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Dany Garcia Johnson and Dwayne Johnson at Havana Nights Casino.



Dori Morales and Michelle Cruz at Tropical Nights.



Dr. Michael Alessandri, Maria Lapone and Michelle Costa Ke at Tropical Nights.

**Gables Garden Club hosts a Camelot Luncheon**

By Rosalind Rush Moore, [nutrode@aol.com](mailto:nutrode@aol.com)

A Camelot theme flourished at the 80th Annual Coral Gables Garden Club Luncheon, which was evidenced by the beautiful program, entertainment and decorations at Riviera Country Club.

Kay McGee, chairman of this May 3rd event, welcomed the ladies, after which Carolyn Junkin gave the invocation. Betsy Adams, with help from Evelyn Budde, Anna Louise Fulks, Charlotte Henderson and Jane Wilson, handled the decorations. Anna Mae Simpson did the name tags and Betsy Robbins was reservations chairman. Garlin Lewis and Marlene Kerdyk were in charge most of the creative program.

There were 112 reservations for the delicious luncheon that featured rosemary- crusted chicken breast with wild mushroom essence and a crème brulee dessert. Pat Clarke, chairman of the entertainment, introduced pianist Daniel Mochtezuma and vocalist Xavier Cano from the University of Miami Frost School of Music faculty, who performed a medley of songs from the Broadway hit "Camelot" in keeping with the theme.

Former President Charlotte Henderson did the installation of new officers,

- Calendar of events**  
**MAY**
- 11** – 18th Annual Festival of Chefs to benefit Easter Seals, Country Club of Coral Gables
  - 12** – Hearing and Speech Center of Florida's Sounds of Laughter, Country Club of Coral Gables
  - 13** – Baptist Children's Hospital Magical World of Wonders Ball, Hotel InterContinental
  - 13** – Miami City Ballet School's The Show Ends, The Party Begins, Miami City Ballet Studios
  - 18** – Florida Women of Achievement Annual Luncheon, The Biltmore Hotel
  - 18** – Friends of The New World Symphony's event at The Symphony Lounge of The Saxony Hotel
  - 18** – United Home Care Services' Claude Pepper Awards Dinner, Hilton Miami Airport
  - 25** – The Art of Found Objects silent art auction & cocktail reception to benefit the visual arts programs in public schools, Sonesta Beach Resort

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Feels Like: 91°F  
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**FRONT PAGE**

including Rosita Perez as president, Donna Box and Sally Hartenstein as the two vice presidents, secretaries Freda Janney and Hallie Yanno, and Mary Whitcomb, Liz Gallagher and Evelyn Budde as the treasurers and auditor.

There was much talk among the crowd about the upcoming unveiling of the twelve-foot bronze commemorative statue of the founder of Coral Gables, George Merrick, which is a gift from the Coral Gables Garden Club. This will be held on May 23rd at the Coral Gables City Hall.

#### **A Western Black Tie & Blue Jeans party**

South Florida Urban Ministries' annual benefit dinner, Black Tie & Blue Jeans, went Western this year with the majority of the 350 who attended dressed in authentic-looking western attire. This fun evening of dinner and dancing, along with both a silent and live auction, was held at the Rusty Pelican on Key Biscayne on May 4th.

Mary Susan Ward and Jonah Pruitt served as co-chairmen with Trish and Daniel Bell as honorary co-chairmen. Ed O'Dell, who was formerly with NBC 6, served as both master of ceremonies and auctioneer for the live auction, which included fine art, sports memorabilia, travel getaways and unique jewelry donated by generous businesses throughout the community.

The \$150,000 raised at the event will be used for the SFLUM missions of hunger relief programs, microenterprise business training courses, technical assistance to small business owners and holistic after-school programs. Since the organization began in 1973, each year more than 500 students have been served by caring SFLUM professionals and volunteer mentors.

#### **Tropical Nights at Vizcaya**

A balmy Miami evening under the stars at Vizcaya was the perfect tropical setting for the fourth annual Tropical Nights fundraiser benefiting the University of Miami/Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSUCARD). Over 550 attended this event in celebration of Autism Awareness Month to promote knowledge about the disorder that is now affecting one out of every 166 children in the United States.

In keeping with the tropical theme, a culinary feast of Spanish and Caribbean cuisine was created by Parties by Pat and live music for dancing was provided by Pangea. The evening began with a lively Flamenco performance by Costa Vasca and a surprise treat when the Sunshine Junkanoo Superstars created a wild and wooly dance line for those who wanted to participate.

Michelle Costa Ke, who works for UM-NSUCARD, and Maria Lapone, the parent of a child with autism, were co-chairmen for this popular event. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was honorary chairman. The silent auction, co-chaired by Michelle Cruz and Jorge Colona, was composed of 150 items. Other committee members were Karen Rombough, Teresita Acosta-Borges, Rita Benavides Munoz, Lynne Griffin, Betty Sanchez-Zeinalli, Patricia Cruz, Annie Fuster, Lourdes Miranda, Jose Antonio Munoz, Alessandra Carrieri and Patricia Scerpella.

Dr. Sean Kenniff of CBS 4 served as emcee for the evening event, where Barbara and Peter Roos were honored for their service to the autism community and were presented awards by Dr. Michael Alessandri, director of CARD.

#### **Mercy's Havana Nights Casino Night**

A 1950s Havana-style evening was held by the Mercy Foundation Ambassadors that featured dining, music and casino games for the 400 who attended. Most of the guests were decked out in "Guayaberra Chic" in keeping with the theme, and enjoyed roulette, black jack, craps, poker and other games of chance to win fabulous prizes.

Lisa and Vince Castro served as chairmen of this fundraiser, which was held at a private residence on the Gables Waterway on Riviera Drive. This young professional group of the Mercy Hospital Foundation hosts numerous events throughout the year with their goal this year to raise funds for the renovation and expansion of Mercy's Emergency Department.

#### **Dade Heritage Trust presents awards**

The Dade Heritage Trust honored those who have excelled in preserving and restoring Miami's historic treasures at

the Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony. Held at the Brickell Avenue location of Northern Trust, DHT Executive Director Becky Roper Matkov and President Richard Heisenbottle welcomed guests to the reception.

Appreciation was given to sponsors and their outstanding restoration projects. The Brickell Presbyterian Church was named to the Preservation Hall of Fame. Dolly MacIntyre presented Gary Held, Mitch Novick and Eugenia Thomas the Distinguished Community Service Awards. Enid Pinkney announced Ruth Jacobs as the winner of the Henriette Harris Award.

Coral Gables Mayor Don Slesnick conducted the installation of new trustees and advisors and announced Judy Pruitt as president of the new executive committee. After the installation, Judy gave the closing talk of the event.

### **Women's Emergency Network's Las Vegas event**

The 150 people who attended the Women's Emergency Network's annual spring fundraiser enjoyed a Las Vegas-style evening of games, prizes and entertainment. Held at Temple Judea in Coral Gables, the major contributors to the event's silent auction included Cayman Airways, which donated a Cayman Island vacation, and Selene and John Devaney, who provided a three-night stay at their ocean front estate on Vero Beach's Orchid Island.

The \$54,000 raised at this fun evening will fund WEN's mission to help indigent and low-income women and girls when faced with a crisis pregnancy.

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