life insurance policy is barely enough protection for our family. We are now looking into a disability income insurance policy that will give our family the security it deserves. Thank you, *Celeb Staff*!

*Roger L.
Peonia, AZ*

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Dear Pauline,

Q: My husband is a well-known public figure, and we lead a very active social life. We have a large home, and we have a staff of six: a personal assistant, two nannies, a housekeeper/cook, a part-time housekeeper, and a driver. We have been hiring maids for over 15 years and have never had a problem with any of them. We respect our workers and expect the same from them. Our housekeeper/cook (Lisa) is a resident alien who we hired through an agency. She had excellent references, and we were very happy with her. We started her on a salary of \$900 per week which I paid her in cash, an arrangement that she asked for until she was able to resolve a problem with her bank. Records of the cash payments were forwarded to our accountant.

Five months after she started working, Lisa gave us two weeks' notice of her intention to leave because she needed time for herself. Even though our guarantee period had run out, the agency that had placed Lisa decided to provide us with a replacement at no extra charge. A replacement was found in three days, and we decided to hire her immediately. We told Lisa that she was free to leave, as we had found a replacement. We were shocked at her reaction. She demanded to be compensated for the 10 days that she claimed were due to her out of the 14 days' notice she had given us.

We explained to her that she was the one who wanted to leave and that we had no obligation to pay her. That evening we received a very distressing and threatening email from her. Unless we paid her the \$1,800 "due" to her, she was going to report us to the IRS and the Department of Homeland Security for not deducting any withholding taxes from her salary with the intent of cheating on our income taxes and for possibly harboring an illegal alien. In regard to her salary, we were paying her cash simply to accommodate her circumstances. We are very concerned about how this will play out because of both my husband's position and the fact that we have one employee who does not have a green card.



A: This could be a very serious matter. For future purposes, please remember never to pay any worker cash no matter what kind of excuse they have. Even though cash is legal tender it is problematic when your only paper trail is in greenbacks. I hope that you kept receipts of the payments you made to this housekeeper and that your accountant did the proper withholdings. If not, I would advise you to contact your attorney immediately. I would also recommend that you contact a very good immigration attorney in regard to the matter of your undocumented worker. I wish you all the best.

PAULINE GUY, publisher and luxury consultant, takes your tough questions

E-mail your questions to Pauline Guy at pguy@celebstaff.com. You can also send your letters to: *Celeb Staff* Magazine, Ask Pauline, 9201 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 205, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number. Letters published may be edited for space and clarity.

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What Does Your Help **DRIVE?**

It pays to provide a vehicle for employees

BY KAREN WALKER RYAN



Providing a vehicle for employees' use is not only the right thing to do, it is the safest thing to do.

If errands, shopping, and chauffeuring are a regular part of your employees' job, you need to provide a vehicle for their use. Your insurance company must be notified that you have an occasional driver on the policy.

Providing a vehicle for employees' use is not only the right thing to do, it is the safest thing to do. Yes, you risk your insurance rates being hiked if an employee smashes up your car or someone

else's, and you are, of course, putting more wear and tear on one of your own cars. It would be nice to avoid all that, but the alternative is fraught with danger. If one of your employees happens to have an accident in his or her car, the injured party could come after you for requiring the employee to do errands in their own vehicle.

Although insurance laws are complicated and vary by state, insurers typically look for other claimants before paying up. Your policy should cover all your owned, hired, or rented

vehicles. Insist on what is called "Symbol 9" in most insurance circles: non-owned liability. If you do provide your employees with a vehicle for most errands, yet the employees sometimes use their own vehicles, they must inform their insurance companies. For instance, you may be moving to your summer residence for a vacation and decide to fly to that location since you already have your fleet of cars wait-

continued on page 107



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The People Upstairs Are Bringing Uniforms Back!

Professional attire reflects on the image of the household

BY GLENDA ROSS

I was recently summoned by one of our clients for a meeting with her and her Director of Residences at her Greenwich, Connecticut, estate to discuss a problem she was finally ready to address—uniforms.

We had discussed this topic several times since we had started working with her eight years prior, and we'd placed numerous candidates to work in the many estates her family owned in different parts of the world. Up until this point she had resisted having her estate staff in uniforms. Although they were one of the richest families in the world, they were a very down-to-earth family and ran an informal home.

She had a change of heart after a recent visit to a friend's estate, in the city. Her friend's estate, though not even half the size of our client's Connecticut estate, was a very formal one. All the staff wore uniforms, and for the first



time she took note of what I had been trying to say for the past eight years.

She was now ready to discuss the “Big U.” The problem was that all the staff was reluctant to wear uniforms. Some of them had been with the family for many years without wearing a uniform—they had no intention of wearing one now. Others were even threatening to quit. This was a big problem.

The client had their chauffeur pick me up at the office. I had never met the client before, since all our communications for the past eight years had been done via telephone. I must say I was a bit nervous to finally meet her face to face. However, all that soon disappeared. She was very gracious and made me feel right at home.

She gave me a quick tour of the estate; given its size, the tour took a little over an hour. She asked for my opinion, at which point I complemented her on her most splendid home but pointed

out that her staff's attire really did not meet with the standards of the estate. Except for the chefs, chauffeurs, and the butlers, who were professionally dressed, the rest of the staff were an eyesore—some of them were in very tight jeans, or had too much cleavage showing; others were in very old-fashioned clothes. The personal assistant was dressed in sweats while chatting away with one of the client's guests—a well-known celebrity.

There are many modern options for uniforms these days

We headed down to the maids' quarters and were greeted by a group of more than twenty very angry faces. It was quite evident that they were against wearing uniforms. They had the preconceived idea that they would have to wear ridiculously old-fashioned attire from the 18th century with strange-looking headpieces. In fact, they had colleagues working for other families who were laughed at when they ran out on errands because of their outlandish-looking uniforms. The idea of being seen in public in such uniforms appalled them.

My role in all of this was to convince these employees (most of them had been hired through our agency) that the "Big U" had evolved since the 18th century. I assured them that they would look very sharp in the uniforms I was about to show them.

In less than an hour we were all smiles. It was a unanimous YES to uniforms.

In my opinion uniforms are a must

continued on page 107

UNIFORMS FOR HOUSEHOLD STAFF



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A jumpsuit with long sleeves makes an ideal uniform for gardeners.



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This uniform can be used by housekeepers for everyday wear.



This elegant tunic and pants set is a practical and comfortable uniform for laundresses.



Chef coat with pearl button worn with the traditional pleated crown chef hat.



Khaki pants and polo shirt provides a functional uniform for nannies.



Khaki pants and polo shirt makes a smart and practical uniform for nannies.

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BY
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•The Difficult Client

Extreme clients demand extreme professionalism

BY CLAUDIA KAHN

It's inevitable in the course of running a household staffing agency: You will have to handle problem clients. It's not about whether a client is on the cover of *US Weekly* or is a household name. Difficult clients are those who constantly change their minds, cannot articulate their needs, demand a high amount of attention, or have unrealistic expectations.

In all businesses, there are clients who may seem more difficult than others, but it's important to remember that a difficult celebrity client does not necessarily mean that the "celebrity" is difficult. What is difficult is their own demanding schedule and lifestyle, which can require more than one person to handle their needs. By really homing in and listening intently to their wish lists, we try to act as a partner and offer our clients the services we think could help simplify their hectic lives. We educate them on the different types of chefs, assistants, estate managers, and other types of household help that can handle their multiple homes or busy calendars.

Difficult clients can even be "regular" people with nine-to-five jobs. When clients keep changing their minds and then unquestioningly make terrible, or even disastrous decisions, they will blame you and anyone else

but themselves. This is when situations can become inexplicably complicated. These clients can scream or use passive-aggressive tactics to try to belittle you and your hard work. The difficult person does not care if you have other clients—they will call incessantly and demand to be talked to immediately, even if they've just berated you for your incompetence.



Difficult clients are those who constantly change their minds, cannot articulate their needs, demand a high amount of attention, or have unrealistic expectations.

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Point Pressure

Extreme conditions push some assistants over the edge

BY MANDIE GREEN

When Linda Stein, the “Realtor® to the Stars,” was found dead in her Fifth Avenue apartment, friends and family were shocked to learn that her 26-year-old personal assistant, Natavia Lowery, was the suspect. While there is no justification for such an action, there are a number of aspects of the job that can make the personal assistant’s life extraordinarily stressful. Here is my opinion on common tipping points for personal assistants.

ISOLATION

Personal assisting can be lonely. Even though you may spend hours on the phone and see many people in a day, you spend a lot of time by yourself, at your boss’s home office or in the car. There’s no water cooler for a healthy dose of office gossip or for rehashing what you watched on TV the night before. It’s you and the job, with no internal support.

NO INTERVENTION

There is no handbook for personal assisting. Most celebrities have never worked in an office, much less managed employees. There’s no Human Resources department to go to for support. If your boss will not negotiate your job duties with you, you have no recourse, which can be a source of great frustration.

UNPREDICTABILITY

The rules of the job change at a whim. What was a major priority at 9 a.m. may be at the end of a long list by noon. This leads to a lot of wasted time and energy.

Celebrities are not accountable to anyone for how they treat their employees on a daily basis.

Assisting is not a linear process like most jobs; it is mainly dictated by your boss and is completely at his or her discretion. It’s incredibly unnerving to have so much chaos surrounding simple tasks, especially when you are consistently given more work than can be reasonably completed in a day.

MISTREATMENT

The biggest complaint in personal assisting is being mistreated. One infamous producer, credited on dozens of films, used to throw bagels or staplers at his assistants when he was upset. Another controversial actress was so difficult to work for that she had to pay double the normal rate and still couldn’t keep anyone for more than six weeks. These are the exceptions, but most assistants can point to times when they were treated unprofessionally.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY

Celebrities are not accountable to anyone for how they treat their employees on a daily basis.
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NANNIES VERSUS MANNIES

Let credentials, not gender, be your guide.

BY JUSTIN WOMACK

It's not easy to overcome stereotypes, such as the one that says that only women should be nannies. But thanks to changes in time, the male nanny, or "manny," is finally gaining acceptance.

In the 20th century, women gained equality, attaining rights, privileges, and roles that previously were given only to men. Now, it's the traditional "male" role in society that is broadening: The idea of a male nanny is becoming mainstream.

More males are beginning to find a niche in private child care. There are often reasons for selecting a male over a female, such as the child's gender, age, mental status, and athletic interests or abilities. And in many cases, mannies are proving to be just as nurturing, responsible, and worthy as female nannies.

To a single mother, the idea of bringing a male nanny into her home might seem comforting: She might appreciate the presence of a protective and masculine influence. To a family with older teens, an active, athletic, and healthy male nanny might seem like a better fit than a reserved female nanny. Single fathers might feel more comfortable hiring a male counterpart—especially if the position is "live-in."

Hiring a nanny should be based upon finding the most qualified individual to trust with your children and accept as part of your families. I have found that education, driving record, clean criminal history, years of experience, lifestyle habits, and personality play greater roles in a nanny's long-term success than whether the nanny is male or female.

Ultimately, hiring a manny should be a family decision. After selecting the most qualified and personable candidate, it's best to



In many cases, mannies are proving to be just as nurturing, responsible, and worthy as female nannies.

start with a trial period to ensure a proper fit personally and professionally. By not allowing stereotypes or preconceived ideas to cloud your thinking, you might just find an invaluable long-term addition to your family. **C**

JUSTIN WOMACK is a professional manny with more than six years' experience under his belt. He has cared for and tutored children of all ages and impacted their lives by serving as a positive male role model.

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Making Dust Disappear

Arm yourself with
the right tools

BY CAROL SCUDERE

Wealthy families want their homes to look pristine and dust-free. For people with allergies, keeping a home free of dust is essential to maintaining health.

Fortunately, there are many dust-busting tools on the market today, from vacuum cleaners with advanced HEPA filters to microfiber dust cloths.

Microfiber cleaning cloths clean dirt, dust, grease, and grime from

any hard surface, without cleaners or chemicals—which is important for those who don't tolerate chemical smells. They are available in a variety of colors for different projects. We recommend www.MysticMaid.com for microfiber cloths and other cleaning supplies.

Dust mops are used to dry-clean hardwood floors. They work better than brooms, because they trap and hold fine dust. They should be laundered regularly.

Lambswool dusters are especially good for removing cobwebs and dusting chandeliers, ceiling fans, Venetian blinds, mini-blinds, and wooden or cloth walls. Large ones are useful for wood floors and leather or cloth-covered walls. Never use this type of duster on rough wood or masonry; it will stick to rough surfaces.

The best feather dusters are made from female ostrich feathers. They are softer and absorb dust (until you shake them outside). They are perfect for touch-up dusting of glass-covered artwork, glass on china cabinets, windows, and door frames.

Vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters are your best weapons against dust. With the right attachments, you can clean carpets, bare floors, lampshades, upholstered furniture, drapes, and appliances.

How often you dust depends on how well the air filter works in the home, the amount of traffic in the home, the homeowners' preferences, and whether anyone in the family has allergies.

Dust occurs not just at eye level; natural air currents in the house deposit dust high (near the ceiling) and low (on the floor). After traffic stirs it up, it lands heavily on furniture legs and the lower half of larger pieces of furniture. A good dust detective remembers this pattern. Always work from top to bottom, back to front: Start high in the room and move down, from the back forward. This way you will not dust anything twice.

When you use a cloth or duster, turn it to a clean side when it becomes covered with dust. Shake or replace it periodically to prevent spreading dust. Always dust with a smooth motion—never a slinging one. Avoid dust-attracting sprays and oily polishes on pieces where the finish can maintain its own luster.

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Alien Candidates for Household Help

Precautions are needed to ensure you hire a law-abiding person

BY MICHAEL McCANN

In the United States, the agricultural, construction and service industries depend on immigrants. Yet the avenues for citizenship and full membership in American society play a significant role in the labor force. Millions of illegal workers contribute to our labor pool. Many illegal immigrants are gravitating to the domestic arena, where they are responsible for keeping thousands of households in tip-top shape. Is there a risk in hiring aliens with green cards as household help? And how does that risk compare with hiring aliens without green cards?

A United States Permanent Resident Card, popularly known as a green card, is an identification card for lawful permanent residents who do not have U.S. citizenship. It also provides proof that the holder has permission to conditionally reside and take employment here. After September 11, Department of Homeland Security officials began to sporadically ask people if they were U.S. citizens, and if not, they required the person to present a Permanent Resident Card or other proof of legal status.

Many illegal immigrants from other countries are gravitating to the domestic arena.

Green cards are issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (which was absorbed into and replaced by the new U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security). If an immigrant wants to work while his application for a green card is pending, an Employment Authorization Document is needed. In 2006, 1,266,264 green cards were issued, with 173,753 of them to persons born in Mexico. A Pew Hispanic Center study released last year estimates that the total number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. has risen to about 12 million. With over 12 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, it is no wonder that green cards and Social Security cards are widely counterfeited.

The majority of immigrants seeking domestic employment are good, hard-working people. However, whether you are hiring a citizen of the United States or an immigrant who has not achieved citizenship, the same rules apply for determining the safety of your prospective employee.

CHECK AROUND

A private security firm can conduct a comprehensive background check on your prospective worker. While more difficult to conduct on an alien, a background check should be initiated. When the candidate applies to work for your home, ask for multiple personal and work references. When you or your security firm calls each reference, ask the reference source for additional references.

Make sure you know where this prospective employee lives, and, if at all possible, check out the address to ensure it is valid. Make sure that a thorough check is engaged on his or her Social Security number, as bogus cards are widely used.

REFERRAL FROM TRUSTED FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE

The best possible referral for any employee who will be working at your home is one from a trusted friend or associate. Do not beg off on engaging a thorough background check.

EVOLVING LEGISLATION

Immigration reform is complex. It affects employer enforcement as well as other vital issues, including border security, health care, tuition benefits, etc. As the federal government struggles to enact a comprehensive immigration reform solution, state legislators have been introducing a record number of bills to address immigration challenges. As of April 2007, state legislators in all 50 states had introduced at least 1,169 bills and resolutions related to immigration or immigrants and refugees. This is more than twice the total number of bills introduced in 2006.

ONCE HIRED....

Once hired, make unexpected visits to your home. If the employee was hired for a childcare position, invest in digital video surveillance technology. Children who are cared for by foreign-born domestic workers are often exposed to another culture and language.

The bottom line is that when you hire employees—whether U.S. citizens or alien residents—to work in your home it is vital that you engage in comprehensive due diligence to ensure you are welcoming a law-abiding, upstanding, and trustworthy person into your domicile. **C**

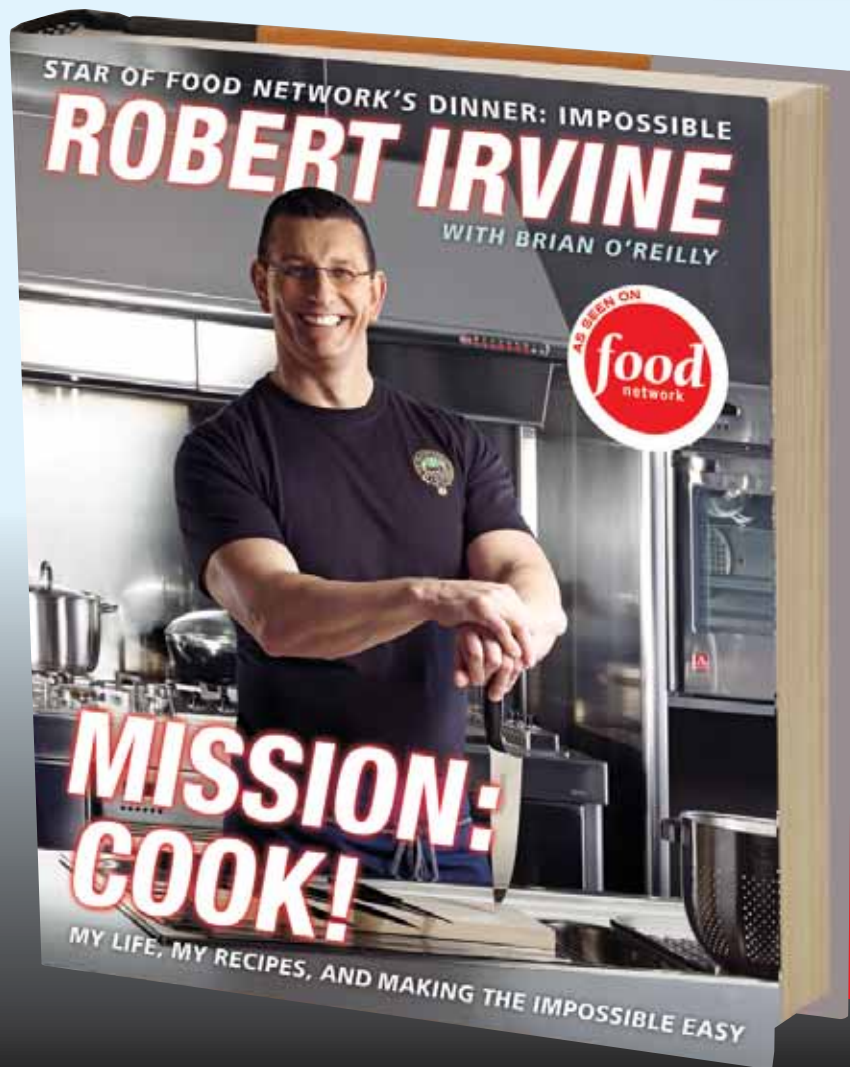
MICHAEL McCANN is President of New York-based McCann Protective Services (MPS), www.mccannmps.com, an executive protection agency. Prior to founding MPS, McCann was Chief of Security for the United Nations and a Commanding Officer for the NYPD.

