

NEWS

NEW YORK'S 50 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

By Mandy Stadtmiller

May 13, 2007 | 9:00am

They're moguls, mensches and moms – the sensational ladies on this year's Post list of New York's most powerful dames.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 59, senator/presidential candidate. New York's first female senator. If elected, she would be the first female president. First in fund-raising thus far. And if we know anything about this woman's persistence and her roster of powerful friends, she could soon be the most powerful woman in the world.

Diane Sawyer, 61, co-anchor, "Good Morning America." Of all the morning views in town, she's the greatest. Significantly slashing the gap with the "Today" show for female viewership, her reporting from such places as Iran, Syria and North Korea injects a steady dose of intelligence, while her "gets" – Dina Matos McGreevey, Angelina Jolie – outpace the competition.

Christine Quinn, 40, speaker, New York City Council. She has refused campaign contributions from big-time lobbyists but hired a hot-shot fund-raiser who once worked for Gov. Spitzer. She is one of the most powerful openly gay officials in the country. But can she be the first female mayor of New York City?

Beyoncé, 25, pop star/actress. One of the highest-paid women in show business, with 10 Grammys and a rating as the No.1 fantasy girlfriend on Askmen.com, she isn't just the sweetheart of one of music's most successful moguls – she's a mogul in the making herself.

Rachael Ray, 38, author/TV host. She's the girl in the kitchen next door. And with friends like Oprah Winfrey ("Oprah" appearances put her on the map) and Bill Clinton (they're fighting childhood obesity together), she has launched the highest-rated new syndicated talk show since "Dr. Phil."

Randi Weingarten, 49, president, United Federation of Teachers. A worthy adversary if ever there was one in the saga that is New York City education reform. Mayor Bloomberg even once compared the UFT to the NRA. Her recent power move: a truce with her sometime nemesis, allowing more money to low-performing schools.

Diana Taylor, 52, managing director, Wolfensohn & Co. Taylor used to regulate more than 3,500 institutions with assets totaling more than \$1.5 trillion as the superintendent of banks. But at the end of the day, her key role is in her regulation of one: her boyfriend, Mayor Bloomberg.

Anna Wintour, 57, editor, Vogue magazine. No one says no to Anna. And who would have thought it, but "The Devil Wears Prada" (whose premiere she did, in fact, attend) only increased her mystique. With a salary placed at about \$2 million, her supreme reign includes spin-offs Teen Vogue, then Men's Vogue, and clocking more fashion ad pages than any competitor.

Jane Rosenthal, 50, film producer; co-founder, Tribeca Film Festival. The plot of her and partner Robert DeNiro's next film, "What Just Happened?" – about a producer having a tough time getting a film made – has nothing in common with this celluloid dynamo who just saw her baby, the Tribeca Film Festival, turn 5.

Cathie Black, 63, president, Hearst Magazines. If Arnold is the Terminator, let's call Cathie the Resuscitator. Breathing new life into titles both older (Seventeen and Cosmopolitan) and younger (award-winning O), she just oversaw the launch of Hearst's first weekly, Quick & Simple. Meanwhile, she's launched a strong virtual front with 12 new Web sites this year.

Jane Friedman, 61, CEO, HarperCollins. Seeing revenues double to \$1.32 billion during her reign, she has put out the recent best-selling memoirs of George Tenet and Sidney Poitier while globe-trotting her way to international dominance with new subsidiaries in China and India. Then there's that online digital warehouse – with 12,500 titles scanned so far.

Scarlett Johansson, 22, actress. Woody Allen, Sofia Coppola, Brian De Palma. This New York native is being courted by directors like these as her contemporaries are bumming cigarettes at nightclubs. Meanwhile, her salary ranks \$16 million per picture.

Ann Moore, 56, CEO, Time Inc. From running People and launching InStyle to land at the top of the nation's largest magazine publisher, she is continuing to weather the storm of layoffs with a focus on digital media, which if she has her way, will uphold her vision of diversifying, transforming and surviving.

Nita Lowey, 69, member, U.S. House of Representatives. Chairing the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee is a critical assignment for this Westchester rep. More important, she has long been considered Senate material. Either way, as the only member of Congress who has raised more than \$100,000 for Hillary, she's in the sweet spot.

Amanda Burden, 63, chair, City Planning Commission; director, Department of City Planning. Sure, some developers hate Manhattan's most connected urban planner. But they'd never dare say so. This stunning socialite has overseen the biggest planning effort in New York since 1961 meanwhile helping to push through the hot High Line project.

Dolly Lenz, vice chair, Prudential Douglas Elliman. The No.1 real-estate broker in the United States for the past four years, she holds the record for the largest sale in the Hamptons ever – Burnt Point, which went for \$45 million.

