Summer at Last!

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Jam-Packed Activities Calendar

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!

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Eating Healthy at BBQs & Ballgames

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Camp Q&A

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Where-To Guide: Amusement Parks • Slumber Party Suggestions

NYMETROPARENTS.COM
Spotlight on Moms

Four women were honored last month for the work they do every day in their homes, at their jobs, and in the world. By Vanessa Friedman

Each year, the National Mother’s Day Committee, an entity of the Father’s Day/Mother’s Day Council, hosts the Outstanding Mother Awards to honor exceptional women who have successfully built careers, nurtured their families, and contributed to their communities. This year, award recipients included actress Debra Messing; Margarita Arriagada, senior vice president of merchandising at Sephora; Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post; and Dottie Mattison, senior managing director of Guggenheim Partners.

On May 9, the honorees were celebrated with a luncheon and presentation at The Pierre NY Hotel. Though the award labels these women as outstanding, each recipient was quick to insist that all mothers face the same trials when attempting to excel in all areas of their lives. “I don’t feel like we are any more extraordinary than you would deem an everyday mom,” Messing said, “and every mom is forced to make compromises and choices that are painful every day. We want to spend as much time as possible with our children, we want to nurture our friendships and our relationships, we want to be the best employee that we can possibly be, and we want to give back to the world and the community. And there never seems to be enough time to be able to do that.”

The Ultimate Baby Shower

Actress Jessica Alba hosted a baby shower to honor a local mom who’s making a difference. By Vanessa Friedman

Floral Park resident Perminder Thiara, 34, is a mom expecting her second child, a marketing manager, and the co-founder of Kirpa (kirpa.org), the first nonprofit of its kind created to empower women in the Punjabis community. Thiara was also the winner of The Honest Company’s Ultimate Baby Shower, and on May 7, she celebrated her win at Locanda Verde in downtown Manhattan with friends, family, and Jessica Alba.

Alba, the 32-year-old mom of two and co-founder of The Honest Company, aims to create a more sustainable planet starting with nontoxic and eco-friendly products for the whole family. Alba says she picked Thiara as the winner of the contest, created to celebrate a “deserving mom-to-be” who is committed to creating a safe and healthy environment for her family while dedicating herself to the service of others, “because she is the epitome of supermom.”

Thiara started Kirpa with some friends in 2009 because she wanted to let the women in her community know about opportunities available to them, “so they can become strong leaders in the community,” she says. The organization places a strong focus on health awareness, presenting health fairs every year and providing free breast cancer awareness pamphlets, free mammogram screenings for undocumented and uninsured women older than 40, and free pap smears. She says she nominated herself for the contest after thinking, “Why not?” and she found out she was a finalist during a pregnancy checkup at her doctor’s office. “I said, ‘I would love to scream, but I can’t because I’m at the doctor,’” she says of that phone call. “A week later, they told me I was the winner and I was so speechless and excited...I just have no words to express how I feel. It’s like I won the lottery.”

Created by The Honest Company, the contest was co-sponsored by Land of Nod and Tea Collection. The prize included the shower and $10,000 worth of mommy must-haves, including a $3,000 gift card to Land of Nod, a $1,000 gift card for Tea Collection children’s apparel, and a $2,400 credit at honest.com. The shower took place in a private room with personalized decorations, a multi-course meal, and games and activities organized by Thiara’s friends and family. —VF