With over 12 million immigrants here illegally, it is no wonder that green cards and Social Security cards are widely counterfeited.



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BY PAULINE GUY



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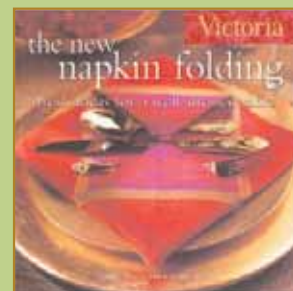
Translated from French, this book is filled with a detailed history of linen, from chintz to damask, and is illustrated with many beautiful pictures. The images of lace and embroidery are stunning. De Bonneville provides comprehensive information about various types of linens, as well as different fibers, colors, and weaves. This is an excellent gift for anyone who collects linen or who does fine embroidery.



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PAULINE GUY, publisher of *Celeb Staff* magazine, is also a children's book author and an avid reader. She has been collecting books on philosophy, child development, psychology, health, decorating and cooking for more than 15 years. Pauline is a world traveler and loves to watch children grow and develop to their fullest potential.

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Be a Winner “G in the Savings” Game”

Don't wait until it is too late

BY MIRIAM WIZMAN

Like dieting, budgeting your expenses only works if you have a long-term commitment to sticking with the plan. However, human nature leads many of us to become frustrated when we can't immediately have the things we need or want. As a result, the best-laid budgeting plans can become ineffective. That's why adopting a "pay yourself first" attitude can have a positive impact on your long-term budgeting, spending, and saving practices.

Following these simple steps can help you take control now and pave the way for a bright future:

1. **LOOK CLOSELY AT WHAT YOU SPEND.** Begin the process by recording all your expenses, such as rent or mortgage and utilities; services such as childcare; and necessities such as food, clothing, and medical expenses.

2. **INCLUDE A LINE FOR "SAVINGS" WITH EXPENSES.** If you treat savings as an expense that must be made on a weekly or monthly basis, you may be more likely to set the money aside regularly.

3. **ALLOCATE INCOME IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGES.**

This exercise helps identify how each expense relates to your total income. Determine what percentage of your income goes to each expense, and then categorize them as either fixed (e.g., mortgage, utility bills, insurance premiums) or discretionary (e.g., dining out, travel, entertainment). You have discretion over the latter, but not the former. It is generally the discretionary expenses that erode earnings. Aim to trim these percentages wherever possible. It may be possible to make large gains in savings by reducing many expenses by small percentages.

4. **PRIORITIZE.** Take your list and rank your expenses as "important," "moderately important," or "unimportant." Eliminate those items

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DISH UP

Diner *Knows* Best

Three excellent recommendations



BY CHEF ROBERT IRVINE



The adage about the customer always being right always applies in the world of cooking and eating great food. I can bring all of my culinary skills to bear, designing a dish that employs every manner of exquisite and luxurious ingredients, meticulously prepared and perfectly presented, but if I set it before you and you taste it, and you don't like it ... game over. Just ask any mother who has cooked for a finicky child. When you are the one eating (even if you are not paying!), you are the only and final arbiter of what's good and what's not.

What makes a dish "the best?" The decision is based not only on quality, but on life experience, emotional state, location, surroundings, companionship, noise level, ambient temperature, sun spots You can see how we chefs can be slowly driven mad by circumstances beyond our control. Here are three recommendations for the most discerning palate.

MAINE LOBSTER SALAD

POACHING LIQUID

- Handfuls of fresh thyme and tarragon
- 2 bay leaves
- salt and pepper
- 6 lobster tails
- orange peel

DRESSING

- ½ cup hazelnut oil
- ¼ cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chives
- 1 tbsp. fresh tarragon, lightly chopped
- 1 tbsp. fresh thyme
- ¼ cup diced Bermuda onion

SALAD

- ½ lb. white grapes, halved
- ½ lb. black grapes, halved
- ½ lb. red grapes, halved
- 1 kiwi fruit, roughly chopped
- 1 English cucumber, peeled, seeds removed and diced
- 1 Bermuda onion, diced
- 2 peaches, finely sliced with skin on

- 1 navel orange, with skin and white pith peeled off and segmented
- 3 avocados, removed from black skin and roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp. white truffle oil

GARNISHES FOR PLATING

- 1 head butter lettuce
- 6 radicchio leaves, thinly sliced
- leaves from 2 endives
- 2 peaches
- 12 bamboo skewers

METHOD

Add thyme, tarragon, bay leaves, salt and pepper, and orange peel to enough water to cover 6 lobster tails. Heat to simmer. Insert 2 bamboo skewers into each tail to stop lobsters from curling up. Add lobster tails to the poaching liquid. Simmer 8 to 10 minutes. Shock in ice water when done.

Combine dressing ingredients (hazelnut oil, rice wine vinegar, chopped chives, chopped tarragon, thyme, diced onion) in a bowl and

whisk together until combined.

Put salad ingredients (grapes, kiwi, English cucumber, onion, peaches, navel orange, avocados) into bowl; pour dressing on top and fold together.

PRESENTATION

Put butter lettuce leaves on plate as a bed. Place sliced radicchio in center. Arrange 3 endive leaves sticking out of lettuce bed. Spoon fruit salad into center of bed. Remove bamboo skewers from lobsters, break off tail fins (to use later) and peel whole lobster tail from shell. Slice meat at an angle and arrange on top of salad. Place tail fins in center as decoration. Slice a piece of peach and "fan" as a decoration with tail fin. Drizzle with truffle oil, and enjoy!

The main course should never be
the same old thing, even on a day
reserved for traditional favorites.



GREEN PEPPERCORN STEAK AU POIVRE

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp. butter
- 1 tbsp. grapeseed oil
- salt and coarsely ground
 black pepper
- 4 tenderloin steaks, each about
 6 ounces
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 2 tbsp. green peppercorns
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp. cream
- 1 cup demi-glacé (brown sauce)

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200° (so you can keep the steaks warm). Put 2 tablespoons of the butter and the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season the steaks with salt and pepper. When the butter is melted, add the steaks and turn the heat to high. Sear on the first side for about 3 minutes; then turn and sear on the second side for 2 to 3 minutes. Lower the heat and cook until just short of your chosen level of doneness, about 7 minutes total for medium-rare. Remove to a utility platter and keep warm in the oven while you make the sauce.

Pour fat from the skillet, leaving the brown bits. Add the remaining butter and shallots and cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until the shallots are soft, about 3 minutes. Add the green peppercorns and cook for 30 seconds. Add the mustard, cream and demi-glacé and cook, stirring for 30 seconds.

Pour the sauce over the steaks, and serve.

CRISP SEA BASS WITH STUFFED LEEKS

Serves 6

INGREDIENTS FOR SAUCE

- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 onions, peeled and sliced
- 2 leeks, white part only, sliced
- 2 shallots, peeled and sliced
- 1 red onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 cups white wine
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 1 cup vegetable demi-glace
- salt and pepper to taste

INGREDIENTS FOR STUFFED LEEKS

- 4 medium to large potatoes, ½-inch dice
- ½ bunch chives, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp. unsalted butter
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 6 leeks, white part only (sliced about 2½ to 3 inches)

INGREDIENTS FOR THE BASS

- 4 tbsp. olive oil
- 6 5 oz. pieces sea bass
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 6 cipollini onions
- budding garlic chives
- thin slices of green leeks
- minced basil sprigs

SAUCE

Blanch and peel cipollini onions. In a medium sauté pan over medium heat, combine the olive oil, onion, leek, shallots and red onion, and sauté until translucent. Preheat the oven to 375°. Deglaze the pan with wine and reduce until the liquid is almost all gone. Add the stock, bring to a boil, reduce the heat and maintain at a simmer until reduced by three-fourths. While the stock is reducing, start steaming the leeks and boiling the potatoes. Pour a little oil over the cipollini onions, and roast at

375° for about 20 minutes.

When the reduction is down to about ¾ cup, strain through a fine mesh sieve and set aside.

Slowly whisk in the demi-glace to create a silky sauce that coats the back of a spoon. Season with salt and pepper.

STUFFED LEEKS

Steam leeks until tender. Boil and mash potatoes, whipping in the chopped chives, butter, salt and pepper. Transfer the smooth potato mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a one-inch round tip. Remove the center part of the leeks, using the pointed end of a chopstick to gently slide out the inner layers, pushing from the bottom upwards. Leave only one or two layers to create a hollowed-out leek. Pipe the potato mixture into each leek and set aside, keeping warm. Remove roasted cipollinis.

SEA BASS

In a medium sauté pan, heat the oil over medium heat. Season the sea bass with salt and pepper. Place skin-side down in the pan, sear on both sides (2 minutes each side), and cook to desired doneness. Remove from the heat and set aside, keeping warm.

PRESENTATION

Just before serving, re-warm the reduction and add the demi-glace as described above. To serve, place a piece of sea bass on a plate, place a stuffed leek next to it, and top with a cipollini onion. Spoon some sauce around the dish and garnish with garlic chives, sliced raw leeks, and basil. **C**

CHEF ROBERT IRVINE is a former Chef to the Royal Household and is star of *Dinner: Impossible* on Food Network. His first book, *Mission: Cook!* is currently available from HarperCollins; you can buy his *Royal Titanium* cookware on Home Shopping Network, and he owns two restaurants, *Ooze* and *Schmooze*, in St. Petersburg, Florida.



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Beyond the Golden Door

A glimpse of perfection

BY MARJORIE HOPE ROTHSTEIN



The idyllic antidote to the modern world is a trip to the spa. The “Grand Dame” of spas, called the Golden Door, was once a treasure reserved for the super wealthy and famous. This tranquil sanctuary is secluded in a remote area of Escondido, California. Its exclusivity is probably why it is favored by some of the world’s most high-profile elite, from Oprah to Martha, Barbara Bush to Barbra Streisand.

The moment I arrived, I was intrigued by what was on the other side of the infamous “golden door.” As I entered this sacred sanctuary, it revealed itself as a place of enchantment, unlike any spa I have ever experienced. Crossing the threshold, through the gilded portal, I made a commitment to myself to leave behind the outside world and surrender to this captivating place. I was open to all the mysteries that would unfold.

The first time I entered the property, I had an unmistakable sense of “being away from it all.” The original architecture is modeled after an authentic Japanese Honjin-Inn (country inn), and its exquisitely simple landscape subtly unfolded with each day.

At the beginning of the week, I was still dealing with the residue of my modern life, but by week’s end, I had totally surrendered to the tranquil setting. The property is lush with classic gardens, extensive waterfalls, and stone walkways. The award-winning Koi pond and organic vegetable garden were enough to soothe my every wayward thought.

Can you imagine being pampered beyond your wildest dreams each and every day?

Can you imagine indulging in a facial, an herbal wrap, and a hot stone massage, all in one blissful afternoon? The

It is favored by some of the world’s most high-profile elite, from Oprah to Martha, Barbara Bush to Barbra Streisand. The property is lush with classic gardens, extensive waterfalls, and stone walkways.

continued on page 109



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A GIFT FOR THE GIFTED

Jan and Bob Davidson's Nevada school caters to the best and brightest

By ALLISON KRUMHOLZ

The state of Nevada and the world of education found two heroes in Jan and Bob Davidson. Seeing a need to identify and help highly gifted children reach their potential, they decided to make a difference in their community and in the lives of children all over the world.





The Davidson Institute has become internationally recognized as the authority on gifted students.

Their journey began in 1982, when Jan Davidson founded Davidson & Associates, an educational software company known for MathBlaster and Read-Blaster. Seven years later, her husband, Bob, joined the enterprise as chairman and chief executive officer, and Davidson & Associates

soon became a publicly traded, multimillion-dollar company.

In 1997, the company was sold, and the Davidsons decided to focus their efforts on helping the nation's most gifted and talented youth. They believed that this segment of the population was neglected and underserved. As the Davidsons explain, "The profoundly gifted students in our schools are the most likely to fall through the cracks; they are the ones experiencing the great gap between their potential and the curriculum they are provided. Being under-challenged denies these brilliant students the opportunity to learn by finding solutions to complex problems or pursuing difficult tasks."

In 1999, the couple founded the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a nonprofit foundation that provides profoundly intelligent young people opportunities to develop their talents.

Families have relocated to Nevada from all over the country and even Australia to take advantage of this program.

The institute awards scholarships, publishes guidebooks, and holds retreats and online seminars for students and parents, while offering free consulting services to families and teachers. In just nine years, the Davidson Institute has become internationally recognized as the authority on gifted students.

In 2005, the Davidsons worked with the Nevada state legislature to open a public school for profoundly gifted middle- and

high-school students. The school, the Davidson Academy of Nevada, operates on the University of Nevada, Reno, campus. It is the first free public school that offers qualified students an accelerated and individualized educational program that allows them to soar academically.

The mission of the Davidson Academy is to provide profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests. To qualify, students must score in the 99.9th percentile on intelligence and



Jan and Bob Davidson

achievement tests, demonstrate evidence of superior intellectual development and academic achievement, demonstrate the motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for the environment of an accelerated educational program, and be—or intend to be—a resident of Nevada. Families have relocated to Nevada from all over the country and even Australia to take advantage of this program.

Jan and Bob Davidson are living their dream of inspiring and creating opportunities for the next generation of the world's greatest thinkers. Instead of simply retiring and writing checks to charities, they are changing the world, one student at a time. 

ALLISON KRUMHOLZ is a professional freelance writer who writes on a diversity of topics and has written for several publications including Inside Weddings. She lives in Los Angeles

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The Dirtiest Man in America

Sewage, sludge make
Mike Rowe a star

BY JAE MARGRET MICHAELS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTA ELENA







Sure, Superman could leap tall buildings in a single bound, but could he shovel penguin poo?

For many, the more impressive accomplishment is a man willing to get his hands dirty.

Enter Mike Rowe.

As the star of Discovery Channel's hit show *Dirty Jobs*, which takes an unvarnished look at America's least desirable professions, Rowe, 45, has authenticity down. He's the kind of everyman that every man strives to be, and every woman would like to have around the house—to carry out the random spider, or weed the garden, or ... just look at.

That's because what you see is what you get. As an added bonus, he sports a rakish smile, good sense of humor, an easygoing demeanor, and rugged good looks.

He's humble about it all, too. Really.

EARLY INFLUENCES

Maybe that's because he comes from humble beginnings. He and his two brothers grew up in Maryland, where his parents still live, just outside of Baltimore. They called 50 to 60 acres of land on the inner loop of an exit ramp home. Rowe explains that the property couldn't be developed because of power lines.

"Growing up, I thought I was in Montana," he recalls. "Yet we were barely a mile from the city line. I was shocked when I first visited the city center."

It was a visit that didn't happen until he was about 12, possibly because his family had work to do.

"My granddad dropped out of school during the seventh grade to work," Rowe says. "He didn't have any real training in anything. He was just born hard-wired—plumbing, stone masonry, etcetera—he just instinctively knew what to do and how to fix it."

His father was a schoolteacher and seemingly had none of that natural talent, according to Rowe, but when his grandfather had a stroke, his father became his "full-time helper."

For years he watched the pair of them work very, very hard.

"My earliest memories are of seeing two guys descending

into a hole, or a pit, or a ditch, or up into an attic," he says. "You hear banging. They emerge filthy, and the problem is solved."

Rowe claims that he takes after his father: "I'm a good sport about it, but I'm not an expert."

Strangely enough, his early influences sent him along quite a circuitous path that has landed him right back in the very life that he thought he was leaving behind forever—the life of doing dirty jobs.

THE CIRCUITOUS PATH

Just as it's unusual to reach into a snake enclosure and grab a python by the neck, Rowe's first step into show business was unorthodox. He became an opera singer.

"The reason I wanted to get into entertainment in general is that, because of what my dad and granddad did, [it would ensure that] I wouldn't have to do any of that work ever again," Rowe explains. "The opera's about as far from that as you can get."

Years later, after quite a few hosting gigs, including several with QVC, Rowe found himself in San Francisco, the city that he still calls home, as the temporary host of a show called *Evening Magazine*.

"I thought I would do a show that would make my father and grandfather laugh," he says. They shot 25 segments of his show, which had him apprentice for people who were doing the kinds

He's the kind of everyman
that every man strives to be,
and every woman would like
to have around the house.



Mike Rowe on yak ranch, Spring Brook Ranch, in Kallispell, Montana
Photography by Paul Souders; courtesy Discovery Channel



of jobs that are now featured in his Discovery Channel show. When the new general manager of *Evening Magazine* came on board, the segments were axed.

Despite this, Rowe thought he might have something, so he sent them to the Discovery Channel. They promptly ordered three.

Now in his third season with *Dirty Jobs*, Rowe couldn't be happier. He has found his niche.

"The irony for me is that to actually get a hit show with my name in the title [I had to do] the things I've been running away from all these years," Rowe says.

"I thought I would do a show that would make my father and grandfather laugh."

THE GOOD LIFE

More than 150 different dirty jobs later, this is a job that clearly suits him.

"My name—my dad's name—is out there right now," says Rowe. "I feel a responsibility to be honest when I do the show, so I am. That means, for me, I have to reveal a lot of vulnerability. I fail on that show all of the time. The experts on the show are the people that I meet."

What Rowe calls "failing" and what his growing fan base finds when they tune in are two different things. He's an expert at being charming—even while covered head-to-toe in all manner of disgusting substances. And he somehow maintains a sense of humor about it.

Dirty jobs.

