



David Patrick Columbia NEW YORK SOCIAL DIARY

THE NEW YORK LIFE: In a recent column, I wondered who it was who had inspired the planting of those “heavenly pear trees” that bloom in the springtime around the city. It had to have happened in the late '70s or early '80s, as I had moved from New York (and Connecticut) to

Los Angeles around then and they weren't there at the time. I was surprised when I returned, in 1992, to see the flowering trees that spring. Flowering trees had not existed in New York—at least not in abundance. They are very effective in calming and adjusting the mood of us har-

ried New Yorkers living in the thick of the daily rush.

A few weeks ago, I got a letter (in the mail) about that “someone who had inspired” from **Margaret Ternes**, who for many years has been involved in running the Malls Planting Project and the Park Avenue Tree Lighting (both by

the Fund for Park Avenue) as well as the Salute to the Seasons Fund. She wrote:

Dear DPC:

Mrs. Lasker thought Second Avenue was “dreary,” so in went pear trees from 40th to 86th Streets. The following year (and I don't know exactly what the year was) but some-



Mary Lasker (left), the great American philanthropist whose work has affected the beauty of the city, the nation's highways, health, maternity, and culture, led the way for women in philanthropy. Her exemplary force and courage has been followed by a number of women today, including, clockwise: The late Irene Diamond who, with her husband, gave away almost their entire fortune to AIDS research and treatment as well as Lincoln Center and the Julliard School; Bonnie Strauss, whose Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia and Parkinson Foundation has made important inroads in treatment; Dame Jillian Sackler, who continues to carry out the initiatives in education, culture, and the arts supported by her late husband, Dr. Arthur Sackler; Iris Cantor, in the fields of health, arts, and culture; and the great Evelyn Lauder, whose work in creating the Breast Cancer Research Foundation has affected and changed the lives of untold numbers of women and their families in dealing with breast cancer.