

Jules Verne fantasy inspires Brookside auction

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AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS: "There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other wings," quoted B.J. and Tom Bustance, chairwoman and chairman of Cranbrook Schools Brookside's Kaleidoscope auction's chairs.

And the roots of the 11th annual fund-raiser, held Saturday at Brookside School in Bloomfield Hills, are firmly planted. This year Kaleidoscope took Brookside parents and their guests on a hot air balloon flight "Around the World in Eighty Days."

With the wave of a magic wand and a decorations committee of 21, decorations chair Sue Foley and Janice Nichols transformed the school into a fantasy wonderland. Auction bidders were greeted in the lobby by a fairy tale rainbow of multicolor netting and a seven-foot-tall hot air balloon replica. Several hot air balloons suspended from the ceiling also graced the live auction location where guests seated at white-clothed tables bid on hot items such as the Hoger Penske Indy 500 package, the Disney World Package (donated by Chip Brethen) and the child's dream playhouse (donated by Kellie Construction Co.).

The theme continued throughout the corridors and classrooms, with ethnic buffet stations strategically set up near silent auction action. Culinary cuisine included flavors of the French (pate, cheeses and bread), Italian (tortellini, and Girellini di ricotta), Chinese (Chinese ribs and moon cakes), Indian (vegetable curry dumplings and Tandoori kabobs), Middle Eastern (baghlanouj and eggplant salad), Japanese (sushi) and American (carved beef top sandwiches and extraordinary dessert pizza covered with strawberries, kiwi, mandarin and grated cheese-cakes).

Besides viewing more than 800 auction items, parents perused student exhibits throughout the school. Young students at Brookside celebrated the round-the-world theme with projects and reports on many countries focusing on foreign customs and cultures.

Special permission from the Franklin Mint had to be obtained to use an original piece of art, held by the Jules Verne Museum, of "Around the World in Eighty Days" by Farmington Hills resident and renowned artist David McCall Johnson. The wondrous work of art was showcased on a frameable invitation and program book cover.

Spotted wearing a multi-color beaded tuxedo suit with matching beaded bag Joanne Hurwitz of West Bloomfield with husband Stephen; Friends Karen and Jim Wechsler and Joe DeVita, all of West Bloomfield, gathered near the sushi station for conversation.

Katherine Breech Raft, who worked on the decorations committee, shared her excitement of the upcoming Luckemia Ball she is co-chairing with Ruth Johnston of Farmington Hills. Breech, an actress, played the character Karen on "One Life to Live" before Judith Light.

Serving on the executive steering



Farmington Hills artist David McCall Johnson (left) and wife Ruth Johnson, got together Brookside auction honorees Hal and Joan Smart.

committee of the auction were Fran Steinman, Anne Draz, Bobbi Polk, Lynn Chateau, Cherry Howell, Leslie Price, Anne Tremala, Patty Zarek, Marlaan Zamanigian, Ann Hauwerdink, Angie Consiglio, Marilyn Glaser and Ruth Johnston.

A TASTING EXPERIENCE: While the upbeat sound of Mel Ball and Colours filled the atrium and dining area of Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, the cool jazz rhythms of Scott Stern were heard in the temple's Korman Hall, where desserts were devoured. More than 1,000 guests attended the Art of Food & Wine (A Tasting Experience) Saturday.

The evening was filled with non-stop adventure as guests grazed on outstanding food presentations from more than 40 restaurants, as well as the original brainstorm of Southfield's Jimmy Laffy, owner of Cloverleaf Market.

Richard Gershenzon chaired the high-profile evening with co-chairman Alan Kaplan. Steering committee members included, Linda and Stanley Boltzman, Janice Cherkasky, Marlene and Ron Rosen, and Sherrie Stern.

Other sub-committee members were: Eleanor Weinstein, Ellen Rothenberg, Susan Berlin, Jan Tilchin, Karen Erlich, Marsha Sakwa, Sue Erlich, Susan Gross, Larry Miller, Linda Friedlaender, Sheila Schiffer and Sandy Stark.

The gala's activities included a wine tasting presented by five wine distributors, a silent auction, raffle drawings, continuous music and



social eyes
Denise Lucas



Karen Wechsler (left), chairman and chairwoman Tom and B.J. Bustance, and Joanne Hurwitz at Cranbrook Schools Brookside Auction.

dancing, and endless food presentations. Favorite vendors included whitelish ravioli from Mark of Excellence, a five-course wine and food extravaganza presented by the Golden Mushroom and Cloverleaf Market, duck ravioli with Chinese pesto from Mon Jin Lau, and hot apple crisp with cream Anglaise glaze from Bonnie's Pastries in Southfield.



At Temple Israel are Harvey (left) and Arlene Schwartzberg, Sid and Judy Weinstein, and Arlene and Bill Kingston.



Farmington Hills attorney Jerry Ellis and wife Mary attend "The Art of Food and Wine."



Jan Tilchin (left) and Susan Borin are on the committee for the Temple Israel Wine and Food Tasting.

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