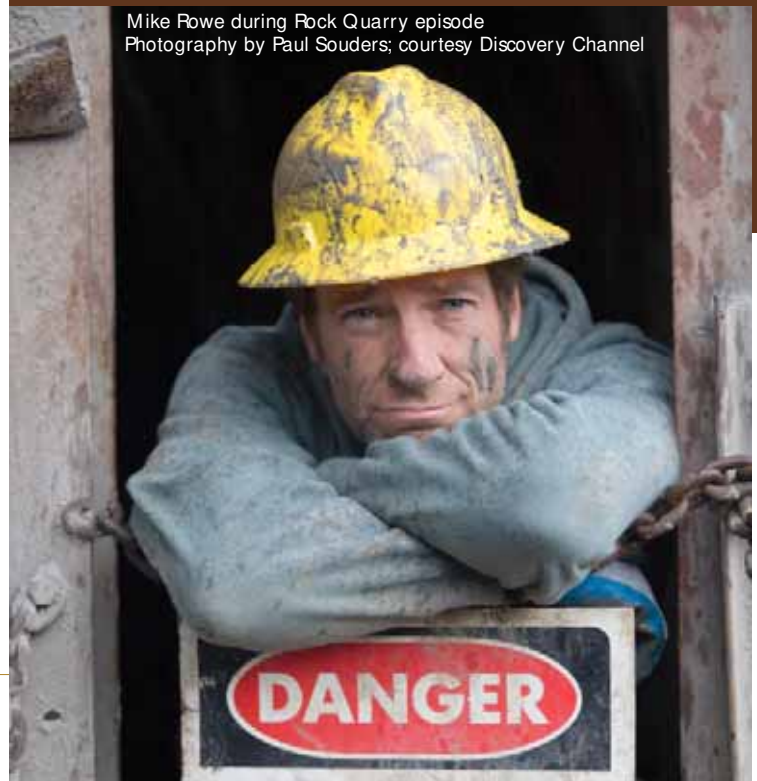
Someone's got to do 'em. 

JAE MARGRET MICHAELS is a connoisseur on world travel and culture and has been writing about her travels for over ten years. She writes for several publications and also works in the film industry.

FEBRUARY 2008

ACCORDING TO MIKE ROWE: What doing dirty jobs really does for people

- The idea that people with dirty jobs know something that the rest of us don't is really important to me, and it's important to a lot of people in the service industry.
- When you spend your life serving, whether it's the greater good or an individual, what you have that a lot of regular people don't have is perspective.
- People with dirty jobs know they're doing something. The same can be said for people in the service industry. They know when their day's over. They have balance in their life.
- People with dirty jobs rarely get angry. They're much quicker with a joke than with a criticism.
- If you can get used to a big soggy rat jumping in your lap out of a river of crap, then you're not going to get too upset about the parking ticket, or if someone didn't pick up your dry cleaning. You just had a rat in your lap. It's going to be okay.



Mike Rowe during Rock Quarry episode
Photography by Paul Souders; courtesy Discovery Channel



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PARIS REGION | FRANCE Located 35 minutes northwest of Paris in the picturesque Regional Nature Park Vexin, Chateau Villette has been remodeled beautifully in recent years with high-quality materials and finest tastes. On 185 acres of lush gardens with rolling lawns, a spectacular cascade fountain, tennis court, pool, two swan-stocked lakes, a stream, a meadow and forest, the chateau offers 18 deluxe bedrooms, 20 new bathrooms, gym, oak paneled library, octagonal grand salon, gilded music salon, elegant dining room with 16 fireplaces, three kitchens, chapel and three reception rooms, greenhouse, caretaker house, horse stables, and various outbuildings. Designed by architects François Mansart and Jules Hardouin-Mansart and landscape gardener Andre Le Notre (the team that also designed Versailles), Chateau De Villette is hence known as "Le Petite Versailles." Ideal for special events such as weddings, family vacations, seminars, meetings, retreats. For pictures and information, please visit www.ChateauVillette.com.

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THE BEST OF THE BEST IN THE HOUSEHOLD STAFFING INDUSTRY



THE HOUSEHOLD STAFFING ARENA

BY JESSICA RAINES

Illustration by Robert Salanitro

They say it takes two to tango, but when it comes to hiring household staff, it often takes three parties to conclude a hire:

- the employer who has a position to fill
- the staffing agency that is oftentimes used to find the right help
- the candidate who has to prove to the employer that he or she is the best person for the job

Welcome to the fascinating arena of household staffing. In many ways it resembles the corporate staffing world, but there are some important distinctions since most of the time the working base is the home and not the office. Many have tried working in this field and could not survive; others loved it from the word “go” and are here to tell their stories.

In this issue we are celebrating some of most seasoned professional candidates who have excelled in this field. These professionals maintain their employer’s personal spaces, prepare their food, care for their children and, in some cases, protect their lives. They are the staff behind the curtain in many celebrities’ social lives and businesses, and their careers often involve luxurious perks, high-profile contacts and exotic locales.

Some of these candidates got their jobs through word of mouth, others through ads, and the rest through agencies that search high and low to find the best candidates for their clients. In this issue, we have made our top picks of household staffing agencies around the world that have succeeded in this often challenging field.



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THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD STAFFING AGENCIES

Our top picks from across the globe

BY LAURA BELL



Celebrities and other high net-worth individuals are always on the go, but whether at home or abroad, they always need a reputable agency through which they can hire experienced and reliable household staff. Good agencies have the

welfare of their clients as their top priority and take every precaution to screen their candidates rigorously. They make sure that their roster has only qualified candidates with immaculate references. Here is *Celeb Staff's* list of recommended agencies from around the world.

THE *Best* OF THE *Best* AGENCIES

CHELSEA STAFF BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

266 FULHAM ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON, SW10 9EL, ENGLAND
TEL: 011-44-20-7351-1390 FAX: 011-44-20-7351-1390
WWW.CHELSEASTAFFBUREAU.CO.UK
EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@CHELSEASTAFFBUREAU.COM

The agency places housekeepers, chefs and cooks, nannies, couples, butlers, chauffeurs, ladies' maids, head gardeners, and estate managers within the United Kingdom and internationally. All candidates selected for their roster must have at least five years' experience within their chosen field. They provide clients with a guarantee period of three months, with one replacement allowed. Fees for permanent placements in the U.K. range from 16 percent of the gross annual salary of the candidate to 18 percent of the net annual salary. For placements outside the U.K., the fees are 20 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Candidates' references are fully verified, and when the position involves minors or the elderly, candidates are required to have an enhanced police disclosure.

FOX AGENCY

30 E. 60TH STREET, SUITE 904, NEW YORK, NY 10022
TEL: 212-753-2686

In business since 1936, the Fox Agency specializes in nannies and baby nurses. Candidates on their roster must have no less than five years' experience. Many of the agency's clientele are second-generation clients whose parents did business with the company 30 or 40 years ago. Placements are made all over the country. They do thorough reference and criminal background checks on candidates; drug testing is left for the clients to do at their discretion.

PRECISE HOME MANAGEMENT

1007 N. CALVERT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21202
TEL: 410-659-9200 FAX: 410-659-9202
WWW.PRECISEHOME.COM

Precise Home Management was established in 1984 by Andrew Lowrey, formerly a British butler, who has previously held positions as an estate manager and majordomo throughout Europe and the U.S. The agency places butlers, estate managers, couples, chefs, nannies, chauffeurs, housemen, and housekeepers domestically and internationally. The agency fee is 25 percent. They offer a guarantee period of 60 days, but they do continue the search long after the termination of a candidate. A criminal background check is conducted on candidates that are offered positions by clients.

NANNIES & HELPERS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
MONA VALE OFFICE
TEL: 011-61-2-9997-3788 FAX: 011-61-2-9979-5940
EMAIL: NANNIES@NANNIESANDHELPERS.COM.AU
WWW.NANNIESANDHELPERS.COM.AU

This agency, established in 1988, places nannies, baby nurses, mothers' helpers, housekeepers, chefs and cooks, butlers, chauffeurs, companions, and other household staff. Candidates are carefully screened and selected. Those working with children or the elderly must agree to a background check through the NSW Commission (a government agency). All candidates must have a minimum of two years' experience in their field of specialty. The agency offers a guarantee period of eight weeks, with one replacement allowed. Fifty percent of the agency fee is due upon the confirmation of the hire of a candidate, with the balance due after the trial period has ended. The fee is non-refundable.

REGAL DOMESTICS, INC

5541 NICHOLSON LANE, SUITE 303, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852
TEL: 301-770-4995
WWW.REGALDOMESTICSINC.COM

Founded in 1984 by Barbara Goldberg Goldman, for the last 24 years this agency has been placing personal assistants, house managers, chefs, butlers, nannies, cooks, and housekeepers in the U.S. and all over the world. Their fees are 20 to 30 percent of the annual salary for full-time and part-time permanent placements, and a flat rate for temporary positions. They provide their clients with a five-day trial period and a 60-day guarantee, with up to two replacements. Regal Domestic does a thorough screening of all its candidates through personal interviews, reference verification, and criminal and motor vehicle background checks.

CAMELVIEW DOMESTIC PLACEMENT SERVICE

14231 N. 7TH STREET, A-4, PHOENIX, AZ 85022
TEL: 602-996-0882 FAX: 602-953-9643
WWW.CAMELVIEWDOMESTIC.COM

Established in 1984 by Carol Hasher in response to the growing need for professional and reliable domestic personnel, the agency places housekeepers, house managers, personal assistants, domestic couples, caretakers, companions, chefs and cooks, home care assistants, and nannies. Fees depend on whether the position is part-time or full-time. They offer a 90-day guarantee period on permanent placements.

THE *Best* OF THE *Best* AGENCIES

THE HELP COMPANY

1821 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 646, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
TEL: 888-HELP-880

WWW.THEHELPCOMPANY.COM

The Help Company, founded over 20 years ago by Claudia Kahn, was the first nanny agency in Los Angeles. Since then it has expanded to the placement of housekeepers, personal assistants, executive assistants, estate managers, chefs, and eldercare professionals. They do placements all over the country and internationally.

IVOR SPENCER INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL for BUTLERS ADMINISTRATORS and PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

12 LITTLE BORNES, DULWICH, LONDON SE21 8SE, ENGLAND
TEL: 011-44-020-8670-0055

WWW.IVORSPENCER.COM

Established in 1981, the school specializes in the training and placement of butlers and personal assistants. Their placement division places graduates locally and internationally. No background checks are conducted; these are left to the hiring employer. Fees are 20 percent of the first year's gross salary. If an employee leaves after three months, a sliding scale applies. Ivor Spencer International does not offer a guarantee period.

CELEBRITIES STAFFING SERVICES

NEW YORK: 212-227-3877

BEVERLY HILLS: 310-273-0958

WWW.CELEBRITIES-STAFFING.COM

EMAIL: CELEB.DOMES@VERIZON.NET

This agency, which has been in existence for over a decade, places nannies, nannies, housekeepers, butlers, chefs, personal assistants, house managers, chefs, and other household professionals in the homes of royalty, celebrities, top executives, and professional families both nationwide and internationally. All Celebrities Staffing candidates must pass thorough background checks, which include reference verification, criminal and sex offender background checks, DMV records, and drug testing. Client confidentiality is treated as a priority, and all candidates are required to sign confidentiality agreements.

CONSULTING HOME & GARDEN

KILIANSTADTER STRABE 52, D-61137, SCHONECK 2, GERMANY
TEL: 011-49-6187-292-599 FAX: 011-49-6187-991-200

WWW.CONSULTING-HOME-GARDEN.DE

Established in 2000, the agency does domestic and international placements of caretakers, housekeepers, nannies, maternity nurses, cooks, butlers, chauffeurs, bodyguards, and yacht and ship personnel. Their fee is 19 percent of the gross annual salary of the placed candidate, plus value added. They offer a trial period of six months. Criminal background checks are performed at the request of the client for an additional cost of £ 120.00.

ESTATE STAFFING BY HEARTLAND

5500 GRANT CREEK ROAD, MISSOULA, MT 59808

TEL: 800-866-6266 FAX: 406-549-7304

WWW.ESTATESTAFFING.COM

Established in 1984 by Karen Walker Ryan as a nanny placement service, the agency has expanded to full household and estate placement, as well as elderly care personnel. The agency conducts extensive screening of candidates, including criminal background checks and DMV reports. The agency charges a fee of 20 percent of the candidate's first year's gross annual salary, and it offers a 60-day guarantee period.

PROFESSIONAL DOMESTIC SERVICES & INSTITUTE

2000 CARRIAGE ROAD, POWELL, OH

TEL: 740-881-3358

WWW.HOUSESTAFF.NET

Established 19 years ago, Professional Domestic Services & Institute places all types of household staff including nannies, housekeepers, estate managers, house managers, and butlers for both formal and informal households nationwide. Its institute provides certified training for professional household managers and butlers, as well as continuing education classes for estate managers, housekeepers, and nannies. Its placement fee is 20 percent of the employee's first year's gross annual wages and benefits; this comes with a 60-day guarantee. For a fee of 25 percent of the employee's first year's gross annual wages and benefits, the guarantee period is extended to 120 days.

THE *Best* OF THE *Best* AGENCIES

RIVIERA RECRUITMENT

33, Bd. GÉNÉRAL LECLERC, "LE FORUM"
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TEL: 011-33 492-413-157 FAX: 011-33-492-413-159

WWW.RIVIERARECRUITMENT.COM

Founded in 1996 by Kashka Kornelak, Riviera Recruitment began as Monte Carlo Nannies but has now expanded its services to provide a more comprehensive list of personnel, which includes housekeepers, companions, chefs and cooks, chauffeurs, estate managers, butlers, nannies, au pairs, maternity nurses, tutors/teachers and personal assistants. The agency also provides 24-hour, 7-day-a-week emergency services such as babysitting, maternity-nursing, and cleaning. Clients are serviced in France and Monaco, but the agency also caters to clients worldwide.

ZOË INTERNATIONAL, INC.

NEW YORK, NY

TEL: 212-227-3880

WWW.ZOEHOME CARE.COM

This agency specializes exclusively in the placement of live-in and live-out home caregivers—RNs, LPNs, home health aides, nurse's aides, and companions—to provide loving care for the sick and the elderly nationwide. The agency works with family members to ensure that their loved ones are cared for privately in the dignity of their homes or by the patient's hospital bedside.

SANDRA TAYLOR AGENCY

280 S. BEVERLY DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA

TEL: 310-205-2810 FAX: 818-788-7599

WWW.SANDRATAYLORAGENCY.COM

Founded 39 years ago, Sandra Taylor Agency places housekeepers, nannies, chefs, couples, certified nurse's aides, companions for elderly, butlers, housemen, cooks, majordomos, personal secretaries, assistants, chauffeurs, and estate managers. The agency fees are determined by the guarantee period chosen by the client: For three-months coverage the fee is equivalent to one month's salary; for six-months coverage the fee is 10 percent of the annual salary, etc. They conduct a criminal record investigation on selected candidates, inspect driving records, and require nannies to take TB tests.

PAVILLION AGENCY

15 EAST 40TH STREET, SUITE 400, NEW YORK, NY 10016

TEL: 212-889-6609 FAX: 212-532-0947

WWW.PAVILLIONAGENCY.COM

This agency operates as a family business and has been in existence since 1962. It places nannies, housekeepers, domestic couples, butlers, housemen, chefs, chauffeurs, majordomos, gardeners, and estate managers throughout the U.S. Pavillion Agency's 30-day trial period ensures compatibility of the candidate placed. Full screenings are performed on all candidates. A criminal background check is conducted on all placements, and a motor vehicle check is performed for positions for which driving is required.

ROBERT HANSELMAN DOMESTIC AGENCY

MADISON, GA

TEL: 888-838-4404 FAX: 775-242-9815

WWW.PLANETDOMESTICS.COM

This agency places professional help all over the U.S. They provide placement for butlers, housemen, housekeepers, laundresses, chefs, domestic couples, butlers, companions, personal assistants, ranch staffing, and more.

S'IL VOUS PLAÎT

BEVERLY HILLS, CA

TEL: 310-395-8812 FAX: 310-458-4889

WWW.SILVOUSPLAITAGENCY.COM

S'il Vous Plait was founded by a former teacher, originally from France, who worked in the U.S. as a nanny while studying. The agency places European-trained household professionals, such as nannies, personal assistants, and chefs. A 90-day guarantee is offered to clients. The agency fee is determined by the length of employment. For assignments over 90 days, the fee is 12 percent of the employee's first annual gross salary, or \$1,000, whichever is greater. For employment shorter than 90 days, the fee is 25 percent of the total gross salary paid to the employee.

Celebrities Staffing Services



Staffing Estates & Mansions Internationally

New York 212-227-3877

Beverly Hills 310-273-0958

www.celebrities-staffing.com

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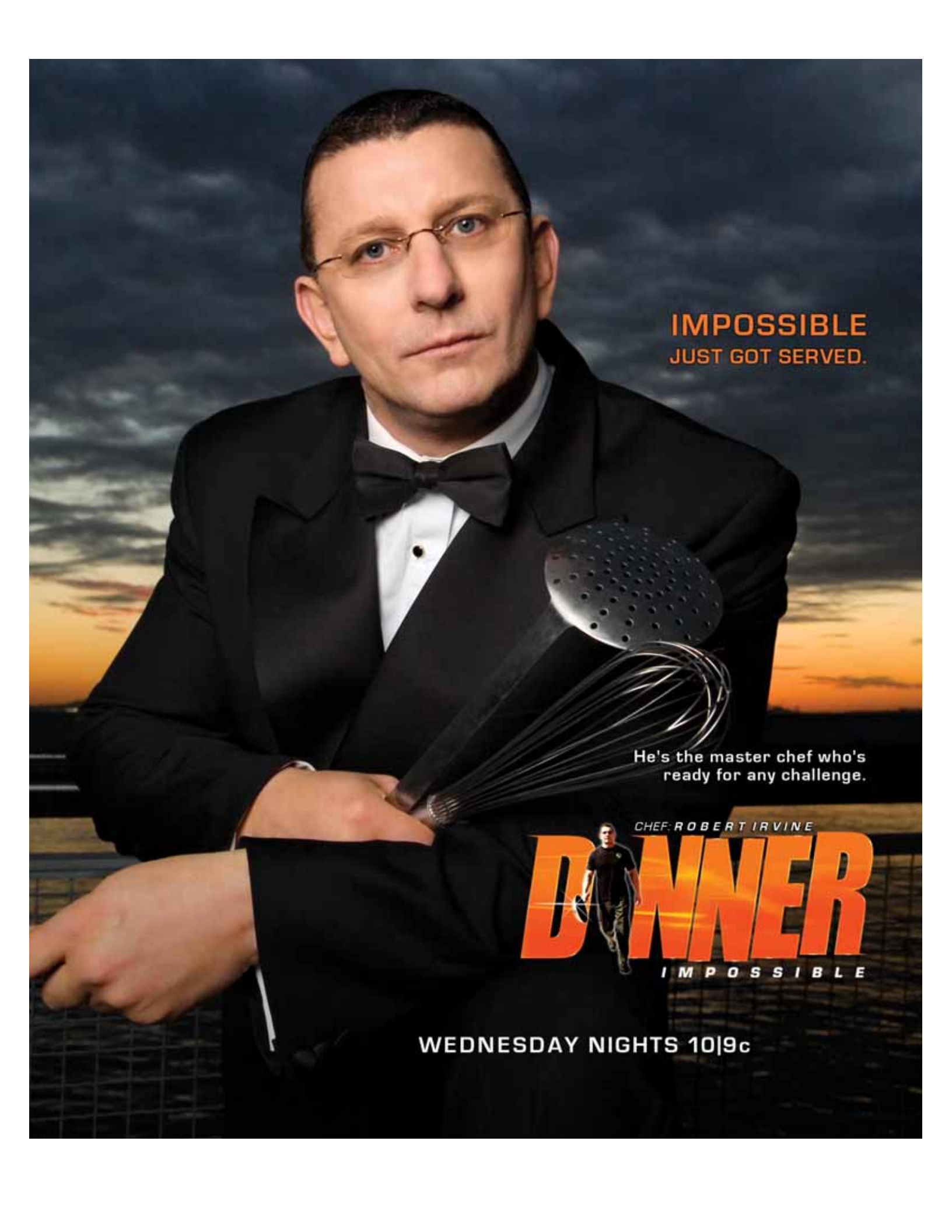
*As seen on Access Hollywood and reviewed in Town & Country, New York Post,
TMZ, Star, Celebrity Living, Avenue, Quest and much more.*

Baby Nurses
Governesses
Nannies
Mannies (Male Nannies)
Housekeepers
Housemen
Butlers
Cooks
Chefs
Social Secretaries
Executive Assistants

Personal Assistants
House Managers
Estate Managers
Couples
Bodyguards
Chauffeurs
Personal Valets
Lady's Maids
Laundresses
Gardeners
Live-In/Out

Caretakers
Pet Sitters
Personal Trainers
Personal Shoppers
Elder Care Nurses
Bedside Care Aide for the Sick
Companions
Yacht Captains
Yacht Engineers
Yacht Stewards/Stewardesses
Full-Time/Part-Time

**** For Service With A Touch of Class ****

A promotional poster for the TV show 'Dinner: Impossible'. The main image shows Chef Robert Irvine, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. He is holding a large metal whisk and a perforated metal strainer. The background is a dramatic sky with dark clouds and a bright orange sunset or sunrise horizon. In the bottom right corner, there is a small inset image of a person running, which is part of the show's logo.

