

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Aretha Turns 70, Plans New Album **BUSINESS**Guide

(AP) — Aretha Franklin has a lot more than her 70th birthday to celebrate: She's reuniting with one of her musical mentors, Clive Davis, for a new album.

In an interview at her swanky birthday party on Saturday in New York, Franklin said she and Davis, who helped engineer her comeback in the 1980s, would be working on new music.

Davis sat next to Franklin for most of the night at the soiree at the Helmsley Park Lane Hotel, which included a sit-down dinner, a dance performance and a mini-concert that featured rising jazz pianist Kris Bowers.

Other guests included Diane Sawyer, Rev. Al Sharpton, and Willie Wilkerson, Franklin's long-time companion and briefly this year her fiancé.

Wilkerson stood by Franklin's side as she cut her three-tier, lime-green birthday cake while the crowd serenaded her with Stevie Wonder's version of "Happy Birthday."

When asked whether marriage might once again be in her future, the Queen of Soul simply said: "We'll see what happens."



Aretha Franklin attends her 70th birthday party in New York, Saturday. (AP photo)



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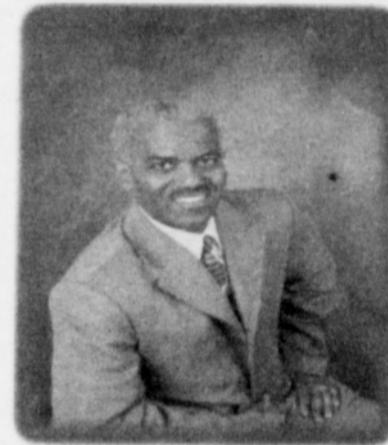
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