

November 1, 2024; Online

Harford County Public Library's Cirque de Magie gala raises \$80,000

By **Stacey** - November 1, 2024

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Harford County Public Library's 20th annual gala, "Cirque de Magie," drew 600 people and raised \$80,000 net on Oct. 26 at the Abingdon Library. Here are the details provided by the library system:



Brian Barnaba, IT unit director, Johns Hopkins Health Systems; Stephanie Nay, graphic design manager, Harford County Government; Christen B. Sullivan, deputy chief of budget & management, Harford County Government; and C. John Sullivan, III, state executive director, USDA, take in the scene at Harford County Public Library's 20th Annual Gala at the Abingdon Library October 26. (Photo by Malgorzata Baker Photography)

Harford County Public Library's 20th Annual Gala Raises \$80,000 Net For Essential Resources, Services & Programs

Six hundred guests enjoyed the Cirque de Magie at the Abingdon Library October 26

Belcamp, Md., October 28, 2024 — Harford County Public Library's 20th annual gala, "Cirque de Magie," raised \$80,000 net the evening of October 26 at the Abingdon Library.

The gala is the Library's largest fundraiser and is crucial to its mission of providing essential resources, services and programs to Harford County residents. From early literacy programs and STEM resources to internet access and more, contributions from the gala empower the community and impact the lives of all.



Doug Hentz, brand development operations manager at Spartan Surfaces, and Sarah Klein, community relations and front-end operations director at Klein's ShopRite of Maryland and a board member of the Harford County Public Library Foundation, enjoy Harford County Public Library's 20th Annual Gala October 26 at the Abingdon Library. (Photo by Malgorzata Baker Photography)



Jamila Mettee, realtor, sales associate, at Integrity Real Estate, Inc., and Accounting/Payroll/HR at Fredrick Ward Associates, and John Mettee, Sr. VP and director of surveying, PLS, at Fredrick Ward Associates and owner of Tattoo-Icons Art Gallery, were among the guests at Harford County Public Library's 20th Annual Gala October 26 at the Abingdon Library. (Photo by Malgorzata Baker Photography)

"We are immensely grateful to our community for uniting once again in strong

support of Harford County Public Library," said Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library. "With the help of 600 of our closest friends, sponsors, volunteers, partners and staff, we raised critical funds that support essential resources and services. Our Libraries are the heart and soul of our community. We are a gateway for knowledge, a path of opportunity for job seekers and entrepreneurs, and a foundation for early literacy, school readiness and a lifelong love of learning. We strive to engage and empower every resident in Harford County, standing as one of the last free, public spaces where everyone is welcome. However, the benefits we provide are not guaranteed. Advocacy from our community is crucial to ensure that the Library continues to serve future generations. On Saturday night, the community sent a resounding message: the Library is not just important—it is essential to Harford County."

The gala's theme, Cirque de Magie, transported guests to the elegant, provocative setting of Erin Morgenstern's Victorian masterpiece, "The Night Circus." Guests enjoyed a night where magic knew no bounds, and every corner held a new and wondrous surprise including magicians and fortune tellers, live and silent auctions, food by Evolved Catering and Events, music by The Klassix, a jewelry raffle courtesy of Saxon's Diamond Centers and more.

The live auction, led by WMAR-2 News' Kristy Breslin and Harford County's Register of Wills Derek Hopkins, featured getaways to New York City, North Myrtle Beach and Ocean City along with a Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen locavore dinner for six with Master Chef John Shields, a three-stop local brewery tour for 22 guests, club-level tickets to a Ravens game and a street naming in the Town of Bel Air.

Presenting Sponsors of the 20th Annual Gala were Saxon's Diamond Centers and Klein's ShopRite of Maryland.

Headlining Sponsors were Absolute Investigative Fingerprinting Security and Landlord Services; American Design and Build/American Sentry Solar; Bel Air Friends of HCPL; The Bradley Foundation on behalf of Dr. William Allen; The Daily Record; Heartfelt Florist; The Highlands School; Rockwell Jewelers; Skylight Creative Ideas; UM Upper Chesapeake Health; U R Washed Power Washing LLC; WebIXI; and Bobby and Angel Windsor.



Savannah Rooker, Heather Benson and Valerie Keys, licensed independent insurance agents with AAG and Fuller & Associates Insurance, attend Harford County Public Library's 20th Annual Gala at the Abingdon Library October 26. (Photo by Malgorzata Baker Photography)

Premier Sponsors were ACER Exhibit & Events; Achieve Behavioral Health Services; APGFCU-Business Banking; Blend Salon; Broom's Bloom Dairy; Casella; Julia Chang; Coffee Coffee; Comcast; Coppermine Bel Air Athletic Club; Freedom Federal Credit Union; Full Circle Boards; Harford County Trash Services; Harford Mutual Insurance Group; Hillside Lawn Service Inc.; Keene Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram; Maryland Brew Tours; McComas Funeral Homes; Nature's Care & Wellness; Pairings Bistro; PNC Bank; John Shields, Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen; Jon & Liz Shimaitis; Tar Heel Construction Group LLC; ThinkBig Networks; Thompson's Moving Inc.; and Vision Innovation Partners;

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For a complete listing of sponsors, visit HCPLonline.org.

Mark your calendar now for the 21st annual gala on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Tickets go on sale in August and will be available at HCPLonline.org.