

Via awards, glitz, a Musikfest ball

By Diana Morse

Special to The Morning Call

GLITZ AND GLAM IN THE GARDEN

Inimitable designer **Scott Rothenberger** celebrated in Broadway style with more than 100 friends, colleagues and family members Thursday evening, June 19, at his home in Barto.

The poolside, show-themed gala, "written, directed and produced" by Rothenberger, was held to show off his beautifully appointed house and gardens, featured in a splashy spread in this month's issue of Lehigh Valley Style Magazine.

Guests arrived dressed to kill in their Broadway best. Special guest **Marie Levin**, a spot-on Reba McIntire impersonator, donned a fringed jacket as Annie Oakley from "Annie Get Your Gun," and

entertained with a rousing "You Can't Get A Man With A Gun." Set to the tunes of a grand piano, placed center stage in the garden beneath a festive tent, vocalist **Devan Morse-Donovan** belted showtunes including "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" from "Dreamgirls" as well as lively numbers from "Les Miserables" and "Cats."

Specialty cocktails and hors d'oeuvre abounded, from opening numbers of chicken satay and salmon with lime glaze, to a selection of themed beverages including the Mama Mia Martini and Greased Lightning.

Glitzy guests included **Paula Bomboy, Adrienne Seymour and Jean Kelly**, all of Center Valley, dressed as cats from the musical by the same name; **Glenn Neiman**, dressed as his usual dashing self, who welcomed guests with style; **Barbra Barker**; filmmakers **Zeke Zelker and Robin Miller**; The Style Girls from Lehigh Valley Style, including **Lisa Gotto, Pamela Deller and Denise Conlin**; **Ilene Wood and Judy Harris** from Allentown (dressed glitzy) and **Sid and Lynne Stetcher**, also of Allentown (dressed glamorously); **Shelly Brown** of the State Theatre in Easton; **Joanne Kostecky** of Joanne Kostecky Garden Design and, of course, Rothenberger's gorgeous puppies Godiva and SeeSee, lively Dalmations who added vocal stylings to "You Can't Get A Man With A Gun" before falling asleep on the veranda.

The king and queen of the garden, however, were Rothenberger and best friend **Colleen Phillips** of Pottstown, who brought down the house vamping as John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John as timeless lovers "Danny" and "Sandy" in "Grease." In short, "Encore!"

VIA PRESENTS AWARDS

On Tuesday, June 10, Via of the Lehigh Valley presented awards to employees recognizing outstanding service for people with disabilities and recognized 111 years of employee service. Via, a nonprofit agency, has been providing services for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1954.

"Via staff members help create success every day for children and adults with disabilities ... in the Lehigh Valley," said **Ron Rucker**, Via president and CEO. "They advocate the concept of inclusion and choice within schools, neighborhoods and communities, personal relationships, and employment."

Mary Beth Shoemaker, speech therapist, received the Circle of Support Award for outstanding service.

"Mary Beth has an excellent rapport with families who often confide in her to obtain the best services for their child," said **Marcel Broadway**, Via speech therapist and the staff member who nominated Shoemaker. "She is an excellent communicator and discusses difficult therapy topics in laymen's terms so family members can understand their child's diagnosis and needs."

Janeen Sproul was honored with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award for her patience, creativity and ability to make work fun for the children she works with.

"Janeen shows great respect for each child," said **Marissa Nimtjen**, Via children's services director.

The Via Leadership Team award went to **Corey Smith**, employment director.



Photos by **Diana Morse** Special to The Morning Call

GLITZ AND GLAM IN THE GARDEN, hosted by Scott Rothenberger, above right, with guest Paula Stackonis, included a performance by Marie Levin, local Reba McIntire impersonator, above left, as Annie in scenes from 'Annie Get Your Gun.'



Courtesy VIA of the Lehigh Valley

VIA HONOREES include (from left, rear) Carol Wolf, Eddie Gonzalez, Bob Kondrk, Corey Smith, Justin Tresolini, Kelvin Altemose, Joan Marmelo, Jenny Huegel, Liz Doughty, Raegan Owens, James Skubic and April Cox, and (from left, front) Lisa Hontz, Amy Iobst, Cheryl Griffith, Melissa Weiss and Alan Heverly.

"[Smith] exemplifies Via's mission of community engagement at its frenetic best," said Rucker. "He refuses to take no for an answer when it comes to finding funding to help individuals with disabilities find jobs in the community."

The Via Team Recognition Award went to Via's Community Employment and ViaWorks team for its members' effectiveness and efficiency in helping individuals with disabilities secure jobs in the community.

Via also presented awards to staff members for their years of service, including **Lelani Treichler**, 20 years; **Patricia Dennis and Ron Rucker**, 15 years; **Sam Azzam and Linda Erceg**, 10 years, and **Donna Hein, Shannon Lindenmuth, Alajandro Gordillo, Bernard Ogutu and Tom Smith**, five years. One-year service awards were presented to 17 employees.

Via believes that personal satisfaction and dignity are achieved through individual success and independence, and is committed to helping people live full and productive lives. Visit ViaNet.org to learn more about Via's services.

DOING THE DISTANCE

Join Team 3D in Doing the Distance for our Daughters on a journey in the fight against breast cancer.

The 2008 Philadelphia Breast Cancer 3-Day is a 60-mile walk over the course of three days. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and National Philanthropic Trust, funding important breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment.

Hannah Tatu of Valley National Group in Bethlehem and local teammates **Betty Adam, Shelley D'Imperio, Joyce Dawley,**

Dawn George and Maureen Zambo invite other Lehigh Valley-region supporters to join them in their goal of reaching \$10,000 to fight breast cancer. The walk takes place Oct. 17-19. For more information, visit www.08.the3day.org or contact Tatu at 610-868-9000, ext. 114.

MUSIKFEST BALL IS BACK!

On July 26, Musikfest fans and supporters of arts in the Lehigh Valley are invited to kick off the festival's 25th anniversary a week early by enjoying a grand evening of music, food and fun as the Musikfest Ball makes its return after a five-year absence.

The Musikfest Ball will be held 7-11 p.m. at the Saucon Valley Country Club, 2050 Saucon Valley Road, Bethlehem. The black tie and silver event will feature cocktails and hors d'oeuvre, dining and dessert stations, music by the Gary Rissmiller Trio and pianist Dave Roth, dancing to the Uptown Band, a silent auction and special surprises. Proceeds from the event will go to support the Banana Factory community art center's B-Smart after-school enrichment program for at-risk youth.

Ball committee members include **Hasanna Birdsong**, chairperson, and **Gwen Kelly, David Yanoshik, Lee Fink, Anne Episcopo, Stephanie Altieri, Jennifer Hackett, Jennifer Gora, Jennifer Castellano, Eliza Transue, Lori Buckenmyer and Ann Knerr**.

Tickets, at \$175 per person, may be reserved by calling 610-332-FEST (3378) or visiting www.fest.org.

For more information on Musikfest, visit www.fest.org or call 610-332-FEST (3378).

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