

By Marge Kullerstrand
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INSIGHT: 'Adventures in International Cuisine' a great success



Courtesy of Richard Vasquez Kelly, left, and Tom Milosavljevic speak at the "Adventures in International Cuisine" fundraiser about how fulfilling it is to be a NIAGS volunteer to provide guardianship service to an adult in need.

American Culinary Federation of Chefs of Northwest Indiana teamed up with the Northwest Indiana Adult Guardianship Services Inc. recently for the second (and what they hope to be annual) "Adventures in International Cuisine" at Avalon Manor in Hobart.

The goal was to raise knowledge and funds for both organizations with great food and fun silent and live auctions.

NIAGS is a nonprofit membership organization that provides a continuum of guardianship and other law-related services for incapacitated adults who are in need of a guardian and are under the probate jurisdiction of the Northwest Indiana courts.

Highlights of the evening included remarks by Barbara Melendez, the volunteer guardian program manager, on the need for more volunteers to assist the adults who have no one to speak up for them, and Chef Cheryl Molenda, president of the ACFC, who noted that the chefs' portion of the proceeds funds scholarships for students studying the culinary arts.

The most moving part of the evening came when a young couple from Munster, Tom and Kelly Milosavljevic, spoke beautifully about how satisfying it is to be a NIAGS volunteer couple to an adult who has no family to protect them.

For information on being a volunteer, call (219) 985-6566.

Music was provided by the Billy Foster Trio and Brett Baugh served as the live auctioneer.

Presenting the French table, Chefs Scott Farrell and Harry Karahalious of Briar Ridge Country Club won the Golden Skillet Award with the most votes for their Chicken Coq Au Vin, Potatoes Dauphenoise and grilled asparagus, roasted walnuts and brie.

But, there is never a doubt that every time these wonderful chefs give up their precious free time to prepare another fundraising meal they are all winners.

Kudos to all the chefs who will be recognized in next week's column, devoted to the Chef of the Year gala.

Northwest Indiana chapter of the American Culinary Federation of Chefs is dedicated to promoting the professional image of cooks and chefs through education among culinarians at all levels - from apprentice to master. A nonprofit organization, the ACFC's mission is to make a positive difference for culinarians through education, apprenticeship and certification, while creating a fraternal bond of respect and integrity.

Strike or spare

BRIDGES Development Foundation is hosting Bowl for BRIDGES from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 20 at Hobart Lanes, 99 S. Hobart Road.

Bowlers will enjoy three games, one regular, one no tap and one crazy. There will be gifts for bowlers, prizes, pizza and pop.

A fee of \$40 must accompany registration. Those who want to bowl together need to sign up on the same registration form. There is a special rate for five bowlers registering together.

The form is available at www.arcbridges.com; send completed forms to: Arc BRIDGES Public Relations Dept., 2650 W. 35th Ave., Gary, IN, 46408. Make check payable to "BDF."

Call (219) 985-6562 for more information.

For more photos and previews of events, visit my blog at <http://www.my.nwi.com/insight>.

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