

Beachcomber, August 7



Sarah and Andrew Wetenhall At the Hospital Summer Party. GREGORY D'ELIA



beachcomber

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Too many events this past week, so we must dive right in!

First up was the last Pianofest concert at the Southampton Cultural Center. There wasn't an empty seat for this spectacular performance. The students outdid themselves performing some very complicated classical pieces, including two numbers that required eight hands on two pianos.

Seen enjoying the music: Joan Wetzl, Mary Lou Swift, Tony Newman, Jane Rose, Annette Geddes, Ana Daniel, Sissy Diaz Cruz, Henry Gooss, Cynthia Warrick, Ann Grimm, Valerie Rooks, Patty and George Kraus, Barbara Reuter, Ann McIlvaine, Annaliese Soros, Tom Mahoney, Maren Otto, Samantha Orleans, and Kevin Hansley.

They are already making plans for next season, with two new groups of students. Please remember to take the time to donate to this incredible organization. Many of the former students have gone on to great things in the music world, some performing all over the world.

Even though the weather was not that pleasant on Thursday afternoon, I ventured over to Sag Harbor for the L'Arche Long Island cocktail party. The event was held at Cormaria Retreat Center, which sits on the bay. Cormaria donated the venue, as well as all the wonderful nibbles for the evening.

It was a bit windy that night, but it did not deter the guests from celebrating this amazing organization. L'Arche provides homes for adults with special needs. I truly enjoyed meeting Alex, John, Chris, Joanna, John Paul and Brian, all core members of the charity, who were joined by their families.

Seen enjoying the event: Judith Lanier, Sister Martina, Joan McGovern, Kathleen Colon (executive director of L'Arche), Father Ben Shambaugh, Richard Udice, Sandra Walser, Peter Halock, Katie Simon Krag and Brace Krag, Marie-Eve Berty, Richard Cohen, Binky Urban, Lois Mander, Cathleen Civale, Ken Auletta, and Brian Craig. The next night, I started by heading over to St. John's Episcopal Church on South Main Street in Southampton Village. The church hasn't held an Art Fair in several years, and they decided to host one this summer. Smart move on their part, as the place was packed with supporters and artists. I was impressed with the numerous works that had been donated for the event.

Seen admiring the art: Laura Danforth, Pam Walker, Larry Horton and Joe Markovich, Pat and Peter Nadosy, Sheila and Joe Fuchs, Nancy Larsen, Lynn Manger along with sons Stewart and Bill, Katie and Brendan Johnston, Thayer Bigelow, Susie Wagner, Cindy Willis, Charlotte and Andrew Pilaro, K.T. and Alan McFarland, Walter Dean, Ann Grimm, Missy Chilton, Donna and Betina Zilkha, Susan Mortimer, and Donna and Bill Acquavella.

Hats off to co-chairs Meghan Magyar, Hadley Cooper, Eliza Davis and Lisa Gillespie for putting together this fantastic event. I had the pleasure of meeting Jeremy Carlson, the new priest at St. John's — he has been on the job for three months and seems to be settling in very nicely.

Next stop of the night was the Southampton Arts Center for the annual Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue Center cocktail party. The nibbles were provided by East Hampton Kitchen, and the emcee for the evening was Jill Rappaport. Also present that evening were several animals that the center has rescued over the years, including my favorite, Allen McButterpants, a very friendly groundhog.

Seen: Lisa Schenker, Kathleen Mulcahy, Steve Hartman, Renee and Dale Schlather, Brigid Fitzgerald, Chris Teakle, Bridget Fleming, Dale Novick, Marianne Barnett, Michael Hayes, Henry Buhl, Pamela Dove, Jean Shafiroff, Christine Session-Grofik with her daughter Colette in matching Ele Story dresses and husband George Grofik, and Missy Hargraves.

My last stop of the evening was Guild Hall in East Hampton for its annual Summer Party. This night, they honored Louise and Howie Phanstiel for their amazing support over the years. The tent that evening looked stunning and had been designed by Anthony Taccetta.

