

AZ Insider: Go GAGA Attracts Stars at Gammage Gala

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Kathy Shayna Shocket has the stories on the people who make a difference.

Kathy reports from the golden carpet of Gammage.

It was a LANDMARK gala for an architectural LANDMARK and many of Phoenix's elite played starring roles! Among that cast at the benefit for ASU Gammage, were major sponsors **Laurie** and **Chuck Goldstein** and co-chairs of Golden Gammage Gala 2015 Committee **Leslie Rich** and **Mary Way**.

Broadway star and Tony Award winning **Sutton Foster** performed at the formal fete. (**Sutton** will also star with **Hillary Duff** in the upcoming TV-series "Younger") **David Stone**, a leader on Broadway and the producer of long running "Wicked", was presented with the inaugural Gammy Award. Actor and reporter (CBS, *The Daily Show*) **Mo Rocca** emceed.

The fancy affair boasted a golden decor in the spirit of Gammage's Golden Initiative (GGI). The GGI is the performing art center's \$16.2 million capital campaign for capital improvements and a programing endowment. The 50th Anniversary Leadership board co-chaired by **Leslie** and **Jeff Rich** and **Mary Way**, raising funds with Gammage's Executive Director, **Colleen Jennings-Roggenstack** and her staff, also includes Valley luminaries such as **William Ahearn**, the late **Jerry Appell**, **Jo Finks**, **Laurie** and **Chuck Goldstein**, **Grady Gammage, Jr.**, **Albert**



Leffler, **Michael Manning**, **Sarah Nolan** and **Bill Way**.

(Pictured above, right corner are **Glenn** and **Felice Appell**, children of the late **Jerry Appell**.) **Bill Way**.

Guests at the sold out event toasted Gammage's 50th anniversary and its cultural and economic impact in Arizona. In the past eight years, Gammage and its Broadway Series have generated more than \$350 million into Arizona's economy and have granted access to nearly 5 million people to world-class arts experiences.

Grady Gammage, Jr. and his wife **Karen Gammage** and their family were also in attendance. Gammage is named for Grady's father, **Grady Gammage**, a former President of ASU, who worked with **Frank Lloyd Wright** to make Gammage a reality.

"I believe President Gammage and **Frank Lloyd Wright's** dream about a magnificent theater to house the world's best art and culture for the community has come to fruition," says **Colleen Jennings-Roggensack**.



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a freelance Writer and TV-Field Producer based in Phoenix, AZ. She's a former TV Reporter who's also written for national publications such as **TIME** Magazine, **MONEY** Magazine, **PEOPLE** Magazine, the **Hollywood Reporter** and **The NEW YORK TIMES**. She can be reached at redkarpetgirl@aol.com