IMPOSSIBLE
JUST GOT SERVED.

He's the master chef who's
ready for any challenge.

CHEF ROBERT IRVINE

DINNER
IMPOSSIBLE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 10|9c

THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS



BY BETH TORRE

Estates are run like corporations, and, much like corporations, have top executives who call the shots in the mansions of their celebrity bosses.

Behind every great estate or corporation there is an a-team of exceptional workers whose combined efforts play a major role in the upkeep and maintenance of the mansions, offices, grounds, vehicles, the care for the children, and the provision of luscious meals; a team that ensures that the wheels of such a big enterprise are well oiled, that everything is well run, and that nothing is lacking. Estates are run like corporations, and, much like corporations, have top executives who call the shots in the mansions of their celebrity bosses, depending on their area of expertise. The president or vice president of human resources, the director of residences, the estate manager, and the house manager are the people at the top—they are the REAL BOSSES at the helms of these vast empires.

PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES:

This person is not only in charge of hiring corporate staff, but also recruits all the required household staff for their bosses, from bodyguards to housekeepers. You name it, human resources has the final say.

THE DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCES:

In charge of the employer's multiple properties all over the world, the director of residences reports directly to the employer. For families owning five properties or fewer, an estate manager is more than capable of overseeing all estates; a director of residences is typically hired to manage seven or more properties and/or to manage massive estates as large as 120,000 square feet. These executives manage yearly budgets as high as \$5 million for the upkeep of the estates they are in charge of. The money is used for repairs and renovations, staff salaries, vendors' bills, household expenses such as food, linens, toiletries, the purchase of some high-ticket items on behalf of their employers, etc.

THE ESTATE MANAGER:

The role of this executive is to ensure the smooth running of the properties under his or her care. Seasoned estate managers can successfully manage up to five properties for their employers at the same time. Although these properties may be located in different regions of the world, well-experienced estate managers are able to handle the multiple demands of high profile properties with ease. Part of the duties of the estate manager is the hiring of appropriate staff to ensure the efficient operation of the employer's various estates. The estate manager reports either to a director of residences if the estate has one or directly to the employer. This executive may be in charge of budgets as high as \$3 million, based on the size of the estates.

THE HOUSEHOLD MANAGER:

Also called the house manager, the household manager's sole responsibility is the management of one property, which consists of hiring and training of staff, coordinating parties and other social events, making travel arrangements, liaising with vendors, etc. An easy job, you say? Not in some cases, where the property they have to oversee spans the size of a football field! This professional may be required to handle budgets of up to \$1.5 million.

THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS

In general, for families with numerous estates, the director of residences will employ several estate managers, house managers and butlers to manage the various estates in different locations. These people will report directly to the director of residences.

Overall, the role of these top executives is to ensure the smooth running of the estates in their care, which typically includes such tasks as hiring and supervising household staff, organizing parties and events, overseeing the care and preservation of the fine art and antiques, the management of estate accounts, the supervision of all renovations and new construction, the maintenance of cars, etc. Of course, each estate is unique, and these dynamics vary from employer to employer.

Here are some of the best professionals serving some of the most high-profile individuals in the country:

VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS

VASHTA DUNLAP

Vashta Dunlop is the Vice President of Human Resources and Operations at Bad Boy Entertainment, founded by Mr. Sean Combs, the renowned entertainment mogul. Dunlop's job is to recruit both corporate and household staff for her powerful employer, for whom she hires only the best. This executive enjoys her job tremendously; not only does it allow her to meet a lot of interesting people, but the momentum and the pace of work is energizing. Previously the director of operations at Battery Park City Authority in New York, she procured her current job through word of mouth ten years ago and has never looked back. She earns a salary in the six figures, in addition to generous benefits and perks. According to her, this position is more than a job—it is a lifestyle to which she adheres 24/7; she is actually on call around the clock. For most of us, an average day in the life of this influential woman is unimaginable. Her BlackBerry is her most essential work tool—with it, she is accessible at all times. A word of advice to any top head-hunting firm looking to snatch Ms. Dunlop from Bad Boy Entertainment: No amount of money will lure this loyal executive away from her boss's employ—she is literally glued to his side.



DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE

MIA PITTS



Ms. Pitts has been the director of residences for an A-list celebrity couple in Southern California for the last four years. She manages her employers' U.S. and international properties and is the person in charge of hiring the numerous staff needed to maintain them. Her sole objective is to ensure that everything runs smoothly on all fronts. Satisfaction of the needs of her employers is paramount. She chose this field of work because it seemed like a natural progression from her previous position as a personal assistant, which also had her tending to the lifestyle and needs of her employer. She enjoys the daily challenges and fluidity of environment that her job offers, and she loves the opportunity to work with many different types of people. Her salary is in the six figures. Those employers looking to hire the best will certainly have to look elsewhere; no offer will tear her from her celeb bosses—and who can blame her? Her favorite work gadget is her BlackBerry, which greatly assists her in the execution of her many responsibilities.

PAUL CANZANO

Paul Canzano's love for the culinary profession (which he inherited from his mother) led him to a career as a chef, and over the years his cooking and managerial skills steered him into estate management, which finally opened the door for him to become a director of residences. For the last 23 years he has enjoyed the privilege of working in a world to which few have access—he has managed the estates of celebrities and cooked for many influential people around the world: President Gerald Ford, producer Joe Hamilton, Kirk Kirkorian, Leonard Rabinowitz, and others. Currently employed and based in New York City, he is earning a six-figures salary directing the affairs of multiple properties all over the world for one employer. He has come to value highly his ability to "put out fires" so that his employers don't have to be burdened or inconvenienced in any way. He cannot live without his laptop computer with VPN (Virtual Private Network) capability; it allows him full remote access to his office computer when he is traveling to the various estates he oversees as the director of residences.



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DONALD JARDINE

Donald Jardine has been in the field of management for more than 25 years and has worked for many prominent families both on the East and West coasts. He started in the household service field as a butler and house manager, and was promoted to estate manager after proving his capabilities. It was a natural progression for him to advance to director of residences, overseeing multiple large international properties for one of the most influential people in the world. This prominent Seattle family owned numerous estates all over the world, with a 120,000-square-foot estate as their home base. While on this last assignment, Jardine employed a staff of 30 to staff this massive mansion. Jardine's contract with his last employer has ended, so he is currently in the market for a new challenge. He is willing to move anywhere in the country, but his services don't come cheap—including benefits, his last salary was in the high \$200,000s!

ESTATE MANAGER

ELLEN HADLEY

Ellen Hadley has been managing properties for 20 years, 13 of which she has spent as estate manager to the "who's who." She is currently employed by a high-profile family with residences in New York City and the Hamptons, as well as in the Caribbean. She chose this line of work because it allows her to do what she really loves to do—create and maintain amazing properties. Her job affords her the opportunity to coordinate events that have allowed her to meet artists, celebrities, politicians, and many other high profile people, some of whom she now calls friends. Hadley, who makes a six-figures salary, is based in New York but travels extensively to manage other properties. The one gadget she cannot live without is a World Edition Blackberry, which allows her to stay on top of things even while on the road.



SCOTT GREGORY

Before becoming an estate manager, Scott Gregory worked as a police officer who specialized in executive protection and emergency driving. When he left police work, it was a natural transition for Gregory to start working as an executive protection agent/chauffeur. Having always been interested in cooking, he also went to culinary school and studied to become a certified chef. He felt that it would broaden the scope of services he could offer to any employer. In his time working in the private service field, he gained experience in the management of estates and worked himself up through the ranks to become a chef and estate manager. Gregory has worked for several high-profile employers. Currently employed, he is making an unbelievable salary. His favorite work tool is his small day planner, which he cannot do without—it keeps him on track, which in turn keeps his boss happy!



CHARLES GREGORY HAGINS

Charles Hagins, who has been in the field of estate management for over 24 years, is currently on a temporary assignment for a Saudi Arabian prince who owns estates all over the world. Hagins's sole responsibility on this assignment is to manage the prince's West Coast estates. Previously, he spent 21 years in the employ of a single family—Mr. Ghazi Aita and his wife Salma. Aita was ambassador to the United Nations for the Republic of San Marino, a small republic in the Alps. Hagins managed all their properties, including the 8.5-acre estate at Holmby Hills, California, which was sold when Mr. Aita retired to Monte Carlo due to illness. Hagins got into this line of work quite by chance while he was taking classes in art and landscape design at UCLA. He learned about this position with Mr. Aita by word of mouth and got the job based on his previous experience in construction. His favorite work tool is his laptop computer, which he carries wherever he goes. His contract with the Saudi prince and his family is about to end, as his employers prepare to go back home. How much would an Estate Manager of this caliber command? You can be sure that it is nothing less than a six-figures salary.



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HOUSE MANAGER

JEAN CHARLES HOSCHET



Jean Charles Hoschet has been working as a house manager for the last 16 years. He loves this line of work because of the challenges and the opportunities it presents; running a luxury estate is very demanding, and every day affords him the opportunity to discover something new that can enhance the running of the property under his care. He also appreciates the wonderful opportunity to meet prominent people. He is currently making a salary in the high \$90,000's, happily working for a high-profile family. Jean's favorite work tool is his computer—it allows him to have access to the internet to do any research he needs, and it keeps him organized at all times.

CYNTHIA MORGAN

Cynthia has been managing homes for over 20 years. For the last four years she has served as house manager for the 12,000-square-foot historical home known as the Blanding House, which sits at the top of Belvedere Island above Tiburon (across the bay from San Francisco). Her employers have several homes around the globe and are not in residence most of the time. In their absence, she makes sure that the house is kept in top form and is always sparkling, clean since her employers can show up with guests at any time, unannounced. As busy as the maintenance of the house keeps her, Cynthia is one of those professionals who has it somewhat easy and does enjoy a fair amount of free time. When her employers and their guests are in, however, she ensures that they are well taken care of and treats them to her sumptuous dishes. (Yes, she is also an excellent cook!) Cynthia enjoys her job tremendously and has no intention of moving from this historic landmark home any time soon.



MARIO ADAD



Adad has been working in the private homes of the rich and famous for the last 17 years. He earns an income of \$100K and up, often with additional perks such as housing and a car. He started off as a caretaker/handyman for Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy and has worked his way up to becoming house manager. His most important asset has been his experience and wisdom. What has helped him to be successful, he says, is his confidence and positive attitude and the fact that he groomed himself by taking classes in etiquette and protocol. What he likes most about his line of work is that it has allowed him to learn about sophistication and fine living—the best the world has to offer in fine wines, cigars, clothing, and other luxuries. It has also given him the opportunity to travel all over the U.S. and internationally.

MARJORIE GRAHAM

Marjorie Graham has been working as a house manager since 1999 and absolutely loves her work—she enjoys the challenges of the position and finds satisfaction in resolving problems as they present themselves. Previously, she worked for almost 20 years as a model's agent for top modeling agencies such as Ford and Elite, where she became skilled in negotiating contracts and caring for every detail concerning a model's life—from helping with boyfriend dilemmas to finding accommodations. As a household manager she is able to hone these same skills to support her employers in every aspect of their lives. Her past employers include high-profile individuals such as S. Rattner, a bicoastal film producer. Her number-one work tool is her laptop, which allows her to stay on top of everything. Currently looking for a new work adventure, Marjorie is willing to move to any part of the country ... with the exception of Florida. (We wonder why?)

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JUAN FERREYRA

There is no question that Juan Ferreyra has what it takes when it comes to serving high net-worth individuals. His 28 years of experience speaks volumes about his skills and capabilities. Currently employed as a house manager/chef for a manufacturing mogul, Ferreyra manages the home, supervises the staff, coordinates events, and most important, keeps his employer happy with his gourmet, mouthwatering dishes. Juan's former employers have included the likes of Mortimer Zuckerman, the owner/publisher of the *New York Daily News*, and other high-profile employers. He began his career as a chef in a restaurant, but preferred the more personalized service of working in a private home. He felt the experience was more rewarding than working with 50 people in a restaurant. We agree.

BUTLER

MICHAEL HOLLY

Michael Holly is the butler of all butlers and has had a glorious career working for high-profile clients all over the world for more than 20 years. He has been featured in many publications, including the *New York Post*, for the excellence that he represents. He is currently working as a butler for a prominent family on the Upper East Side of New York City. Holly used to help in his father's general store in a rural village in the South of Ireland, where he first learned about caring for fine clothing, dealing in antiques, preparing foods for various tastes, and the art of great conversation. The local gentry took note of him and encouraged him to enter the private service. He has never looked back. Michael has served as a butler both in corporate settings such as Escada, Inc. and for private individuals such as the late Claudia Cohen. He appreciates his job because it gives him the opportunity to spend time with remarkable people who are leaders in their fields. His cell phone is his favorite work tool—with it, he is accessible at all times to both his employer and the staff he supervises. How much is a gentleman's gentleman of this caliber worth? Not less than \$150K!



MIGUEL ANGEL ALVARADO

For the last ten years Miguel has been working as a butler in a 26,000-square-foot estate, where his manifold duties have ranged from supervising a staff, to polishing and cleaning silver and antiques, to planning and coordinating large dinner parties. Miguel believes that a positive attitude and the drive to just "get the job done" can get you far. He loves his line of work because, unlike office work, it is not monotonous—each day presents novel challenges and something new to learn. His last position recently came to an end, and he is currently looking for a great family to dedicate his services to. What will his services cost? Not less than \$90K.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

CRAIG COPELAND

Copeland has been a personal assistant for the last 15 years and has worked for celebrities and other high-profile employers. What he loves about his work is the diversity and challenge it presents—there is never a dull moment because he is always anticipating his employer's needs to make sure that every eventuality is covered. (For example, he always makes sure he has cell phone batteries or a second cell phone on a trip.) He has worked for celebrities such as Katey Sagal and Lenedra Carroll, who was managing her daughter, "Jewel" Kilcher, and has always found it rewarding to take care of the many details and areas of his employers' lives while they are busy doing the things that they have to do. For Craig there is no such thing as a typical day—he has to be ready for anything. Or, as he says: "Preparing for change is your best gift." He is currently working for a top celebrity and earns a six-figures salary. His favorite work tool is his cell phone, which he also uses for essential tasks like tracking flights and viewing emails.



THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS

ANN FLAGELLA



Ann has for the last 12 years been working as a personal assistant to celebrities and other high-profile clients, including Eddie Griffin, Kathy Griffin, and Brad Garrett. She chose the field of personal assisting because she loves helping people make their lives easier and more manageable. It is in her nature to be efficient and highly organized, with great attention to detail. She takes pride in her work and brings a high level of professionalism and confidentiality to every person she works for. She is very flexible with her time, which is necessary when working with high-profile clients.

JASON VIARENGO

Jason has worked in the personal assistant field since 1991 and is currently working as personal assistant/ stylist to actor Ben Vereen, who is performing in the Broadway show *Wicked*. He has also worked for Carole Shelley and Patrick Wilson. Jason is extremely organized and loves taking care of people, which is why he chose this line of work. He is currently based in New York and makes a salary in the \$80,000s. He enjoys his work because it is different every day, and he gets the opportunity to do things that he would never have been able to do under normal circumstances, such as attending celebrity events, traveling, and meeting A-list people. His favorite gadget is his Palm Treo cell phone, because it makes all his contacts, calendar, and date book accessible in a second.



TENA GALLAGHER



Gallagher's first job in assisting came her way 10 years ago, when she worked as an executive in a public relations firm. Finding the corporate scene too structured, she found her niche as a personal assistant to an investment banker in Beverly Hills and quickly worked her way up to becoming a celebrity personal assistant. She has served several celebrity employers and has been at her current job for two years. She earns a hefty sum, and this, together with perks, bonuses, and money she earns on private projects provides her with an income in the six figures. Her job often takes her to a beautiful Caribbean island where the pace is quite different. She would not be able to do her job without a laptop, which she uses for everything and carries everywhere. This, along with her Iphone and a sprinkle of ingenuity, helps her to get the job done!

PAUL SCHAFER

Schafer has tried his hand at different fields, from safety to marketing to computers, but has always enjoyed working for an employer who can give him exact direction as to their needs and then allow him to take the necessary steps to accomplish those goals without being micromanaged. His favorite part of personal assisting is functioning in a capacity in which he can handle the affairs of an individual and leave them the time to focus on the truly important things that they need to do to further their goals and career. In his last position, he worked for an A-list actress and has also worked for the royal family of Brunei. Even though he loves using a BlackBerry-style PDA and laptop, his favorite tool is a spiral notebook, which is the requisite hard copy reference of essential information in case of a battery or electronic failure.



THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS

JENNY GREENWOOD



Originally from the U.K., Jenny Greenwood has been working as a personal assistant in the U.S. for approximately three years, during which time she has worked for some famous directors and celebrities. Prior to that, she worked as a set production assistant on motion pictures. Becoming a personal assistant was a natural progression for her, and she has enjoyed it immensely. She prefers working out of a home environment as opposed to the more structured corporate environment, and appreciates the opportunity to meet many interesting people and travel with her employer to different parts of the world. It is a busy job that entails a lot of multitasking, which she would not be able to do without her favorite work tool—her BlackBerry. How much is this Brit assistant commanding? Upwards of \$90K for her services.

