



Elway's party, Wally Richardson and Smart Girl go home winners

ICON gala recognizes the best of the best

By **GLORY WEISBERG**

John Elway's 50th birthday party, the Global Down Syndrome Be Beautiful, Be Yourself benefit and Smart Girl won the spotlight at the 12th annual ICON Awards gala, Feb. 25, at the Grand Hyatt, roping in a sell-out throng of party industry providers, their customers and lots of bling wearing bold-face guys and glam girls.

Every year the ICON Awards hands out Mylar souvenirs to those businesses that are professionally judged as best in the local bunch. The People's Choice Awards are bestowed on those the general public views as best. This year there were some fresh, new winners, such as Creative Events that got the People's Choice nod for Best Social Event for a Non-profit, based on their "Book-lover's Ball Exposed" benefit for the Denver Public Library. There was a tie for Best Nonprofit Event with Aspen's Hotel Jerome and ERH Associates won for the Be Beautiful, Be Yourself gathering. The People's Choice Award for the Best Wedding Over \$75,000 went to **Wally Richardson** and the People's Choice Award for Best Event Under \$75,000 went to Newberry's. The People's Choice Award for Best Food Presentation at an Event went to Epicurean and the Judge's Award for Best Floral Design went to New-



Richard Rizzo and Jeremy Bronson



Nancy Koontz and Al Fisher



Wally Richardson

berry's. So much for the theory that second generation shop owners don't usually do well as Newberry's continues to rank among the winners every year, thanks to **Paula Newberry Arnold**.

Other firms leaving the hotel with awards included Destination Services, Starkey Productions, Affair with Flair, Signed and Sealed, Andrew Clark Photography, Inviting by Design, Biscuits and Berries and Sapphire Celebrations.

I was wishing I'd taken old fashion shorthand to keep up with emcee **Paul Borrillo's** awards announcements!

This is *Confetti* and *Colorado*

Expression Publisher **Terry Vitale's** production that focuses on the glitz, and this year it was all about New York City, from towering building centerpieces to cookies shaped like taxis bearing "NYC." The Chrysler Building was pure eye candy.

Richard Rizzo's Puttin' On The Rizz was event planner, again, **Ellen Robinson** and **William Fogler** were ticket chairs, Image Corp was producer, Chair Covers & Linens were among décor providers and catering was the work of Gateaux, the Grand Hyatt, Katherine's French Bakery & Café and Telluride Truffles. Dessert was unbelievable with

wait staff marching into the ballroom each carrying Faberge-like eggs cracking them open with little hammers to show luscious chocolates.

Smart Girl won the drawing for the charity getting a \$10,000 donation this time around. Overall, ICON raised more than \$500,000 for local community interests.

Among the glammed up guests: **Judi Wolf, Barbara**

Thring, Ernie Blake, Diane Huttner (loved those embellished boots), **Peter Kudla, Michelle Whitten Sie** and dozens of others. Maybe Vitale should institute a new award category: Costumed Guest Best Fitting the Event theme. That could really raise some collective blood pressure in the ballroom, right?

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Shawn Robinson, Michael Roffino, Jesse Ketter and Trudy Ludberg



Terri Fisher and Lawrence French

Photos by *Glory Weisberg*