

GALA EVENING FOR HFEE SPRING FUNDRAISER

By Joanne Colella

A glorious evening was in store for hundreds of attendees at the Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence's 13th Spring Gala, held on April 5 at the luxurious Navesink Country Club. The festive event featured a host of special amenities, including wine tasting sponsored by Wine Academy of Hazlet and an array of authentic, high-end sports and entertainment memorabilia for the silent auction provided by Grandstand Sports & Memorabilia, along with travel packages and jewelry. An additional live auction, led by a spirited auctioneer, commanded numerous high bids into the thousands. Guests generously vied for such items as a VIP tour of Yankee Stadium with a former World Series Championship player, final round passes to the 2014 Men's U.S. Open Golf Tournament, a catered cocktail party by premiere caterers David Ellis Events, game tickets and an on-field experience with the New York Giants, an evening at the Playboy Mansion for the 2014 ESPY Pre-Party, and a highly coveted, impossible-to-reserve catered dinner for ten by the executive chef at Rao's, one of Manhattan's finest and most exclusive restaurants. Rounding out the auction was bidding for the chance for students to serve as Principal for a Day in the schools. There was also a chance raffle, with an incredible display



Congratulations and thanks were given to the tireless committee members who organized the gala evening.

of 60 themed baskets to be won, plus a 50/50 cash raffle and a special drawing for a Louis Vuitton bag.

After the opening cocktail hour and wine tasting, guests took their seats to dine in the ballroom that was filled to capacity. HFEE co-chairmen Brian Kennedy and Thomas Minerva welcomed the audience and gave a presentation about the foundation and its mission. The presentation was made particularly special by an excellent video that had been produced by the students of the Holmdel High School TV and Film Production classes. Effusive thanks were also given to the team of dedicated and hardworking committee members who had made the night possible, especially the Spring Gala chairperson, Paula Brescia.

The HFEE was proud to report on a successful 2013-2014 school year, thanks to the phenomenal support for providing all Holmdel students the programs, services, and materials that would not be otherwise funded through the school budget.



School administrators and board of education members gathered to celebrate the success of the district and the foundation at the HFEE's 13th Spring Gala.