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION AGENT

ROBERT FERRELL

It has been 17 years since Robert Ferrell started working as a professional bodyguard providing high-profile security and transportation to the affluent. Ferrell thinks of bodyguards as the “phantoms” that walk behind the “wanted.” He believes that a true bodyguard must blend in with the client’s entourage and become the eyes and ears of support. True to his profession, Ferrell is trained in martial arts techniques, weapons use, evasive and tactical driving, and threat assessment. What works well for him most times is the exercise of “good old common sense.” He is currently employed as a full-time bodyguard and is making a salary of \$80K plus benefits and perks. His job allows him to do what he loves best—provide a high level of service to his principals. A 600-horsepower armored S-65 Mercedes is an essential working tool for him; he is able to whisk his principals away from danger at high speeds in a bulletproof vehicle and bring them to safety.



KATHLEEN LONG



Kathleen has been protecting others for as long as she can remember. First it was her twin sister, then later, her friends. She is highly skilled in CDT (Compliance, Direction, and Takedown technique), has formal training as an executive protection agent, and is very agile. In 1990 she auditioned to be Michelle Pfeiffer’s fight double in the movie *Catwoman* and got the job. This opened the door to more jobs with celebrities such as Lisa Kudrow. Kathy’s work takes her all over the world, and she enjoys its challenges. She approaches each assignment with the mindset that nothing will happen to her client, and takes every precaution by planning for the worst-case scenario. Her best tool is her mind, but her cell phone always comes in handy, especially when she has to manage emergency situations. Her rate varies depending on the threat level to the client and can range from \$300 to \$1,000 per day. The advantage of being a female in this field is that you can get some jobs that no male could ever dream of landing, such as protecting an Arab princess, which Long has often done. On the other hand, there have also been instances when she did not get a job simply because she was a female.

LEVI TAYLOR

Levi Taylor started his career as a New York City police detective, where he received training in dignitary protection and had the opportunity to protect many important figures and celebrities from all over the world. Subsequently, he entered the private bodyguard/chauffeur industry. He found this type of work rewarding and learned some important formulas for success: discretion (minding your business and never gossiping), professionalism, promptness, courtesy (even if you are provoked), and the ability to be resourceful. He is glad to have chosen this field of work because it gives him the opportunity to use all the valuable skills he learned in the police department. And the pay is great, which can’t hurt. Levi is based in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and is looking for the next opportunity to show his skills to an appreciative celebrity.



THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS

KAROLYN D. SMITH

Karolyn Smith is a tier-one executive/celebrity protection agent, which is a more experienced version of the bodyguard. She has served as an active duty U.S. Army Military Police Officer and is trained in close protection. Karolyn distinguished herself as a machine gunner/protection agent while on deployment to Iraq. She has been an executive protection agent for five years and currently resides in San Diego, California. This beautiful blonde is not one to mess with and functions as the perfect decoy in a celebrity entourage. Her only work tool, apart from her weapons/ballistic gear, is her integrity and her combat-tested knowledge of protection. Many of her clients are celebrities seen at the Emmys®, Golden Globes, Oscars® and in *Vanity Fair*, as well as international clients. She is definitely a well-paid protection agent! Because of the nature of her assignments, this agent cannot have her photo published.

CHAUFFEUR

ADRIANA MELLO

Adriana Mello is all woman, yet has no qualms about working in a traditionally male-dominated field. In fact, she is enjoying every minute of it and has never had a problem because of her gender. Originally from Brazil, she has been a professional chauffeur for ten years and has worked for many high-profile employers. As one of the top chauffeurs in the country, she is currently working for the president of a prominent construction company in New York City. She loves her work because it gives her the opportunity to interact with different types of people. Her duties consist of driving her employer to business appointments and other places, driving his family members and guests to various destinations, running errands, and keeping the vehicles well maintained. Her job requires patience, discretion, reliability, and trustworthiness. She is on call 24/7, so it comes as no surprise that her cell phone is her most essential work tool. How much does a girl like this earn? We can only guess that she cruises to a salary in the \$90,000s.



EDWARD CALOIA

Edward Caloia has been employed for 24 years in the capacity of chauffeur in the corporate and private arena. He chose this field because he enjoys driving and meeting people from different walks of life. Nevertheless, as a professional, he understands the importance of discretion and privacy when driving clients whose private conversations can never be repeated to anyone. In this line of work the motto is “Mum’s the word,” otherwise you lose your credibility as a professional. Caloia’s previous employers have included high-profile clients, such as movie personnel, senior government officials, senators, and diplomats. His favorite work gadgets are his two cell phones. (He keeps one as a backup.) As a chauffeur, he must be accessible to his employer at all times, and, since he is on the road most of the time, he takes no chances with that.



CHEF

RICHARD FLORCZAK

Richard Florczak has been a private chef for about 20 years, the last 11 of which he has spent working for Mel Gibson. He also works part-time on a consistent basis for Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Garner and Gela and John Taylor (the owner of Juicy Couture and founding member of Duran Duran). According to Florczak, he chose the private chef industry to avoid “the often ego-based restaurant kitchens.” Unlike restaurant chefs, private chefs cannot cook from the same menu every night, and must have groceries delivered to their door; nor do they have a full staff to assist them. He says that private chefs have to leave their “egos at the front door” when they are working and be ready to do whatever is needed to get their job done. The kitchen tool he uses most is his personal wood-fired pizza oven. How much does a guy of this caliber earn? His smile says it all.



THE *Best* OF THE *Best* HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONALS

MARISSA MITCHELL



Since she was a child growing up in Queens, New York, cooking has been one of the strongest passions in Marissa Mitchell's life, but it was not until 2000 that she decided to make a career change. She quit her corporate job and started doing what she always loved. It was a slow start, but she is now making a yearly income in the six-figures range and has served in the capacity of private chef to numerous celebrities, including Tom Cruise, Quentin Tarentino, and Shirley Jones. She is also the dessert chef for Fred 62, a well-known restaurant in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles, for which she has designed a variety of desserts that have become top sellers. Her favorite culinary tool is her cast iron skillet, with which she can sear, fry, and brown all sorts of culinary delights before placing them right into the oven.

ANTONY BALLARD

Originally from Leicestershire, England, Antony Ballard migrated to the U.S. in his early twenties. He has worked as a private chef in many celebrity homes from New York to California, one of which belonged to the celebrated author Michael Crichton. He learned early on in his career that the recipe for success in these high-profile homes is total discretion—you will never catch him divulging secrets overheard at the dining table. He is currently working full time in New York state for a high-net-worth individual where he has been for the last five years. He is earning a salary in the six figures. What he loves best about his present job is working in a beautiful environment in the country, with his own home, family, and dogs only three miles away. His favorite tool is the Robot Coupe food processor, which makes his life easy in the kitchen.



RENEE CARTER



With 20 years experience under her belt, Renee Carter has a lot to offer any employer. She specializes in home-style and organic cuisines but is a versatile and talented chef. Renee started off her career in the restaurant industry but found it too restrictive creatively. In 1994 she finally found what she was looking for—a private chef position, which happened to be with Diana Ross. She loves her job and the opportunity that it affords her to consistently create new recipes. She also enjoys the perks of being able to travel with clients internationally. Her sense of accomplishment is complete only when her food brings satisfaction. She is currently based in New York and is looking for a full-time position anywhere in the U.S. Her services don't come cheap, but for a six-figures salary, your dish is her command! Her favorite kitchen gadget is a Cuisinart 11-cup food processor, which makes different types of cuts at high speeds.

DOMESTIC COUPLE

MANUEL AND TERESA DA SILVA

Of Portuguese origin but with dual American and French citizenship, Manuel and Teresa Da Silva have for more than 30 years worked for the finest and wealthiest families in Europe and the U.S. Manuel got his first training as a young man from his first employer who owned a chateau and a vineyard in France. He learned the best of French formal table service, household management skills, and all about French wines. The two met in France, got married, and have been working together ever since. They have served employers such as Mr. Jacques Rouet, the chairman of Christian Dior in Paris, Umberto Agnelli, the owner of Fiat cars in Italy, Mr. Karcher, the chairman of Carl's Junior fast food chain, and Mortimer Zuckerman, the owner of the *New York Daily News*. Manuel and Teresa speak five languages fluently—Portuguese, French, English, Spanish, and Italian. Teresa is a “Cordon Bleu” chef and Manuel is highly skilled in all aspects of home management. His favorite work tool is his computer, which keeps him organized. Teresa loves Miele vacuum cleaners because they are powerful and do a great job of eliminating dust. They are currently looking for a new position and can work in the U.S. and Europe. At a salary of \$180K they are a great catch for any lucky employer!



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KAREN AND RICHARD WERNER



Karen and Richard Werner have worked as an estate management couple for three different employers over a period of ten years. They currently live on the island of Nantucket in Massachusetts. Richard chose this line of work because of the elevated sense of personal satisfaction that this work provides him. Karen herself is very passionate about providing great service to an employer and finds it an honor to be able to serve in this capacity. She calls herself a “Jack or Jill of all trades; master of some.” She feels that the skills that she has to offer and her work demeanor have always served her and her employers well. Her favorite tool is the computer, which allows her to organize her work and the work of any staff she supervises, and helps her procure items that cannot be purchased locally. Richard cannot work on the island without a can of Boeshield waterproof lubricant, which offers rust and corrosion protection—it is especially useful on an island, where there is a constant battle against the elements. Richard and Karen are currently looking for a new challenging position. Their asking salary is \$165K. For a lucky family, they are a steal!

BABY NURSE

JOY CATON

Joy Caton has been working as a baby nurse for the last 20 years and has worked for many different families, including Steven Spielberg’s and Donald Bellisario’s. She has always loved caring for babies and has a special gift for soothing an infant when everyone else has given up. One of the reasons she loves her job is the gratification she gets from relieving sleep-deprived parents and sending them to catch up on much-deserved rest. Caton is at the top of her career and is now making over \$100K. Her current assignment is in Dallas, Texas, but this busy lady is booked until October 2008. The tool that she uses most on the job is love, which keeps her babies happy!



HELEN VITARIS

Originally from Hungary, where she earned a master’s degree in pharmacology, Helen Vitaris has been a baby nurse for the last eight years and has loved every minute of it. She is passionate about working with babies and helping parents in the most exciting moments in their lives. She is currently on an assignment caring for a newborn baby in Brentwood, California. She charges up to \$840 per day for twins. Helen is also a certified doula by DASC (Doula’s Association of Northern California), a certified infant massage instructor, and a certified infant sign language specialist. She has recently been on assignments with an A-list actress, an A-list singer, and the president of a major television network. Her favorite work tool is a baby scale, with which a breast-fed baby can be weighed before and after a meal to determine its milk intake. She also makes recommendations to parents on the different types of pacifiers they can use for their babies.



NANNY

JENNIFER BONETTO

As an educated nanny with a master’s degree, Jennifer Bonetto is at the top of her game. She has been in this field for the last five years and has been with her present employers for more than two years. She enjoys working with children because “their spirits are so sweet and uncomplicated.” She finds that children force you to put things into perspective and help you to grow as a person. Her current salary is in the high \$80,000s. Her favorite work tool? Post-it notes, which Bonetto says she could not live without. She is constantly writing down each task her employers want her to do, as well as the time frame for completion. When she gets an idea for an activity to do with the boys she cares for, she jots it down so she can research it when she gets a chance.



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MARIE ODILE CITERIN



French-born Marie Odile Citerin has been a nanny for the last 22 years and simply loves working with children. She enjoys nannying because of the one-on-one close relationship it affords her with each unique child—in fact she is still in contact with many of her former charges today. Her job also allows her to meet many interesting and enriching people in all walks of life, from all over the world. She got into this line of work when she decided she would like to learn foreign languages, take care of children, and satisfy her desire to travel. It may seem like a tall order, but she found an ideal solution when she first landed an overseas job as a live-in nanny with a family. Marie Odile has worked for many high-profile employers in the past and is currently based in Hawaii. She is now looking for a position either on the U.S. mainland or in any other part of the world. Her favorite work tools are writing and drawing paper, a Leica camera and her computer, which assists her with projects for her children.

SHANNON COTTO

Shannon Cotto is an educated nanny who has been working with children for more than 20 years. Originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, she has a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and a broad background which consists of working with children of all ages, as well as with special needs children. Her experience as a nanny has taken her all over the world and she has cared for the children of highly influential families, including the seven-year-old son of Princess Najila Sattam of the royal family of Saudi Arabia. Cotto believes that she was born to work with children and is passionate about her work with them. Her most effective tool when she is working with kids is her creativity. She is currently looking for a new position with a wonderful family. This nanny, who earns a six-figure salary, will be an asset for any family.



MANNY

LLOYD MORGAN



Lloyd Morgan has been working with children for ten years and has been a manny for the last seven. His passion is to help people. After trying his hand at many different jobs he landed a position at a preschool, where he came to the conclusion that his purpose is to assist children. Since then, he has worked for many high-profile employers, including the well-known fashion show producer and Italian actress Isabella Rossellini (daughter of Ingrid Bergman). Lloyd is currently based in New York City and earns quite a comfortable salary. He is still in college and has a long-term goal of becoming a child psychologist. In the meantime, he is getting hands-on experience with many amazing children from all walks of life, which he enjoys tremendously. His only work tool is his experience.

JUSTIN WOMACK

Working with children and families has always been Justin Womack's passion. It is something that comes naturally to him, having always cared for and been responsible for younger siblings growing up. So it was not surprising when he started working as a manny—a job he has enjoyed immensely for the last six years. He finds that children relate well to him because they see him as a role model, which also allows him to impact their lives positively. Previous employers have included individuals in the entertainment world, including an opera singer. His most useful work gadget has been the walkie-talkie style cell phone, which allows him to keep in contact with the children under his care. Its simple features and limited access are perfect for keeping young children in touch with Womack and their parents. What type of salary would this professional demand? Nothing less than \$40.00 per hour.



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TEACHER

JILL RICHIE



Jill Richie has chosen the educational path in working with children. In all her years as a teacher, her goal has been to instill a lifelong interest in learning, and a curiosity for the unknown. A certified elementary school teacher with 15 years' experience, Jill has a wide repertoire of skills. Her most recent position was in Dallas, Texas, as a private home teacher and tutor; she had the task of converting guest quarters into a learning environment conducive to the educational needs of the children in her care. Celebrities hire private teachers and tutors like Jill for various reasons—their children might need private tutoring to help them catch up with school work missed due to travel, or simply to broaden and enrich their children's education beyond what a school can offer. How much does a celebrity pay this professional for her services? Between \$90 and \$110K.

JAMES MILES

After conquering the art of working with 33 children at once in a classroom, teacher James Miles, who has a B.S. in Education, is now prepared to enter the world of manny-ing. With eight years' experience under his belt, he knows that he connects with children and enjoys mentoring. His educational background and his experience with more than 1,000 children has taught him what kids need emotionally and educationally, in addition to their physical well-being. He believes that with his intelligence, humor and kid- and parent appeal, as well as his experience and knowledge, he has a lot to offer families. Jim currently works and resides in Minneapolis, but his ideal job would be in New York or California. Of course, it would take a serious, long-term commitment to pull Miles away from his full-time teaching job, but he would be thrilled to share his commitment to excellence with the right family. Miles will consider offers in the mid \$90,000s.



EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

FLORENCE DEMPSEY



Florence's first contact in the household service world happened by chance: Friends encouraged her to find summer work on Nantucket Island with one of the many affluent families that flock there, and she decided to give it a shot. She found that taking care of people and making sure that they are happy was truly her niche. She has now been working in this field for the last 13 years and has risen to the rank of executive housekeeper/manager, earning \$30-\$45 per hour. She has had her fair share of working for the who's who—one of her past employers is Tommy Hilfiger, an assignment she particularly enjoyed. She is currently based in Pomfret, Connecticut, and is looking for a new position for no less than \$65K. Her favorite work tools are "her trusted friends," her pad and pen. These are invaluable in her tireless efforts to organize and plan ahead.

MARY THERGOOD

Mary has more than 30 years' experience in the household service industry. She began as a family helper at the age of 16. (Her mother says that Mary actually began at the age of six!) At 23, she was hired by a family of four in Beverly Hills, California. She stayed with this family for 14 years and saw their children grow and leave home. She is still considered part of that family and maintains consistent contact with them. Since then she has worked with prominent families in the U.S., such as the Johnson family, and abroad in France, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. Mary is exceptionally well-rounded: Apart from her excellent nanny and housekeeping skills, she is a gourmet cook—an added bonus for all her employers. Her southern cuisine is nothing less than superb. In addition to that, she has a golden touch with organizing closets and other spaces, which she does on a professional basis for clients who need that service. To hire the services of this multitasking professional, be prepared to dish out no less than \$250 per day.



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LADIES' MAID

POLINA MISKEVICH



Originally from Latvia, Polina Miskevich worked in the fashion industry for 15 years before switching careers to become a lady's maid. For the last seven years, she has been working for high-profile clients, for whom she applies her many years of experience working around beautiful luxury garments and expensive wardrobes. As a lady's maid, she not only caters to the personal needs of the lady of the house, but also takes care of her clothing, linens, and fine textiles, and shops for intimate garments, jewelry, china, and much more. She also handles the packing and unpacking for travel. Her favorite work tool is a cotton swab; with it she is able to do very detailed cleaning and reach into small nooks and crannies. Who hires ladies' maids, one may ask? Anyone who has an expensive wardrobe—no fine estate should function without one. Sorry, gentlemen, this is strictly for ladies! Not to worry, your butler can help you out just as well! The compensation for a high-level professional of this caliber cannot be anything less than \$75K.

LAUNDRESS

MISSKELLY COCKRELL AKA "SAFFRON"

Misskelly Cockrell aka "Saffron" has been in the household service industry for seven years. She began as a housekeeper and is now a laundress working for a family in California. It was no surprise to her friends and colleagues when she chose this field of work; she is a natural and has always been organized and clean. The gratification in her job comes when a mountain of laundry in the morning is reduced to an empty hamper at the end of the day. When asked about her favorite work tool, Saffron replies, "I could not survive without disinfectant wipes and my Rowenta iron."



CAREGIVER / COMPANION

JANICE A. NORTON



Janice A. Norton has more than ten years' experience working as a companion/ caregiver/ personal assistant. According to Norton, working in the personal care industry, especially in the area of entertainment, is always interesting. You never know what to expect when you are working in Hollywood. Don't be surprised if you are asked to accompany your employer to Paris at a moment's notice! One thing's for sure, there is never a dull moment. And it is no secret how lucrative these jobs can be. This unique niche-job can turn into an extraordinarily exciting six-figures career for someone who is a good match for the employer's needs. Janice treasures her BlackBerry as her favorite work tool, especially with bosses who are technologically oriented.

