

Voices Weekender

November 1, 2015

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • VOICES SUNDAY - THE WEEKLY STAR



The Bethlehem Land Trust hosted its 11th annual auction celebration with a wine, beer and spirits tasting on September 27 at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds. Among those attending were (from left) Larissa Zepko-March, Sandra Ruzicka, Heather Chirumbolo and auction chair Kate Eren. Those seeking additional information about the land trust may visit www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org.

Land Trust Event Celebrates Farms, Fields, Forests

BETHLEHEM — The Bethlehem Land Trust's 11th annual Auction, Love Our Land — Farms, Fields and Forests, celebrated with a wine, beer and spirits tasting Sunday, September 27, at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds.

The tasting included a wide selection of wines, beer from several micro-breweries and bourbon from the Litchfield Distillery. Platinum event sponsors included Classic Turf, Eagle Electric and Little Town Mechanical Contractors.

"This was the most successful Land Trust auction so far with generous participation on all fronts — sponsors, in-kind donors, committee and board members," said BLT president Mary Hawvermale. "Everyone stepped

up. We're very excited to have had so many energetic young people involved this year."

"It was a glorious evening with a sell-out crowd and a harvest moon over the town," said new board member Kate Eren of Bethlehem, who chaired the event committee. "We couldn't have done it without overwhelming support. Already we're thinking about what we'll do as an encore next year."

Bidding was high spirited on live auction items, including a Chloe handbag, African ironwood sculptures from Kinshasa, a tour of Christine Baranski's Good Wife set, a hot air balloon ride, hot air balloon flight instruction, Long Wharf and Metropolitan Opera tickets and more.

Silent auction items included

home accessories, gift baskets, gift certificates, services, local artists' original artwork, hay bales and garden mulch.

The event also featured a performance by the band Switch Factory.

Auction proceeds will go to the Bethlehem Land Trust's land stewardship and acquisition fund. The Trust, a non-profit organization founded in 1980, currently holds 359 acres in permanent preservation, through both fee simple ownership and conservation easements.

Those seeking additional information about the Bethlehem Land Trust may visit www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org.