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Central to Spring

To show their love of Central Park and welcome spring to their beloved backyard, more than 70 Park neighbors hosted cocktail parties in their fabulous homes as part of an April event called Central to Spring, encouraging their friends and neighbors to support the Central Park Conservancy's mission of restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of Central Park.

At 7:45 p.m., a fireworks display from Cherry Hill (mid-Park at 72nd Street) was enjoyed by nearly 1,500 party guests from their hosts' windows.

Central Park is a backyard for all New Yorkers – and especially for the people whose homes are on its perimeter. With views of the Park's rolling meadows, water bodies and trees through living room windows, Central Park's neighbors are just steps from one of the most extraordinary urban parks in the world.

If the Park is New Yorkers' shared backyard, the Conservancy is the organization that guarantees it's the backyard New Yorkers deserve, all year long. Yet only 15 percent of the people who live within a five-minute walk of Central Park actively support the Conservancy's work.

After the first-ever Central to Spring, that number is bound to change as Park residents become more aware of the Conservancy's crucial role in their everyday lives.

Here are just some of the gracious hosts and their guests on a night that raised \$160,000 for the conservancy:



Steve Bensinger, Carol Staab, and John Paulson



Neil Hochberg, Carol Staab, and Phil Stern



Chris Nolan (from the Conservancy)



Phil Stern, Kimberly Tanico, Neil Hochberg, and Paul Tanico



Greg McCarthy, Sheila Mulrennan, Carol Staab, Steve Bensinger, and Neil Hochberg.