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The

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Kathy Miller -
Love is on
Lake George

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**Next: Halloween
& Election Issue**

First go & it's a record-setter

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

The Glens Falls Hospital Foundation had its biggest fund-raising event ever last Thursday night — its inaugural “Festival of the Senses” at the Lake George Club in Diamond Point.

It raised more than \$135,000, “certainly a record for hospital fund-raising events,” hospital Vice President of Development Cindy Sherwood,

tells *The Chronicle*. She said the crowd of 270 was nearly a sell-out. Tickets were priced at \$200 each, \$175 for “junior” guests.

“We felt good about not just the funds raised and the numbers of people there, but also the feeling of camaraderie in the room, and

**GF Hospital
nets \$135,000
in lavish but
casual ‘Festival
of Senses’
on a Thursday,
no less, at Lake
George Club**



Lobster in the grotto — Event co-chair **David Britton** with **Nestor Pla**, serving fresh-cooked lobster. **Dr. Jack Leary** dips lobster into melted butter within a block of butter. *Photo by John Sconzo*

the overwhelming support for Glens Falls Hospital,” said Ms. Sherwood.

“There was a nice cross section of people from various sectors in the community...I feel good that it was different from a standard gala. There weren't any speeches. We really just wanted it to be a fun night. It really confirmed, money is always tight,

but Glens Falls Hospital is doing very well and we have the commitment from the community to see the organization through.”

It was as buzzy a fund-raising party as this reporter has seen in years. The invitation said the dress code was “Adirondack chic — no ties allowed.”

The mood was easy and com-

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**Debut is
Saturday
at Civic
Center
▶ 21**



Women talking careers, gender

State Senator Betty Little says being the mother of six prepared her for a life in politics — “listening to six opinions on everything, negotiating and understanding everyone's needs.”

Sen. Little was one of nine local

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Ghoul for a day

Chronicle writer **Jason Irwin** and his girlfriend **Tiffany Martindale**, decked out by **The Great Escape** for its FrightFest. *Story, page 10*



**Adirondack Tree Surgeons
sponsors NASCAR entrant
this weekend** *Story, page 20*

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GF Hospital's benefit: 'Adirondack chic'

Raised \$135,000

From front page

fortable.

Food and drink tended toward elegant, even just this side of decadent.

A dozen regional and guest chefs set up around the property, including up on balconies and down in the stone grotto, where live lobsters were prepared to order.

Lobster meat was dipped into a massive, hollowed-out block of butter.

The Sagamore Resort's culinary team was aboard its cruiseboat *The Morgan*, docked at the Lake George Club for the night, another space for carousing.

Chefs were eager and personable, behind their slabs of carved tuna, Moroccan spice bowls, whole ducks roasting over barbecue grills.

Outdoors, amid cases of Dom Perignon, Champagne was served by a generous-bellied man in full Monk get-up, who opened the bottles with the swipe of an antique sword. All took place with non-fussy attitude, emphasis on smiles and fun.

Young local actors Zack Bissell and Kayla Toney presided as a sort of Adirondack/Winter king and queen — he in a massive vintage fur cape and a crown of dried brambles, she in elegant blue dress, fun stole and tiara.

Fiddler Tim Wechgelear, rock guitarist Megan Houde, pianist Ray Alexander and others played music throughout.

Two Cirque-du-Soleil-style contortionists performed in the center of the Lake George Club atrium. It added to the general event-ness of the party, though most folks were more intent on the food and conversation than stopping to watch the show.

People were asking, "What was your favorite" aspect?

"Talking to the chefs," I said.

Some guests came dressed up, others dressed down in flannel, fur vests and hik-



Nearly 300 people attended Thursday's "Festival of the Senses" to benefit Glens Falls Hospital. The focus was on food and fun, the attire "Adirondack Chic."

ing boots. The rustic-elegant Lake George Club, decorated in greens and lights, was the perfect backdrop. It was a spectacular Adirondack evening, cool blue waters and dramatic sunset.

Chairs: David Britton, Dr. Sconzo

The Festival was co-chaired, rather brilliantly, by chef David Britton and Dr. John Sconzo. Mr. Britton's wife Cristine, hospital events planner, headed what I imagine was a considerable team, firing on all cylinders. Everything is pitch-perfect, was the common comment around the room.

It carried even to one somber moment, when Dr. Sconzo invited the party to pause for a minute of silence and remember colleague Dr. Michael Guido, who passed away unexpectedly the previous week.

Mrs. Sherwood said it was the hospital's first "gala" in as long as a decade. "This was just an overwhelming response."

A live auction of six items netted \$12,500 alone, Mrs. Sherwood noted.

She said, "That is the best part of the whole thing. It's great we raised \$135,000 in the first year, but the quality of food and drink and the number of people willing to donate to the hospital and do all that, and the feeling in the room of people with a shared purpose — that was what really made it special."

She said the hospital also raised a record amount, \$119,500, at its annual summer golf tournament that benefits Cindy's Retreat and other cancer support services.

Will this festival return? "Yes, absolutely," she said. "People are already asking to buy tickets, but it is a little early for that."

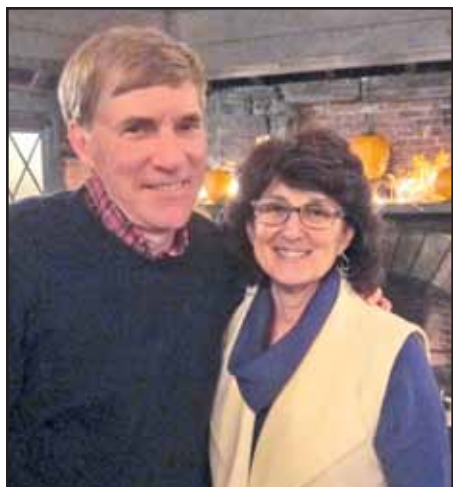
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Zack Bissell and Kayla Toney presided over the happenings.



'Dom Perignon' pours Champagne.



Dr. Kevin Herlihy with Glens Falls Hospital CEO & President Dianne Shugrue.

Three chefs

— Kirk Avondoglio of Perona Farms in Andover, New Jersey; Stephen Topper of the Glens Falls Country Club; and Jean-Francois Taquet.



Glens Falls Hospital board president Mike Clarke and his wife Kathy, a member of the event organizing committee.

Chronicle photos/Cathy DeDe



The Sagamore Resort sent its chefs and food over on *The Morgan*.

Photo by John Sconzo