

BROWARD ALBUM

PARTIES / FUNDRAISERS / CORPORATE EVENTS

Sunday, March 28, 2010

Mardi Gras gala earns \$57,000 for Henderson Mental Health Center

A stilt walker, a mime, lamé tablecloths in purple, green and gold, and plenty of masks created a Mardi Gras-style festivity at Henderson

PARTY LINE
Jana Soeldner-Danger

Mental Health Center's annual gala. Greeters bedecked guests with colored beads as they entered the ballroom at Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, where a jazz fest area, haunted house corner, Riverboat section and Bourbon Street rendition conjured visions of New Orleans.

An imaginative twist: Instead of the usual assigned seating at standard tables, guests could choose their own tables, which varied in size from



JANA SOELDNER DANGER

Stilt walker Eddy Fernández poses behind Sharon Grad, Marci Ronik and Elyssa Ronik at Henderson Mental Health's Mardi Gras gala.

intimate settings for two to large ones with space for raucous groups of friends.

During the reception, waiters hefted trays of seafood kebobs, mini Wellingtons, bruschetta and other yummy hors d'oeuvres while partygoers perused a silent auction and admired each other's masks. Later, dinner buffet stations offered fare like sautéed crawfish, Creole gravy, fried catfish, roasted pepper and pumpkin risottos, and bread pudding. After dinner came a contest for best mask, won by Oren Lewis with a handsome model brought home from a trip to Venice.

The party was a creative mix of festive glam-

our and easy casual that earned \$57,000 for Henderson Mental Health Center. Host committee members included Marissa Burke, Jeffrey Connors, Beth E. Linzner, Carlos Romerez, Mary Caldwell, Robert A. Field, Rita Muñoz and Gloria Stuart.



JANA SOELDNER DANGER

Melissa and Shawn Sackman, Andrew Daley and Pia Dahlquist, with Alice Rasmussen and Jim Rasmussen, president of Sun Trust Bank.



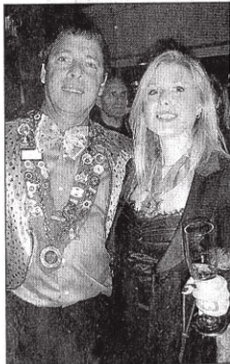
JANA SOELDNER DANGER

Who is behind those masks? Ed Thatcher, Gina Nelson, Karla Thatcher and Mark Nelson at a benefit for Henderson Mental Health.



JANA SOELDNER DANGER

Oren and Jo Anne Lewis were among the guests at a Mardi Gras-style gala for Henderson Mental Health Center. Oren was the winner of the best mask contest.



JANA SOELDNER DANGER