

Beachcomber, July 24



Kate Davis, Holli Cutting and Cricket Cush at the Maidstone Luncheon. GREGORY D'ELIA



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I realize that the winter months are impossible to do roadwork due to the cold weather. That said, I don't think the middle of July, when town is packed, was really the time to redo the sidewalk and curbing at the corner of Main Street and Jobs Lane. But what do I know!

Monday, July 14, I went to the Southampton Arts Center in the afternoon for a presentation that was being given by Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. That day, they were introducing their new da Vinci Xi Robot surgical machine. The precision this offers a surgeon is amazing. The audience was blown away, as Dr. Georgios Georgakis proceeded to peel a grape and then sew the skin back on. Dr. Konstantinos Spaniolas explained the process and allowed guests to use the machine.

Emily Mastaler, the chief administrative officer of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, spoke, as well as Dr. William Wertheim, executive vice president, Stony Brook Medicine, and Carol Gomes, CEO and COO at Stony Brook University Hospital.

I will tell you, the level of care afforded our community is incredible. We now have world-class health care right here on the East End. By the way, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital just received its third consecutive Leapfrog Safety A grade. This is quite the accomplishment.

Afterward, I headed over to Pianofest for another master class. This week, we heard from the next group of students who are going through the program for the summer. What a treat, as we listened to them perform pieces by Chopin, Rota, Liszt, Schubert and Rachmaninoff.

Seen enjoying the music: Helga Dawn, Maren Otto, Annaliese Soros, Barbara and Henry Gooss, Annette Geddes, Jane Rose, Tony Newman, Emily and Tom Mahoney, Nancy Stone, Susan and Phil Cocke, Joan Weltz and Arthur Field, Ellen Welsh, Mia Hallingby, and Angela and Michael Errico.

Thursday morning, I made my way over to East Hampton for a luncheon that was held at Maidstone. This day, it was a luncheon and a lecture for the East Hampton Emergency Department, which I'm happy to say is up and running and has been doing very well. Within the first 24 hours of being open, they saved a life. They have already serviced thousands of local residents in just over eight weeks.

Aerin Lauder gave a lovely talk about her new book, "Living With Flowers." She spoke fondly of her memories of her grandmother Estee Lauder. After the talk, we all went in for an incredible lunch that the club had prepared. I heard through the grapevine that the recipe for the dish that we were served was a family one of Mary Margaret Truesdale's — it was excellent.

Guests included: Veronica Atkins, Bette-Ann Gwathmey, Allegra Kelly, Ros L'Esperance, Jackie Mitchell, Charlotte Moss, Louise and Howard Phanstiel, Rina Rumbough, Virginia Schwerin, Nancy Stone, Lisa and Kingsley Crawford, Ashley Copeland, Lynn Scotti, Allison Luckman, Liz Carey, Holli Cutting, and Cricket Cush. Jill Davis, Kate Davis, Hollis Forbe, Liz Lange and Mary Margaret Trousdale were the co-chairs of the luncheon.

Friday evening, it was back to Bridgehampton for the third annual cocktail party to benefit the French Heritage Society. What a delightful evening, as we all gathered poolside at the lovely home of Maria and Ken Fishel. Hank Stampfl of Revel Rouge outdid himself with the décor and the nibbles. Singer Jenn Jade was flown in from Paris to entertain the guests and performed a wonderful tribute to singer Josephine Baker.

Seen enjoying the night: Ann and Bill Van Ness, Luisa Diaz, Ruth Miller and Jacque Acoca, Noreen Donovan, Lauren Bush and Bob Murray, Lee Fryd, Nancy Stone, Laura and Jane Codman, Ramona Singer, Suzan Kremer, Elena Gibbs, Mia Hallingby, Alberto Mariaca, Michael Gregson Reinert-Sessions, Brenda and Jim Howard, Rosann Gutman, Karen Murray (owner of the store Five Story), Cheri Kaufman and Bill Sclight, and Jennifer Herlein, the executive director of the society.

