

# The Southampton Press

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2002

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*Summer Colony*

## **BEACHCOMBER**

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Beloved New York columnist Neal Travis was remembered at Le Cirque by dozens of his friends and fellow journalists. Photographer Joan Jedell, who publishes the popular magazine "The Hampton Sheet," hosted the party in the upstairs library. Joan's wonderful color portrait of Neal is on the cover of the current issue, and everyone was snatching up a copy to save.

The cocktail reception, which was co-hosted by philanthropist and Kinray Pharmaceutical tycoon Stewart Rahr, was both a celebration of the Runyon-esque New Zealander's life and a bon voyage for his delightful wife, Tolly. Tolly has just sold the Bridgehampton home she and Neal shared and this month will be moving back to her native Australia.

While the talented pianist Richard Currier played many of Neal's favorite songs, Joan described how Neal had encouraged and helped her begin her successful publishing career. "Neal meant a lot to me," she said, "and that is why I wanted to give him this tribute and the kind of send-off a gal like Tolly deserves!"

Among the many friends remem-

bering Neal and giving Tolly a hug were Nancy O'Shaughnessy and her husband, radio great William O'Shaughnessy, who had eulogized Neal at his funeral in August, Claudia Cohen, Sidney Zion, Donald Trump (with Melania Knauss in a full-length white mink coat), Marty Richards, Elke and Ben Gazzara, Judy Licht and Jerry Della Femina, Mickey Sherman, Phil Mushnick, Howard Rubenstein, David Granoff, Victoria Gotti, Rona Jaffe, Richard Farley, Tom Lipscomb, Richard Valvo, Tricia and Phil Smith, Elaine Kaufman, owner of the legendary saloon where Neal spent many of his happiest moments, and Father Pete, who spoke at Neal's funeral and praised him for being "not only charming, witty and brilliant but a very lovable man who always wrote the story without malice."

Some of the others in the glittery group were the New York Post's Colin Myler and Andrea Peyser, Barbara Leary, Cynthia and Tony Maltese, Isobel and Ron Konecky, Denise and Larry Wohl, Felicia Taylor, Tommy Corcoran, Robert Zimmerman, Sharon Allan, Norma Foerderer, Angela Hemingway, and former Police Chief of New York City and Boston Bill Bratton with his wife, Rikki

Kleiman. Bill Bratton told me that honoring Neal was just the way he wanted to spend his last night in New York. The following morning he flew to Los Angeles, where he was sworn in as that city's new police chief.

Wrapping up the evening, Joan spoke for everyone when she said, "Tolly, as you can see from the turnout in this room, you are very much a part of New York. We are your friends, and please don't forget us. And know that you are very much loved."

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