Heidi Klum, 33, supermodel/creator and executive producer, "Project Runway." Raking in a reported \$8 million a year from such projects as her hit Bravo show – which had 5 million viewers last season and earned its co-host, Tim Gunn, a job as CEO of Liz Claiborne – this sexy mom of three knows the real secret to long-term staying power.

Janice Min, 37, editor, Us magazine. With her mag's profits placed as high as \$90 million a year and readership up 191 percent in the last five years, Janice is not just like us. Nonetheless, the success of Us is attributed partly to the mother of two's reputation as perky and well liked – as well as its addictive features like the new "Faux Biz," which makes fun of off-base gossip.

Judi Giuliani, 52, wife of presidential candidate. Recently revealed as the secret weapon of presidential wannabe [Rudy Giuliani](#), this former silent partner has started to speak out, with mixed results. Observers say she could help make or break him.

Patti Solis Doyle, 41, campaign manager, Hillary for President. Help an ex-first lady of Arkansas (via Illinois) get elected to a New York Senate seat. Check. Help her get re-elected. Check. Help her become the first female American president. Working on it. As the gatekeeper to [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#), this daughter of Mexican immigrants is the most important woman behind one of America's most important women. Her priority: cash.

Pamela Liebman, 44, CEO, Corcoran Group. If you're buying or selling real estate in New York – or Florida – it's probably coming across the desk of this Manhattan native whose 2,500 brokers traded in \$13 billion of property last year. She's the one who helped show founder Barbara Corcoran the door.

Frances Berwick, executive vice president, Bravo. Not only did she green-light Bravo's surprise monster hit, "Project Runway," but you can also thank her for "Celebrity Poker Showdown," "Top Chef," "Shear Genius" and, of course, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Ivanka Trump, 25, vice president of development and acquisitions, Trump Organization. No longer daddy's little girl, she's all business. "It's all for the sake of raising the price per square foot we're able to get on salable real estate," she recently told a magazine about the family focus. Like father, like daughter – except with much better hair.

Diane von Furstenberg, 61, designer. Staying power is a revival that won't end. That little wrap dress has returned this stylish siren to the height of her commercial power. So much so that this veteran designer was recently tapped as the head of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. Meanwhile, she's battling knockoffs in a copyright-infringement suit and on Capitol Hill.

Gayle King, 52, editor at large, O magazine. Road trips. Radio shows. Riveting backstage interviews at the Oscars. When Gayle talks, Oprah listens. Sometimes she's Thelma, sometimes Louise, but always Oprah's BFF-in-chief.

Kate Winslet, 31, actress. This ethereally beautiful and endlessly lovable actress and her power partner, Sam Mendes, have planted down roots here over the last year. "London is sick," she told The Post's Cindy Adams. "In New York, people leave you alone." Let's make sure we behave.

Cindy Adams, Post columnist. The only woman who can generate a headline about her Yorkies walking a red carpet at a Spidey premiere, she's written more than 500 front-page scoops – and recently scooped up a Matrix Award for her career in newspapers. She is everywhere in New York, kids. She is everywhere.

Liz Smith, 84, Post columnist. This veteran scribe won't take it as an insult to be called a landmark. She's been named a "Living Landmark"

by the city Landmarks Conservancy and is now the emcee of its annual awards event. Name anyone who matters, and she'll give you the dish.

Elaine Kaufman, proprietor, Elaine's. The supreme saloniste to New York's influential intelligentsia, this grande dame runs the most powerful room in town. When it comes to media, business, politics, chances are she knows your fate before you do.

Silda Wall Spitzer, 49, first lady of New York. This Harvard Law-degreed philanthropist is not just an unpaid policy adviser with an office at the Capitol – unprecedented for a governor's wife – but her recent Green Buildings Initiative aims to cut electrical energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions in state buildings dramatically, starting with the governor's mansion.

Susan Zolla-Pazner, director of AIDS research, Manhattan Veterans Administration. She is actually working to end AIDS – or at least to prevent HIV infection – as the lead of an interdisciplinary and international team at NYU funded with \$8.4 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation.

Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, 47, film producer. Currently auditioning thousands of girls for the highly anticipated "American Girl" film that she's spearheading with HBO, Picturehouse and Julia Roberts' Red Om Films, she is a high-stakes Hollywood Easterner.

Tina Fey, 36, executive producer/actress, "30 Rock." After becoming the first female head writer of "SNL" in the '90s and reinventing "Weekend Update," she successfully launched herself as a sitcom success in a season of brutal cancellations. Au revoir, Aaron Sorkin!

