

Boca Club News

An Independent Newspaper Serving Broken Sound & Bocaire

VOL. 10 NO. 11

www.seabreezepublications.com

NOVEMBER 2016

Hurricane Delayed 2nd Annual Boca Raton Mayors Ball Roaring Sold-Out Success to Benefit Boca's Nonprofits

Event Presented By Rotary Club Downtown Boca
at Broken Sound Club Draws More Than 400 Boca
Stakeholders and Visionaries Past and Present

While the threat of Hurricane Matthew caused the Downtown Boca Raton Rotary Club to reschedule the date for its 2016 Boca Raton Mayors Ball, it certainly did not dampen the prestige, excitement, guest spirit and camaraderie and fundraising goals of the sell-out event held at Broken Sound Club. The city's newest coveted annual social season opener once again earned its rightful position. Its *Wow* began at its red carpet arrival, with on-the-spot *Entertainment Tonight*-style interviews featuring former Cable TV Show host Arlene Herson and an Addison Mizner look-a-like welcoming guests, and continued through the historic themed evening as the high-energy Steve Chase Band rocked the room for a perpetually filled dance floor, often with more than 200 guests on their feet per set.

As with its inaugural event, the Mayors Ball drew a "full house" of Boca's "Who's Who" of civic, business, tourism, community and philanthropic stakeholders and visionaries---past and present---spanning more than five decades of commitment and contributions. Celebrating the city's long, rich history, more than 400 attendees at the gala black-tie dinner/dance at Broken Sound Club (BSC) toasted to "all that is great" in Boca Raton, and danced the night away as the evening honored the elected officials who exemplify Rotary International's motto, "Service Above Self" and recognized the City's visionaries who have elevated the community. The event raised monies for the Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton's grant program, which funds health and wellness needs of Boca Raton nonprofits. Proceeds from the Inaugural Ball in 2015 funded grants requested from twenty-five nonprofits.

The evening opened with a bountiful reception sponsored by Penn-Florida Companies, Mandarin Residences and 101 Via Mizner, with themed drinks by Brito Vodka and a full outdoor patio-side showcase of luxury cars by JM Lexus, the evening's valet sponsor. The ballroom featured city-themed environs, divided into East Camino Real and Yamato Road sections, with historical décor nods to award recipients Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Helping Hands and Christine Lynn. ADT Security sponsored the room decor, with memorabilia provided by the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum, and centerpieces by Dalsimer Atlas Floral & Event Decorators. It set the perfect stage for Broken Sound Club Executive Chef Joe Longo, Jr., who served up the Distinguished Platinum Club's epicurean experience.

The program opened with the national anthem sung by Boca Raton's very own future star and recording artist Kendra Erica, a formal mayor's procession, followed by dancing and the presentation of the 2016 George Long Awards, named for the City's first appointed mayor in 1924 and designed by Tiffany & Co. For championing the tradition of bringing visionary ideas and transformation to Boca Raton, the awards were introduced by the Honorary Chair, Former Mayor Bill T. Smith, and presented by former Mayor Steven Abrams, Current Mayor



(From left): Constance Scott, Bill T. Smith, Susan Haynie, Steven Abrams, Susan Whelchel, Jon Kaye. Photo by Carlos Aristizabal.

Susan Haynie, and former Mayor Susan Whelchel. Honorees were the Boca Raton Resort & Club, (for profit organization), Boca Helping Hands (nonprofit organization) and Christine E. Lynn (an individual).

To start the program "on the right foot," Scott Lappin of Dance 4 Life Studios and his dancers---men dressed in black tie, tails and top hats, and women in period costumes, all donated by the Wick Theater & Costume Museum---entertained guests in a Roaring 1920s performance with a whimsical keystone cop to the tune of "This Joint Is Jumping."

"The instant positive feedback has been overwhelming, many going Live on Facebook from the event to viral shares of selfies and professional photos," noted Jon Kaye, immediate past president, a founding member of Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton and co-chair of the Mayors Ball with Constance Scott. "From raves about the food and the Steve Chase Band to the entire program and guest list...the "who's who" all in the room at the same time celebrating Boca Raton made for a memorable, iconic evening.

Hurricane Delayed 2nd Annual Boca Raton Mayors Ball on page 3

11th Annual Festival of the Arts BOCA Leads Off With "Swanky" Event

Three events---timed for November 17th, then January and March of 2017---have been planned to celebrate the 11th annual Festival of the Arts BOCA. Those wishing to attend the first of these will have to act quickly: a special screening of the documentary, *Swank Farm*, on November 17th, from 7- 8 p.m. at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center, 201 Plaza Real in Boca Raton, which will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Admission is free, with suggested \$10 donation per person

at the door to benefit Festival of the Arts BOCA.

Directed by Judith Olney, *Swank Farm* tells the story of Jodi and Darrin Swank, owners of Palm Beach County's Swank Farm. After losing their jobs in the post 9/11 recession, the Swanks started new lives as passionate, pioneering, hydroponic farmers. Through hurricanes, near-bankruptcy, the challenges of Florida farming, and life in a trailer home with three growing children, they have emerged as major suppliers of fresh produce to area restaurants and hosts of widely heralded fundraising affairs - the legendary "Swank Table" events. A lesson in the rewards of giving back to the community.

On Sunday, January 29th, 2017, Festival of the Arts BOCA's patrons and supporters are invited to a Chinese New Year "Year of the Rooster" celebration at

Swank Farm, 14311 North Road in Loxahatchee, where eight local and nationally known chefs will create multi-course meals with locally sourced ingredients. Tickets are \$200 or \$250 per person. For tickets, visit www.festivalboca.org or call 954-646-8804.

The 11th Annual Festival of the Arts BOCA, South Florida's premiere literary and performing arts Festival, returns to the Mizner Park Amphitheater and the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center presented by the Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts March 2nd - 12th, 2017. A world-class, multi-day cultural arts event, Festival of the Arts BOCA brings the most sought after jazz artists, classical performers, and authors to South Florida, while simultaneously cultivating the stars of tomorrow. For program details and ticket information visit: www.festivalboca.org.

Tickets for the 11th Annual Festival of the Arts BOCA range from \$9.99 to \$125 per person and are now available at www.festivalboca.org or by calling (866) 571-ARTS (866-571-2787). Multi-event and full Festival packages are also available.

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