NURGUL VARGAS AKA "NICOLE"

Nurgul Vargas aka "Nicole" decided to become a certified home health aide/ caregiver because she loves interacting with elderly people and caring for them. In fact, she gets very attached to her patients and their families, and even after the completion of an assignment she stays in touch with them—much like an additional member of the family. She has been working in this capacity for nine years and has worked for a number of high-profile families. For example, she enjoyed caring for the elderly daughter of the founder of Barnes & Noble for five years. She lives in New York City and works in the New Jersey/ New York area. Her favorite work tool is her watch, which she uses to keep track of time in order to monitor her patients' medications and doctors' appointments.



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A DIFFICULT T I M E

Appropriate behavior at a funeral

By SANDRA J. PAYNE



Illustration by Robert Salanitro

Even the most eloquent person sometimes comes upon a situation where words fail them. For lots of people, the most challenging of such moments is news of a death.

Being rendered speechless in such situations, however, is not really an option. It can seem too callous to say nothing (barring, of course, being overwhelmed by grief). Becoming garrulous, on the other hand, isn't a good strategy either. It can be difficult

It can be especially tough when a grieving person must turn around and comfort the person who has purportedly come to provide them with comfort.

enough for a grieving person to deal with a death, let alone having to follow the thread of a long, rambling monologue about their loved one.

For the family friend, neighbor, business associate, or extended family member, then, a certain amount of forethought needs to happen so that just the right balance can be struck when a death occurs. While it's not always possible to know ahead of time about such a thing, it is possible to prepare oneself for the eventuality that everyone at some time or another will be touched by this kind of news.

To help you navigate these momentous events, it's really best to have a strategy in place ahead of time. Here are some basic guidelines, then, for behaving appropriately and hopefully even admirably:

KEEP IT SIMPLE. We've all heard the phrase, "I am so sorry for your loss." That's because it works. Said in a heartfelt way, the bereaved will appreciate the sentiment and you will have overcome a difficult moment. Add a meaningful touch—a hug or a pat on the hand, and the person dealing with loss will feel comforted. No more and no less is really required at that moment.

KEEP IT SIGNIFICANT. Depending upon how close a person was to the person who passed away, more may need to be expressed. If there are good memories, personal stories, and shared milestones, you can mention the best one that showcases the deceased in the most positive light. Choose a memory that's worth repeating and make the story brief. Be very sensitive about time and place—no long-winded stories in a receiving line. Cut things short if you perceive that your words are not delivering the comfort that you desire to offer.

CONTROL INAPPROPRIATE EMOTIONS. It can be disastrous to suffer from a fit of giggles at a funeral. Be aware of your own reactions to the news and make yourself scarce until you can channel them into the proper tone.

In addition, it can be especially tough when a grieving person must turn around and comfort the person who has purportedly come to provide them with comfort. Again, it's best to gather oneself ahead of time. If speaking is difficult, a heartfelt hug will convey your own sense of loss.

WRITE IT DOWN. Do send a personal, handwritten note in a card or letter. If necessary, type out what you would like to say, revising it until it expresses your sentiments in the best way possible. Then, copy it down by hand into a card or letter. Do not send sympathy notes via e-mail.

AVOID PLATITUDES. Do not be tempted to say things such as, "It was God's will" or "He's in a better place" or "At least she's not suffering anymore." While these statements may be true, allow the grieving individual the right to maintain their own personal beliefs in this regard.

RESPECT THE WISHES OF THE BEREAVED. If they don't want to talk about their loss, don't press the issue. Just let them know that you will be checking back in with them, and then, by all means, follow through.

Do not be tempted to say things such as, "He's in a better place" or "At least she's not suffering anymore."

BE KIND TO YOURSELF. Communication between people at the passing of a loved one, friend, or acquaintance can be an imperfect dialogue. Just do your best. That is all that can be expected of you. If you say the wrong thing with the right intention, the intention will usually carry through. Then, cut your losses in the moment and send a note that better expresses what you wanted to say.

While death is an inevitable life-event that everyone must face, being sensitive to others at this difficult time by striving to offer simple, comforting words and touch, will help you help those in grief. 

SANDRA J. PAYNE is a Hollywood screenwriter who was born in Alaska and has lived in Asia and Europe. Her background has given her a lifelong fascination with social customs and etiquette.



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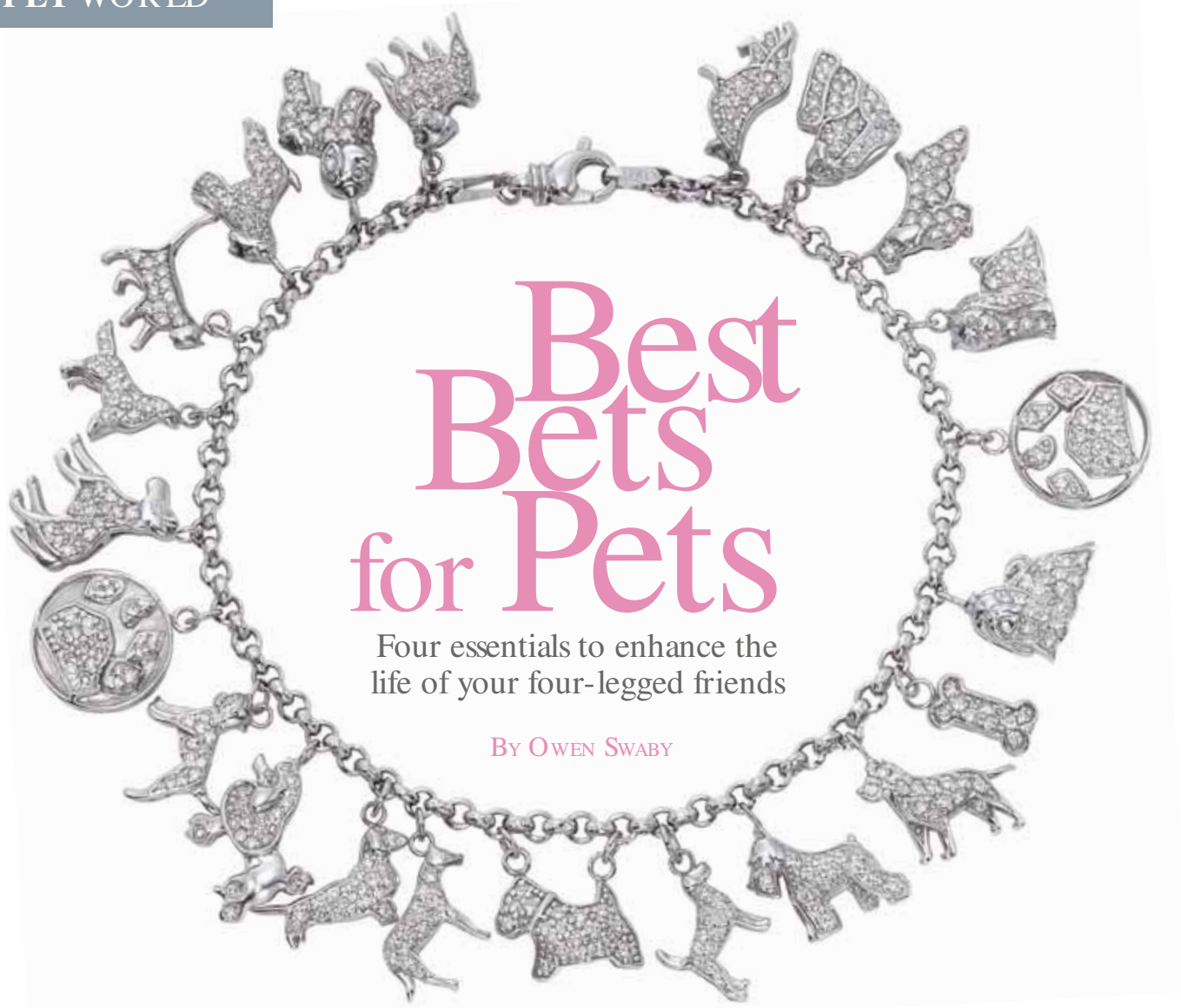
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Best Bets for Pets

Four essentials to enhance the
life of your four-legged friends

BY OWEN SWABY

Pet ownership is serious business, although the reasons owners have them in the first place are too numerous and varied to mention. No matter the reason, we indulge our friends to no end. Pet owners go to great lengths to care for their charges, and in return pets show their gratitude with loyalty and companionship.

Although a pet owner's main obligation is to provide the basics—food, water, and shelter—there's nothing wrong with going further and offering a human touch. Oftentimes, these provisions are more for the owner than the pet, but, hey, I've never heard of any pet lodging a complaint!

1. JEWELRY: Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but you can let your love for a favorite pet shine by accessorizing a personal outfit with the likeness of your four-legged friend. Items include earrings, charm bracelets, and cufflinks. All are set in 14k white gold and augmented with pink sapphires, and you can pay homage to your favorite dog breed, including German shepherd, shi tzu, cocker spaniel, and several others. Items can be custom-tailored for maximum impact. 866-912-7333; www.andrealevinejewelry.com.

2. HEALTH: Regular visits to the vet are the best way to ensure your pet's welfare. However, as an owner, you can do your part by monitoring and treating the nicks and scratches a pet is bound to experience in everyday life. This is easy to do if you have the right tool: disinfecting pet towelettes. These towelettes are organic, so there's no danger of skin irritation. And, since pet's ears are susceptible to debris accumulation, these towelettes are ideal for safely cleaning this sensitive area without annoying the animal. Humans can also benefit from using these cleaning cloths—in fact anyone who handles a pet should use them to clean their hands. 805-560-8502; www.herbanessentials.com.



3. HYGIENE: Pet odor in the house is an inherent problem for homes with pets. This item is a great discovery for those who have tried different products, unsuccessfully. It is called Smell-U-Later, and it works on the following principle very successfully: Odors are caused by bacteria that attack waste products; when the bacteria are killed, it is reasonable to assume that the odor is eliminated. The product uses organic enzymes, which do the dirty work just as nature intended. What's left is an odor-free, pet-friendly home. A must-try product. 866-738-7297; www.petapotty.com.

4. JUST FOR KICKS: More for the owner than the pet, an ornament that features a favorite pet's image or name will always be a popular pick. Almost any item can serve as the canvas, so be creative. Consider converting often-used objects, like coffee mugs, towels, or bumper stickers. For the truly dedicated pet owner, a wall-mounted plaque is the perfect conversation piece. Do-it-yourselfers should take this route, saving a bundle of money while creating a one-of-a-kind tribute to a beloved pet. **C**

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Marci Weiner is widely recognized as a society reporter. She has been writing for many years for publications such as *Entertainment Today*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *The Good Life*, *West Coast Lifestyle* and *Movieweb*, to name a few. Her syndicated column reaches the socialites and celebs in Tinseltown, and she is friend and confidante to movers and shakers around the world.



Actress Christina Ricci

PARTIES AND PHILANTHROPY Cedars Women Mark 50th

The Women's Guild of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Regent Beverly Wilshire. **Billy Crystal** gave a great performance. Among the guests were **Christina Ricci** and producer **Marc Cherry** with two of his *Desperate Housewives*: **Marcia Cross**, looking svelte after birthing twins, and **Dana Delany**, the newest neighbor on Wisteria Lane. To commemorate the occasion, renowned artist **Robert Graham** created an extraordinary sculpture

titled "Elisa" to help raise funds for the Pulmonary Disease Institute. Graham and his glamorous wife, **Anjelica Huston**, are on the honorary committee along with **Sly Stallone**, **Gore Vidal**, **Barbara Walters**, and **Rita Wilson**. The best news of the evening was that more than \$1.7 million was raised to support Cedars' programs. Kudos to **Wendy Goldberg** and **Judy Briskin** and their hard-working committee for an evening of elegance and elation.



From left: Marcia Cross (*Desperate Housewives*), event producer Vera Guerin, and Billy Crystal



Producers Amanda, Leonard, and Wendy Goldberg (*Charlie's Angels*)

Gladys Knight's NIGHT

Gladys Knight joined the ranks of luminaries such as **Frank Sinatra**, **Peggy Lee**, **Tony Bennett**, and **Barry Manilow** when she received the 16th annual Ella Award at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. This honor was bestowed by the Society of Singers, which provides services to professional singers during difficult times and offers scholarships to promising new musicians. Some of her famous friends entertained in her honor, including **Smokey Robinson**, **Johnny Mathis**, and Gladys's brother, **Bubba Knight**, who sang "The Lady is a Tramp." **Melissa Etheridge's** rendition of "Neither One of Us (Wants to be the First to Say Goodbye)" had everyone mesmerized. Kudos to **Jerry Sharell**, society president, and his hard-working committee for another successful evening, or, to quote **Steve Lawrence** and **Eydie Gorme**: "Pip, pip, hooray!"



Melissa Etheridge



Gladys Knight with Jerry Sharell, President of Society of Singers



Johnny Mathis

PRETTY IN Pink



Katharine McPhee at Pink Party



Jessica Biel, Dr. Beth Karlan (cancer specialist), and fashion maven Elyse Walker

Trendsetter and philanthropist **Elyse Walker**, owner of the hot L.A. boutique of the same name, and **Jessica Biel** hosted a Pink Party benefiting Cedars-Sinai Women's Cancer Research Institute at the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica. Since it was a Pink Party (referring to the official color of those ribbons to support breast cancer research), one would have thought the celebs would be decked out in pink. But that wasn't the case. Dazzling in a coffee-colored frock, **Katharine McPhee** may not have won *American Idol*, but the charming chanteuse is making waves on the silver screen. With three films in production and several successful music videos, Katharine is becoming an idol in her own right. Katharine's mom, **Peisha**, has entertained at many soirees—they are both gorgeous and have voices to match.

Courtney Thorne-Smith was enjoying the Kobe beef sliders and mac-and-cheese balls, as was new-baby mama **Marcia Cross** (*Desperate Housewives*), who donned a pink silk top for the occasion. Others who joined **Dr. Beth Karlan** and helped raise funds included **Rebecca Romijn**, **Jerry O'Connell**, **Roseanne Barr** and **Giada de Laurentiis**.

TIP-OFF IN Malibu

The Malibu estate of Clippers owner **Donald T. Sterling** and his lovely wife, **Shelly**, was transformed into Hollywood Heaven at the Clippers' Annual Tip-Off Party, hosted by **Sam Cassell**, **Corey Maggette**, **Cuttino Mobley**, and **Elgin Baylor**. The grounds of the oceanside mansion were covered with pristine white carpet, and guests were attired in traditional summer white. A dazzling effect, to be sure!

Elton Brand was there, despite his recent Achilles tendon

injury, along with other Clippers notables. Brand recently produced the film *Rescue Dawn*, the story of **Lt. Dieter Dengler**, a German-born U.S. Navy pilot who was shot down over Laos in 1966 and staged a spectacular escape from a prisoner-of-war camp. The film, starring **Christian Bale**, has received rave notices. So if Elton can't play in the NBA this season, maybe he'll hobble down the red carpet at the Oscars®.



From left: Socialites Eleanor and Ray Moscatel surround their pal, Donald T. Sterling (owner of the Clippers) at his Malibu White Party



Gary Canter (Canter's Jerry's Famous Deli) with his lovely lady love, Traci



Three Ladies in White: actress Judy Strangis Sher, Society Editor Marci Weiner, and Judy's singing sister, Cindy Williams



Actress Judith Light with Eric McCormack
(*Will & Grace*)



Shirley MacLaine, honoree



Maria Shriver, her son Christopher Schwarzenegger,
and John Gile, Executive Director of Project Angel Food

Beautiful Evening

Speaking of heavenly evenings, Project Angel Food honored **Shirley MacLaine** and famed architectural designer **Xorin Balbes** at its new headquarters in Hollywood. Master of Ceremonies **Maria Shriver**, the First Lady of California, and her son, **Christopher Schwarzenegger**, addressed the importance of helping those in need, and Chris related his own experience of volunteering in the kitchen.

Longtime supporters and weekly volunteers **Eric and Janet McCormack** enjoyed the performance of Grammy®

Award winner **Nnenna Freelon** (pronounced "Nina"). Other guests included **Jennifer Coolidge**, **Randolph Duke** and **Judith Light**. **Dame Elizabeth Taylor** was set to present the Marianne Williamson Award to MacLaine but had to cancel due to illness. Project Angel Food Executive Director **John Gile** was pleased to announce that more than \$600,000 was raised. This will allow the organization to serve more than 14,000 meals per day to those affected by HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses. **c**

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A Time to Commemorate and Celebrate

CELEB STAFF MAGAZINE MARKS ITS SECOND YEAR ANNIVERSARY

AND OBSERVES THE LAUNCH OF ITS SISTER MAGAZINE *CELEB LIFE*

Celeb Staff magazine marked its second anniversary and the launch of its sister publication *Celeb Life* with a spectacular reception held in the grand ballroom of the Beverly Hills Four Seasons Hotel. The event also honored **Beverly Cohen**, who graced the cover of the *Celeb Staff*'s October issue. Holding the magazine high to display her cover, Cohen expressed how much this meant to her, especially since she has never forgotten her humble beginnings. She acknowledged her husband **Robert** for his love and support all these years. **Beth Torre**, Chief Operating Officer of *Celeb Staff*, thanked everyone for their support of the magazine and cheered the staff for all their hard work. Guests were treated to a bounty of delicious food, classical music played by an ensemble, and a warm ambiance. Among the many attendees were **Joan Van**

Guests were treated to a bounty of delicious food, music, and a warm ambiance.

Ark (*Knots Landing*), **Marci Weiner**, Editor-in-Chief of *Celeb Life* magazine, actress **Julie Newmar** (the original Catwoman), Beverly Hills mayor **Jimmy Jamshid Delshad**, life coach **Paula White**, attorney **Gloria Allred**, fashion critic **Mr. Blackwell**, **Jason Widener** and **Lorena Segura** (both of *Amazing Race*), **Rachel Myers** and **Rachael Murphy** (both of *America's Most Smartest Model*), **Lindsay Wagner** (the original Bionic Woman) and **Susan Stafford** (the original star of *Wheel of Fortune*).

Also present was **Erin Gruwell** of the Freedom Writers Foundation, who spoke about the foundation and its important work among at-risk children in schools (she was portrayed in the movie *Freedom Writers* by Hilary Swank). It was truly an evening of fun, laughter, and celebration.



