

Great Chefs Dinner

Updated: Monday, 10 Aug 2009, 6:23 PM EDT
Published : Monday, 10 Aug 2009, 5:35 PM EDT

MYFOXNY.COM - The 2009 Great Chefs Dinner (<http://www.greatchefsdinner.com/>) brought together the top culinary names of the East End and New York City to celebrate and honor the legacy of Jeff Salaway, a widely respected and beloved restaurateur and one of Hayground Schools co-founders. The fifth annual event was held on Sunday, August 9th, 2009 at Hayground School (151 Mitchells Lane, Bridgehampton, NY). The annual event benefits Hayground Schools Jeff's Kitchen and the Jeff Salaway Scholarship Fund. The culinary affair, hosted by Toni Ross of Nick & Tonis and Jon Snow, artist and director of Hayground Camp, featured a cocktail party and dinner prepared by top East End and New York City chefs and fine locally produced wines from Long Islands Bedell Cellars

Chef's headlining the event included Eric Ripert of Le Bernardin accompanied by Joseph Realmuto of Nick & Tonis, Christian Mir of Stone Creek Inn and Miche Bacher (Sacred Sweets).

This year's even raised more than \$150,000.

On Hayground School (<http://www.hayground.org>)

In 1995, a local group of parents, educators and community members met to discuss a better way to educate their children. This group included representatives from the Native-American, African-American, Latino and Euro-American communities on the East End of Long Island. Their shared vision, Hayground School, opened in September 1996, with 60 students from pre-K to 8th grade. Haygrounds mission is to provide an open community school where unproductive conventions are replaced with new ways of teaching and learning. The school was founded on the conviction that all children can and should live a life of the mind, be serious and passionate readers, engage in serious discourse, and work and study in an environment where art is at the center, not the periphery, of life.

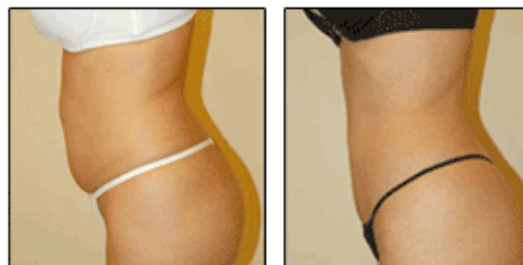
Hayground School is founded on the conviction that all children can and should live a life of the mind. All children can be serious and passionate readers; all children can engage in serious discourse; all children can work and study in a community where art is at the center, not the periphery, of life. All children can develop the habit of compassion. Mission Our mission at Hayground is to provide an open, community school where conventional teaching methods are replaced by new ways of teaching and learning. We are committed to a program of innovation in a community of diversity, both economical and cultural. Diverse Age Groups All students from age four to eleven work together in mixed-age groups, where surprising and fruitful friendships emerge. Younger students often challenge themselves intrinsically older students often learn through teaching with younger students.

Info On Jeffs Kitchen and Jeff Salaways Scholarship Fund

At Hayground, the 3 Rs can sometimes stand for recipe, roast and roux, since one of our most innovative features is Jeffs Kitchen, explains Lukas Weinstein, the schools administrative coordinator. Says Nick & Tonis Toni Ross, who was also the late Salaways wife, Jeff believed that the growing, preparation and sharing of food is a primal human experience and the foundation of family and community. The professional kitchen/classroom supported by a science lab, garden and greenhouse, was being planned by Salaway just prior to his tragic death in 2001. Thanks to the first Great Chefs Dinner, organized in 2003 by event founder Lizz Salaway, (Jeffs sister), several of his culinary celebrity friends and many volunteers, more than \$300,000 was raised to make the freestanding building on the sprawling Hayground campus a reality. Jeffs Kitchen is a full service professional kitchen and classroom fitted with top-of-the-line Viking appliances; classes in nutrition, food science and cooking are held there for both children and adults. Completing the facility, recently a professional Farmtek greenhouse was erected by Hayground students, staff and friends with funds provided by Slow Food. Previously, in an equally meaningful tribute, The Jeff Salaway Scholarship Fund was established in 2001 by Jeffs friends and colleagues to make Hayground School even more readily available to the diverse spectrum of East End children. To date, more than \$850,000 has been raised to support Jeffs Kitchen and to provide tuition for numerous students.

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