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OUT & ABOUT

RCLA says hello to Tina Brown

The people who line the pages of **Tina Brown's** life are a who's who of the world's best journalists, writers, photographers and most famous celebrities. **Princess Diana**, Vogue editor **Anna Win-tour**, **Annie Leibovitz**, **Dominic Dunne**, **Demi Moore**, **Richard Gere**, **John Updike** and more are all part of the tapestry that Brown has woven into the pages of her magazines, in a career she likens to "four weddings and a funeral."

Brown was the guest of honor at the Ringling College Library Association Town Hall Platinium Dinner recently at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota.

Diane McFarlin, publisher of the Herald-Tribune Media Group, introduced Brown, whom she described as "a rock star of the industry," and "the most talked-about magazine editor in the world." Nearly 500 guests filled the elegantly appointed ballroom, and listened as Brown spoke of her years as editor of *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker* and currently as editor-in-chief of *Newsweek* and her online venture, *The Daily Beast* (the four weddings), and her unsuccessful endeavor as publisher of *Talk Magazine* (the funeral).

The author of "The Diana Chronicles" shared anecdotes from her career, including memories of a luncheon with Princess Diana and Anna Wintour just six weeks before Diana's tragic death, her first meeting with **Dominic Dunne**; and the story behind the famous (or infamous) nude cover of *Demi Moore* taken when she was pregnant.

Brown described **Dunne** as "a voice that would help define our magazine," and working with photographer **Annie Leibovitz** as "one of the great joys of my life." It was a delightful insider's glimpse into the world to define celebrity and narrative journalism through her publications.



GAYLE GUNNIP OUT & ABOUT

Kristine Nickel is chairing this year's Town Hall series, while **Debbi Benedict** and **Wendy Deming** co-chaired the dinner. Seen at the event were **Harry and Victoria Leopold**, their daughter **Stacey Corley** and her husband, **Michael Jay** and **Holly Logan**, **Renee Pastor**, **Gwen Mackenzie**, **Renee Hamad**, **Teri Hansen**, **Flori Roberts**, **Elaine Keating**, **Stephania Feltz**, **Kim Cornet**, **Olivia Thomas** and **Pat Frye**, **Jay and Veronica Brady** and **Larry and Pat Thompson**, to name but a few.

A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

A full house was thrilled by the season-ending concert showcasing the students of **PMT/Suncoast's** winter residency. **Bass/baritone Itzhak Perlman** and **Toby Perlman** joined their wildly talented tutees (plus a few faculty members and guests) onstage at the Sarasota Opera House for some rousing music. The student string orchestra conducted by **Perlman** then gave a performance of **Grigieg, Bartok** and **Tchakovsky**, with a "dessert" encore of **Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5** that brought everyone to their feet.

Gala chairs **Barbara Britzell** and **Debbie Haspel** squeezed 360 patrons, including **Rodger DeRose**, **Dottie and Bob Garner**, **Jules Rose** and **BJ Creighton**, into the **Michael's** on East Ballroom after the concert.

The surprise guest of the evening was syndicated columnist **Margo Howard** ("Dear Margo"), daughter of the late **Ann Landers**, with her husband, retired cardiac surgeon **Dr. Ronald Weintraub**. The life and love columnist — who looks just like her mother — said they enjoy spending their writers on **Longboat Key** and were guests of **Sharon Rosier Rosengarden**, widow of famous drummer and band leader **Bobby Rosengarden**. **Toby Perlman** gave a sweet and heartfelt thanks to **Arthur Guilford**, **PMT/Suncoast's** USF campus host, the musicians, the Sarasota weather, her faculty and staff. The most fun part of the evening came when **Itzhak Perlman** and "the Perltones" sang some doo-wop ditties... including **Billy Joel's** "For the Longest Time" and **Sam Cooke's** "Cupid."

— Ruth Lando

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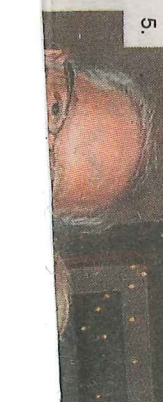
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PLATINUM DINNER: TINA BROWN
Tina Brown, former editor of *Vanity Fair* and *New Yorker* magazines, and editor-in-chief of *The Daily Beast*-*Newsweek* merger, was in town as part of the RCLA Town Hall series. She appeared at a Platinum Dinner at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota.

1. Tina Brown and Kristine Nickel.
2. Wendy Deming and Debbi Benedict.
3. Roxie and Mike Jerde.
4. Merry and Stan Williams.
5. Richard and Kathy Stern.

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