

Marjorie North



A jazzy affair and a return to splendor

By Marjorie North, Social Columnist

Article, as printed in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, May 10, 2007

The jazzy version of Going For the Gold was a real winner, with lots of credit going to Jennifer Grondahl of Maestro Marketing, who coordinated the benefit and made the ballroom look like everybody's dream party. Plenty of help and spirit from co-chairmen of "All That Jazz -- a return to the days of splendor," Dale Berkowitz, Rick McDaniel and Donna Simmons. And congratulations to the 436 partiers for raising \$535,000.

Among them were 29 couples who raised their paddles at \$1,000 each for a Stand Up For Kids dinner at Villa Solstice, Charles and Kim Githler's home. Others included Noel and Gretchen Speranza who won the "Law & Order" package; Pauline Joerger, the Optional Art pearl necklace/pendant; and good guy Michael Klauber, who upped his donation of one dinner to three when it proved so popular.

Lew and Sandy Hanan will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on a cruise to India aboard the Crystal Serenity; Dr. Ken and Chris Phfahler will be hosting six other friends aboard the 110-foot Entrepreneur yacht; SunTrust honcho Margaret Callihan will be wearing the McCarver & Moser frog pin; while Billy Johnson bought the large diamond and sapphire bracelet donated by Dale Berkowitz for wife, Nora; and Richard and Tammy Karp snapped up "The Sunset" by Debbie Dannheisser.

Sweethearts Rick McDaniel and Donna Simmons opted for the Rocky Mountain trip to Neil and Sharon Moody's spread in Evergreen, Colo.; and Harold Libby bought the Cassis jewelry ensemble for new bride Wanda. Last, but not least, the "All That Jazz" necklace created by Millicent Kennedy and David Hart was won by Janet Kane.

A beautiful evening that had the energy and excitement usually seen at the beginning -- not the end -- of the season. Congratulations.