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02840 Last Week

Photos and Text by Colleen McGrath

The Belmont Chapel Foundation held its second annual fundraising event on June 10 at Island Cemetery. A tent was erected on the lawn and the chapel was open so guests like Nick Benson, Councilor Lynn Ceglie, Brian and Debbie Arnold, Frank and Betsy Ray, and Diana Slocum could get a peek at the restoration progress.

Mayor Xay Khamsyvoravong noted the importance of restoring cultural assets in Newport and the work the Belmont Chapel Foundation and Newport's Historic Cemetery Commission are doing to reestablish spaces where people can gather.

It was also the perfect opportunity to don a terrific topper to celebrate the running of the Belmont Stakes. Chris Smith was pretty in her vintage floral fascinator, while Mary Ellen Atkins rocked a black-and-white motif. Lori Hall wore a stunning oversized chapeau and Cheryl Mrozowski's pink feathered fascinator was another standout. The real show-stopper was Constance Metcalf in her handmade fascinator dripping with moss and topped with a chapel. She was called to the stage to receive the Best Hat Award.

Funding for the restoration has been provided by the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, Preserve RI, the Rhode Island Legislature, the Champlin Foundation and members of the community. Funds raised at the event were being placed in an endowment, and guests gladly placed bets on the Belmont Stakes. Given the serene surroundings, Arcangelo was a fitting choice for the win.



Dan Titus and Cheryl Mrozowski

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Tim Brown, Mary Ellen Atkins and Harry Eudenbach

Lori Hall, David Sleeman with event co-chair Elizabeth Leatherman



Elizabeth Stouffer, Best Hat Winner Constant Metcalf and Chris Smith

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