



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gelila and Wolfgang Puck Host African First Ladies at First “Leadership for Health” Summit

BEVERLY HILLS, CA – April 20, 2009 – Couture designer Gelila Assefa Puck and her husband, superchef Wolfgang Puck, hosted and catered this evening the opening dinner of the African First Ladies “Leadership for Health” Summit. The dinner was held at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles.

The two day meeting brought together the First Ladies – wives of Prime Ministers or Presidents from leading African nations – to discuss women’s health, education and AIDS. The event was convened by the groups African Synergy Against AIDS and Suffering and U.S. Doctors for Africa. 15 African nations were represented with first ladies from Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia among those attending.

Greeting summit participants was the First Lady of California, Maria Shriver, wife of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, along with several Hollywood personalities active on African issues, including actors Sharon Stone, Danny Glover, and Amy Brenneman.

Gelila Puck – born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and a strong supporter of women’s health and education issues in Africa – welcomed the dignitaries to Los Angeles in a short speech delivered during the course of the dinner.

Said Mrs. Puck: “I would like to thank all of you who are here tonight ... you have helped Ethiopia and the continent of Africa. It is the continent that has the deepest troubles in so many areas including disease, famine, but such great promise for the future.”

Mrs. Puck had particular praise for the founder of U.S. Doctors for Africa and a principal sponsor of the summit: “Thank you, Ted Alemayu, my fellow Ethiopian who founded U.S. Doctors for Africa – an incredible organization that has made AIDS a principal focus of his efforts. I applaud you for all your work!”

About Gelila Style

GelilaStyle features the couture collections of Gelila Assefa Puck, an internationally known designer of fine gowns and handbags, who was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Gelila’s designs are rooted in her East African heritage and today are principally focused on a distinctive handbag line, which includes simple, classic clutches and bags made from crocodile, ostrich and African springbok.

Gelila and her husband, superchef Wolfgang Puck, support numerous charities worldwide, and were both honored in March of 2009 for their philanthropy by the Children’s Institute in Southern California with the prestigious Champion of Children Award.

Contact

Gelila Style
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