

Photography by Lex Alexander



Love to Laugh, Dance, Gamble? Guerin's Big Event's Got it All.

You'll be rocking the night away to the immortal sounds of the Beatles, live at the second annual Big Event, a fundraiser to benefit Guerin Prep High School, 8001 W. Belmont, River Grove. The Cavern Beat, a Beatles tribute band, will perform on Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 9:30 to 11:30.

The Cavern Beat caters to the die-hard music fan. "We perform the music of the Beatles true to their records and often are compared to 'the jukebox' for sounding so much like the real thing! Of course, we are a look-alike band as well, with vintage guitars and amplifiers-- the same brand the Beatles used. And we dress and wear our hair in the famous Beatle style for the full effect!" said one of the musicians.



All the members of the group are big Beatles fans and it is their mission to promote the excitement of the music along with the Beatle-type humor, bringing the magic of the past to life again. One of the performers is a former theology faculty member at Guerin.

"Last year, everyone was singing along. People were dancing in the crowd, standing up at their tables. It was electric!" said Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, vice president of advancement.

Baby boomers at the event said it felt like going back in time and having the original Fab Four play.

On a second stage, comedian "Roxy Bellows" will wow the crowd with improv humor. Since offstage Roxy is Pat Musker, a 1975 alumna of Mother Guerin High School, she's sure to stack the deck with plenty of Guerin insider information. Pat performs regularly in Chicago comedy venues and is an instructor at Second City.

“People respond to Roxy immediately, maybe because her essential humanity is front and center at all times. Her trademark wit, which can be razor-sharp, can draw blood...but somehow you don’t mind the pain. She is sexy, silly, and most of all smart; she can ready any audience...and leave them wanting more. At the end of her show, the audience sings ‘Don’t Go Roxy’...and you know they mean it,” said Bonnie Shadrake, Musical Director at the Noble Fool, Chicago.

Ms. Musker has also performed as “Sister” in Late Night Catechism.



In addition to these stage acts, the Big Event offers something for everyone. Starting out the night’s entertainment is the outstanding Guerin Prep Jazz Band. Under the direction of director John Springbrunn, the band will provide high energy music for the crowd to dance to, as well as accompany this year’s Parent/Student “Dancing with the GP Stars” contest.



“We have a wide variety of venues, each sponsored by generous benefactors making all of this possible,” said Tomaszewski. “If you love to go to Vegas, we’ve got a mini-version of a casino right in the building.” Games include roulette, Texas Hold ‘em, Blackjack and more. For guests who plan to stay in the Vegas area all evening, there is no admission charge.



“This makes a great date night,” said Janis Ryan, event coordinator. “All the food you can eat is included in the ticket price of only \$30, along with the entertainment.” Cash bars and a specialty chocolate room staffed by Guerin’s faculty will be open for dessert. While there, chocolate lovers will enjoy the sounds of Guerin’s exquisite string ensemble, “Synchronicity,” playing from 9 pm til 10:30 pm.



Three opportunities for wine-tasting are in the schedule, along with plenty of great raffle baskets and silent auction items.

New this year, three lucky winners will be chosen for the Big Event Raffle. First prize is a full year’s tuition or \$7500 cash, second prize is a semester’s tuition or \$3750 cash and third prize is a deluxe Panasonic 42” plasma HD TV valued at \$1299, provided in part by Amlin TV Video Sales and Service. Tickets are available by calling the school at 708.437.4734.



Much of the dinner food will be donated. Elmcrest Banquet staff will be on hand to prepare it to perfection. Chocolate martinis and cosmos will be available at the bar.

For all the details, see www.gpbigevent.org. Tickets are available in advance for only \$30, or at the door for \$40. The event is put on through the joint efforts of the Parent's Club, Athletic Boosters, Band Boosters, Alumni Council, faculty and staff of Guerin Prep.

Special thanks go to individual and corporate sponsors. Venue sponsors are LaSalle Capital Group, Winston & Strawn, LLP, Solidarity Clothing, alumnus Roy McCampbell and alumnus Terry John Malik. Additional sponsors include Manor Press, Pan American Bank, Performance Graphics, Inc., Stadium Sports Club and Pizza and Neighbors.