



# First 'wives' club

## Andy's gal welcomed

By JENNIFER FERMINO

If Sandra Lee needed pointers on how to handle her new duties as New York's incoming "first girlfriend," The Pierre was definitely the right place for her to be yesterday.

Lee hobnobbed at the ritzy hotel with former First Ladies Donna Hanover and Silda Wall Spitzer and Mayor Bloomberg's main squeeze, Diana Taylor, at a charity lunch that raised more than \$1 million for home-bound and elderly New Yorkers.

Lee, Gov.-elect Andrew Cuomo's gal pal, traded pleasantries with Taylor — who called her "wonderful" — and chatted about her boyfriend's mom with Hanover, Rudy Giuliani's ex-wife.

Lee, a Food Network star, revealed her latest recipe was all about making New York's future head of state happy.

"I'm going to do everything I can to support Andrew and make sure that he's ... in a great way to make everything happen for New Yorkers, everything that he's promised," she said at Citymeals-on-Wheels' 24th annual Power Lunch for Women.

Cuomo is determined to make good on his campaign pledge to drain the cesspool in

Albany, Lee said.

But she cautioned: "That takes a lot of energy and a lot of effort, and it's not going to be easy, and it's not going to happen overnight. I can tell you that the minute he walked off that stage, when he was governor elect, he started working."

Lee, a TV host, cookbook author and magazine editor-in-chief, laughed when asked whether the busy couple ever found time to see each other.

"Yes, I see him," she said, "sometimes at 2 a.m. 'Hi, honey. Are you hungry?' It's all good."

Taylor, who was honored for her commitment to the charity, predicted that Lee would be "a wonderful first lady — first girlfriend — for the state."

Spitzer also had kind words.

"I hope she has fun and enjoys it," said the state's former first lady, whose tenure was cut short when Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned in a sex scandal.

Rounding out the mutual admiration society, Hanover called Lee "fabulous." The woman who separated from Giuliani while he was still in office said she and Lee talked about Cuomo's mother, Matilda.

"We had a Matilda lovefest," she said, laughing.

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— Diana Taylor, Mayor Bloomberg's gal pal, talking about Lee

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— Sandra Lee, on her boyfriend, Gov.-elect Andrew Cuomo



**I hope she has fun and enjoys it.**

— Silda Wall Spitzer, wife of former Gov. Eliot Spitzer

**She's fabulous ... We had a Matilda lovefest, Sandra and I did.**

— Donna Hanover, ex-wife of former Mayor Giuliani



Photos: Robert Miller