



Co-Chairs Marc Byrd and Nancy Stone present honoree Harold Matzner with Swarovski crystal disco tennis shoes.

PAUL KRUGER/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

ACT for MS hosts Sunday Night Fever 2016



From left, committee member Nelda Linsk with Sharon Miller and sponsor Rhonda Smith.

DeAnn Lubell-Ames
Special to The Desert Sun

ACT for MS, a local non-profit that provides therapy sessions, mobility assistance and other special support programs for free to those suffering with Multiple Sclerosis, recently held its annual March benefit gala honoring philanthropist Harold Matzner and remembering its founder Gloria Greer. The event raised an impressive \$250,000.

It was disco night at the Crystal Ballroom at the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort. *Sunday Night Fever* was the theme and the room rocked with the disco music of the 70s with many of the 325 guests costumed in bellbottoms, glittery jump-suits, platform shoes and white go-go boots of the period.

The atmosphere was festive, but ACT for MS founder Gloria Greer was clearly missed. Gone from the scene was ACT for MS's tireless cheerleader who had just passed away from cancer. Glaringly absent was her contagious smile, enthusiasm, and larger-than-life personality.

As soon as everyone was seated, a video rolled on the screens. It showed clips from prior fundraisers of Gloria up on stage welcoming the audience like she did every year. A hush fell over the crowd. Immediately smiles erupted from



Major sponsors from the Auen Foundation, from left, Catharine Reed, Ron and Sherrie Auen.

table to table as her voice boomed out over the room as if she were really there and all was well.

Co-Chairs Nancy Stone and Marc Byrd did a fantastic job adding creative visual and performance features to this event. The highlight of the evening was when Nancy and Marc took the stage to introduce the evening's distinguished honoree **Harold Matzner**. Byrd, who donated the centerpieces along with Al Jones, casually exchanged comedic witticisms with Stone turning the hilarious skit into a mini Harold Matzner roast.

Nancy began the exchange with "did you know that Harold

once brought a chimpanzee on roller skates into the famous Friars Club in NYC for his friend **David Cornstein's** 50th birthday?" The last quip from Byrd before bringing Matzner up to the stage was, "...and you forgot to mention, Nancy, that Harold once brought an elephant up to a hotel suite that he had decorated like African jungle, complete with 1,000 pounds of peanuts, to surprise a friend when he returned from the theater." Not missing a beat, Matzner, who has generously contributed more than \$50 million dollars to area non-profits since 1995, took his

Please see **FEVER, 6G**

