CANCER ALLIANCE OF HELP & HOPE, INC.'S INAUGURAL

Dance the Night Away

Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope, Inc.'s inaugural *Dance the Night Away Gala* presented by **Jupiter Fred Astaire Dance Studio** proved to be a huge success raising $300,000 for local cancer patients in need. Two hundred guests attended the sold-out event at The Pelican Club in Jupiter. Chairs **Lois Gackenheimer, Janet Levy** and **Gail Sermersheim** were instrumental in raising funds for underprivileged families dealing with cancer while they are undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments.

The evening began with two of Cancer Alliance's clients, **Tirsa Vega** and **Alexis Membreno** performing the Viennese Waltz and contemporary dance with Fred Astaire's professional instructors. Tirsa and Alexis were real crowd pleasers and stole the hearts of the audience as they danced flawlessly to their own musical compositions and vocals.

Ten local non-professional ballroom dancers took private dance lessons from the Jupiter Fred Astaire Studios to prepare for the competition and compete for Cancer Alliance's 2021 "Top Female and Male Dancer."

A variety of awards from different categories were presented during the evening. The winners were **Mikolay Bauer** for "Most Emotional;" **Scott Diament**, "Most Charismatic;" **Andrea Hass**, "Most Elegant;" **Janet Habel**, "Most Graceful;" **Asif Haque**, "Most Debonair;" **Ginella Ruffa**, "Most Energetic;" **Bruce Helander**, "Most Entertaining;" **Paula Newmark**, "Most Expressive;" **Farley Rentschler**, "Most Sensual" and **Lauri Welteroth** for "Most Inspiring."

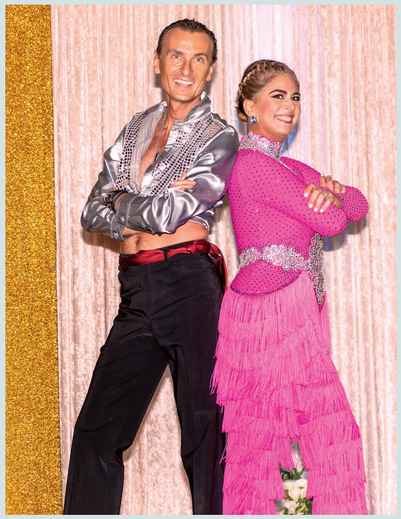
The dancers were judged by three Celebrity Judges: **Tony Dovolani**, professional dancer from the acclaimed TV show *Dancing with the Stars*, **Andrew Kato,** Producing Artistic Director/Chief Executive at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre and actress and producer, **Suzanne Niedland**. All the dancers received high comments and praises from the judges. Tony Dovolani declared the difficult routine of Lauri Welteroth a 12 out of a 10 and asked, "where were you during my years with *Dancing with the Stars*?" "I could have used you to win."

Bruce Helander walked away with the "Top Male Dancer" and **Lauri Welteroth** received the "Top Female Dancer." Lauri also received the *2021 People Choice Award* which was selected by the audience who participated by donating $25 per vote for their favorite dancer.

The Professional Ballroom Dancers: Serge Aliev, owner of the studio, **Karla Boldirev, Danilo Rakita** and **Vitalii Tozik** received a huge round of applause and standing ovation for their incredible showmanship and making each of the dancers look like they have been dancing for decades.

Sponsors of the event included Presenting Sponsor: **Academy for Nursing and Health Occupations**; Awards Sponsors: **Lois Gackenheimer**, **Ray Richards** and **Janet and Mark Levy**; Ballroom Sponsor: **Frances Yu**; Instructor Sponsors: **Rebecca Doane, Virginia and John Gildea, Elaine Madonna David Sarama** and **Gail Sermersheim**; Dance Sponsors: **Roy Cacciaguida M.D., Lenore Galasso, Hass Plastic Surgery, Sandra and Gregory Kriser** as well as **Gail Worth and Frank Orenstein**. Corporate Sponsor is **PNC Wealth Management**.

For more information visit www.cahh.org or call 561.748.7227.



LEFT PAGE, FIRST ROW: Mark and Janet Levy; Lois Gackenheimer and Ray Richards; **SECOND ROW**: Danilo Rakita and Janet Hibel; Andrew Kato, Suzane Niedland, Serge Alieve, Lauri Welteroth and Tony Dovolani; **RIGHT PAGE, FIRST ROW**: Scott Diament and Karla Boldirev; Karla Boldirev and Bruce Helander; Andrea Hass and Serge Alieve; **SECOND ROW**: Ginelle Ruffa and Vitalii Tozik; Asif Haque and Karla Boldirev; Mikolaj Bauer and Karla Boldirev **THIRD ROW**: Farley Rentschler and Vitalii Tozik; Paula Newmark and Serge Alieve;

dance.indd 2-3 5/19/21 2:22 PM