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Love is in thin air

But few show up to meet matchmaker at Aspen's Little Nell

By Joel Stonington
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Matchmaker Janis Spindel expected between 300 and 500 women to show up Friday at The Little Nell to see if they might be the kind of girl her wealthy client is looking for.

But the hotel's bar was, just like any Friday night, gently crowded. There were no throngs of women banging the door down, no crazy madhouse of eligible ladies.

"We were expecting at least 100," Spindel said while sitting in the bar at 6:30 p.m.

She had interviewed about a dozen women, and maybe a dozen more showed up to be interviewed during the hour she was scheduled to be there.

Here's how it works: An elite client calls Spindel, asks for help. She asks for \$100,000. The man coughs it up, along with his life story. She says, ahhh, I know just what you are looking for. She goes out and hits on women. She gets publicity and the women call her. She interviews them. Then she introduces him to women. He picks one and poof: marriage.

"Since June 28th I have nine men that will be engaged by the end of the year," Spindel said, "718 couples married.

"All of our clients are men," she said. "It's very high-powered, high-profile, successful, well educated; I weed out the riffraff. Short, fat and ugly doesn't cut it. I'm very, very picky and selective."

Basically, Spindel acts as the mom, dating consultant, friend and shrink.

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MARK FOX/THE ASPEN TIMES

Janis Spindel, a matchmaker for a wealthy Aspen client, conducts an interview Friday evening with a woman at The Little Nell.

Matchmaker

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Her current client is from Boston and lives in Aspen, she said.

"He's picky. He's good-looking, smart, got a great body. He needs somebody who is an avid skier. That's for starters. He wants someone to have children. Ideally, for him, 33 to 37 would be perfect in my mind. Tall is better than short. Coloring doesn't matter, 'in shape' is mandatory."

Previous events like the one at The Little Nell on Friday had produced thousands of women, Spindel said by phone earlier in the week.

"It was like women falling from the sky," she said. "I had a dozen people working for me. Literally everybody was screaming and interviewing and they were literally falling from the sky. In Canada I

had about 1,200 women. The doormen were flipping out. Drove of women were walking in."

So is Aspen the wrong place to go looking for love?

Maybe not. Sometimes "women get nervous," said one of Spindel's assistants, "very nervous."

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