

# Beach-Themed Party Kicks Off Summer Event Season

by Sonia Young

We saw a poster recently that said “Life Is Art, So Live It In Color,” and we realized this is exactly what we have always done, only in varying shades of one color—purple! It works for us, but for most people, many shades of many colors is the way to live, to enjoy and to find happiness. So enjoy life as art and live it in color!

## Another Gorgeous Evening at the River Gorge

It was perhaps the loveliest and most gorgeous evening of all the Tennessee River Gorge Trust’s beautiful events at The RiverPlace. The weather was perfect, **Ben Friberg’s** band was wonderful, the crowd was so much fun and the food and drink were fine, especially the service by **Pete Lapina’s** Black Tie group. **Lanny McNabb** did a wonderful job as auctioneer for the live auction, and guests received a photograph of a stunning sunset in the river gorge from Livingood Photography by **Kevin Livingood**.

## The Purple Lady

*This intrepid social butterfly has made her mark in Chattanooga as one of the outstanding promoters of cultural and social events. Sonia, a free-lance journalist whose profession has taken her all over the world, covers many social and cultural events for the Mountain Mirror. She is a graduate of Tulane and holds a Master’s degree in psychology from UTC.*



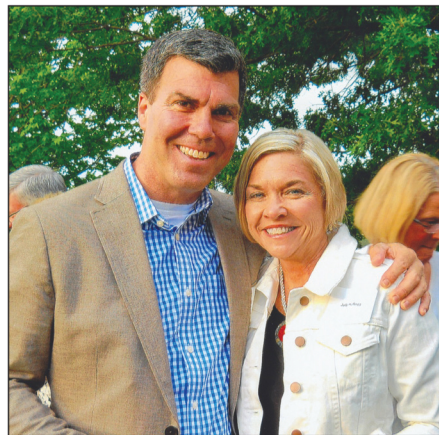
consultant, volunteer and “go-to man”), and we were introduced to new executive director **Rick Huffines**, along with his lovely wife **Judy** and his son **Gus**. Rick and his family will be a tremendous asset to the entire community, as well as the TRGT.

Among the guests we loved chatting with were **Kathy** and **Bryan Patten**, **Sandra** and **Jim Brewer** and Jim’s parents **Vicki** and **Jim Sr.**, **Sylvia Wygoda**, **Marian** and **Tom Griscom**, **Kristy Huntley** and **Harry Austin**, **Sam Powell**, **Susan** and **Don Jensen**, **Bob Frank**, **Susan** and **Hale Booth**, pretty **Michelle** and **Rob Donina**, **Carla Donina** and **Jerry Mitchell**, **Jan** and **Blair Carter**, **Sophia Bridger** and **Connie Hood**, **Annie** and **Jim Hall**, **Leah** and **Dave Salerno**, **Lori** and **Tom Cleghorn**, **Jenni Faires**, **Kim** and **Kevin Livingood**, **Patricia** and **Vice Adm. Ron Eytchison**, **Lawson Whitaker**, **Gladys Mance**, **Daniel Carter**, **Jayne Upton**, **Allen McCallie**, **Ann Weigel**, **Jack London**, **Glenda** and **Jim Brown**, **Todd** and **Sylvia Gardenhire**, **Matt Chapman**, **Kim Gavin**, **Nancy Evans**, **Susan Brandenburg**, **Betsy Nichols**, **Jeannie Lane**, **Gladys Mynatt**, **Anne** and **Peter Holt**, **Sam Whitehead**, and new office manager **Hannah Shadrack**. A very special thanks to incredible **Sarah Quattrochi** and husband **Sam** for all her hard work to make this our most successful (and fun) event ever.

TRGT President **Dean Poi** introduced Huffines, who told us, “We are all conservationists,” and he added, “We all have a love for art and beauty and we all appreciate the complexity of the natural world. This love of art and science gives us a connection, and

we have to find a way to bridge our differences. We need to be responsible citizens to preserve our environment.” And I believe we are all tree huggers at heart, and we need to support the work of the land trusts like the Tennessee River

Gorge Trust, which has conserved 17,000 acres of land for future generations. To preserve habitat and its inhabitants is one of the greatest gifts we can give for the future. For more information about how you can be a part of the TRGT, go to [www.trgt.org](http://www.trgt.org).



Rick and Judy Huffines

The most impressive sight to many of us was the Harris hawk, the river otter and the American bald eagle visiting the gorge. The sight of the majestic eagle spreading his huge wings and soaring into the sunset was truly inspirational. It reminded us why we were there and why we continue to support the incredible Tennessee River Gorge Trust (TRGT). We were there to bid a semi-farewell to **Greg Vital**, marvelous **Jim Brown**, former executive director of the TRGT (Jim will continue to be a



Greg and Carlene Vital