

Fawkes benefit reveals that it's a winter wonderland

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STAFF WRITER

Winter white fantasy — decreed by the invitation for the women's attire — was chosen by more than half the female guests at Saturday's "Guy Fawkes Throws a Snowball."

The Cranbrook Academy of Art and Museum 17th Fawkes benefit was held at the museum in Bloomfield Hills.

Chairwoman Susie Leader wore white brocade, as did decorations chairwoman Sis Fisher, who accepted her gown with a shiny white mask. Also in winter white was Valerie Straith, wearing evening pajamas trimmed in maribou topped with an ostrich feather. Phyllis Mazure said with a laugh that she found her strapless, embroidered gown marked down in Jacobson's bridal salon.

The impressive receiving line was composed of Gus and Susie Leader; co-chairwoman Debbie Erb and husband John; Women's Committee president Susan Lanciault, in sparkling beads with husband David; Dick and Mary Lou Jones; John and Karen Street; and CAAM director Susana Torre. Torre was resident in a Cranbrook hat constructed by the art students using Cranbrook architectural designs.

A sprinkling of real snowflakes fell on arriving guests and competed with icicles on white branches and sheer draperies forming a snow tunnel to the north and south galleries. Branches dripping in sparkling icicles by Katherine Zilkakis and Sis Fisher centered the tables in the two galleries for dining. Projected on gallery walls, winter scenes of Cranbrook environs added to the luster of the splendidly memorable evening.

Karen Street founded the Nov. 4 Guy Fawkes celebration with former CAAM president Roy Slade. Fawkes hatched the unsuccessful Gunpowder Plot to burn England's Parliament centuries ago.

During cocktails in the lower-level gallery, a buzz of voices bounced off the walls. Everyone was in high excitement over the end of the Michigan-Michigan State game, with State winning. Old television sets along the windows were set to show "snow," but some of the men including former Cranbrook School governor Jim Holmes and chairman of the Cranbrook Educational Community board of trustees Wayne Lyon, both of Bloomfield Hills, managed to bring in the football game.

Molly Tehoy stopped the show when she entered in a spellbinding snowball hat concocted by daughter Diane. It had a heaping mound of "snowballs" heribbored in silver and gold.

The Leaders were chatting with J.T. Battenberg III, executive vice-president General Motors, Delphi Parts Division, whose wife LuAnn arrived directly from the airport. General Motors was a ball sponsor, along with Ford Motor Co. Battenberg is featured in the current cover story in Fortune Magazine entitled "Where to work, what to drive and what to wear."

Among the 275 in the sparkling crowd were Dick and Dee Maalott, Skip and Carol Roberts, Tom and Bev Moore, Bob and Nina Machus, Jan and Pat Hartmann, Marvin and Betty Danto, Bob and Jean Schuler, Hank and Barb Hogan, Dennis and Margo Gormley and Jop and Kerri Street.



Winning ways: Decorations chairwoman Sis Fisher and husband Walter smile happily during the ball where she won a prize wearing this mask.



School hat: Academy of Art director Susana Torre models millinery made for her by art students.



Snowball headgear: Molly Tehoy of Bloomfield Hills wears theme-inspired hat.

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Sparkling evening: J.T. Battenberg III (left), Susie Leader, chairwoman of the Snowball, and her husband Gus of Birmingham get a kick out of the party's success.



Cranbrook torchbearers: Wayne Lyon (left), chairman of the Cranbrook Educational Community Board of Trustees, and Jim Holmes, former chairman of the board of governors, savor the end of the Michigan-Michigan State game.



Black and white: Debbie Erb (left), assistant chairwoman of the evening, and her husband John greet guests, with Susan Lanciault, Women's Association president, and her husband David.