

'Spa Day' Raises Money for People With AIDS

■ Euphoria in West Hollywood Participates in National Program

BY TIM POSADA

Euphoria Face and Body, a West Hollywood spa, presented Aid for AIDS (AFA) on November 20 with a check for \$1,000 in celebration of the 5th annual "Spa Day". Located at 8253 Santa Monica Blvd., Euphoria owners, Steven Rukman and wife Gabriella Philips, presented a check to Tim Sullivan, Treasurer of the Board of Directors for AFA.

"[Aid for AIDS] is a community organization and when the community gets involved, it's a beautiful thing," Sullivan said. "AIDS is not over and this money will be used to help those who need it."

Spa Day is a national event created by Aid for AIDS to raise money for the non-profit organization. Spa Day took place on November 8, with more than 50 spas taking part in several areas nationwide, including Northern and Southern California, Arizona, Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, South Florida and Virginia. Each spa pledged to donate 20 percent of its profits generated on November 8.

Danny Levy, Development Manager for AFA, joined Joel Wilsey, Director of Membership and Events for the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, to help present the check.



photo by Tim Posada

Steven Rukman (left), and his wife Gabrielle Philips, owners of Euphoria Face and Body, donated a check to Tim Sullivan, of Aid for AIDS, an organization that helps people with HIV and AIDS.

"It's exciting that members of the community are willing to give back to the community, and the [West Hollywood] Chamber of Commerce celebrates with them," Wilsey said.

Euphoria began participating in "Spa Day" in 2006 through interactions with AFA, a neighboring business. Euphoria raised \$150 in 2006, and \$1,000 in 2007, but they hope to see that number grow at the same rate in years to come, according to Rukman.

"Steve and I love being a part of the West Hollywood community and we can't wait to present our check to Aids for AIDS next year at 'Spa Day' 2008," Philips said.

"Spa Day" is one of many events hosted by AFA, along with "the upcoming West Hollywood

Memorial Walk, in which AFA with partner with the City of West Hollywood, on World AIDS Day, November 30.

Aid for AIDS, founded in 1983, is a non-profit organization that provides financial help for those below the poverty level with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County. For more information, visit www.aidforaids.net.

College District Hosts Forum on Global Warming Issues

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) has announced that its 6th Annual "Sustainability Conference to Propose Practical Solutions to Deter Global Climate Warming" will be held on Friday, November 30.

Leading international authorities on global warming and sustainability will come together at the conference to explore technical solutions that can be adopted today. Topics will include transforming industries, environmental protection efforts in China, and why Californians should care about inspiring people to participate in making Los Angeles healthy and sustainable.

Conference participants will include Silvia Scott-Hayes, president of the Board of Trustees for the LACCD; Larry Eisenberg, executive director of facilities planning and development for the LACCD; Bharat Patel, chair of the U.S. Green Building Council, Los

Angeles Chapter; and Sustainability Specialist Mike Massey, executive director of the Piping Industry Progress & Education Trust Fund. Other participants include Sean George, author of "Decide Not to Die!"; Rick Fedrizzi, founding chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); Andy Lipkis, founder and president of TreePeople, a 34-year old L.A.-Based non-profit organization; USC professor Dr. Titus Levi, and David Freeman, president of the Port of Los Angeles Harbor Commission.

The event will be held from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Biltmore Bowl in the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave. The LACCD is currently undertaking the largest public sector sustainable building effort in the United States, funded by the \$2.2 Billion Proposition A/AA Bond Program. For more information, visit www.laccdbuildsgreen.org.

Federal Program Will Help Restore Area Along the Los Angeles River

The United States Congress recently overturned President George W. Bush's veto and enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), a measure that includes a \$25 million authorization for restoration and revitalization projects along the Los Angeles River. The move was applauded by Los Angeles leaders as clearing the way for revitalization along the river.

Restoration of the 31 miles of river that run through the city will include

the development of parks and open space, pedestrian walkways and bike paths, and the renewing of the natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

On November 2, President Bush vetoed WRDA, prompting both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to vote to override the veto. Voting in a bi-partisan fashion, the House took action on November 6 with a vote of 361-54, followed by the Senate's vote on November 8 of 79-14.

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