

Boogie to beat cancer

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The Boogie on Low Beach, scheduled for tomorrow night at the Sconset home of George Cloutier and Tiffany Spadafora, is expected to raise more than \$625,000 to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Now in its third year, the "funraiser," as Cloutier calls it, will also pay tribute to four island residents involved in the fight against cancer.

Irma Anapol, Charlene Chadwick, Mark Heartfield and Carl Jelleme will all be honored at the event.

Cloutier said he picked the four honorees "after consulting with many local residents and summer resi-

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Irma Anapol



Charlene Chadwick

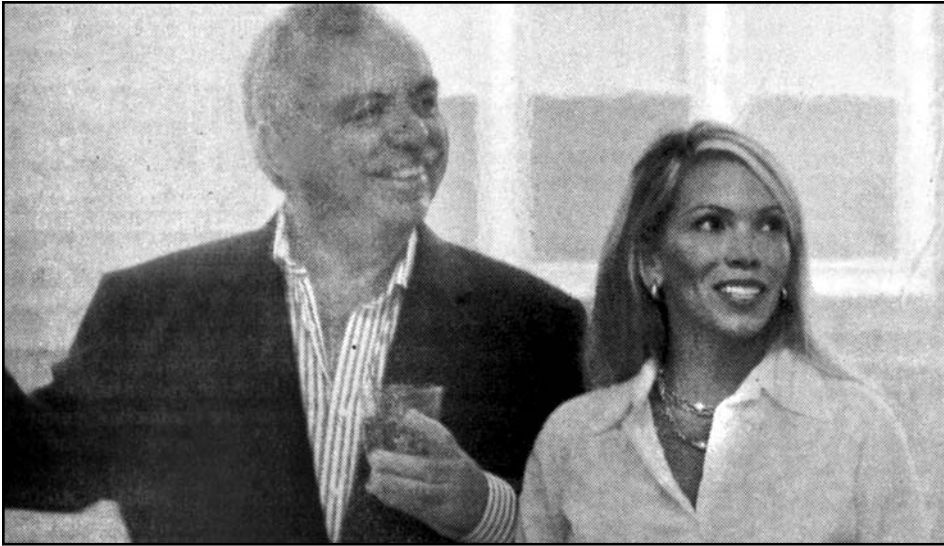


Carl Jelleme



Mark Heartfield

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File photo

George Cloutier and Tiffany Spadafora will host the third Boogie on Low Beach Friday at their Sconset home to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

dents.”

He said all for are “representative of different groups of people and are very important parts of the fabric of the island,” but added that “there are literally dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people who are equally fighting the good fight in the battle against cancer,” and also would have been worthy honorees.

Anapol and Jelleme are cancer survivors, Heartfield is currently battling facial melanoma, and Chadwick is an oncology nurse and started the chemotherapy program at Nantucket Cottage Hospital in 1991.

Anapol, who has been a summer resident since 1959, survived three instances of recurring breast cancer.

“I felt I was so blessed that I ought to take that knowledge and energy that I have and put it to good use helping other people,” Anapol said. She helps others fight the disease by “encouraging them to get mammograms (and) encouraging them to eat healthy.”

Anapol was also a vocal critic of harmful pesticides in the early 1980s.

“I came across a lot of literature on harmful pesticides on produce and food coloring in baby food and dumping stuff in the harbor – chemical residue in our harbor here – which scared me, and I said you know what, ‘it’s time for you to get up and get moving,’” she said.

Anapol made her voice heard in Washington, D.C., where she lobbied the Food and Drug Administration and the Natural Resources Defense Council of the dangers posed by harm-

ful pesticides.

Today, she remains active with cancer support groups, and said she recently had lunch with 13 young girls, one of whom is currently battling the disease.

“I said to her, ‘Look, Mary. It isn’t easy. If you can’t sleep one night, pick up the phone,’” Anapol said.

“‘If you need someone to talk to, pick up the phone... I want you to know that the odds are so much in your favor.’”

Chadwick, who currently runs the hospital’s chemotherapy program, is also a crucial force in the fight against cancer on Nantucket.

“Chemotherapy is a specialization – it’s toxic, you’re dealing with very strong chemicals,” Chadwick said. “Because of that, patients can experience terrible side effects: losing their hair, nausea and vomiting.”

When she started the program at the hospital, Chadwick said she had about four patients per month. Now she sees between 20 and 25.

An important part of her job is being sensitive to patients’ concerns, and patients say she makes the difficult process much more tolerable.

Jack McFarland, who has been a year-round island resident for nine years, is currently going through treatment.

“I haven’t met anyone that’s as caring and compassionate and competent as Charlene,” McFarland said.

“She’s wonderful...she knows how to sympathize and empathize with patients and fami-

lies and how to get them through the tough stretch they’re going through.”

Jelleme is the founder of Toscana Corp. and was first diagnosed with melanoma 11 years ago, but is cancer-free today.

Heartfield has been the head golf professional at Sankaty Head Golf Club for 19 seasons. He underwent treatment for melanoma at Dana-Farber and is currently battling the disease.

Cloutier, a trustee of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, has been planning and organizing this event for the past two years. He and staff members from the Waltham-based company, American Management Services, raise all the money for the party and solicit the auction items, Cloutier said.

“People are giving us more this year than ever before, not only in terms of sponsorships, but also in auction items,” Cloutier said.

Cloutier said the fundraising efforts were “running ahead of last year,” but said he did not want to release a figure “before the dust settles” after the event. Last year’s “Boogie” raised more than \$500,000.

As of last Friday, more than 500 tickets had been sold, but Cloutier said there were still “a few tickets left.” Tickets cost \$300 each and can be purchased on the event’s website, www.danafarbernantucket.com. Some of the live auction items include a cocktail party for 100 donated by The Summer House, a trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras next year, and a “fantasy weekend in Palm Beach,” which consists of golf at three world-class courses and brunch at Donald Trump’s Mar-A-Lago estate.

Most of the island restaurants have donated dinners as silent auction items, Cloutier said.

Boston anchorwoman Natalie Jacobson will preside as master of ceremonies for the third time this year.

Cloutier has said it has been “very gratifying” to see the extraordinary show of support for the island community.

Sue Paresky, senior vice president at Dana-Farber, said the Boogie on Low Beach “certainly brings a lot of attention to Dana-Farber in another part of the state.”

She added that “it was definitely (Cloutier’s) drive, his energy, and his passion” that were responsible for coming up with the idea for the event.

Last week, U. S. News and World Report ranked Dana-Farber as the fifth-best cancer hospital in the country.