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WEEKEND EDITION

SCENE AROUND TOWN

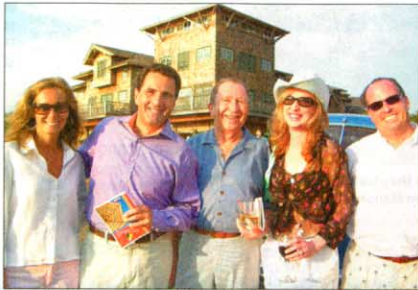
A weekly look at the area's movers and shakers in photos and text by Sandra Matuschka

Having a ball at the beach



The star of the evening was really Narragansett Bay, for which the fundraiser was held. The view from Carnegie Abbey was as beautiful as that from any island anywhere, a fine reason to support Save The Bay.

From left, enjoying the pre-dinner festivities were **Miriam O'Neill** and **Dan MacDonald**, both of Newport, **Malcolm and Christina McGuire** of East Greenwich, and Carnegie Abbey Club owner **Brian O'Neill** of Newport.



Event at Carnegie Abbey supports Save The Bay

The more than 400 guests attending the Carnegie Abbey Club's annual Save The Bay fundraiser definitely had a summer treat at the Beach Ball-themed event July 29, this year held on the club grounds instead of at club owner Brian O'Neill's home in Newport.

According to the club's corporate office, Carnegie Abbey had committed a pledge of \$500,000 to Save The Bay, and whatever was raised by the Beach Ball went toward fulfilling that commitment. Tickets for the event cost \$500 a person. A large silent auction covering a number of categories and a live auction of 14 high-end items helped to boost the overall proceeds.

Curt Spalding, executive director of Save The Bay, said, "We're very happy with the Beach Ball, and the way Brian O'Neill presented it to the guests, the spirit of the event and of the people attending. They helped us pay for the construction of the Carnegie Abbey Wing — which opened a year ago — and the programs of bay education."

Spalding said that because of O'Neill's generosity in deciding to also fund programs, Save The Bay is able to sponsor more children coming to the facility, in many cases discounting fees or providing free programming when needed. "Brian plans to grow this," Spalding said. "He's said he wants more programs, not just the wing."

The Carnegie Abbey Wing, which is at the base center in Providence, has two classrooms, a large meeting room and education facilities. "We have different types of public programs and the facility is used in conjunction

with schools," Spalding said. Educators interested in a program can contact the education department of Save The Bay, and the organization will set up a program in conjunction with the school.

The Beach Ball was the design of event planner Richard Carbotti of Newport, and it was engineered to mimic the Baja, California peninsula. "The food, the environment, the servers — they were all like being in southern California," Carbotti said. "We found some beach bars in the Baja and we built ones like them here."

The weather was perfect for the party. Guests lingered outside the main tent enjoying warm ocean-side breezes and a colorful sunset along with their beverages and hors d'oeuvres at high tables and chairs. A display of O'Neill's vintage cars and entertainment dotted the grounds, including a hula hoop dancer and palm-reading sessions.

Carbotti said, "It seemed to be the biggest blast fun. At one point, a person said to me that they forgot they were in a tent, they thought they were at the beach." Carbotti had surrounded the dance floor with sand, even "planting" tufts of sea grass and other beach-worthy flora.

The band Chico's Vibe provided pounding rhythms of the Beach Boys and other equally danceable music throughout the evening, and The New Century Dance Company filled in gaps with their expertly choreographed and fun to watch beach dancing. Dinner — pan-roasted filet mignon, blue cheese risotto cake and grilled eggplant among other items — was prepared by Chef Daniel Scannell of Carnegie Abbey Club.



M. Therese Antone, president of Salve Regina University, left, and **Leona Misto**, vice president for mission integration and planning at the school, admire the finished sand sculpture.



Linda Lee Butler of Newport stands in front of one of Brian O'Neill's vintage cars that dotted the grounds of Carnegie Abbey Club for the Beach Ball.



Joan and Bill Martin of Portsmouth toast the beautiful ice sculptures provided by Art and Ice of Providence. Although the Martins are members, it was their first time at the annual fundraiser. They praised the operation of the club. "Carnegie Abbey is doing everything perfectly," Joan said.



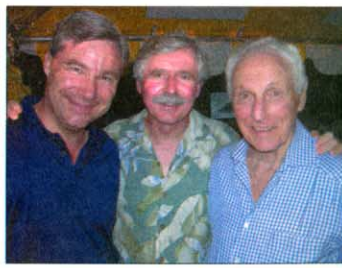
Jeffrey and Leah Poole of Middletown said they were enjoying the evening. Jeffrey is the captain of Whitehawk, the boat that belongs to Brian O'Neill, owner of Carnegie Abbey Club.



Karen and Tom Roskelley of Newport had been to the Carnegie Abbey event before. "I always find it interesting to see the variety of people," Tom said. "It's a beautiful night under the tent."



Alison Vareika of Newport and **Curt Spalding**, executive director of Save The Bay and his wife, **Patrice Spalding**, were chatting and enjoying the pre-dinner festivities at Carnegie Abbey Club.



From left, **Sheldon Whitehouse**, Democratic challenger for the U.S. Senate, **William Vareika** of Newport, a member of the board of directors of Save The Bay, and former governor **Bruce Sundlun** of Jamestown had a chance to meet and chat.



Dick Huggins of Barrington, founder of Sandtasia, a sand-sculpting company that works out of Tiverton and Barrington, works on a giant "Save The Bay" sculpture for the event.