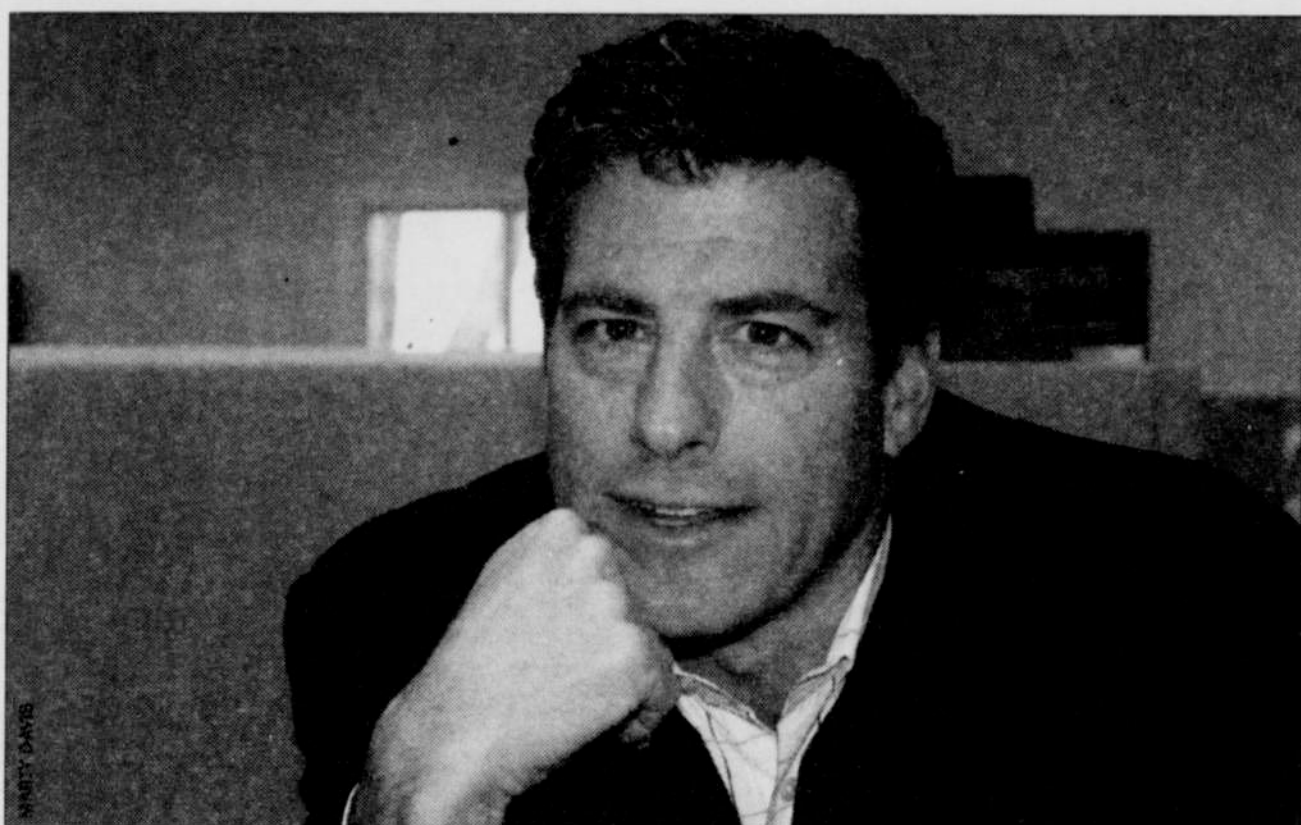




Former CAP board chairman Craig Hartzman is eager to add to his art collection.

Presentation is second only to flavor, as volunteer restaurants and caterers strive to upstage each other with fancy finger foods.

Besides Salvador Molly's, other notable culinary contributors include Castagna, an American bistro; Mark Kline Catering, a low-profile company with an upscale, classic menu; Joseph's Dessert Company, a serial giver; and Buckman Grill, a welcome newcomer.

Beadell is pleased to preside over a benefit that will always be memorable.

"It's an event where they manage to pull a lot of professional people together with a lot of positive energy," he says. "I know it's always going to go smoothly and it's always going to be successful."

According to Beadell, the event's atmosphere has changed through the years.

"When we all had lots of friends dying, these were tearful events," he says. "Now there's a sense of hope and accomplishment."

Hope by design

Ron Hendricks, an HIV-positive Portland artist and writer, says he is honored to be involved with Art for Life. Besides donating a piece to the silent art auction, he is also a CAP client.

In 1996 he moved back to Portland from Los Angeles to get well and care for his father, who died of cancer. He relied on CAP to help him find housing when he first returned to the city. Since then, Hendricks has bounced between an HIV and AIDS diagnosis six times.

Hendricks is donating a graphic portrait called "Hope" to the art auction. Three of his other works—two homoerotic and one abstract—will be on display.

"I'm trying to do a lot of work that makes people feel good," he says. "I work with a lot of color."

According to Hendricks, his HIV status helps him appreciate his creative gifts.

"It's made me more determined to write, paint and sculpt. I'm very thankful every day about life, and when people enjoy it, that makes me feel good."

This is the second year Hendricks has contributed his graphic work to Art for Life. He also donates 10 percent of profits from any work he sells to charitable organizations.

His work most recently hung for an exhibit at Scandals.

Hendricks holds a liberal arts degree from California Institute of the Arts and an English degree from Santa Monica Community College.

Retrospective honoree

This year, former event chairman Craig Hartzman and his partner, James John, can sit back and enjoy Art for Life. They are this year's honorary chairmen.

Also a former chairman of CAP's board, Hartzman created Art for Life by melding an art auction with an Oscar party, a CAP fundraiser of the past. He even coined the name Art for Life. Hartzman and John are among CAP's top donors.

Hartzman's concept of merging events carried into the need to join communities for the worthy cause of HIV/AIDS prevention.

"When I look back at history, if we in the gay community weren't going to raise money, who was? Now 20 years later, it's OK to give money to AIDS causes. We have to get everyone involved if we're really going to change this," he says.

Hartzman's vision for Art for Life was to draw arts, business and philanthropic communities together.

As a parent of a 7- and 9-year-old, his interest in HIV/AIDS prevention has taken on new meaning.

"I lost so many friends to AIDS—hundreds. Back when everyone was dying, we were both kind of lucky to get through it," Hartzman says. "Now I look at this from a whole different view, not as a gay man but as a parent."

Hartzman feels the need to look back while looking ahead. "Art for Life is about making sure to remember so many vibrant people that are gone, but also going into the future because AIDS is not gone," he says.

Now a stay-at-home dad, Hartzman previously owned a wine import company. He is the board president of Congregation Beth Israel. John owns a development and construction company. They are avid art collectors and are coming to Art for Life with checkbooks poised.

"We always buy something," says Hartzman. He and John will bring their children to the event early in the day to see the art and understand why their parents are involved with Art for Life.

"We have to keep going with this 'til it's over," Hartzman says. "I used to say in my lifetime, but I don't think that's going to happen. Hopefully in my children's lifetimes." ■

ART FOR LIFE will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. April 9 at Montgomery Park, 2701 N.W. Vaughn St. Tickets are \$100 from 503-223-9255 or www.cascadeaids.org. A donation of \$250 includes a dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

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