

8/30/06

There are not many among us that can boast of giving a small party and have it happen without a glitch and each guest leave feeling they have been to the best of the best. Try doing that on a much much grander scale where more than 100 guest were flown in and caravanned up to the top of the alps to attend a special 50th birthday party that started off with hor devoures of fresh baked pizza hot from a specially designed and created “one of a kind” portable pizza oven, a bar of the best drinks with strange names like Grey Goose that tasted so smooth I didn’t recognize it as alcohol. The buffet dinner was served outside on wooden tables which where set with linen cloths and napkins and two forks, two wine glasses, and a water glass. A four inch pad topped each bench and the tables were in full view of Josephine Peak and were surrounded by tall, hundred year old pine and fir trees. The bubbling stream that was just the right depth for the children to wade across made the scene even more perfect for the food that was spectacular and ended with the BEST homemade carrot cake cupcakes I have ever eaten.

The after dinner entertainment was performed on a stage built to the artist specifications and measured 20’ deep and 40’ wide and was at least 40’tall holding all the lights, speakers and “stuff” professionals use to make their shows a wonderland. It took 5 extremely large generators like the ones used on movie sets that were whisper quiet, to run all the lighting and microphones. The seating for the 100 plus guest were more wooden benches topped with the same 4” pads, and positioned in such a manner that each guest had full view of the band and singer. As guests entered the stage arena to claim their seats they were presented with a rolled up Pendleton lap blanket.

That brings us to the rumors that have been circulating around the North Forty area for the past several weeks as to whom the birthday person was, or was it really a birthday party, or was it a wedding for Diane Feinstein. And who was going to entertain, and who the guest were going to be. I love rumors, especially when they do not involve me. Some of these rumors I can address, but aside from the entertainer, I have been sworn to secrecy on names of the honored birthday boy (when you are 65, anyone younger than 60 is a boy) and his guests. I can tell you who was NOT there and what did NOT happen.

First of all, it was not a wedding for Diane Feinstein. (I am sure Diane’s husband, Richard Blum, will feel much easier about that). And, Bill Clinton was not a guest nor was the entertainer Willy Nelson ... or Johnny Cash. The entertainer in fact was k.d. Lang. The choice could not have been a better one. Never have I met an entertainer of that stature that was so centered and approachable. (Okay, I haven’t met that many entertainers) But this one is special. Her whole band, which have been with her for most of twenty years, were just as special with the same warm “we like you and we are glad to be here” persona.

The name of the band and singer were kept a secret from the guests until they came on stage that night to the applause and appreciative whistles and “Wahoo’s” that filled the Alps night air with far more force than 100 plus people could normally produce. I wonder if you heard them all the way to North Forty land. k.d. Lang immediately went into one of her velvety smooth songs that used such vocal range that it immediately reached in and touched each and every soul there and her persona captured each of our hearts. We were hers and her band members from that point on.

At the end of her first number, k.d. paused and looked out at us for a moment and said, “Surprise!” “I feel like I should be popping out of a cake.... Where’s my cake? ... I want my cake!” And that set the tempo for the rest of the evening where k.d. became not only the entertainer, but also part of us. When it became time to sing Happy Birthday to the “birthday

boy”, k.d. did the BEST rendition of Marilyn Monroe’s version of the happy birthday tune she sang to President Kennedy, complete with the Monroe movements. It brought the Alps down, and tears of laughter to most of our eyes, men included. At the end of the song (which she invited us all to join in) she came down off the stage to give the b-day boy a hug and kiss, but finding him much taller than she, she stepped on a convenient large boulder, allowing her to reach his face and give him a very sincere and heartfelt hug and kiss.

None of us wanted to leave when the concert was over, and we all stood around in a quiet, respectful awe, murmuring, “I can’t believe I was really here”, and “I will never forget this night ... ever!” And we won’t! Thank you b-day boy for giving us this more than wonderful gift, and thank you k.d. and your entire band for being who you are and sharing you hearts and talent with us.

Believe it or not there are other happenings going on here in North Forty land. The North Trinity Lake Garden Club will be having a “Fruit and Vegetable” Cook-off, Tuesday, September 12 at the home of Anna and Stu Clegg on Airport Drive in Trinity Center. For those of you who have never met Anna and Stu, they are the ones that have the beautiful gardens in front of their homes where umbrellas are placed over azaleas and Rhododendron during the hottest days of summer. Everyone is invited to share and sample casseroles, salads, breads and desserts created from your fruits and vegetables. This would be a good way to get to know the garden club members and to see if you would like to continue the relationship.

Don’t forget about the TCVFD’s open house on Saturday Sept 2 from 11 AM to 2 PM. This is to allow the communities we serve to get acquainted with your fire/rescue/EMS department, the apparatus and equipment we use, and the volunteers who make it all happen. Members of the Trinity Center VFD Auxiliary will be serving free hot dogs and soft drinks. In addition they will be giving out fire extinguishers and smoke detectors to residents within the Trinity Center VFD response area. If you live anywhere from Cedar Stock north, we cordially invite you to attend this fun and informative event.

Finish the Labor Day Week-end with the Trinity Lake Lion’s Club’s 40th annual Fly-In BBQ on Sunday September 3 from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. to be held on the Museum’s ground next to the Trinity Center Airport. The Lion’s will be serving Pit BBQ beef and turkey. The cost of the meal is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. The CCVFD Auxiliary will be selling their fantastic homemade desserts and there will be beer and soft drinks for sale. Come and enjoy good food, good friends, and wonderful Art show