The next morning, I was excited to head over to the Peter Marino Art Foundation for another “Book Talk” in their series. That day, it was Bruce Weber and his soon-to-be-published book, “My Education.” Isabel Marion, along with her father, Peter, Bob Colacello and Cornelia Guest led the discussion, while Bruce entertained us with his stories. Guests were fortunate enough to get a copy of his book, which is not coming out until the middle of October.

Seen: Grace Coddington, Stewart Manger, Patty Bigelow, Priscilla Rattazzi, Charlie Marder, Peggy Seigel, Mary Slattery, Fern Mallis, Jeffery Banks, Christina Strassfield, Robin Brown, Raya Knight, Madolin and Bob Archer, Janna Bullock, Gayle Lopata, Ted Taylor, Mark Haukohl, and, of course, Bruce’s wife, Nan Bush.

The first stop on Saturday evening was the Parrish Art Museum for their annual Summer Gala. The weather was perfect for an outdoor event, and the museum was ready to celebrate. Guests walked through the museum to arrive at the back patio, which was beautiful decorated. There was a lovely dance performance out on the lawn while people enjoyed cocktails.

Seen: Honorees Sandy and Stephen Perl binder, Valentina Perissi, Lee Evans, Erin Burnett and David Rubulotta, Charlotte and Andrew Pilaro, Bobbie Braun and Mitchell Myrin, Teresa Ramirez-Montagut and Teresa Montagut Bosque, Debbie Bancroft, John Paulson, Alexandra Stanton and Sam Natapoff, Robin and Fred Seegal, Paulina Proshkina, Kim Heirston, Southampton Village Mayor Bill Manger, and Monica Ramirez-Montagut, the executive director of the museum.

I couldn’t stay long, as I was off to Ocean Road in Bridgehampton for the Unconditional Love Gala for Southampton Animal Shelter. Guests gathered for cocktails and delicious nibbles that were prepared by The Art of Eating. Of course, there were several dogs from the shelter that were available for adoption roaming around the party. There were four pit bull puppies that were only five weeks old, who basically stole the show with their adorable faces. After cocktails, it was into the main tent for dinner speeches and dancing.

Seen: Bridgid Fitzgerald and Michael Katz, Renee and Dale Schlather, Candy and Mark Udell, Jill Rappaport, Joan Jedell, Christie Brinkley and Alexa Joel, Megan and David Rice, Tanya and Michael Grunberg, Kristen Baran, Mitch Kates, Mar and William Morosse, Melanie and John Wambold, Peter Hallock, Cathy Black, Sally Van Erk, Barbara Zweig, Jonathan McCann, and Stephanie Bulger, the daughter of the owner of the lovely home where the event took place.

Christopher Teakle, the executive director of the shelter, spoke and gave Alison Eastwood an honorary award for her work with animals. Jill Rappaport introduced Christie Brinkley, who honored Chevy Chase and his wife, Jayni. Sadly, there must have been a mix-up in the kitchen, which made for dinner to be unusually delayed. What a shame, as that caused the remainder of the program to go far later than anyone expected. When they finally asked the guests to support the shelter, many of them had already left.

The place to be on Thursday night is under the tent at the Elks Lodge on County Road 39 for the Hamptons Jewelry Fair. This is one of the most extraordinary events ever, as over 100 of the most respected jewelers from 10 countries will showcase over a half billion dollars in jewels. I can just imagine the security for this event!

Saturday evening, the Southampton Arts Center will host an opening party for their new exhibit, "Beyond the Present." The exhibit will be the Christine Mack art collection. Also that evening, the Ellen Hermanson Foundation will host its annual Summer Gala. This year, it will be held at the Bridgehampton Tennis and Surf Club. The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church also will host its annual tent party that evening, always a fun party.

Hope to see you there!