Leslie Sloane Zelnik, 40, managing director of talent, BWR Public Relations. Wanna be a spokeswoman for Lindsay Lohan? How about Britney Spears? No? Well, then leave it to this inimitable lady – other clients include Chris Rock and Sienna Miller – who holds the world's attention after being recently rehired by Brit and saying, earlier this year of Lindsay Lohan's hard partying after a stint in rehab, "She's taking her life day by day."

Tory Burch, 40, socialite/designer. If you look down and find you – and the person next to you – are wearing ballet flats with graphic gold buckles, blame this gal. Ditto if you thought you had a chance with Lance Armstrong post-Sheryl Crow. She marries big, she divorces big, she dates big, she designs big – with a design empire worth an estimated \$600 million.

Jean Afterman, 50, vice president/assistant general manager, Yankees. She's a power player in Asia – yes, you can thank her for Hideki Matsui – and is only the third female to hold such a position in Major League Baseball.

Arianna Huffington, 56, co-founder/owner, The Huffington Post. This famous bicoastal turncoat – from a Republican politician's wife to a far-lefty talking head – created the love-it-or-hate-it SoHo-based Web site on which everyone from Alec Baldwin to Diane Keaton to Mike McCurry blogs. For free.

Amy Sacco, 39, proprietress, Bungalow 8. What to do after reinventing New York City night life with such ultra-exclusive clubs as Lot 61 and Bungalow 8? Ditch the overrun Chelsea club scene that swarmed to try to compete with you, and go global. Cha-ching!

Allison Silverman, 35, co-executive producer, "The Colbert Report." She cut her teeth on Jon Stewart's and Conan O'Brien's shows. Then she convinced Stephen Colbert to strut over to his guests – instead of letting them enter and steal the spotlight. Other coups: the show's epic "Battle of the Metaphors" with Sean Penn and the hysterical "Cooking with Feminists," in which Gloria Steinem and Jane Fonda talk about women's lib while baking apple pies.

Aerin Lauder, 37, senior vice president/creative director, Estée Lauder. Besides the recent execution of the Gwyneth Paltrow ad campaign, this out-of-the-spotlight heiress was instrumental in working with Tom Ford for his makeup collection. Now that is socialite rank.

Shamim Momin, 33, associate curator, Whitney Museum of American Art. Tapped to become one of two curators for the upcoming 2008 Whitney Biennial, this Columbia University graduate is helping propel the next big things – like Terence Koh and Banks Violette. Never heard of them? You will.

Wendy Maitland, senior vice president, Brown Harris Stevens. This former psychotherapist and mother of two put out her open-for-business sign just five years ago, and already she's Madonna's broker. She has also hopscoched firms, launching a boutique development marketing group. In her spare time, she's a partner in hot restaurants 5 Ninth and Fatty Crab.

Sessalee Hensley, 52, lead fiction buyer, Barnes & Noble. Feared and revered throughout the publishing industry (and compared in terms of

power to Oprah), the woman who very fortuitously put a Dan Brown book in store windows may be hated by the authors whom she chooses to stock lightly, but insiders say this: She's seldom wrong.

Penny Glazier, 62, principal, The Glazier Group. She is the queen of the steak-houses with Michael Jordan's and Strip House, which her powerhouse family has taken on the road to Houston, Palm Beach, Puerto Rico and more soon. They're dominating the market, one choice cut at a time.

Majora Carter, 40, founder, Sustainable South Bronx. This lifelong resident of the South Bronx and MacArthur genius-grant winner raised more than \$30 million in public and private funds to build a greenway on the Bronx River waterfront. Next up? Facing off with Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff over a proposed prison on her home turf.

Robin Wilson, 35, founder and CEO, Robin Wilson Home. This updated version of Martha Stewart is a trendsetter who renovated Bill Clinton's Harlem office in just eight days. Her buzzword: "efficiency." Her commercial coup: She's known as "a wedding planner for your home." The washing machines will run on time!

E. Lee Hennessee, 50, managing principal, Hennessee Group. A veteran of selecting hedge funds, this former North Carolina debutante tells big institutions where to invest their dough. Now she's making history in opening up new channels of business diplomacy in Saudi Arabia.

Martha Bashford, 52, and Melissa Mourges, 52, assistant district attorneys, Manhattan DA's Office. They are CSI: New York. Using the most sophisticated DNA-tracking database in the world, these two have obliterated a backlog of 17,000 rape kits in Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau's office. The result: 142 indictments and one exoneration.

April Bloomfield, 32, executive chef and principal owner, The Spotted Pig. This English-born veteran of Chez Panisse has made her West Village gastro-pub (co-owned by Jay-Z and Michael Stipe) not just a celeb destination but a foodie must. She's untouchable when it comes to things that matter – like the gnudi, otherwise known as heaven in cheese form that has been copied all over town.

mandy.stadtmitter@nypost.com