

**December 31, 2009**

**Thanks for tuning in to Pat Magee's Happy New Year  
CANDYMAIL ... [www.patmagee.com](http://www.patmagee.com)**

**Celebrations in Chicago ...** AACT Chicago Section's annual Christmas Party on December 11 drew 178 guests to a festively decorated ballroom at Café La Cave, Des Plaines, IL ... Fabulous food, great music and raffle prizes ranging from gift certificates to I-Pod, DVD and TV equipment kept the fun flowing ... Laura Christian, Bell Flavors & Fragrances, who helps plan the event

says, "We have it here every year and they make my job easy." In photo at right, Laura Christian, Bell Flavors & Fragrances (left), and Sandy Murphy,



Blommer Chocolate Co., welcome guests to the Christmas party ... Attendees came from as far away as California and Pennsylvania to enjoy the festivities, which have grown to attract new AACT members as well as "old timers," as one of the guests said ... At right, Tim Murphy, Ferrara Pan Candy Co., and his wife, Miranda Murphy enjoy the evening.



During the ceremonies, members who passed away in 2009 were fondly remembered, including Harry Tabel, John Kitt, Linda Martini, Ned Mitchell, and Dale Kuebler. In the photo at right,



(from left) Diane McGovern; Silvia Tabel; and Jim McGovern, Jelly Belly Candy Company, toast the holidays ... For more photos please visit <http://www.patmagee.com/WhatWeDo/Samples.aspx>

**COMING EVENTS ...** As always, the Philadelphia National Candy, Gift & Gourmet Show kicks off show season, January 10-13, 2010, in Atlantic City, NJ ... For warm and sunny climes, the National Confectioners Association (NCA) State of the Industry Conference is set for February 18-20, 2010, in Miami, FL ... and the Western Candy Conference, March 24-28, will take place in Oahu, Hawaii ... The latter encourages confectionery suppliers as well as manufacturers, as Mike Bianco, Jelly Belly Candy Co., suggests: "It is a way suppliers can talk to their customers in a friendly format," he says, adding "the conference is set up for networking." ... Please see more info at <http://www.patmagee.com/IndustryEvents.aspx>

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***Yours Truly, Pat Magee, Editor/Publisher, Susan Tiffany, Contributing Editor.***