

Helping Farm Friends

By NELL ALK

"You can't imagine how many farm animals come from New York City," Jenny Brown, who runs Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary, told a crowd last week at Aurora Lampworks in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. For the second year in a row, the rooftop fundraiser—benefiting the 26-acre haven for cows, pigs, bunnies, birds and other animals that previously suffered abuse or abandonment—drew animal fans of all ilks, with every guest sharing a single mission: to celebrate and advocate. And then celebrate some more.

A self-proclaimed animal-rights activist, Ms. Brown, who runs the sanctuary just outside of Woodstock with her husband Doug Abel, posited, "If not us, who? If not now, when? If we can lead happy and healthy lives without causing harm to others, why wouldn't we?"

Ms. Brown was diagnosed with malignant bone cancer at 10 years old, an ordeal that caused her to lose not only her hair, but also her right leg.

"I felt like I wasn't able to make decisions about what was happening with my body. I started to relate to animals and children in that way," the 41-year-old said. Ms. Brown's story will hit shelves in the form of her first book, "The Lucky Ones," which is scheduled to be published in August. But before the book party, she's excited to bring friends of the sanctuary together in the city. "So many of our supporters are here," she said.

Indeed, the place was packed, bustling with people young and old clanking cocktails for a cause. The event boasted entertainment by Cyn-



Derek Goodwin (3)

Above, Carrie Alton with a photo of Ralphie, one of the rescued farm animals at the sanctuary. Below left, a dancer from Cynthia King Dance Company. Below right, Chloe Jo Berman and Marisa Miller Wolfson.



thia King Dance Company, as well as fire dancers. The cuisine was supplied by Blossom Du Jour and the V-Spot, with Vegan Divas serving up dessert. A little later in the night attendees could be found roasting s'mores over a fire pit (made with gelatin-free marshmallows a la Sweet & Sarah and Chicago



Vegan Foods' Dandies).

Guests offered different motivations for being vegan and for toasting one of the Empire State's most serene sanctuaries. "Four years ago, I brought my students to the sanctuary on a group trip. We took, like, 30 kids to the farm. It was an amazing day," said Anthony

Tricarico, a computer teacher at St. Saviour High School in Brooklyn.

Clletv.com ("Collective") founder Dan Mims, 27, said his favorite thing about the soiree was the location. "You can't beat a rooftop party in Williamsburg. But, of course, the people, too. The people are so special."

Simone Reyes, executive assistant to Russell Simmons, has been vegan since 1991 and working with PETA's "Man of the Year" for 27 years. "Whenever there's a fundraiser, I never say no. If I'm in town, I'm always there," she said. The 44-year-old's latest project has her blogging about activism for Zooey Deschanel's site, Hello-giggles.com.

Ultramarathon-runner Rich Roll made an appearance, in town from California doing press for his memoir "Finding Ultra," a story about his personal transformation. The 45-year-old continued: "When I began [cutting out animal products] it was for selfish reasons. It was for health reasons. But I have immersed myself in this world."