



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHEDD'S SEA JELLY SOIRÉE PROVES TO BE A SEA-SATIONAL SUCCESS

Jellies Gala tops 850 guests who celebrate new exhibit at Shedd's Annual Black-Tie Event

CHICAGO — Chairman Julie Hughes O'Connor welcomed 850 guests to a sparkling night of revelry at Shedd Aquarium's annual gala, *Sea Jelly Soirée*, sponsored by United. Surrounded by the graceful animals and colorful glow of Shedd's new temporary exhibit, *Jellies* sponsored by Walgreens, Chicago's philanthropic leaders gathered to celebrate the sea's most mesmerizing creatures.

Guests began the evening by sipping champagne by Moët and Chandon, while enjoying a variety of delectable hors d'oeuvres, including salmon lollipops and the popular sushi bar. Guests were also invited to adopt an animal through Shedd's Fund-a-Friend program, which financially supports the 32,500 animals in Shedd's collection. Models wearing Graff jewelry sparkled on the mezzanine as they showcased beautifully designed pieces for guests to admire.

At the twilight dinner in the aquarium's original 1930's galleries in Kovler Family Hall and around the Caribbean Reef, guests dined on appetizers of smoked Alaska coho salmon flan with caviar-chive essence on cucumber salad. The main entrée included decadent petite filet mignon with pompom mushroom and was served with Maine lobster, saffron hollandaise, sweet-and-golden-potato galette and an asparagus bundle. Lastly, the twilight dinner was topped off with a sweet dessert of chocolate shell with seasonal berries and white chocolate mousse.

The evening continued as guests enjoyed the City's Navy Pier firework display from the Museum Campus before a cosmic swirl of lights in a beautiful tent on the Museum Campus Plaza. To add to the festivities, theatrical entertainers mesmerized guests by performing a Sea Jelly Spectacle in honor of the mysterious translucent beauties.

The décor of the event stirred with bright colors and playfulness of the *Jellies* exhibit with hues of magenta, turquoise, yellow and orange with mixed in an aquatic 'pucci' look. The entire design was inspired by the flowing arms of the sea jelly and the act of swirling in the water.

The event raised more than \$1.2 million to support more than 300,000 students who learn about aquatic animals, environments and conservation at Shedd.

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gala photos and a guest identification sheet are available on Shedd's FTP site. Simply visit:
<https://backup.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=896e648d5e646e7ab298> Password: gala2011