

PUT ON YOUR RED DRESS BABY

by Patti Laurens

With over 70 years of community service to their name, the Brunswick Junior Woman's Club has strived to make a positive impact on the Golden Isles.

One of the long-standing traditions of the club is a major, formal fundraising event per year that over the past seven decades has been held in many guises and sizes. What began as the Oleander Ball, which helped to give school lunches to underprivileged Glynn County children, has now become the Red Dress Ball, which supports the Glynn Heart Association and the Southeast Georgia Health System's Cardiac Programs.

This year marks the Third Annual Red Dress Ball and solidifies a new tradition in the making. Four years ago, Brunswick Junior Woman's Club members were looking for a way to bring back long held club traditions, but with a new twist. The idea of having a fundraiser for heart disease, the number one killer of women, hit *continues on page 26*

TOP ROW (left to right): Natasha Williams, Margo Griffin, Kristen Moore. **MIDDLE ROW** (left to right): Shasta Fahs, Patti Laurens. **BOTTOM ROW** (left to right): Miranda Collins, Georgia Wessinger.



FOUR YEARS AGO, BRUNSWICK JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB MEMBERS WERE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BRING BACK LONG HELD CLUB TRADITIONS, BUT WITH A NEW TWIST. THE IDEA OF HAVING A FUNDRAISER FOR HEART DISEASE, THE NUMBER ONE KILLER OF WOMEN, HIT CLOSE TO HOME.



Kristen Moore,
Red Dress Ball Chair

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close to home. Club members rallied together, requested alumni support and suggestions for a new event that would spark interest and awareness to this important cause. As red is the signature color of heart disease, and February marks "American Heart Month," the idea of a red-themed ball in February was born. The rest simply fell into place.

This year's Red Dress Ball will be held on February 20th at the St. Simons Casino, which provides a gorgeous oceanfront backdrop to the formal affair. Club members and friends alike have scoured Glynn County for the perfect red dress to wear to the event. Spouses and significant others are getting their tuxes and suits pressed and ready. It's almost here, and with the date so close to Valentine's Day, the Red Dress Ball is the perfect way, in the words of Jerry Lee Lewis, to "put on that red dress, baby", and celebrate the holiday with your sweetheart!

This year's Red Dress Ball Chair, Kristen Moore says, "I was thrilled to have been asked to be part of this year's ball ... the committee has been working very hard to ensure that everyone has a fabulous time. It's so exciting to see this ball as part of a long line of traditions that our community matriarchs began so many years ago! And on a more serious note, it is reassuring to know that we have played a part in supporting the state-of-the-art Cardiac Rehabilitation Center and its programs here in Glynn County at Southeast Georgia Health Systems, which means we don't have to travel to Jacksonville for rehabilitative therapy."

Lee Whittington, Brunswick Junior Woman's Club Vice President of Committees, is excited about the upcoming ball. "I am thrilled to be a part of The Red Dress Ball because I recognize the positive impact it has on our community. Being a local for almost 40 years, I enjoy giving back to the community that is so dear to my HEART – no pun intended. I believe it is extremely important to make Glynn County residents aware that ALL of the donations gen-

erated through our Red Dress Ball stay in our community to benefit our friends and loved ones."

As always, in addition to making a donation to the Glynn Heart Association, the event will fund the Brunswick Junior Woman's Club Nursing Scholarship, which goes to benefit a non-traditional female nursing student at College of Coastal Georgia. Also, the 2010 Brunswick Junior Woman's Club Young Woman of the Year nominees will be honored the evening of the 20th.

Str8up, a Motown group out of Jacksonville, will provide the evening's entertainment. With a wide

Temptations. The menu includes several dining options, with heavy hors d'oeuvres and three food stations, including a Tuscan display, a shrimp and grits station and a beef station. Current slated menu items include miniature Chesapeake Bay-style crab cakes, spicy seared tuna on a wonton chip with Asian tomato cucumber relish and wasabi aioli, and miniature beef Wellingtons with horseradish cream dipping sauce.

Two new major sponsors have come on board to help the club throw this year's event: EOJ, Inc and Tasteful Temptations. Joe Loehle, owner of EOJ, Inc, is a proud supporter of the event: "I've really enjoyed working

with BJWC on their Red Dress Ball marketing and the design of their new website. It's a valuable organization to our community and it'll be a great event." His design work has given the Red Dress Ball and the club's website (www.brunswickjwc.org) a classy, updated look that is sure to be used for years to come. As of this publication, other major sponsors of the event include United Community Bank, Bill Brown Real Estate Company, Sheffield Distributing, and Merrill Lynch.

Tickets to this event are \$75 per person, which includes food and drinks for the evening. They can be purchased online at the club's website or through any Brunswick Junior Woman's Club member.

The Brunswick Junior Woman's Club
presents

The Red Dress Ball

The Courtyard
St. Simons Island Casino

Benefitting the **Glynn Heart Association**

February 20, 2010
8:00 pm

ADMIT ONE

variety of songs in their repertoire, Str8up promises to provide a fun and entertaining experience for dancers and non-dancers alike. The event's caterer is none other than Brunswick's own Tasteful

Meo's Suite
contemporary women's apparel

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photo by: sarah deshow