Robert and Beverly Cohen with Beverly Hills Mayor Jimmy Jamshid Delshad



From left: Susan Stafford, Paula White, Beth Torre, and Joan Van Ark



Marci and Fred Weiner



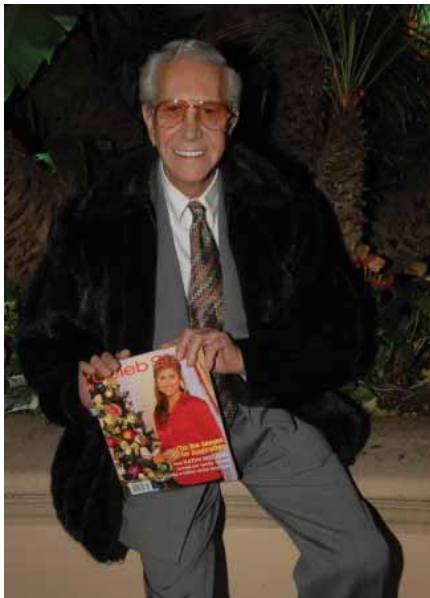
Beverly Cohen



Lindsay Wagner (original Bionic Woman)



Julie Newmar (the original Catwoman)



Mr. Blackwell



Gail and Roger Dauer



Lynn Ziman and Elaine Dannenberg



Lois Fields and Jack Heller



From left: Jason Widener, Lorena Segura, Rachel Myers, and Rachael Murphy



From left: Helen Olsen, Judy Sher, Dr. Sher, and Cindy Williams



Sabrina Zamel (standing by her cover) with mom Miriam Wizman



Eileen O'Neil



Elaine Calhoun and friend



Attorney Latasha Amerson



Warren Cowan



Marjorie Rothstein



Rachel Myers & Rachael Murphy



Madelyn and Marvin Gussman



Joan Van Ark and Madelyn Gussman



Mary Anne Sales signing in the guests



Lana Alper and husband



Traude Winik and Fred Weiner



Mrs. and Dr. Vince Bugliosi



Gloria Allred



Marjorie Roth



September Sarno



From left: Marci with Bob and Trudy Bogert



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lewis



Yana Syrkin and Owen Swaby



Beverly Cohen (center) and the Freedom Writers Foundation



Special Thanks

We want to extend our special thanks and appreciation to the sponsors of our event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills on November 6, 2007, where we celebrated our magazine's second anniversary and the launch of our sister magazine *Celeb Life*.



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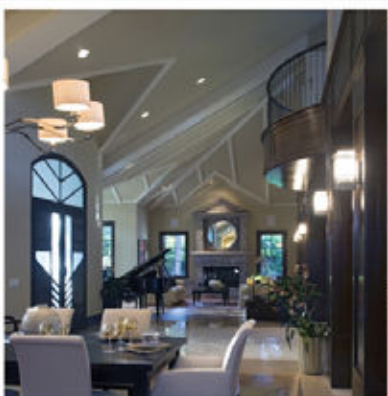
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BEST OF THE BEST

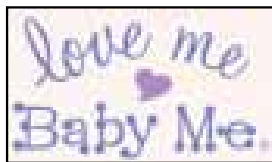
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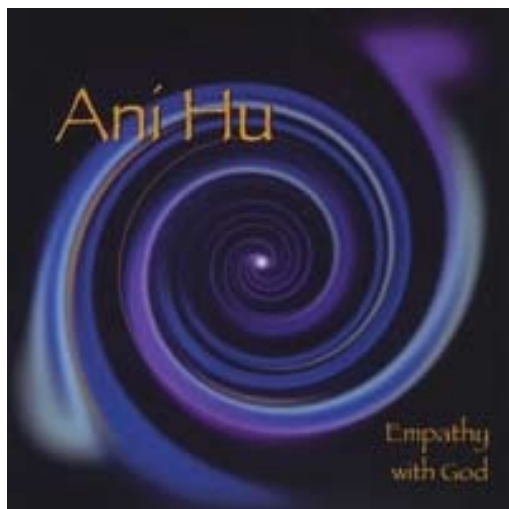
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What Does Your Help Drive?

continued from page 24

ing for you there. Your nanny, house manager, personal assistant, or other employees, however, may decide to drive the distance in their cars so that they will have them for their off-duty use. The fact that they occasionally use their own vehicles for work should be clearly stated on their insurance policies. Furthermore, employers will still need to reimburse them at the IRS rate of 48.5 cents per mile, which is designed to

Never take it for granted that the nanny, housekeeper, or other candidate that you have hired is a licensed driver.

cover gas and wear and tear on the car. If you also load them up with your kids, pets, and other things, then please do consider extra pay. Driving to and from the workplace is on the employee's time.

Practically all families these days need household employees who drive. However, never take it for granted that the nanny, housekeeper, or other candidate that you have hired is a licensed driver. Before trusting them with what is most dear to you, it is imperative that you verify that they have valid drivers' licenses. Having an employee who can wear the many hats a beautiful home requires is more desirable to employers—and that may include driving the family cat to the vet! **C**

Founder and president of Estate Staffing by Heartland, KAREN WALKER RYAN has been screening private-service applicants for 23 years. She is on the board of directors of several associations, including the International Association of Private Service Professionals.

Bringing Uniforms Back!

continued from page 27

from the smallest to the largest estates. Celebrities spend millions of dollars on fine art and furnishings—all it takes is one ungroomed staff member to

The staff had the preconceived idea that they would have to wear ridiculously old-fashioned uniforms from the 18th century.

cheapen the look of the entire estate.

One month later I visited the estate and was pleasantly surprised at the difference. The staff looked extremely professional! There were no complaints from that end—the majority was happy and only about 10% said that they would prefer to wear their own clothes but that they had no problem complying. This was a mission well accomplished!

There are many modern options for uniforms these days. I urge every single estate to take advantage of them. **C**

GLENDIA ROSS has been the director of Celebrities Staffing Services for the past ten years and has catered to the Who's Who internationally. Her exceptional knowledge and understanding of the household staffing industry have allowed her to provide stability to the estates of her agency's celebrity clients.

The Difficult Client

continued from page 29

Agencies should view these “difficult” clients as opportunities to flex their customer service muscles and remain professional at all times. What helps to ease these problems is consistency; always strive to treat each and every single client the exact same way. Do not change your fee structure or your methods of customer service. When clients

Our agency has also had its share of exceptionally difficult clients—those who have slapped their assistants, caged their nannies, or had the housekeeper lick the floor clean.

do complain, do not talk back or treat them with anything but the utmost respect, and always try to convey that you understand their point of view. Convey your regrets for any problems that may occur, and try to keep your clients calm during these stressful times. From personal experience, I can tell you that it truly takes listening, patience, and sophistication to deal with all clients graciously.

That being said, our agency has also had its share of exceptionally difficult clients—those who have slapped their assistants, caged their nannies, or had the housekeeper lick the floor clean.

For that, we have no answers. **C**

CLAUDIA KAHN is the owner of the Help Company in Los Angeles, California. With a client list that reads like the Who's Who in Hollywood, she caters to the latest staffing needs of her clients.

Point Pressure

continued from page 30

sis. There are no guidelines for appropriate behavior. This leaves assistants to fend for themselves and is the reason, I believe, there is such high turnover in personal assisting. It is impossible to succeed when you are always at the mercy of your boss's moods.

When you're a personal assistant, your boss's stress becomes your stress; on top of everything else, that can be a lot to handle.

NO BOUNDARIES

Working out of someone's home changes the dynamic of the job. You are thrown into an intimate setting in which you have to deal with pets, family, friends and all the issues that go along with maintaining an estate. Home is where people let their guard down, and assistants often receive the brunt of an employer's emotional issues. The assistant overhears family squabbles, fights with spouses, and all things personal—whether they choose to be involved or not.

When the Realtor® to the Stars incident occurred, Stein had just battled cancer. As a breast cancer survivor myself, I find it hard to believe that the stress and fear of dealing with a life-threatening illness would not overflow into someone's already hectic work life. When you're a personal assistant, your boss's stress becomes your stress; on top of everything else, that can be a lot to handle.

Important Rule: Always have a safe outlet for your emotions outside of the work place. **c**

MANDIE GREEN has several years' experience working as a personal assistant in Hollywood and knows all the ins and outs of personal assisting. Her tips and stories about her life are a must-read.

Making Dust Disappear

continued from page 34

YOU CAN KEEP DUST TO A MINIMUM BY:

- Maintaining proper matting at all entrances
- Replacing or cleaning furnace and air-conditioner filters frequently
- Caulking or weather-stripping cracks and holes that let air into the home
- Making sure the vacuum is not leaking dust

The best feather dusters are made from female ostrich feathers.

IF YOUR EMPLOYERS SUFFER FROM ALLERGIES, DUST-RELATED OR OTHERWISE, THE FOLLOWING ARE WAYS TO KEEP THE HOME AS HYPOALLERGENIC AS POSSIBLE:

- Wash bedding at least twice a week in hot water. Water at 130 degrees kills dust mites.
- Vacuum the mattress once a month when you wash the mattress pad.
- Vacuum carpeted floors several times a week.
- Use pillowcase protectors on pillows and mattress pads on mattresses; wash these frequently.
- Keep windows closed, especially during high pollen counts.
- Practice scrupulous housekeeping: Eliminate clutter, keep possessions in their proper places, and use the proper chemicals for the job. Damp-dust and mop surfaces to prevent scattering of dust.
- Change furnace filters frequently. **c**

CAROL SCUDERE is the owner of Professional Domestic Services & Institute in Ohio. For the last 20 years she has been teaching the "Art of Caring for the Wealthy" to individuals with a true service heart.

Winner in the Savings Game

continued from page 41

you can do without. You will probably have the most leeway with discretionary expenses. The savings you generate may be enough to begin a modest savings program. If it isn't, move toward eliminating some of your moderately important expenditures to save even more.

Adopting a "pay yourself first" attitude can have a positive impact on your long-term budgeting, spending, and saving practices.

5. **PAY YOURSELF FIRST.** Here's the key to success—once you've ferreted out all the savings you can, write yourself a check for the amount you saved and "pay yourself first." How you save the money depends on how much you have. For instance, if you begin with a few hundred dollars, you might put it into a savings account. If you're planning for retirement and are under age 70 ½, you could consider contributing regularly to an individual retirement account (IRA). Or, better yet, in some circumstances, you can make pre-tax contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k). Earnings in retirement savings vehicles generally accumulate on a tax-deferred basis.

Remember, putting yourself first means placing your future financial well-being at the top of your priority list. While it may be necessary to forgo purchasing some enjoyable, yet unneeded, items, paying yourself first can become its own reward. The "dividends" that a disciplined savings program can ultimately pay back will most likely outweigh the short-lived gratification received from current consumption. **c**

Golden Door Spa

continued from page 48

Golden Door seduces you to release all of your tension, leaving you free, rejuvenated, and at peace.

On one particular day, after hours of exercise classes, swimming, and hiking, I had a Golden Door signature Citrus Blend Sea Salt Scrub with Avocado. This is an exclusive body mélange of fresh, fragrant ingredients, infused with natural essences plucked from the organic farm. Picture yourself covered in lemon, chamomile, and lavender plus a soothing blend of avocado, sweet almond, and olive oil. Your skin is carefully exfoliated with silk mitts and gentle sea salt. Then warm water washes over you with a richly lathered Signature Citrus Scent bath gel. You are covered in Shea Butter moisturizer and gel and Golden Door Botanical Body Oil.

Later on in the day, I was totally pampered again, with a Signature Facial including an exfoliating scrub, specifically suited to my skin type. I was lightly misted with the essence of orange water. Then I had an oxygen facial masque and Golden Door Serum massage to improve cellular circulation and promote healthier, more youthful-looking skin. As if that wasn't enough, I had an in-room treatment. Daniel, a master masseur, completely freed me of any and all aches and pains. A true healer, his treatment is absolutely ineffable. The Golden Door Spa experience is beyond words! **C**

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MARJORIE HOPE ROTHSTEIN is a *Luxe Lifestyle Consultant* specializing in creating resort-like living for her clients in their homes. As a *spa-trends specialist*, her passion is finding the latest in leading-edge beauty. She lives in Los Angeles.

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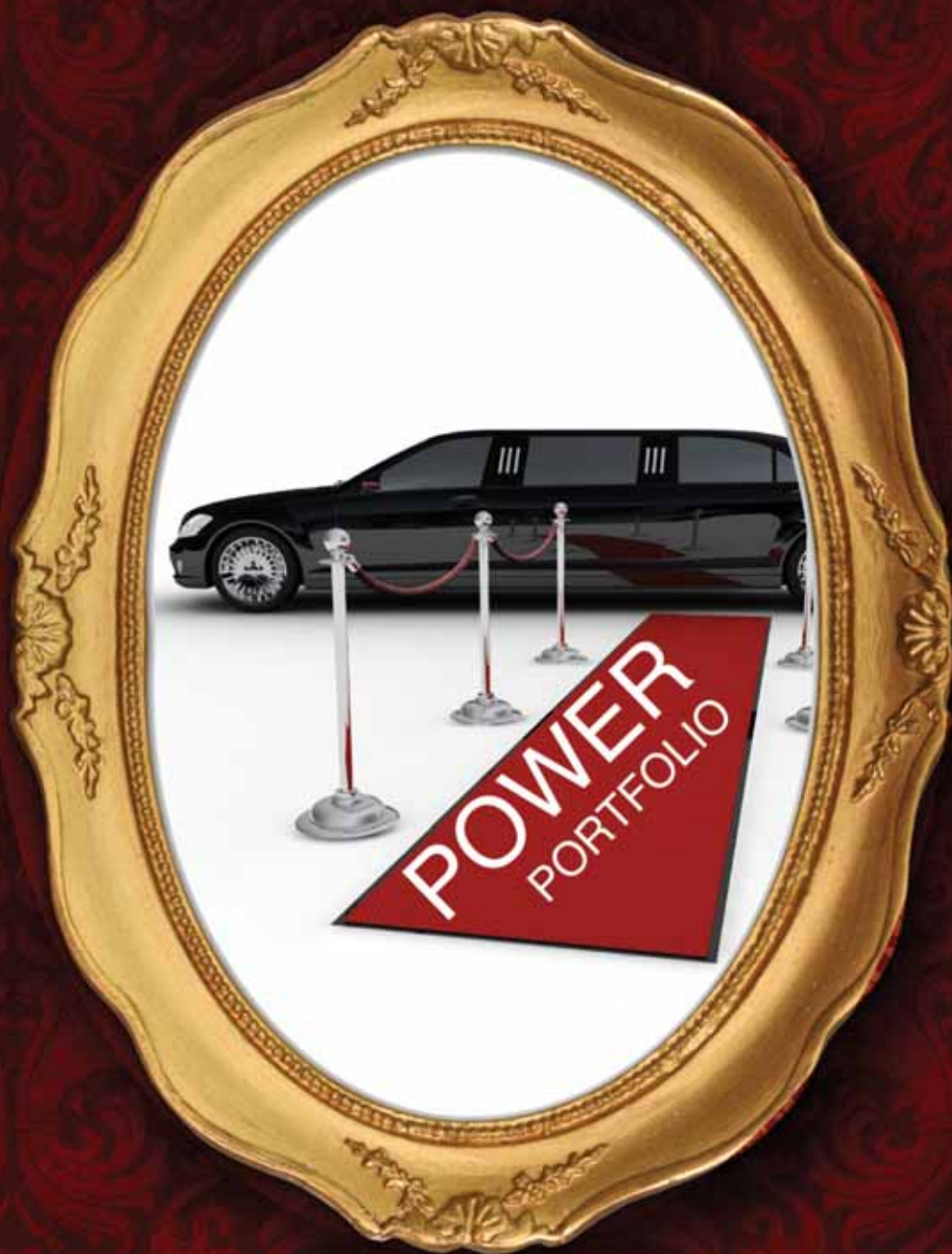
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ADRIENNE PAPP is a recognized journalist who has written for many publications including *Savoir*, Beverly Hills 90210, *Malibu Beach* and *Celebrity Society*, among many others. She is the President and CEO of Los Angeles/New York-based publicity company *Atlantic United, Inc.* Adrienne writes about world trends and interviews celebrities.

Lust in Paradise

Discover the unforgettable marvel of Turtle Island, Fiji

BY ADRIENNE PAPP



Only 14 couples visit the 500-acre island at a time, served by a Fijian staff of 100.

TURTLE ISLAND is a dream come true for couples. In *The Thomas Crown Affair*, when Pierce Brosnan lavishly surprises Rene Russo with extreme indulgence in a perfectly natural setting, we see Turtle Island for what it is: luxury without high heels; barefoot walks on a white, coral, private beach; champagne flowing like the ocean.

Perhaps a sunset cruise or peaceful evening of kayaking would satisfy your senses. Or you could choose private gondola dining, the night illuminated with old fashioned lanterns—just the two of you on the dark blue waves of the ocean. You might begin with an elegant salad: marinated Spanish mackerel and filo pastry filled with lobster, dressed with wasabi mayonnaise; accompanied by the day's fresh catch on a bed of creamy potatoes, topped with vegetables from the island's organic garden. Dessert is a must. No one is watching their weight; the food is too exquisite for such ordinary concern. On this island, nothing is ordinary.

Only 14 couples visit the 500-acre island at a time, served by a Fijian staff of 100. Each couple is given a walkie-talkie for emergencies, such as running out of champagne on one of the deserted beaches that is yours alone during your stay. And hidden in the luscious green of the tropical forest is the hammock, swaying to the music of nature. You are in love and lust, lost in nature, the only footprints are yours and your loved one's.

The island is the perfect place for a private wedding or anniversary celebration. Ignite your passion in a champagne-induced Jacuzzi and create the memory of a lifetime. Red hibiscus flowers cover your bed as your 24-hour butler brings



The island is the perfect place for a private wedding or anniversary celebration.

that special red wine ordered minutes before.

After a luxurious evening, women sleep in while the men go fishing. Choose a gourmet breakfast in bed or on the beach, inches away from the water. Or horseback-ride on the beach at sunrise with a champagne breakfast, followed by windsurfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, mountain biking, or hiking. Everything is included, except hassles from the outside world.

"If you really love your partner, and you've got some adventure and excitement left in your bones, come along. We're gonna have a great time!" says Turtle Island's visionary owner, Richard Evanson, who lives on the island with his wife and children, along with his larger family: the Fijian staff with whom he has bonded over the years. Richard bought the island without leav-

ing his airplane, then transformed it into paradise redefined.

Among the celebrities and politicians who have spent time here are pro quarterback Kurt Warner and actors Dennis Quaid, Rob Lowe, Vanessa Williams, and Andie MacDowell. Once discovered, the island is never forgotten. And just as this majestic ocean is an end and a beginning, the island it embraces will hold memories for a lifetime. **c**

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Advice from one of the country's leading cosmetic surgeons

BY ADRIENNE PAPP



Dorian Gray had good reason to hide his horrifying full-length portrait away in a closet. Oscar Wilde's fictional hedonist and murderer swapped his soul to the devil for eternal youth and vigor.

Today an increasing number of people would love to put their full-length mirrors in storage. And not because of the devil. They don't like seeing love handles, bulging abdomens, or double chins—the products of aging, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise.

Medical science has come to the rescue—with more than a quarter-million procedures performed to date; liposuction has become the most popular cosmetic surgery in America.

In this race for aesthetic perfection, the research can be bewildering. Yet finding reliable information is crucial: As the recent death of Donda West, mother of hip-hop artist Kanye West, reminds us, the surgery can be dangerous under the wrong circumstances.

