All Charities Weekend — Have You Placed a Bid Yet?

Events Begin Today

At 4 p.m. this afternoon, the All Charities Auction Weekend will kick-off two days of celebratory fundraising events beginning with the Silent Auction and Live Wine Auction in Heron Hall. Online bidding opened last Friday and the fundraising efforts are well underway. Bidding will continue online through Saturday night and new this year, you can also bid from any smart device. You do need to register to receive your password in order to participate in the remote bidding.

Among the items up for bid are incredible wines, vacation packages to some of the most sought after locations in the world (ever been fishing in Patagonia or had a personal shopper on Rodeo Drive?), baskets and gift items for children and adults, and a host of “impossible to get” items, such as reservations at The Raw Bar, Easter Cabana Reservation, Season Tickets at the Cultural Center and much, much more.

Tickets for Friday, February 10 are $25 at the door. If you are attending the Auction Dinner, admission Friday night is included. The luncheon on Saturday is complimentary, open to all Members and guests and will feature live music, sliders, hot dogs and of course lots of fun. Contact Lesa Crayne, Auction Administrator at 305-367-5996 or lcrayne@oceanreef.com for tickets and registration information. All proceeds benefit the combined charities of Ocean Reef and other local, charitable causes.

Couples

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Hut, where all the kids used to gather.” says Stephanie. “It was the end of the break so we only had a few days to get to know each other before Brian had to go back to New Jersey and I had to go home to Virginia”

For the rest of the year they continued to date long distance. Brian was Stephanie’s escort for her Senior Prom. Though they continued to see each other from time to time during their college years (Stephanie at Charleston College in SC and Brian at Lynn University in FL), they were “only good friends.”

Then in 2007 they met again on a visit to The Reef, where their parents were now winter residents. “We realized we still had feelings for each other,” says Stephanie. “And during the following year Brian made frequent trips to Charleston, where I was working for the SC Historical Society.”

In 2008 Brian moved from New Jersey to Charleston to be with Stephanie and two years later they became officially engaged at the site of their first meeting—the beach at Ocean Reef. “When it came to deciding where we were going to be married, there was only one choice. It had to be Ocean Reef.”

JIM & HELENA MORTON…
A love match in the real sense, not the tennis one…

Jim Morton, Ocean Reef’s Director of Tennis, and his wife Helena, an associate at Russell Post Real Estate, have been married for 22 years. Their love match (in the real sense, not the tennis one) began at Ocean Reef in 1986, when 26-year-old Helena was manager of the Racquet Club and Jim was visiting The Reef before heading to Palm Beach for a new job.

Jim’s tennis buddy, Steve Hardin, who was then Head Pro at the Racquet Club, kept trying to fix Jim up with Helena, though she resisted—“He’s not my type.” But in the end, the same steady persistence that made Jim Morton a good tennis player, made him a formidable suitor. “He just kept hanging around.”

Then in one of those convenient twists of fate, Hardin decided to move on and the Racquet Club needed a new pro. “And,” says Helena, “I hired Jim.” Jim has a slightly different version. “I interviewed for the job and was accepted.”

No matter how it happened, the two ended up working together at the Racquet Club. In their spare time Jim taught Helena how to play tennis. “I couldn’t pass up the free lessons.” Obviously Jim, who is a great tennis teacher, found a talented pupil in his wife. Helena is now one of the top women players at The Reef. In 1992 after the buy-out of the club by the members, Jim left the Racquet Club to take over the Ocean Reef courts.

The couple, who were married in Helena’s college town of Providence, RI, in 1989, became parents of a little girl three years later and the Racquet Club held its first baby shower. (Tianna is now a pre-med student at Florida State.) In 1998 their son William came along.

For Jim and Helena Ocean Reef is truly home. They have lived here full time for nearly a quarter of a century. “This is it,” says Helena. “And there’s no place nicer.”

DICK & AUDIE GARBISCH…
“A great happiness coming from a great sadness”

Dick and Audie Garbisch were married at the Ocean Reef Chapel on Valentine’s weekend, 2000. All their children, (they each had four) attended the ceremony conducted by “then and now” Ocean Reef member Don Heinrich.

“Dick was 84, 12 years my elder and my kids were concerned that he might be too old,” says Audie. “They were wrong. Dick is razor sharp and his memory’s so good that he remembers everybody’s name, including grade school friends.”

Dick and Audie met at Mayo’s Nursing Care Unit in Rochester, Minnesota. Audie was in her third year of sitting by the bedside of her gravely ill first husband, a retired Mayo physician. Dick was watching over his wife of many years, who had suffered a stroke.

After long anguish hours of snatched conversations in the nursing care waiting room, Dick and Audie became friends. Then, when their spouses died within 6 months of each other, the two survivors found some comfort in sharing their grief.

A year later friendship grew into love—“a great happiness coming from a great sadness.” Dick had been a member of the Ocean Reef Club since 1964 (he’s currently one of our oldest members) and though Audie had visited The Reef with her first husband, the two had never met. “Dick and I lived near each other in Minnesota, but a February wedding in Ocean Reef seemed far more appealing.”

And that was only the beginning. “We’ve been coming to The Reef every winter for 12 years. And every year has been a blessing.”

Congratulations to the Garbisch’s on their 12th wedding anniversary. And many happy returns to Ocean Reef!