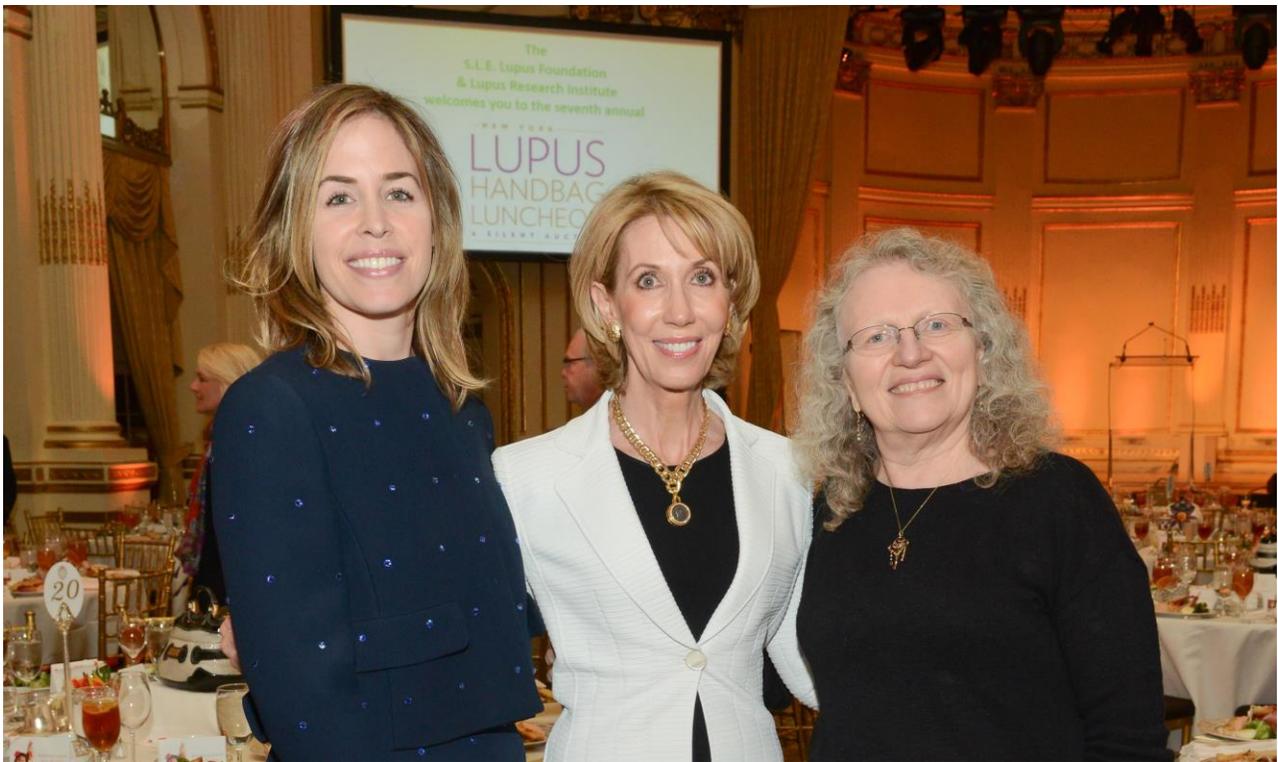


April 15, 2015

New York Handbag Luncheon Supports Research for Better Treatments and a Cure

Hosted by the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Research Institute



Pictured above: Brett Heyman, Teri Wilford Wood and Dr. Betty Diamond. Photos: Matthew Carasella

Thank you for supporting the seventh annual New York Lupus Handbag Luncheon hosted by the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Research Institute (LRI). We particularly recognize with appreciation our 2015 Women of Achievement pictured above for their contributions in the fight against lupus: **Brett Heyman**, Edie Parker; **Teri Wilford Wood**, IBM; and **Dr. Betty Diamond**, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research.



"My mother, Carol Weisman, has lupus and has been an active Board member of the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation since 2002," commented Brett. "While she always looks gorgeous on the outside, I grew up watching her struggle on the inside."

I support this luncheon to help raise funds for research in hopes of finding a cure for my mom and all women who suffer the devastating effects of lupus."

Teri told the moving story of how her colleague Natalia LePivert was helped by the work of the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation and the LRI. "The healthy, happy, confident Natalia who was thriving at IBM became a sad young woman battling unexplained pain and fatigue. About to resign, Natalia shared that she suspected lupus despite never getting medical confirmation. I had one of those amazing Eureka moments in life when you suddenly realize you can help. I connected her with the Foundation and now she has a diagnosis, a treatment plan and hope for the future. Best of luck to Natalia and all lupus patients as we work together through research to find a cure."



Accepting her award from CEO Margaret Dowd, Dr. Diamond commented, "From the moment I first learned about lupus in medical school, I knew I wanted to study it and hopefully make a difference to patients. Lupus is a disease primarily of young women. That aroused the feminist in me!"

The silent auction featured more than 100 stunning handbags donated by top designers to help raise funds for lupus research to improve treatment and find a cure. And this week, in addition to the bags Brett's company contributed to the luncheon, 10% of the proceeds from [Eddie Parker](#) bags

purchased between April 13 and April 20 with the code LUPUS10 will go to the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation.

If you were unable to attend the luncheon, but would still like to support the event and advance lupus research, please [click here](#) to make a contribution.

For a full summary of the event, [visit our website](#).



Pictured above: Mary Belle, Danielle DiFerdinando, Barbara Tracy, Anne Keating



Pictured above: Michelle Gadsden-Williams and Teri Wilford Wood



Pictured above: Jennie DeScherer, Richard DeScherer and Matilda Raffa Cuomo



Above, left to right: Janet Chaing, Rachel Doyon, Samantha Lomardo, Sarah Mian, Brooke Marinovich, Amber Hay and Judy Hsu

[Click here](#) to view additional images from this event.



About the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation

The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation is the preeminent lupus organization providing direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for lupus research.

www.LupusNY.org | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Email Preferences](#)