

The Mad Hatter

A fundraiser for the Sexual Assault Center, Sept. 6, Hutton Hotel



The 2014 Mad Hatter Gala was held on the evening of Sept. 6 at Hutton Hotel, but before the sellout affair, gala patrons were celebrated with a cocktail reception on Sept. 4 at the home of Mary and Mike Spalding. The evening reception was co-hosted by Elizabeth and Bob Dennis and Laura and John Chadwick.

Some 100 guests enjoyed mingling throughout the Spalding home, spilling onto the outdoor terrace as they sipped beverages and nibbled passed appetizers from T Party's Catering.

It was a delightful evening, indeed!

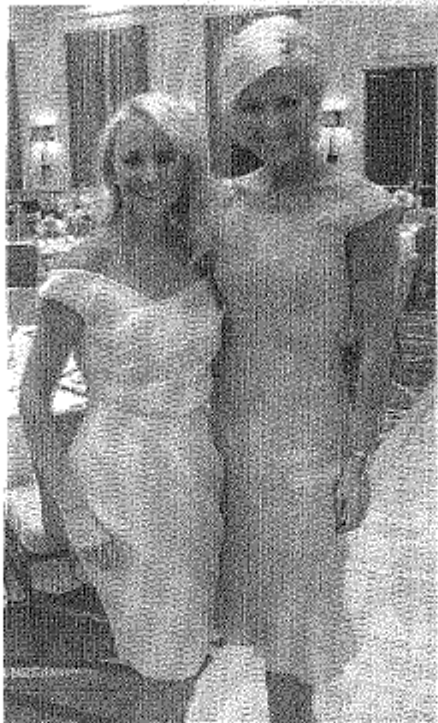
The gala began with a silent auction and cocktail hour. A plethora of items were available for guests to bid on, and a quick perusal just before the time was called on the auction indicated there had been some active bidding — and a couple of bidding wars! Across the hall from the silent auction area, the Hutton's Vista Ballroom, decorated by H Three Events in shades of pink, was set for dinner.

As guests seated, Tim Tohill, president of the Sexual Assault Center, welcomed guests, acknowledging Jay DeMarcus and Rob Lowe, the husbands of gala co-chairs Allison DeMarcus and Jennie Garth Lowe.

Tohill also noted that the center had treated 640 survivors over the past year, of which 225 were children. He then introduced Lisa Campbell, who also thanked everyone for their time and contribution, including the staff of the Sexual Assault Center. Campbell presented a small token of appreciation to the co-chairs.

On the dinner menu, the Hutton's executive chef, Charles Phillips, and his staff had prepared a watermelon and feta salad with basil puree and highland crest; for the entree, a coulette steak with dauphinoise potatoes, mushroom and leek confit and 1808 steak sauce. For dessert, guests had a choice of red velvet cake or dulce de leche dome and florentine tuile. My dinner partner, Gloria Houghland, and I chose to split and sample both. My sweet tooth was most satisfied. I'd say it was a tie for best dessert.

By Rusty Terry, September 13, 2014



Jennie Garth Lowe, left, and Allison DeMarcus



Emme Templeton, left, and Charles and Mary Carol Friddell

