

# Face the World tops \$1 million in the rain



**MALCOLM PARRY**  
VANCOUVER SUN

**TOWN TALK**

**JACQUI COHEN's** long-standing luck with the weather ran out recently when rain fell on the 17th annual running of Face The World Foundation gala at her Point Grey waterfront home.

But the cloudburst left everything green. Attendees at the \$1,250-ticket event — which was titled *A Night Under The African Sky* — eclipsed last year's record \$702,000 revenue by contributing a million dollars and counting. The entire sum will reportedly go to the 30 charities and organizations FTWF supports, many of them involving hard-pressed women and children. Further donations added to the \$500,000 in a seven-year-old endowment fund.

Cohen and restaurateur-cohost **Umberto Menghi** credited first-time guests for swelling the night's haul. They included Lower Mainland Steel principal **Ron McNeil**, who alone chucked in \$100,000.

The fundraising got a home-stretch boost from author **Jackie Collins**, whose just-launching 26th book, *Married Lovers*, should enhance her own \$200-million net worth. La Collins impulsively put herself and a half-dozen pals up for auction as lunchtime companions at L.A.'s Spago restaurant. Stellar FTW supporter **David Aisenstat**, who can eat free at any of his own 105 restaurants, promptly bid \$65,000.



Face The World founder Jacqui Cohen's writer-pal Jackie Collins helped 2007's take top \$1 million.

Wearing the gala's traditional light attire, diamond dealer **Sonja Brooke** and track athlete **Charmaine Crooks** were especially mindful of raindrops falling on their olive-silk Versace and scarlet-silk Romona Keveza dresses. For good reason, maybe.

"You can't wear anything but shoes [strappy Versace pumps] under these," said events planner **Tammy Preast**, meaning her silk charmeuse dress from Nite-line L.A. and showbiz agent **Carrie Wheeler's** clingy silk-jersey column by city designer **Jason-**



Bruce Langereis' big bucks and short speech helped Kathleen Bartels open a Vancouver Art Gallery gala.



Silk-clad Sonja Brooke and Charmaine Crooks dodged drops at Face The World's recent rainy running.



Commando-clad Tammy Preast and Carrie Wheeler said slithery styles allow for shoes and nothing more.



Robert Davidson and wife Terri-Lynn dressed up-coast for an art gallery party and Chanel fashion show.



Mollie Massie cheerily succeeded Robert Lemon as chair of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation.