

July 1st Lovin' Life Gala Celebrates the Heroes of 1982 Blessing

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Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon bless representative couples at the Madison Square Garden ceremony.

They tied the knot under the stunned eyes of thousands 30 years ago, and in a few days they will rock, roll and waltz down memory lane on Sunday, July 1, 2012. Church Headquarters staff are planning a jam-packed afternoon of entertainment for 30-year wedding anniversary celebrants and their friends. Many attendees of the anniversary celebration are expected to join the Lovin' Life worship service at the Hammerstein Ballroom of the Manhattan Center at 10:00 a.m., after which the 1982 Blessing participants and their families will gather for a historical "deep-kiss" photo on the sidewalk beside Madison Square Garden, according to Rev. Bruce Grodner, district pastor of New York's Unification Church.

Red-carpet interviews of the participants as they re-enter the Hammerstein Ballroom at 3:00 p.m. will be held by Pastor Jaga Gavin and CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles) leader Victoria Roomet. Church President Rev. In Jin Moon is scheduled to give the tributary keynote address to the 8,000 couples that pronounced their wedding vows in New York and Korea in 1982.



2075 couples pronounced their wedding vows in New York City on July 1, 1982 and 6,000 couples gathered in October, 1982 in Korea. All will be honored July 1, 2012.

Larry Moffitt, who served as an MC during the entertainment portion of the 1982 Blessing, will return as the MC on July 1st this year. A portion of the 56-minute documentary video of the 1982 Blessing will be viewed, and copies of the video will be made available for purchase at the event, according to Rev. Phillip

Schanker, head of the Blessed Life Ministry. Many couples will be able to identify themselves and friends in this video, which documents every phase of the Blessing ceremony and includes the remarks of bystanders on the street that day, as well as the eloquent speeches of former church presidents Mose Durst and Neil Salonen, entertainment by the New Hope Singers, and by crooner Tony Martin. In addition, video testimonies for the anniversary event are in production in various cities on the East and West Coast.

Rob Sayre, president of the BFA, has created a website for the sharing of photos, videos, memories, testimonies, tributes to the ascended, and other stories. Register at 2075blessingmemories.org. Sayre urges participants of the 1982 Blessings to register their stories as soon as possible so that the collected materials can be published as a book and presented to True Parents. The testimonies will be collected after July 1, Rev. Schanker has said.

Entertainment will feature *Sonic Cult*, ballroom-dance exhibitions and an assortment of performers from the past and present. Second-generation soloists and bands are being recruited by Lovin' Life Producer David Eaton. There will be a *hors' d'ouvres* and a commemorative gift for the couples.

Tickets for the event reportedly are cheaper for those who respond by June 25th, according to organizers: \$30 for individuals; \$50 for couples and \$100 for families. After June 25th, the tickets will cost an additional \$20 for each kind of ticket. Register here:
www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&id=3659&Itemid=439