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PUTTING ON THE RITZ:
A NIGHT OF GLAMOR, GIVING AND GROWTH



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE PRICE
Pam Morse and Tara Burgett, Putting on the Ritz co-chairs, lead WRJSL in hosting an evening celebrating community and compassion – all for a good cause.



GOOD NEWS HAPPENS
By Christine Price
Columnist



Kathy Toderick and Paul Lincoln were in full Putting on the Ritz Art Deco style while attending the WRJSL fundraiser. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AMIDST ALL THE STRESS, ANXIETY, CRAZINESS AND BAD NEWS, MY GOAL IS TO SPOTLIGHT AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

The Western Reserve Junior Service League's (WRJSL) signature fundraiser, Putting on the Ritz, lived up to its name Saturday night, as guests stepped back in time to a dazzling Art Deco celebration.

The event was held at the historic Manakiki Golf Club in Willoughby Hills, which was transformed into a scene reminiscent of the Roaring Twenties. Feathers, glitzy gold and black décor shimmered under soft light, creating the glamour and elegance of the Prohibition Era. Lively jazz music and the soft clinking of glasses set the tone for an evening of joy, generosity and community spirit.

Guests mingled in elegant attire, with several channeling their inner flapper for the occasion. The atmosphere was as festive as it was philanthropic. Throughout the night, attendees had plenty of opportunities to give – from the popular wine pull, to the ever-enticing mystery gift bags, each one holding a surprise treasure waiting to be revealed.

THANK YOU, LINDSEY SMITH!

Another favorite spot of the evening was the photo backdrop, where guests lined up for their moment in the moonlight. Inspired by the 1920s Art Deco "moon craze," the scene featured a crescent moon and starry sky – a nostalgic nod to an era fascinated by romance, modernism and flight.

The creative display was designed and handcrafted by Lindsey Smith, father of WRJSL member Ali Wilson, whose artistry perfectly continued the night's glamorous theme.

One of the highlights of the night was the live auction, where excitement ran high and bids flew fast. Among the coveted items was a "Rock 'n' Roll Dinner," featuring a live performance by the Bob Potts Duo, a delicious beef tenderloin meal and a round of rock 'n' roll



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE PRICE
Pictured from left to right are Samantha Parobek, Pam Morse, Marlene Castilyn, Tara Burgett and Vanessa Majewski congratulating Marlene Castilyn (at center), who is holding the exquisite diamond necklace she just won. The necklace was designed and created by Bill Brown, owner of W. Brown Custom Jewelry and Design.

trivia – all inspired by the music of the 1970s and 80s. The spirited bidding ended with the package selling for \$1,000, drawing cheers from the crowd.

Two bottles of premium bourbon also went to the highest bidders, adding even more fun to the lively auction.

THANK YOU, BILL BROWN!

Jewelry designer Bill Brown, owner of W. Brown Custom Jewelry and Design in downtown Willoughby, once again created a one-of-a-kind diamond necklace exclusively for the event. The breathtaking piece, valued at \$3,585, was won by Marlene Castilyn, a long-time WRJSL member, who sparkled almost as brightly as the necklace itself.

Putting on the Ritz is the League's largest annual fundraiser and every dollar raised is directed back into the community through WRJSL's Community Research Grant Program. The program provides funding to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties, helping launch innovative

programs that directly benefit local residents.

THANK YOU, COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

The gala is a proud tradition that has been embraced and supported by the community for nearly six decades.

"It was an honor to co-chair such a beautiful event with Pam Morse," said co-chair Tara Burgett. "We're so grateful for the generosity and support of everyone who attended."

Pam Morse echoed her co-chair's sentiment.

"Seeing new friends, enjoying the music and bidding on the beautiful raffle items made the night truly special," she said. "Our theme, 'A black-tie gala for giving and growth,' perfectly captured the spirit of the evening."

As the night drew to a close, guests lingered a little longer – reluctant to leave the shimmering magic behind. It was, in every sense, an evening that celebrated not only community and compassion but also the timeless joy of coming together for a good cause.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- ACROSS

1. Brittle transparent solid

6. Mid-month days

10. Barrel

14. Relative magnitudes

15. Lunch or dinner

16. Against

17. Coral reef

18. Female horse

19. Immediately

20. A young unmarried woman

22. Floor covering

23. Guy

24. Articulates

26. Seaweed

30. Mister

31. Unit of energy

32. Restrict

33. Chop finely

35. Roof overhangs

39. Controversial

41. Conceit

43. Take exception to

44. 365 days

46. Lack of difficulty

47. Regret
49. 16 in Roman numerals

50. Large number

51. Concealed

54. Large town

56. Smooth or level

57. Disputing

63. Prefer

64. Initial wager

65. Cowboy sport

66. Dregs

67. Departs

68. Great fear

69. Probabilities

70. Stops

71. Chairs
- DOWN

1. Alumnus

2. Not early

3. "Smallest" particle

4. Storage site

5. Not liquid

6. Rapidity

7. Merchants

8. Noble

9. Record protector

10. Chastises

11. Caper

12. Not fresh

13. Flying toys

21. Japanese dish

25. Black-and-white cookie

26. Passed with flying colors

27. Entice

28. Filled with gloom

29. Ridiculousness

34. Persisting sadness

36. Medicine bottle

37. Anagram of "Sees"

38. Type of duck

40. Not false

42. Southern breakfast dish

45. Aroused

48. Captivate

51. Howdy

52. Overgrown with ivy

53. Feinted

55. Fields

58. Any minute

59. Bygone era

60. Concept

61. Tidy

62. Deities

WHEN YOU SEE GOOD NEWS, AND YOU WILL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I WOULD LOVE TO SHARE IT. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND CITY YOU LIVE IN AND EMAIL CPRICECONCORD@AOL.COM.