For answers, we turned to one of the country's most recognized specialists and holder of several U.S. patents, Dr. R. Patrick Abergel. He has been featured in major magazines

including *Elle*, *Vogue*, and *W*, and has won awards from the American Heart Association, the Dermatology Foundation, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, and the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

With over 20 years of experience, the handsome, soft-spoken French native is a diplomate of the American Boards of Cosmetic Surgery, Dermatology and Laser Surgery, and is listed in the Consumer Research Council of America's respected Guide to America's Top Physicians.

MISCONCEPTIONS

Dr. Abergel points out three key misconceptions: "First, people often think of liposculpture as a weight-loss issue. It is not. The procedure is designed for people who can't trim and tone those pesky bulges, despite their best efforts of diet and exercise."

“Fat deposits are both genetic and hormonal, but once removed from a certain area they are permanently gone.”



Before liposuction



After liposuction

Second: Once surgically removed, the fat returns. “That’s not true,” says Abergel. “Fat deposits are both genetic and hormonal, but once removed from a certain area they are permanently gone. Nevertheless, a proper diet must be followed because fat cells can still grow [elsewhere] in the body.”

Third: Large amounts of fat can be removed all at once. “Not so,” he explains. “Safety is the most important factor. The amount of fat removed should be limited to six pounds.” More than that, Abergel cautions, and the patient runs the risk of a complete cardiovascular collapse. He also advocates getting a clean bill of health from a physician before undergoing the surgery.

SOLUTIONS

The most important step is to find the right surgeon. Not all liposuction practitioners are specialists. “Some doctors take a weekend course and return as a ‘liposuction expert,’” says Abergel. Confirm that a physician is experienced in the field and reputable in the community with good professional credentials. (Dr. Abergel has three different board certifications and a faculty appointment at the University of Southern California.) He suggests checking with a state’s medical board, and strongly believes liposuction should be performed only in an operating room, “not in an office,” to ensure a sterile environment and the monitoring of critical body functions by a physician-anesthesiologist.

“You don’t want men to know you had liposuction. You want them to think, ‘Oh, she has a nice body.’”

Antibiotics are always administered to prevent infection. Complete anesthesia is less imperative—liposuction can be

performed with or without it—but Dr. Abergel prefers sedation. “With modern anesthesia,” he says, “it’s much more comfortable for the patient and over before you know it.”

Conducted correctly, liposuction is among the safest surgeries because, as Dr. Abergel says, “You work in the fat compartment between the skin and the muscle, outside the organs.” Any bruising and swelling are short-lived and expected. “More serious problems, although extremely infrequent, can include pulmonary embolism, cardiac arrest, and infection,” says Abergel, none of which, he notes, has ever happened in his operating room.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

There are numerous methods associated with liposuction. With “Smart Lipo,” a laser is inserted to melt the fat. “It doesn’t have much merit in my eyes. Why needlessly complicate the simple procedure by introducing probes into the body?”

Instead, Dr. Abergel prefers his own method, Liposculpture with ultrasound, which employs smaller, custom-designed instruments. “The incision is very small, trauma to the patient is decreased—less bruising and swelling. It’s faster, the skin is tighter, and the sculpture is artistic—it respects a woman’s shape and form.”

With Liposculpture, there is minimal discomfort, maximum safety, and fast recovery—patients often are back at work or the gym within 24 to 48 hours.

And Dr. Abergel won’t “overdo” it. “What’s important,” he says, “is not what’s removed—it’s what’s left. You have to leave enough so the person looks natural and not ‘done.’”

“You don’t want men to know you had liposuction. You want them to think, ‘Oh, she has a nice body.’”

For more information, call (310) 829-2005 or visit www.doctorabergel.com 

Dr. Eric Fugier, *America's "Best Dentist"*

On botched cosmetic work

BY ADRIENNE PAPP



"Everyone wants to look good," says world-renowned restorative and reconstructive celebrity dentist Dr. Eric Fugier. "It's all about natural beauty, excellence in dentistry,

and artistry. We use state-of-the-art technology and computer imaging because designing a smile is like designing clothes. You have to look at the face and the whole person."

And he really does treat the "whole person," having received honors in energy medicine as a doctor of naturopathic healing, and has been awarded "The Best Dentist in America" by his fellow dentists.

Fugier's own clientele includes movie and music icons and dignitaries from around the world.

After practicing in Monte Carlo, then doing postgraduate work at USC, Dr. Fugier worked with Dr. Charlie Pincus, celebrity dentist for Judy Garland, Shirley Temple, and Elizabeth Taylor, to name a few. Pincus is the inventor of the porcelain veneer. "Dr. Fugier learned from

With over-commercialized cosmetic dentistry, some dentists are offering services they don't know how to perform properly.

the Galileo of teeth," says one happy patient. Fugier's own clientele includes movie and music icons and dignitaries from around the world. "At times they book the office for the whole day and bring their bodyguards," says Fugier with an endearing smile.



Patient's teeth before treatment



Patient's teeth after treatment

The demand for elective dental work has grown considerably since Fugier first began. With over-commercialized cosmetic dentistry, some dentists are offering services they don't know how to perform properly. "There are so many botched jobs because dentistry is difficult. It requires the right technique along with experience and artistic ability," Dr. Fugier frequently receives cases where another dentist changed the spacing or height of the teeth, creating pain and problems that hadn't existed before.

"People are being sold cosmetic dentistry as if it were some easy, fun procedure. If it is not done right, you will have permanent damage. It's important for people to find someone really qualified, so they don't have to go through a nightmare," he says.

"Dr. Fugier is wonderful and knowledgeable," says one patient, who found Dr. Fugier after suffering through horrible pain.

"Not only is he aesthetically fantastic, he's also structurally and physically meticulous. I will go to him until he or I pass away. We're a match!"

Visit www.drfugier.com or call Dr. Fugier at 310-859-1575 in his Hollywood office. 

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MARY ANNE SALES's writing focuses on upscale companies and individuals. She has worked with the NFL and other organizations marketing their products and services with great success. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her cat Dizzy.

Be a Local in a *Foreign Country*. Rent a Private Home from Villa Vacations Doorways Ltd. BY MARY ANNE SALES

Villa Vacations offers beautiful private villas and apartments in Spain, Italy, France, and now Costa Rica. Before renting one of Villa Vacations' many beautiful properties, the staff, headed by owner Kit Burns, interviews every prospective client. This approach ensures the best possible fit between customer and location. Burns and her

Kit Burns, President and owner of Doorways Villa Vacations, has been renting villas and apartments in Europe since 1994.



staff travel to each potential location before putting it on their roster. "We want only positive experiences. No surprises," Burns says.

Upon arrival, customers can call on local hosts who provide concierge service and work with them should problems arise. The hosts can coordinate special events, such as wine tours or cooking classes in the villa. Some villas come fully staffed. For those who prefer a limited amount of help, chefs and staff are on call for parties and events. Baby sitters also are available.

perfect base from which to explore nearby tourist destinations.

A section on the company's website available only to guests provides travel tips, restaurant guides, information on traveling with kids, and day-trip itineraries. Booking early is key, and trip-cancellation insurance is offered.

Renting a villa can be a life-changing experience. How else can you meet the butcher, the baker, and everyone else in nearby towns and villages?

Each vacation is customized; there are no packages. Whether it's a romantic getaway for two, a group of friends interested in culture and art, or a long-planned, multi-generational family trip, everything is planned with the guests' needs, wants, and desires in mind: hiking, bicycle trips, museums, galleries, wine tasting, or just relaxing at the villa's pool.

Villas are a perfect home away from home for families because they are much more affordable than hotels. One of the many reasons people rent villas is privacy. In addition to the entire house, there is a yard and a kitchen, even if there are no plans to cook. Large villas are perfect for family reunions. Relatives gather in large, comfortable, inviting homes—the

Renting a villa can be a life-changing experience. It allows guests and their families to experience each country's culture from the inside. How else can you meet the butcher, the baker, and everyone else in nearby towns and villages? Villa Vacations provides a sense of community in a foreign location for the whole family.

Burns and Villa Vacations have been renting homes for 14 years. "We pride ourselves on knowing the villas and the areas," Burns says. "We don't rent what we haven't seen."

For more information contact 800-261-4460 or visit their website at www.villavacations.com. 



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Large, historical estate off the Hudson River is in need of an industrious, seasoned, "hands-on" couple to care for main house and adjacent carriage house and guest cottages. They are in the midst of restoring the property to it's early glory and so experience with renovations is a plus.

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PROFESSIONAL STAFF WANTED

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Nanny/ Governess TX

Formal Texas family is seeking a live-in Educated Nanny for newborn twins. Duties include full charge of the babies, placing them on schedules, making sure that they are well stimulated, etc. Must be bilingual as client needs kids to learn a foreign language as they grow. Swimming and flexibility to travel for long periods internationally required. 5 years' minimum experience mandatory. Must wear uniform.

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Nanny CA

Business Mogul in Los Angeles seeks to hire a Nanny to care for newborn twins. Must have at least 5 years experience with twins and infants. A long term commitment of at least 3 years is required. Must be flexible to work 24/7 shifts and be a team player to work well with other staff. Excellent references mandatory. Bilingual French, college degree in psychology, education or nursing is a plus.

Salary: Open
Celebrities Staffing Services
Call: 310-274-6436
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Administrative Assistant CA

Corporation is looking to hire an Administrative Assistant with a college degree and a minimum of 2 years experience. Must be a fast learner, computer proficient, and have excellent communication skills. Duties include correspondence, filing, managing schedules and travel arrangements. Must be flexible to attend late or weekend meetings or social events and travel domestically.

Salary: \$35K + benefits
Celebrities Staffing Services
Call: 310-274-6436
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Nanny/ Housekeeper FL

Busy Florida family is looking for the right Nanny/ Housekeeper to care for their 4 children from toddler to pre-teen ages. Candidate must be educated, fun, able to swim, skilled in formal housekeeping, laundry, ironing and cooking. Position requires cleaning main home and vacation home. Clean driver's license and a minimum of 5 years experience required.

Salary: \$52K +
Celebrities Staffing Services
Call: 212-227-3874
www.celebrities-staffing.com

Butler NY

Client with multiple residences seeks a live-in Butler with impeccable manners, even temperament, and a history of effective household staff management and training. Must be computer literate, skilled in formal serving, cleaning of silver, crystal and antiques, maintenance of wine and other inventories, etc. Must be knowledgeable in wines.

Salary: Negotiable
Celebrities Staffing Services
Call: 212-227-3874
www.celebrities-staffing.com

Nanny NY

Busy international entertainer is looking to hire a Traveling Nanny for 2 children. Ideal Nanny would have a college degree, be single, have infant care experience and be able to travel 6 months internationally and 6 months domestically. Must be flexible with changes of schedule at a moment's notice and have a valid U.S. passport.

Salary: \$65K + benefits & other perks
Celebrities Staffing Services
Call: 212-227-3874
www.celebrities-staffing.com

Couple CA

Client is looking for experienced Couple to work in their 15,000 sq. ft. estate. Must have a min of 5 years experience with excellent references and be willing to travel extensively. Experience working in formal homes mandatory. Duties: Butlering, nannying, cooking, housekeeping, chauffeuring etc.

Salary: 90K-\$100K
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HOUSEKEEPER

Looking for a full-time or part-time housekeeping position in the Los Angeles area. I have over 7 years of housekeeping experience and am skilled in cleaning fine homes that have antiques, crystal, silverware, etc. I am diligent, loyal, organized and meticulous. I am available immediately.

CALL NINO: 323-654-2434

CHAUFFEUR

If you are seeking a young, professional chauffeur with extensive knowledge of the tri-state area. Reference available upon request.

CALL NEAL: 917-375-3014

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HTTP:// MEMBERS.COX.NET/ MANUELDASILVA

HOUSEKEEPER / COOK

I have over 5 years experience working as a Housekeeper/ Cook. I am detail oriented, hard working, loyal and reliable. I am also a very good cook specializing in American, European and Asian cuisines and have great presentation skills. I am professional, presentable, discreet and personable and would be an asset to any household.

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Focus on Life

Gilda's Club promotes well-being among cancer victims and families

BY MERLE GOLDBERG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL FUSCO

"You can't charge what's freely given, heart to heart." If anything captures the spirit and essence of Gilda Radner and the people who created Gilda's Club, it's the community of people who both give and receive, no questions asked.



From left: Joanna Bull and Gilda Radner

People learn to live with cancer, with the emphasis on living.

When beloved actress and comedienne Gilda Radner was diagnosed with cancer, Joanna Bull entered the picture and became her psychotherapist. Together, they worked on living with cancer, which Bull devilishly nicknamed "delicious ambiguity." Their intimate life-affirming sessions planted the seeds for the beginning of what is now known as Gilda's Club. Co-founders Joanna Bull, Radner's husband, Gene Wilder, and the late movie reviewer Joel Siegel are the trio who wanted to honor Gilda's memory and zest for life in a place where people can structure emotional and social support, whatever the outcome.

Gilda's Club has developed a special language. "We've developed a philosophy that avoids words which perpetuate stereotypical beliefs," says Bull. People learn to live with cancer, with the emphasis on living. They regain control and well-being instead of doing battle, struggling or fighting for recovery. As Bull puts it, "If all we do is fight and then lose the battle, it doesn't feel so good."

Gilda's Club sponsors "ph&d," a support group where survivors of cancer are welcome free of charge. It's an opportunity to learn and grow even more. *P* stands for perspective; *H* for helping hands, mentoring, and giving back; and *D* for discovery, the chance to find deeper meaning in the experience and join a large community of people who have collective wisdom.

Noogieland is a place for children living with cancer and the siblings who often get lost in the chaos of the diagnosis. Gilda's Club provides a wonderful playroom and activities in a normalized environment. Kids can have a great time while working out emotional issues.

"We call our organization Gilda's Club Worldwide. There are clubhouses across North America," Bull says.

Bull's plans for the future include strengthening the club's presence on the Internet through the creation of an online community called The Living Room. "We feel confident that we will create a personalized online community where people with the same interests, concerns, and needs can come together. There

will be no geographic boundaries," Bull says.

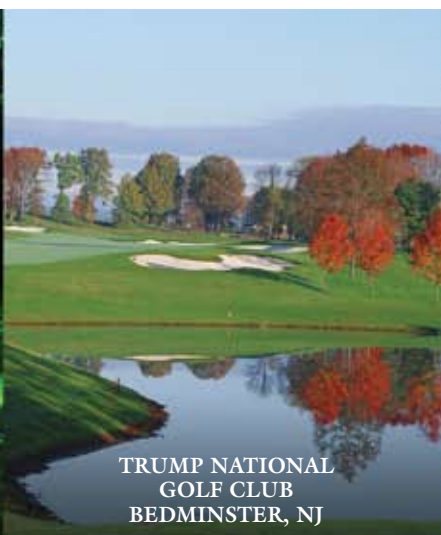
Everything is free at Gilda's Club. Everything is about community. Everything is about living. You can learn more at Gilda's Club at www.gildasclub.org 

MERLE GOLDBERG is a writer/producer for film and television. She has interviewed celebrities such as Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Sidney Poitier, and Julie Christie. In addition, she's written several award-winning documentaries and worked for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, taking testimony from hundreds of Holocaust survivors

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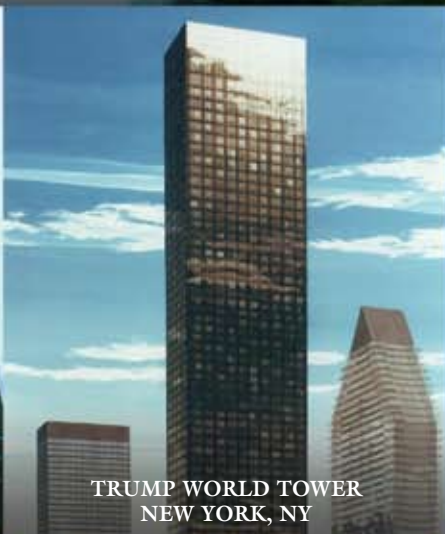
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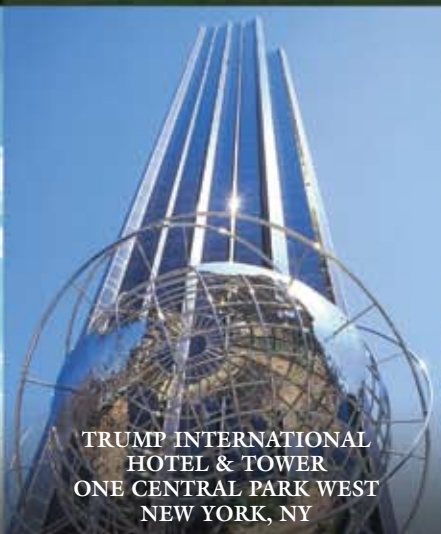
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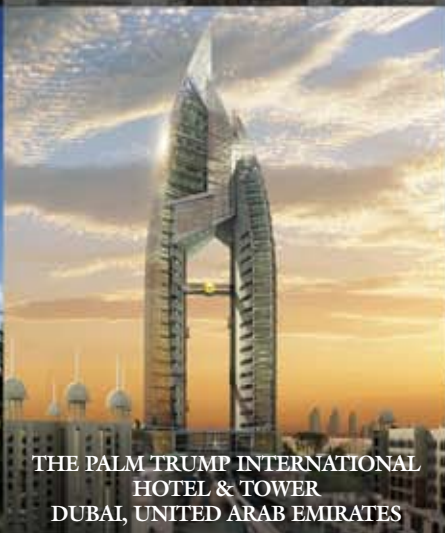
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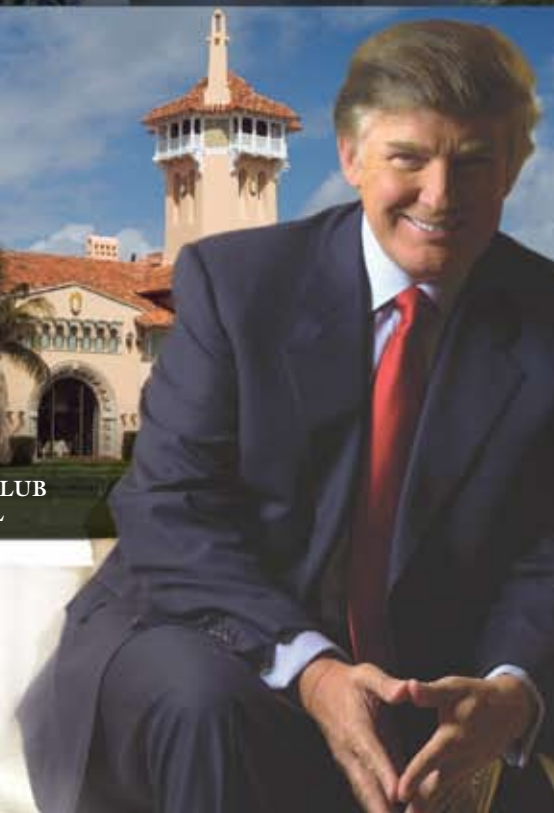
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