

## A Night of Salsa, Swing and Spirit

Some 250 friends and supporters of The Charity Guild filled the Shaw's Center for the annual Harvest Celebration, featuring the final round of "Dancing With the Champions." In this ballroom dance event, held for the fourth time, five couples vied for the votes of the audience.

A mother-son pair from Brockton, Maria and Harrison Miranda, took top honors as they chose to dance the salsa. All the couples performed in preliminary rounds earlier in the month, one night of salsa and one night of swing, rated by a panel of judges. The Mirandas came into the gala, on Sept. 22, slightly behind in the standings, but they won over the crowd with an electrifying display of salsa flavored with hip-hop. Maria Miranda is working on a degree in polysonographic technology and volunteers at The Charity Guild; her son is a 2011 graduate of Brockton High School and works at Everett's Auto Parts. Finishing second were Peri Jacoubs, vice principal of the Arnone School, and Jean Philogene, a retired educator, who won "Dancing With the Champions" with his wife, Christa, in 2008. After the competition, Mr. and Mrs. Philogene charmed the audience with a spontaneous bonus dance.

The atmosphere was festive as the Guild celebrated its 40th anniversary of serving Brockton and vicinity. Harvest decorations by Pat Dykeman and Stephanie Spencer turned the lobby into a vision of autumn. The tables of auction items were turned into a glittering display by Brenda Smith-Burke. The hall was brightened by green and white balloons by Diane Prince. Geri Creedon and Diane photographed the event. The traditional stacks of canned goods on the tables were a reminder of the more than 13,000 people served in the past year by the Guild's food pantry. Nancy Gustafson, vice chairwoman of the Guild, oversaw the whole production.

A number of couples took a turn on the dance floor before the competition, dancing to the music provided by Marie and Tom Osterland. The Osterlands, who teach dance in Norwell, spent untold volunteer hours coaching the dancers for the fourth year in a row; they also recruited some of the competitors. The other couples were Ashley Anastasi and Troy Goodwin, Elisabeth Dorsey and Gene Cobb, and Mary Coutts and Daniel Tobin.

Speeches were kept to a minimum. Ashley Aka, a part-time Guild employee, spoke of her time as a volunteer and clients whose lives were changed. Tony O'Brien, a board member, urged the audience to support the Guild by contributing the cost of a grocery bag. So the gala was an inspiration, a fund-raiser, an entertaining show and a good party.



Jean Philogene and Peri Jacoubs showed some graceful moves on the dance floor...



But Harrison and Maria Miranda danced away with first prize.

*Photographs by Diane Prince*

## Small Servings

**LIFE BEGINS AT 40?** -- The Guild celebrated its 40th anniversary with a wonderful lunch at Tutto Bene (formerly Pasta Bene) on Sept. 8. One of the Charity Guild's 17 founders – Jeanne Sullivan – was on hand. She is the mother of the current Guild chairwoman, Barbara Janelli ... **GOBBLE, GOBBLE** -- The Guild has ordered 200 turkeys to give to clients the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. ... **SENIOR SERVICE** -- Food deliveries to the homebound elderly have been expanded to 40 households in Brockton. The Yawkey Foundation recently donated \$25,000 to the Guild for food aid to children and the elderly ... **EARLY CHRISTMAS** -- Clients have begun to sign up at the Guild for Brockton's Annual Holiday Toy Distribution at the Shaw's Center on Dec. 21. Anyone who would like to help out at the event can call Nicki Meade Draves at (508) 587-0815.

## Harvest Gala 2011



Ashley Anastasi  
on the dance floor



Brenda Smith-Burke, Patricia Lawton, Barbara  
Cerce and daughter-in-law Debbie Cerce



Mayor Linda Balzotti and Jennifer Kovalich



Jackie DiMarzio, Florence McNamara  
and Nancy Roberts



Peri Jacobs was a winner  
not only on the dance floor  
but also in the raffle



Daughter-mother: Courtney Jansson  
and Stephanie Spencer

*Photographs by Diane Prince*

More photos at [thecharityguild.org](http://thecharityguild.org)

## Save the Date

### A Doo-Wop Holiday

A concert by Nancy Gustafson, Lia Macrina, Lynne Albanese,  
Vincent Macrina and the United Brass and many surprise guests.

**Friday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m.**  
**Martin Institute of Stonehill College**



*Photograph by Tracy Marino*