



For Immediate Release

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PMCA's Centennial Celebration Gala

The "Crowning" Event of the Association's 100th Anniversary

November 16, 2007 – Bethlehem, PA – PMCA brings the association's 100th Anniversary Year to a close with a Centennial Gala.

The festivities began with a Confectionery Exhibition featuring the creations of five top Artisans. Each piece was expertly designed, and uniquely captured the theme of "*Centennial Celebration*". Gala attendees had the opportunity to bid on the artwork via a silent auction format. All proceeds from the silent auction will be donated to the *Ronald McDonald House* during a special ceremony in December.

Confectionery artisans who graciously donated their time, skill and product to the event:

Brian Donaghy, Tomric Systems

"A Celebration of Chocolate"

Beth Kimmerle, Porcupine Product

"Confectionery Decoupage"

Dona Peters, Cargill Cocoa and Chocolate

"PMCA's Century of Progress on Parade"

Frank Vollkommer, Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate

"Cocoa to Creation"

Shawn Bennett, James Bew, Mark Heim & Douglas Lehrian, The Hershey Company/Joseph Schmidt Confections Team

"A Celebration of Sweets"

The highest bidder on each piece was formally announced during the dinner program and could take their piece home with them that evening. In addition, each of the highest bidders received a gift certificate graciously donated by the *School of Culinary Arts*, York, PA and the *Hotel Hershey's Circular Dining Room*. Highest Bidders were as follows:

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Celebration of Chocolate

Edward Sequine – *Guittard Chocolate Company*

Confectionery Decoupage

Reginald Ohlson – *Retired, Mars Snackfood US*

PMCA's Century of Progress on Parade

Alison Bodor – *National Confectioners Association (NCA)*

Cocoa to Creation

Philip Hess – *Son of W. David Hess, Quiqley Manufacturing Inc.*

A Celebration of Sweets

Melanie Joseph – *FONA*

Following the reception, guests were formally greeted by PMCA Chair, **Peter Blommer** and his wife **Ellen Blommer**, followed by President **Adrian Timms** and wife **Irvette Timms** as they entered the beautifully decorated Garden Terrace Ballroom for dinner.

Walter Vink of *Vink Associates* provided the invocation and with glasses raised, **Peter Blommer**, led a toast to the growth of the association and all those who made it a success over the past 100 years.

The guests were treated to a celebratory program led by Master of Ceremonies, **RJ Harris** of *WHP Radio*. **Beth Kimmerle** of *Porcupine Products*, author and editor of PMCA's History Book entitled "*Sweet Times – 100 Years of Making Confections Better*" delighted the audience with a description of the creation of this wonderful piece of history. Copies of this unique History of Confectionery are now available for purchase.

To conclude the dinner program, association President, **Adrian Timms** presented special recognition awards to the Centennial Year sponsors. **Peter Blommer**, *The Blommer Chocolate Company* and **Tim Rogers**, *Chris Candies* were also applauded for their combined donations to create the 100th anniversary chocolate bars.

Mr. Timms announced a surprise award from the PMCA Board Directors and Committee Chairs to the association's Administrative Director, **Ms. Yvette Thomas**. To a standing ovation the PMCA Board of Directors thanked Ms. Thomas praising her diligence and dedication to ensuring the success of the Association and its Centennial Program.

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Mr. Timms also thanked the Centennial Celebration committee chair **Alan Cotich**, *Classic Caramel Company* for leading the committee and MC **RJ Harris** for his donation of time to this important event.

Following the dinner program, guests danced the night away to an impressive eight piece band, *The Colgan Hirsh Band with the Slammin' Horns and Teresa Leonard*.

PMCA wishes to sincerely thank the Centennial Celebration Committee:

Chair

Alan Cotich

The Classic Caramel Company

Members

Peter Blommer *Blommer Chocolate Co.*

Jack Collins *St. Augustine, FL*

Tom Jackson *Medford, NJ*

Doug Lehrian Ph.D. *The Hershey Co.*

Steve Marcanello..... *Asher's Chocolates*

Mary Myers *Mars Snackfoods, US*

Reg Ohlson *Hummelstown, PA*

Tim Rogers *Chris Candies, Inc.*

Melissa Scheib.....*PMCA*

Eric Schmoyer..... *Barry Callebaut USA*

Yvette Thomas *PMCA*

Adrian Timms *The Hershey Company*

Brandy Wambold..... *PMCA*

Dede Wilson *Boise, ID*

Kim Yoder *Cargill, Inc.*

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Centennial Sponsors:

AarhusKarlshamn

ADM Cocoa

Balchem Encapsulates

Bell Flavors & Fragrances

The Blommer Chocolate Co.

Bloomer Candy Co.

Candy Industry Magazine

Carle & Montanari, USA

Clasen Quality Coatings

Colorcon

Corn Products US

Danisco

Driam USA

Gertrude Hawk Chocolates

Hazelnut Council

The Hershey Company

Hosokawa Bepex

Just Born

Klöckner Hänsel Processing

Mars Snackfood US

MC/Manufacturing Confectioner

RM Palmer Co.

Pharmachem Laboratories

Pick Heaters

Tate & Lyle

Univar USA

Editor's Notes: PMCA is a non-profit international trade association in the confectionery industry whose goals are to provide open forums for the free exchange of technical information through its Annual Production Conference, to promote and direct basic and applied scientific research in the science of chocolate and confectionery through its Research Program at leading universities and to educate and train technical and manufacturing personnel worldwide through its Short Course Program. The organization was originally founded in 1907 as the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Confectioners' Association.

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