

Dinner-dance honors top MCF supporters



GRETCHEN HITCH

The 50th anniversary of the Michigan Cancer Foundation was celebrated exuberantly Saturday evening at the Renaissance Ballroom of the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

MCF's golden anniversary brought out 1,200 patrons for the black-tie dinner dance, which honored five strong supporters of "Finding a Cure for Cancer" by giving or raising more than \$1 million each.

Golden Commemorative Award recipients were Harry and Anna Korman, Leonard Simon, Helen Zekerman and Lloyd Smith. Presented by MCF chairman David Hermelin, the handsome three-sided crystal award was mounted on an inscribed marble base honoring the lifelong dedication and generous support of the awardees.

Leonard Simon, 92, was seated with his two daughters, Mary Lou and Susan Simon. MCF president Tom Angott was on hand, looking the picture of perfect health after his cancer cure.

David Hermelin did his usual witty repartee in introducing the awardees. Inviting everyone in the MCF Circle of Fellows to a party at Hermelin's Bingham Farms home Aug. 1, he quipped, "It's at Doreen's house." When asked, he shot back, "Everything's in her name anyway."

Michael Timmis, one of the dinner chairmen, proposed a toast, recalling "Romeo and Juliet — R and J — only in this case it is the 28th anniversary of R and J Ron and Judy Askey." The Askeys, honorary chairman and chairwoman, hosted a MCF patron party for 300 guests at their Grosse Pointe Farms home Thursday evening.

The especially good dinner featured filet mignon with ginger-caramel sauce, topped off by a kitchen parfait with brandied cherries. Then table hopping started, before Paul Anka entertained. Anka had written a special song for MCF's 50th and called it "My Way."

The 11th annual MCF dinner attended by 1,200 people didn't break previous attendance records, but did raise the most money ever — \$600,000.

In the Renaissance Ballroom lobby, a golden anniversary cake was displayed adorned with candles symbolizing the illumination of life. Donors who wanted to pay tribute or honor family or friends purchased a candle for \$100, and their names were inscribed on a scroll.

Gloria Gilbert had sent a letter earlier to MCF supporters asking for the \$100 donations: "Pay your regard for someone very special and lighten the pathways of progress for MCF today and tomorrow."

Dinner co-chairmen and co-chairwomen present were Joe and Kathy Antonini, Gene and Marlene Applebaum, the John Ball, David and Doreen Hermelin, Ron and Mary Lamparter, and the Michael Timmises.

Dr. Valantis Valtkevicius was introduced as leading the cancer crusade at MCF. Calm worked hard as master of ceremonies. There were a lot of introductions, and the ballroom was filled to capacity with 1,200 supporters.

Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. Chairwomen were Elise Hayes and Marlene Avis. Honorary chairwoman was Marilyn Fischer. Folks that one doesn't see frequently were out such as Bunkle and Florence Knudsen, Harry and Margie Nederlander and Warren Avis.

Walter and Sis Fisher were among the first to arrive. Sis was in a charming red lace dress. Elise Hayes and Yvonne McCready, Walter and Sis Fisher's daughters, were also in red strapless numbers. Ruth Johnston told us Sis made their dresses. Even the dress worn by Sis's daughter-in-law, Lauren Fisher, a strapless style in pale aqua and mint green satin, was created by the talented Sis.

Having your dress made especially for you insures not seeing anyone in the same ensemble. Ruth Johnston had her seamstress make her silk plaid, short evening dress in shades of purple, gold and khaki. Kathryn Raft, daughter of Margie Nederlander, was stunning in a fitted white jacket over a wired polka-dotted tutu-like short skirt.

On the planning committee and present were Missy Christie, Lauren Fisher, Beth Fisher, Susan Foley, Ruth Johnston, Ronni Keating, Yvonne McCready, Kerri Mertaugh, Janice Nichols, Kathryn Raft, Teckla Rhoads and Anne Tremblin.

A special honoree was attorney Rodman Myers. Although not personally touched by leukemia, Myers has pledged his time and efforts to raise awareness of the killer disease. Since 1985, Myers has been a driving force in the Michigan Leukemia Chapter.

The name "Dancing in the Street" came from a Martha Reeves hit by that name. The committee used embellished street signs of Detroit streets instead of table numbers.

Wally Prechter, president of the Michigan Chapter, gave a heartfelt speech, noting that Myers asked her to join the board of trustees seven years ago, and telling how she has continued to be involved. "I have had the rare opportunity to see, firsthand, innovative medical breakthroughs in leukemia research," Prechter said.

The search for a cure continues. Hopeful signs: the cure rate has jumped to 73 percent in children, from 4 percent in 1960.

Martha Reeves and the Vandellas performed, bringing that Motown sound to round out the lively party. The dance floor was jumping all night.

NMI Boosters

Providence Hospital and the Neuro-Muscular Institute will present their annual summer dinner-dance Friday, July 9, at the Detroit Golf Club.

Helen Castle, wife of NMI founder Dr. Maurice Castle, started the NMI Boosters, patterned after her highly successful St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Boosters group.

Dr. Maurice Castle of Birmingham is founder and director of NMI, where he has helped so many children in need of orthopedic surgery. Sis results verge on the miraculous in allowing children to walk after handicaps are corrected.

Adriane Petrakis will receive the Humanitarian Award. Nicole Chakaway will get the inspirational award.

Spring Soiree

The fifth annual Spring Soiree for Henry Ford Hospice was held May 14 at the Detroit Athletic Club.



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Four decades: Leonard Simon, 92, recipient of the MCF golden award, attends the party with his daughters, Mary Lou Zieve and Susan Simon.



Happy couple: Harry and Margie Nederlander pose at the "Dancing in the Street" benefit.



Serious talk: Ruth Johnston and Dale Austin have a conversation.

The event was co-chaired by Valerie McCammon and Claire Chambers. More than 250 guests attended the dinner dance.

On the committee were Linda Morrow, Kathy Benninger, Eleanor Gabrys and Ann Samenuk. The event raises funds to support hospice care, education and research throughout the Henry Ford System.

Walk Away Hunger

In celebration of Weight Watchers 30th anniversary, hundreds of metro Detroiters laced up their running shoes to "Walk Away Hunger" recently at the Southfield Civic Center.

Florine Mark, president of the largest franchise of Weight

Watchers International, in Farmington Hills, was highly pleased with the turnout for the four-mile walk.

Dieters Feed the Hungry, Tropicana Twister and Weight Watchers sponsored the benefit for the Hunger Action Coalition of Detroit.

When the sound system failed, Mark had to improvise. She led the walkers through warm-up exercises using a police car intercom, courtesy of the Southfield Police.

Southfield's Mayor Donald Fracassi pitched in to use and refreshments. The Livonia Stevenson High School marching band took the lead to begin the four-mile walk.



"Dancing in the Street": Sis Fisher gets together with Janice and Ralph Nichols and Lucia Zurkowski.



Manly trio: Jop Street, Chris Shepler and Michael McCready pause during discussion.



Walk for Hunger: Weight Watchers president Florine Mark uses the Southfield Police sound system to lead warm-ups with Southfield Mayor Donald Fracassi.



Spring Soiree: Valerie McCammon and Claire Chambers listen to entertainment by Bob Allison on the piano May 14 at the Detroit Athletic Club.

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