

granddaughter Elizabeth II), the Suffragette Movement for the emancipation of women, something Victoria herself disapproved of, took hold. The fall of the great monarchies, the First World War, and the political and economic upheaval of our times. Victoria's granddaughters, the sisters Alexandra (Alix) and Elizabeth (Ella) came to brutally violent endings during the Bolshevik (Russian) Revolution. Alix, her husband Nicholas and children were mass murdered, and Ella, wife of a Russian noble, was beaten and then thrown down a mineshaft, left to die eventually of her wounds.

A Sunday night dinner at *Sette Mezzo* with its full-house

crowd: Gillian and Sylvester Minitzer; Kathy Steinberg, Siri and Bree Mortimer, and Bette Ann Gwathme, Joe and Hillary Califano; Kathy Sloane and Congresswoman Carolyn Mahoney; Maurice Sonnenberg; Charlie Rose and Amanda Burden, Jerry Della Femina and Judy Licht.

Later that night I learned that Jimmy Breslin had died earlier in the day. He would have been 87 on October 17. I did not know him, never met him, don't even recall ever seeing him except very occasionally on television. However, like many New Yorkers of my generation and before me, I read him eagerly and always admiring in the daily *New York*

*Herald-Tribune* in the 1960s when it had been taken over by John Hay "Jock" Whitney and turned into the competing morning newspaper versus the *New York Times*.

In those days, few *Times* writers had an actual byline. Most articles were "Special to the New York Times." The *Trib* on the other hand—the Eisenhower Republican paper—had a host of great writers, both columnists and journalists. Breslin was among them and was incidentally about as Republican as Che Guevera. I'm not implying that Breslin was a Commie. But he was an Irishman, a "Noo Yawker," a great story teller from the nabes, and

called it like an Irishman *New Yorker*. He was a star who didn't bother with the role.

He told stories. His reports were stories, fact or fiction. In memory they were more often fiction because he had characters who were mentioned from time to time like *Marvin the Torch* (we know what his business was). They could make you laugh. *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight* was about a New York gang/mob who were, I was told, mainly Irish and famous for killing a local shylock named Ruby whom they owned money to.

A skeptic, a doubter, a cynic who saw things with an unblemished eye; was that Jimmy Breslin? Maybe all of

THE 15TH ANNUAL PALM BEACH SYMPHONY GALA AT THE BREAKERS



Amy and Michael McGowan



Maxine Marks and Don Ephraim



Don and Mary Thompson



Alyssa Zebrowsky and Phillip Reagan



Elizabeth Dennis and Ruby Rinker



John and Amy Collins



Holly Johnson Barlett, Charles and Ann Johnson, Sarah Johnson and Chauncey Johnson

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