

THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

CHEFS SERVE SPECIALS FOR MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

The onslaught of COVID-19 has slapped humanity in the face with the stark realization that the basics of food and shelter are essentially the only things that matter.

We think of our species as indestructible, protected. And then COVID-19 says, "Hold on,

all life on Earth exists as visitors, not hosts, nor generals or rulers. Survival of all life is indeed codependent on all life supporting the health of the planet."

Feeding humanity has been a central theme of struggle and survival since the evolution of man. Both ancient and modern-day stories of the biblical impact of hunger and the inspiration of overcoming teach us lessons passed down through the generations. This is core to religious teachings and is basic to civilized, secular society.

In the present-day social framework of life in Orange County, most charitable gatherings are created around the sharing of food, often bringing residents together to partake in fancy meals in order to raise money to supply not-so-fancy meals for literally thousands of hungry men, women and children.

One of the most creative of these dining experiences designed to support a worthy cause is Table For Ten, a fundraising effort benefiting Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire. Unfolding days before the state went on quarantine, some 320 donors gathered for the annual dinner party held at Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point.



Photo courtesy of Bob Hodson

GLORIA JETTER CROCKETT, left, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Orange County/Inland Empire, with presenting sponsor Mary Murfey at a recent Table For Ten fundraiser, which brought in more than \$350,000 for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Make-A-Wish OC/IE President and CEO **Gloria Jetter Crockett** joined Make-A-Wish America CEO **Richard K. Davis** welcoming the O.C. crowd.

"Our organization provides children with life-changing wish experiences," Crockett said. "These children are battling critical illnesses with many enduring years of chemotherapy treatment, surgeries and doctor's appointments. Then, Make-A-Wish comes along, and we provide our wish children with hope, strength and inspiration.

"Parents tell us that their children are more likely to comply with treatment when they have a wish to look forward to. They fight harder, they have hope."

Some 7,257 wishes have been granted by Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire since it was founded in 1983, Davis added.

The Table for Ten dinner concept deserves explanation. A diverse array of top O.C. chefs, restaurateurs and gourmet vendors donate their time, talent and treasure designing a table for 10 guests, including food, wine and décor.

For the 2020 event, 32 tables of 10 filled the Laguna Cliffs ballroom. Ultimately, Make-A-Wish raised more than \$350,000.

Crockett and Davis presented **Ron Fougeray**, JC Resorts corporate chef and chef of Splashes at Surf & Sand Resort in Laguna Beach, an honorary chef award. Fougeray has been a part of Table for Ten for many years.

Among the participating chefs was the Food Network's **Chris Tzozin**, along with his partners **Manny Velasco** and **Eddie Perez** of XClusive Taqueria Moderna, and **John Tesar** and **Salvatore Giuliani** of The Outer Reef, Laguna Cliffs

Marriott Resort & Spa.

Also among the many supporting Make-A-Wish were **Kyle St. John** from The Ranch at Laguna Beach; **David Martin** from the Pacific Club, Newport Beach; **Frank Gorriceta** of Nobu, Newport Beach; and **Erik Sandven** and **Diego Bernal** of Pelican Hill's Coliseum Pool & Grill, Newport Coast.

A special nod to presenting sponsor-donor **Mary Murfey**, along with support from **Kathy Hamilton**, **Kim Smith**, **Donna DiBari**, **Dave** and **Tracy Hoff**, **Leslie Zoroya**, **Ed Herbst**, **Dali Despotovic**, and chef **Linda Johnsen** of Costa Mesa's acclaimed Filomena's Italian Kitchen.

To learn more about Make-A-Wish, visit ocie.wish.org.

B.W. COOK is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.

LOSSES

Continued from page A1

meaning a nearly \$5-million shortfall in the city's general fund. The "hotel tax," officially deemed the Transient Occupancy Tax, would bring the general fund \$2.6 million under budget. Revenue from other miscellaneous items such as parking citations, room rentals, park program fees and business license tax could decline by \$2.5 million, according to a city staff report.

A more gruesome economic projection could mean a shortfall of \$18.5 million — just until the fiscal year's end on June 30.

"This scenario assumes a potential decrease from budget estimates in sales tax of \$10.6 million, TOT at \$3.5 million, and \$4.4 million in miscellaneous fees," the staff report read. The general fund's reserve balance is \$53.3 million, according to the report.

The council will consider an array of options,

such as eliminating non-essential expenses, limiting hiring and cutting travel, conferences and training budgets. The city could also cut or defer until mid-2021 such capital improvement projects as the city's stormwater drain system, City Hall's elevators and citywide street improvements.

The City Council is expected to postpone work on the city's bridge shelter, budgeted at \$1 million. In another issue to be addressed Tuesday, the council will vote whether to extend the lease of the temporary homeless shelter at Lighthouse of the Nazarene Church until December, for a total cost of \$117,633. The lease expired on April 14.

The council meeting is Tuesday at 6 p.m. Members of the public are invited to participate by watching the live stream on YouTube.com/CostaMesaTV or tuning into Spectrum channel 3 or AT&T U-verse channel 99.

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In This Together

Navigating through COVID-19

We know this situation is impacting everyone. We are making daily changes out of an abundance of caution to protect our residents, team members, and the community at large.



Let's stand together and stay connected.

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