Seen enjoying the night: Joel Mesler, Mary Heilmann, Ross Bleckner, Arcmanoro Niles, Almond Zigmund, Philippe Cheng, Fern Mallis, Kim Heirston, Tripoli Patterson, Toni Ross, Michele and Marty Cohen, Executive Director Andrea Grover with husband Carlos Lama, Hilarie and Mitchell Morgan, Bonita and Kevin Stewart, Galia Meiri-Stawski and Axel Stawski, Cornelia and Ralph Heins, Victor Moore, Ken Wyse, Vicki and Chris Kellog, and Brian Moreland and Michael Katz.

There was only one place to be on Saturday night, and that was under the tents on Wickapogue Road for the annual Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Summer Party. This is my favorite event of the season, and this night did not disappoint. Guests enjoyed cocktails and wonderful hors d'oeuvres prepared by Elegant Affairs in the beautifully decorated cocktail tent.

Seen enjoying the evening: Somers and Jonathan Farkas, Jennifer and Dr. Todd Griffin, Kimberly and John Hutter, Jamee and Peter Gregory, Barbara Reuter and Bill Williams, Maryanne Horwath and Michael Shaheen, Bea and Bill Parash, Tara and Chris Teakle, Marion and Phil Piro, Allison Morrow, Carol Gomes, Linda and Arthur Fraser, John and Marc Conti, Florence Ralston, Fern Mallis, Veronica Atkins, and Elena Ford and Mitch Seldin. Then it was into the main tent for an incredible dinner, a brief program and dancing. The table settings were exquisite and mimicked the theme of the evening, which was "A Night in Marrakesh."

Seen under the tent: Melanie and John Wambold, Hollis and Jim Forbes, Maureen and Steve Klinsky, Margo and Jimmy Nederlander, Emily Mastaler and Jon McAuliffe, Rosalind and Bill Wertheim, Nancy Stone, Ann Moore, Jean and Martin Shafiroff, Cricket Burns, Sally Van Erk, Peter Hallock and Craig Mowry, Isolde O'Hanlon, Ken Wright, Lisa and Flip Crawford, Julia McCormack, Kate and Andrew Davis, Andrea Goldsmith, Cindy Willis, Barbara Zweig, and Sarah and Andrew Wetenhall.

The band Overdrive, led by K.J., had the dance floor packed, as we all celebrated the hospital and all its achievements. Without a doubt, this was the best event I have been to all summer — and that is saying something, as I have been to a lot of events. Congrats to the team at the foundation office for putting together a fantastic night.

Sunday morning, I went over to Pond Lane for the 10th annual 5K Race for Hope. This year, they had more than 1,000 registered runners/walkers to raise money for this wonderful organization. Charity founder Audrey Gruss spoke to the crowd and introduced this year's grand marshal, Alexa Ray Joel. The event was organized by Robert Barwick of the Barwick Group; they really know how to get the crowd excited and keep the event going.

Seen: Roberto de Guardiola and his sister Mercedes, Executive Director Louisa Benton, Jamee and Peter Gregory, Margo and Jimmy Nederlander, Barbara and Alan Glatt, Sarah and Andrew Wetenhall, Mayor Bill Manger, Simone Levinson, Richard LeFrak, Ellen Welsh, R. Couri Hay, Lis Waterman, Susan Mortimer, Cece Glatt, Carter Glatt, Tatiana Platt, Kim Heirston, Rhonda Heller, and Alina De Almeida and John Paulson.

Congratulations to Jordan Daniels, the men's winner, with a time of 14:55, and to Jenny Grimshaw, the women's winner, with a time of 16:58.

This weekend is a very busy one, with more events than one person can attend.

On Friday evening, the Peconic Baykeeper will host its annual cocktail party at a private estate in Southampton. Also that evening is the Second Chance Rescue "Concert for a Cause," which is being held in Bridgehampton. Saturday night is East Hampton Library's 21st annual Authors Night, which will host more authors than I have room in my column to list.

The other big events that evening are "SHE," Summer Hamptons Evening, for Northwell Hospital Katz Center for Women's Health, as well as the Silverstein Dream Foundation Garden Gala to benefit the Diabetes Foundation. Hope to see you there!