

A BISTRO NITE BASH FOR HOSPICE

Over 120 “Ridgers” joined the Ocean Ridge Charities Association for a sellout evening at the Bistro Nite soiree at the Plantation Club on Saturday night, November 12. The event is part of an ongoing, ORCA fundraising campaign to help raise money to build Brunswick county’s only hospice care facility up the road in Supply, NC.

Center stage for the evening was the divine Mrs. E.—Maggi Edwards—singing some of her best melodies. The highlight was her remarkable rendition of Roberta Flack’s “The first time I ever saw your face”, *a capello* (without musical accompaniment). Amazing! Adding their voices to the evening’s floor show were Joyce Kuthe (Sweet Charity’s “Hey Big Spender), Joe Coffini (Eddie Floyd’s “Knock on Wood”) and Rod Peterson’s duet with Maggi, crooning together Dinah Washinton’s and Brook Benton’s hit “Baby, you’ve got what it takes.” Great voices, all for a great cause. Special kudos to Whit Clark who illuminated these stars by handling the playhouse lighting like a pro.

Frank and Ginny Ward, welcomed Bistro go-ers to the club, decked out in Bistro red, white and black, as the evening’s maitre’ds while MCee Randy Pelton kept the three hour program moving along. Meanwhile, out of the catering department came an assortment of appetizer and dessert “tastings” for each table from the soon-to-be-published OR cookbook—another ORCA hospice community fundraiser—all served to the guests by ORCA board members. These culinary creations were prepared by a bevy of Ocean Ridge’s best chefs orchestrated by our cookbook maven, Peggy Burris. By evening’s end, event chairwoman Merrienne Orndoff was all smiles as the FUNdraiser garnered nearly \$2,500 for the hospice campaign.

ORCA launched the Hospice effort on the heels of its successful, \$25,000 Nursing Scholarship Endowment at BCC. Working with Lower Cape Fear Hospice, Inc, ORCA pledged to raise \$10,000 over five years for the LifeCare Center. When completed, the new \$3.5 million, 15,600 square-foot building, will have seven patient suites with patios, kitchen facilities, dining and laundry rooms, open courtyard gardens, gathering spaces, as well as medical and administrative offices. When ORCA’s community pledge is fulfilled, one of the facilities’ family alcoves will be named for Ocean Ridge.

If you missed Bistro Nite, not to worry. Our next hospice fundraiser event-- Trivia Nite 2012 in is tentatively scheduled for late March. In the meantime, if you’d like to make a hospice contribution, send your check (made out to ORCA—hospice) to ORCA, P.O. Box 6879, Ocean Isle Beach NC 28469-0879.

Our sincerest appreciation to all of our patrons, volunteers, performers, chefs and others who made Bistro Nite such a huge success along with a special thanks to both Phyllis O’Connor for her floor plan design and other invaluable assistance and to Pat Ferris for the evening’s playbill and other help.

See you at Trivia Nite!

Mike Gildea