



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE MIAMI BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PILLAR TRUSTEES AND PAST CHAIRS ANNOUNCE THE 2009 DIAMOND PALM AWARD WINNERS

Miami Beach (November 18th, 2009) -The Past Chairs' and the Pillar Trustees of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce the winners of the 2009 Diamond Palm Awards Luncheon sponsored by Lisa Sparks, Regional Development Director of Constant Contact. The highest honor of the luncheon the **Diamond Palm Award** was awarded to Grasp Group. Graziano Sbroggio accepted the award on behalf of News Lounge, Van Dyke, Tiramisu, Spris, Segafredo and Maitardi. The award is presented to a business that has proven to be outstanding in their ability to achieve success in their particular field of expertise. Past recipients include Boucher Brothers Management, Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co., P.A., Fortune International Realty, Pacific Time Restaurant and last year's winner Joe's Stone Crab. The luncheon also included **The Amethyst Arts and Culture Not-For-Profit Award**, awarded to the Sabrina Cohen Foundation for Stem Cell Research, the **Sapphire Hotel of the Year Award** awarded to Clevelander, and the **Emerald Sustainable Living Green Award** awarded to ECOMB. This year's **MBCC Past Chair Honoree** recipient was **Gerald K. Schwartz** of Law Office of Gerald K. Schwartz and the **2008-2009 Outstanding Board of Governor James McDonnell Award** recipient was **Aaron Tandy** of Gunster Yoakley & Stewart. The luncheon took place on Thursday, November 12th, 2009 at Jungle Island from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As the Chamber's highest level of membership, Pillar Trustees strive to energize economic growth on Miami Beach and to provide leadership for more effective community involvement. The advancement of education, the support of progressive government, and the initiation of projects and ideas that benefit businesses and residents are the primary goals of the Pillars.



From left: Michael Larkin MBCC Chair-Elect, Lisa Sparks Regional Development Director of Constant Contact and Aaron Perry MBCC Chairman of the Board



From left: Wendy Kallergis MBCC President & CEO and Gerald K. Schwartz MBCC Past Chair Honoree



From left: Gene Howard, Heidi Tandy, 2009 James McDonnell Award recipient Aaron Tandy and Elsie Howard



From left: Aaron Perry MBCC Chairman of the Board, Diamond Palm Award winner Graziano Sbroggio of Grasp Group and Wendy Kallergis MBCC President & CEO





From left: Aaron Perry MBCC Chairman of the Board, Wendy Kallergis MBCC President & CEO, Amethyst Arts and Culture Not-for-Profit Award Winner Sabrina Cohen and Michael Larkin MBCC Chair-Elect



From left: Aaron Perry MBCC Chairman of the Board, Wendy Kallergis MBCC President & CEO, Sapphire Hotel of the Year Award recipients Clevelander Claudia Di Gino and David Cain, and MBCC Past Chairman Sandy Horwitz



From left: Emerald Sustainable Living Green Award recipients ECOMB Gabriole Van Bryce and Luiz Rodrigues, MBCC Pillar Trustee Chair Cheryl Jacobs and Michael Gongora

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