

Shreveport Opera Guild brunches at Barret House

Janet Lindsay & Rae Selber chair a Sunday Jazz Brunch at historic Barret Place—it was a memorable Palm Sunday boosting Shreveport Opera.

When Shreveport Opera Guild was contemplating a spring benefit, chair Janet Lindsay remembered a small gathering she and husband Charles had attended at Barret Place a while back. With her cochair Rae Selber, Janet began making plans . . . they envisioned models dressed from local clothiers descending the stairway, a Silent Auction, Southern party fare, maybe a few raffle items and perhaps some music. The party location would be Barret Place, built in 1908 by attorney Thomas C. Barret and completely restored by new owner Charles Aime in the mid-1900s. Judy Chidlow and Lottie McGuire joined the party team and before they all knew it, the benefit had evolved into a lavish Jazz Brunch scheduled for Palm Sunday—round tables & chairs underneath the spreading trees of the front lawn, a menu featuring Grits & Grillades to “hundreds and hundreds” of pralines a la Vicki Potts of Rhymes Catering, informal modeling of fashions from Knox Goodman’s, Sue Peyton’s, The Fashion and Rosenblath’s, plus a beautiful jewelry from McCary’s, and a wide array of Silent Auction items from some 24 donors. “The event literally mushroomed, and Charles Aime couldn’t have been more gracious,” Janet told us, reporting that more than \$15,000 was raised for Shreveport Opera. Since then the Silent Auction Dinners have been held . . . a Mexican Fiesta by Charles & Barbara Salley; an Italian Intrigue from Dominic’s at George & Susan McCormick’s; a Southern Summer Supper at Delton Harrison’s, Mary Hope & Warren Long co-hosting, an English Evening featuring Beef Wellington with Amy & Tom Worgul the chefs; a Summer Luncheon featuring Karin Barro’s famous chicken salad & Trudy Cable’s gourmet touches; Country Casual Crawfish Boil at Libby & Tom Siskron’s; La. Saturday Night at Lori and Larry Allen’s, Julie & Jim Dickinson cohosting; and a Mexican Holiday given by Nancy Humprey in San Miguel de Allende among them.



Brunch chair Janet Lindsay, hos Charles Aime and Judge Charles Lindsay stand underneath the spreading oak trees with the Steve Wells Combo of Natchitoches, who entertained throughout the Opera Guild’s Brunch that Palm Sunday. Brunchgoers sipped mimosas and Bloody Marys, placed bids on Silent Auction items, toured the elegant old mansion, viewed spring fashions modeled by Guilders and husbands, enjoyed scrumptious Southern fare by Vicki Potts and seemed to revel in raising funds for Shreveport Opera . . . more than \$15,000 all totaled, Janet Lindsay reported. It was a memorable day, one that would make a wonderful annual affair, many are saying.