

ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Over 130 neighbors packed the Plantation Club on Saturday April 30th for the first annual, Ocean Ridge Trivia Nite Championship. The event, sponsored by the Ocean Ridge Charities Association (ORCA) in partnership with the David Kelly Scholarship Fund, was held to raise funds for an Ocean Ridge nursing scholarship at Brunswick Community College (BCC). On all counts, the night was a stunning success.

For the evening, Maggy Schlink and her team of decorators transformed the Plantation Club into Ocean Ridge General (hospital) replete with several ORCA Nursing Committee members in their nursing attire. Mike Lynch helped staff Admissions in his green scrubs, doing his best imitation of Dr. Ben Kildare (ok, I know it was Dr. Ben Casey...but just what was Dr. Kildare's first name???). Amy Kelly and Peggy Burris coordinated the evening's stimulants—lots of wine and gourmet desserts. Nearly 30 “baker babes” volunteered almost 40 confectionary creations for the contestants.

Then the games began. For three hours, fifteen teams battled it out to see who among them would claim the moniker of Ocean Ridge whiz kids. MC Randy Pelton challenged the players with 80 questions from 8 categories of trivia topics including Broadway, North Carolina, Ocean Ridge, Disney and Nursing. A running tally of each round's results was posted so teams could track where they were in the competition.

The raucous contest featured surprise guests—Dr. Know-It-All and his assistant Nurse Ratchet, ably played by Bill and Carol Wakefield. Their job: To shamelessly hype mulligan's (answers) at \$5 each to raise more scholarship dollars. And hype they did, raising over \$700 for the community's scholarship fund. In addition, a 50-50 drawing helped swell the coffers along with a blind auction of one of Lyell Tripp's woodworking wonders—a two-tone Adirondack chair. Thanks Lyell!

At the end of the night it was Team Urology that prevailed over the second placers, Team ENT and Team Medical/Surgery. To the winners went the spoils of victory--more wine and bragging rights until next year's contest. Kathy Arancio, a former nurse ended the night's festivities by speaking eloquently about the impact of scholarships on her education; then the fundraising results were announced—over \$5,000 raised for Ocean Ridge's nursing scholarship!

The Trivia Nite extravaganza and its fundraising success were made possible through many hours of hard work by the ORCA's Nursing Committee, composed of 25 community volunteers, including active and retired Ocean Ridge nurses, co-chaired by Annamarie Gildea, along with Amy, Kathy and Maggy. A huge thanks goes to the nearly 50 volunteers, 120 participants and nearly 50 other, very generous donors who couldn't participate but sent their checks anyway. Kudos as well to ORCA's 30 corporate partners whose annual sponsorship helps underwrite our events and other expenses. Each and every one of you played a vital role in helping make the Ocean Ridge, David Kelly Nursing Scholarship a reality.

FYI, ORCA has established a scholarship committee and will be awarding the first Ocean Ridge scholarship for the 2011 Fall semester. If you missed the event or forgot to send in a check for the scholarship fund, you can still make a contribution. Donations can be made out to ORCA and sent to: Ocean Ridge Charities Association, P.O. Box 6879, Ocean Isle Beach N.C., 28469-0879. On the check's memo line, please write the word “scholarship”. 100% of the monies raised go to the scholarship and 100% of your contribution is tax deductible.

Mike Gildea