

## The AZ Insider: Dinner with Larry Fitzgerald?

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

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"The AZ Insider" with Kathy Shayna Shocket: Get the inside scoop on Arizona's social scene and celebrity news.



**This week: You can join Larry Fitzgerald at Morton's! Sports 620 KTAR celebs and Larry's buddies gather for Celebrity Waiter Night in Scottsdale.**

If you've ever dined at Morton's - you know the experience of being in a steak and seafood wonderland - as the cart showcasing the USDA prime aged 24-ounce porterhouse, New York strip, double cut filet mignon, flown in from Chicago --- is rolled up to your table. (not to mention the succulent lobster, salmon and shrimp.)

Well, imagine NFL superstar **Larry Fitzgerald** rolling that cart up to your table and taking your order. .. or one of his Arizona Cardinals teammates or Phoenix Suns buddies! Yes, Larry (a culinary expert and gourmet cook) and some of his athlete cronies will be your servers for a four-course dinner and fine wine pairings at Morton's The Steakhouse in Scottsdale.

Larry has teamed up with Morton's and Sports 620 KTAR to raise funds and awareness for his foundation, the Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund, named for his beloved mother who he lost to breast cancer. Throughout her career, as a Minnesota state worker, **Carol Fitzgerald** dedicated her life to helping those affected by breast cancer, AIDS and other diseases.



Sports 620 KTAR's Arizona Cardinals announcers **Ron Wolfley** and **Paul Calvisi** are emceeding the Celebrity Waiter Night on August 24 for which the tickets are \$250 per person. Pictured above are Paul Calvisi, Cardinals Betrand Berry, Larry Fitzgerald and Ron Wolfley.

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This dinner is the brainchild of a Morton's corporate exec, **Roger Drake**, who has scored an amazing TOUCHDOWN in making this event a reality. Roger, a New York resident, has been a dedicated Cardinals fan, since the team was in St. Louis. "There were some lean years, but I stuck with them, going to as many games as I could in Arizona," says the executive who first thought of the idea in 2004 when Larry joined the Cardinals and he met Larry's father, a longtime sports editor for the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, at a sports event. (He's pictured below at Morton's in New York with the world's largest wine bottle.)



Roger also has sentimental ties to teaming up with the Fitzgeralds. Roger's mother lost her battle to breast cancer when he was nine years old. Her name, as Larry's mother, was also Carol. So when he heard that Larry had dined with his family several times at Morton's in Chicago this summer, he wrote Larry Sr.

By the way, Larry, the skilled athlete probably isn't likely to fumble while serving up a steak, etc.. but he and the other celeb waiters (including Cardinals **Anquan Boldin**, **Chris Wells** and **Coach Ken Whisenhunt**) will be shadowed by Morton's serving staff.

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There will be an impressive list of auction items at the Aug. 24 dinner for about 160 people. Among them, a private dinner in the next off season at Morton's Scottsdale with an appearance by Larry- and a **Steve Voita** oil painting of Larry to be auctioned off.

P.S. Morton's in Chicago has a special place in my heart. It's where I learned a lot about the business world. I have wonderful memories of my grandfather and his cronies making business deals over dinner at Morton's. I'd sit quietly as they schmoozed and delighted in the steaks and seafood- **Arnie Morton** often joining them. As **Roger Drake** says about the man who co-founded Morton's with **Klaus Fritsch** in 1978, "yes Arnie was the ultimate restaurateur."

For more details on Celebrity Waiter Night (480) 951-4440.

See how you can win Larry Fitzgerald and Morton's autographed items through Sports 620 KTAR online raffle <http://allstar.ktar.com/asp3/ContestDetail.aspx?AID=67923>.



**Kathy Shayna Shocket** is a Phoenix based writer. If you have a good item for The AZ Insider, you can email her at [redkarpetgirl@aol.com](mailto:redkarpetgirl@aol.com).