



LOCAL BENEFIT

Irish community rallies for 'one of its own'

Comic, local musicians to play Jupiter event for bartender with cancer.

By Leslie Gray Streeter
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

For four decades, Irish comic performer Brendan Grace has traveled the world performing at famous venues for luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Jack Nicholson and President Bill Clinton.

This weekend, he'll interrupt his Irish winter tour to fly to Florida and play at the auditorium of Jupiter High School in honor of a local bartender.

Cathleen Kelleher, like Grace a native of Ireland and a veteran behind the bar at Paddy Mac's in Palm Beach Gardens and most recently The Bistro in Jupiter, was diagnosed last summer with breast cancer. As her health deteriorated to the point where she couldn't work, friends rallied to find a way to help out.

This weekend, that help takes musical form with a benefit for Kelleher featuring Grace and several other local Irish and Irish-American musicians, including Tracy Sands, Hugh O'Neill, Keith Ahearn, Hilary O'Leary and the Killbillies.

Grace considers it one of his most important engagements.

"There's a lovely community here, and we look out for one another. When something of this nature befalls somebody, we do something," says Grace, well known not only in his native country for his family-



Comic Brendan Grace is taking a break in his winter tour of Ireland to fly to Florida and participate in a fundraiser for fellow Irish native and local bartender Cathleen Kelleher. CONTRIBUTED

friendly work on stage, screen and television, but in the Irish community around his adopted home in Tequesta.

Kelleher, 39, was not up to discussing the benefit. Grace says she is a private person who nevertheless "is not squeamish about the fact that

there is publicity, that this is to pay for (treatment) for her illness. She's a brave person."

"She's very well known here - she's been here since she was 21," says Declan Hctor, owner of The Bistro and the organizer of the event. "Many people were coming in to me, ask-



Diagnosed with breast cancer last summer, Cathleen Kelleher has been unable to work. CONTRIBUTED

IF YOU GO

What: Benefit concert for Cathleen Kelleher
When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday
Where: Jupiter High School, 500 Military Trail, Jupiter
Tickets: 561-373-7723

ing if we were planning on doing anything for her, looking for ways to help. This makes it easy to help her."

South Florida has a large Irish community, for what Grace says is a self-explanatory reason.

"Have you ever been in the Irish weather?" he jokes. "That will answer your question."

When Hctor moved to Florida 15 years ago, he tapped into that warm community through "going to bars like Paddy Mac's

Benefit continued on D6



Steve Dorfman
Boomer Health

Heating up your health benefits

Infrared sauna alternative to traditional method

Considering we live in one of the nation's most balmy tropical climes, the last thing you might expect is for South Floridians to be searching for new ways to sweat.


However, as a growing number of local devotees have recently discovered, the perspiration produced by spending time in an infrared sauna is far different from the bodily moisture generated by the foggy, odorous steam rooms of yore.

According to numerous research studies - not to mention Dr. Mehmet Oz - the

Boomer health continued on D2

IF YOU GO

What: Infrasweat
Where: 200 N.E. Second Ave., Suite 106, Delray Beach
Information: 561-276-5550; infrasweat.com



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YOUR LIFE STORY IS THE REASON WE GET TO TELL OURS.

Name: Dr. Magno Nuqui, 78
His story: Retired anesthesiologist; father of three with late first wife; married to second wife, Araceli, for 24 years ... survivor
Treatment received at JFK: Triple-bypass open-heart surgery; resuscitation from 'code-blue' (flat-line) status; two cardiac ablations; repair of cardiac aneurysm and lung fluid

That Dr. Magno Nuqui developed a heart condition in 1999 was no surprise to him. "Heart disease runs in my family," says the native Filipino, who has lived in the U.S. for 50 years. "My father died at age 60, and my brother at age 54 - both from heart disease."

Indeed, Magno, a New York anesthesiologist who retired to Palm Beach in 1999 with wife Araceli (a lifelong registered nurse), had become accustomed to living with atrial fibrillation - that is, an irregular heart - for the last decade.

"After being diagnosed, I made a point of trying to get more exercise - walking more, playing golf, that kind of thing," explains Magno.

In addition, Magno began taking blood thinners and other medication to control the symptoms.

"When the 'a fib' really begins acting up, it's pretty scary and uncomfortable," Magno says. "You feel like you're heart is jumping out of your throat."

Despite his and Araceli's best efforts, the condition worsened over the years.

By 2007, Magno's cardiologist at JFK Medical Center, Dr. Roberto Vonsohsten, was so concerned about Magno's risk for stroke (not to mention congestive heart failure), that Magno underwent his first cardiac ablation (a minimally invasive procedure in which arrhythmias are corrected via catheter). He'd have a second one last year.

Just a couple of days before Magno and Araceli's 24th wedding anniversary this past September, Araceli began feeling extremely ill. Araceli rushed him to JFK, where, she says, "Cardiac surgeon Dr. Marcos A. Nores saved his life!"

Just as they had with his father and brother, Magno's arteries had begun to close. He also had an aortic aneurysm and fluid in his lungs. "I needed open-heart surgery immediately," Magno recalls.

He doesn't recall much else. That's because, Araceli says, "He 'died' - and was brought back to life."

On the Nuquis' Sept. 11 wedding anniversary, Dr. Nores performed a triple bypass on Magno that lasted more than five hours.

"Once we knew Magno would pull through, our friends and family joked with us about how we 'celebrated' our 24th wedding anniversary - in the cardiac intensive care unit!" Araceli can now say with a laugh.

And, thanks to the skilled and caring staff at JFK Medical Center, the Nuquis will be able to share laughter and anniversaries for many years to come.

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