

The Villager

# Southampton's Summer Party turns supper-club splendor into \$1.8 million for local care

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Comments



Southampton Hospital Foundation's 68th Annual Summer Party took place.

Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com

On Wickapogue Road, beneath the great white tents of Southampton's summer mythology, more than 450 guests stepped into another era. Candlelight caught satin, sequins and the occasional very serious diamond, while dinner jackets held their composure in the August heat. Between the first rosé and the final turn on the dance floor, the Southampton Hospital Foundation's 68th Annual Summer Party raised more than \$1.8 million for Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and the Stony Brook East Hampton Emergency Department. A big, beautiful setting, a big, beautiful spend and the practical business of helping save lives: there is, frankly, nothing more chic.

Renowned event designer DeJuan Stroud realized “An Evening at the Supper Club” with the polish of a 1940s fantasy, minus, perhaps, the cigarette smoke and less charming social restrictions. Tables glowed beneath forgiving light, timeless décor framed the scene, and Christiaan Padavan performed as guests moved through cocktail hour with the ease of people who know summer is brief and a good entrance should never be wasted.

Elegant Affairs handled dinner with enough grace to let the evening unfold rather than announce itself. Macklowe Whiskey cocktails and pale Château Sainte Marguerite rosé kept the atmosphere buoyant, while silk, shimmer, sculpted color and Hamptons white moved beneath the tents like a very well-funded breeze.

Naturally, all that beauty carried something more substantial. Stony Brook Southampton Hospital is the sole provider of emergency care on Long Island’s South Fork, offering trauma and stroke care, cancer treatment, cardiac services, surgery and other specialties. Its work continues long after the hydrangeas fade, the summer houses close and Route 27 returns to something resembling mercy.



Southampton Hospital Foundation's 68th Annual Summer Party  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com



Billy Macklowe, Julie Macklowe  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com

Perhaps that is what gave the celebration its deeper pulse. The evening offered an attractive version of abundance, with pleasure circulating until good fortune became advanced technology, expanded clinical programs and expert care close to home. Prosperity may enjoy its pleasures, certainly, though it becomes considerably more appealing when it develops a strong instinct for public usefulness—preferably by paddle.



Claire Capeci won one of the luxury safaris to Ongava Game Reserve in Namibia  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com

Auctioneer Lydia Fenet supplied precisely that opportunity. Fenet is, admittedly, one of my favorite auctioneers to watch. As a former art auctioneer myself, I always look forward to seeing how the room is handled—where energy is gathered, how momentum is protected, when humor enters, and how strategy and technique can bring big results for even bigger causes.

That evening, a safari to Namibia's Ongava Game Reserve inspired such enthusiastic bidding that Fenet offered a second package. One safari became two, the bids climbed, and generosity acquired the rhythm and suspense of excellent theater. It was a deft reminder that when timing, instinct and purpose align, a skilled auctioneer can move far more than paddles.

At the center of the celebration was Summer Party Chair Lynn A. Scotti, whose leadership made the scale appear almost effortless. Nancy Stone served as Corporate Partnership Chair, while Fern Mallis presided, quite appropriately, as Fashion Chair. Vice Chairs included Liz Lange, Jackie Mitchell, Margo Nederlander, Jean Shafiroff, Melanie Wambold, Cindy Willis and Sarah Wetenhall, among others.



Fern Mallis, Tamron Hall  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com



John Mullin, Lexi Steigelman, Carolina Molina and J. Oscar Molina  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com



The Frank Simmons Band kept the dance floor packed late into the evening  
Photo by Jason Lowrie-BFA.com

Distinguished supporters included Alina de Almeida and John Paulson, Howard and Wendy Cox, Jay Lieberman, Jamee and Peter Gregory, Louise and Howard Phanstiel, Charlotte and Alejandro Santo Domingo, Barbara and Randall Smith, Julie and Billy Macklowe, Candace Bushnell and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Their names brought social shine, of course, though their support carried the more enduring distinction of strengthening the medical infrastructure on which the East End depends.

Foundation President Julia J. McCormack noted that the funds would support innovative programs, advanced technology and compassionate care for generations to come. In a region photographed for its beaches, estates and immaculate tablescapes, the evening offered a more consequential portrait: people gathering beautifully, spending generously and helping ensure that exceptional care remains nearby when life becomes far less picturesque.

Pleasure, thankfully, was not sacrificed in the process. Dinner gave way to family-style desserts, Dolce & Gelato and Dreesen's Doughnuts, while The Frank Simmons Band kept the dance floor full late into the night. Good works, after all, do not require bad lighting, joyless food or sensible shoes.

Eventually, the candles dimmed, the gowns returned to their garment bags and the last traces of rosé disappeared from the glassware. The \$1.8 million, however, remained exactly where it belonged: on the East End, supporting emergency treatment, medical expertise and the quiet assurance that help is close when needed most. More than a successful summer party, it was style with consequence—and generosity dressed beautifully for the occasion.