

Gerry—Meanderings...

By Society Columnist Gerry Hudick



Susan Botek, Frank Unkle and Sharon Unkle, members of the Ann Grady's Enchanted Evening planning committee are shown.

"Grow With Us" is the theme of Anne Grady's enchanted evening to be held Sunday, Nov. 3, at Meadowbrook Place.

The 1996 distinguished committee members are Jack Mixon, chairman; Kate Anderson, George Ballas, Fifi Berry, Susan Botek, Betsy Clark, Donald Finneagn Jr., Snady Isenberg, Marcy McMahon, Betty and

Ken Michelson, James Smythe and John D. Willey.

Proceeds from this benefit go to the Anne Grady Center to support and care for people with developmental disabilities.

Raffle prizes at the festive dinner include a Las Vegas trip for two, including airline fare and a two-night stay at the Vegas Hilton and also two tickets to Andrew Lloyd Weber's Starlight Express with \$500 spending money, thanks to Ottawa Hills Travel.

Benefit dinner enchanting

“GROW WITH US’ was the theme for the Ann Grady Center’s eighth annual Enchanted Evening benefit dinner and auction, held Nov. 3. More than \$110,000 was raised, reports Denise Marvet.

Meadowbrook Hall was transformed into an enchanted forest by Keith Brooks, and the 380 guests were given pine trees grown from seedlings by individuals at the center as a memento of the evening. The residential center aids people with developmental disabilities.

Dinner began with hors d’oeuvres of crabmeat and cheddar on toast, prosciutto-wrapped asparagus, and shrimp on cucumber rounds. The main course of crab-stuffed filet and amaretto chicken with orzo with mushrooms, onion, and red peppers was topped off with apple cheesecake.

Fashion also played a role, Ms. Marvet noted: Kathy Finnegan was glamorous in a burgundy velvet suit dress; Tracy Saba was in a long black and gold dress with a mesh top; Kate Adams wore a black knit jumpsuit trimmed in gold; Sharon Unkle’s purple crepe outfit was coordinated with matching earrings and shoes, and Lisa Fretti Richard was in a chic black pant outfit.

There was plenty of action during the auction: Katie and Bob Hadley bid on plenty of parties, including a clambake for 24 from Meadowbrook Catering, a Dixieland party for 50, and a catered pig roast from Chef Dar Childs of the Ultimate Pig Roast, Jim Leiber/Sounds of Music, and American Rent All.

A golf outing at the Bear in Traverse City, Mich., with transportation on a seven-passenger Mojave plane courtesy of Donald Finnegan and James H. Smythe, was purchased by Jack Mixon. The winners of the Las Vegas raffle were Ken Michelson, Linda Reed Everetts, Cindy Tauber, and Kathy Kelly.

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BLADE PHOTO BY GREG HORVATH

Jack Mixon, left, and Frank and Sharon Unkle examine items included in the Ann Grady Center’s auction.