



# NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT**

Edward Mintiens, 607-547-3567

Diane L. Wells, 607-547-6354

## THE GOLDEN DRAGON BALL THE 2007 BASSETT NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

**Cooperstown, N.Y.** – This year, the Friends of Bassett will celebrate New Year's Eve with the "Golden Dragon Ball," its 14<sup>th</sup> annual gala. "In ancient Chinese myth, dragons are benevolent and bring abundance, prosperity and good fortune, which are what the Friends wishes for all during the New Year," said Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends. "The Friends is most grateful to the Gala co-chairs, Nancy Tallman and Carol B. Waller, for their leadership and inspiration, and the Gala's lead sponsors, New York Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company and The Colonial Agency LLC for their continued support."

The New Year's Eve Gala begins at 7:30 p.m., and guests will be entertained from the moment they enter The Otesaga Hotel and are greeted by a jubilant chorus of Korean drums. Festivities begin with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a special sake bar. The Otesaga chefs are planning to pull out all the culinary stops with the Feast of the Celestial Dragons, a spectacular dinner buffet with a pan-Asian influence.

Two bands will entertain – Big Fish Combo, which is back by popular demand, and Chaser, which music fans consider to be one of New York City's ultimate party bands. Cheon Ji In, ("people who shake the heaven and earth"), a full Korean drum troupe, also will perform during the evening. Following tradition, there will a midnight Champagne toast and a fireworks extravaganza.

Once again, the Gala's Silent Auction committee has exceeded itself by accumulating a range of desirable items in categories ranging from "Art" to "Unique." The centerpiece of this year's auction – a consecutive lease of four 2008 Audis, one every quarter -- has been donated by Oneonta Audi and the Adam Family. The value of the lease is \$15,000 with bidding starting at \$7,500.

To review all auction items, call the Friends office for a copy of the auction booklet, which contains closed bid forms for those who will not be in attendance. Auction items are posted on the Friends' Web site: [www.friendsofbassett.org](http://www.friendsofbassett.org). The Friends also salutes Riverwood, Cooperstown's popular Main St. specialty shop for promoting the auctions by displaying items in its storefront window from Nov. 14 through Dec. 2.

The Pre-Gala Auction collection will be on view in the Bassett Clinic lobby on Tuesday, Dec. 4, and Wednesday, Dec. 5. In addition, the third annual raffle has been expanded and tickets will be on sale at the Pre-Gala Auction. Winning raffle tickets will be drawn and Pre-Gala items will be awarded to the highest bidder on Dec. 5, at 5:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the Gala and Silent Auction will support the Friends of Bassett's Annual Fund, which helps strengthen Bassett's regional initiatives across its eight-county service area.

Reservations are required for the Gala. The evening's all-inclusive prices are \$375 per couple and \$200 per single. Black tie is optional, and valet parking is available. Call the Friends office at 607-547-3928 for more information.

In addition, The Otesaga has a special Gala plan for an overnight stay and breakfast. Call 800-348-6222 for more information.