

## Fabulous philanthropic events: SHARE Boomtown show, Chrysalis Butterfly Ball & JDRF Imagine Gala

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The 63rd Boomtown Gala has the SHARE ladies catch disco fever & “Disco Duck”



Rick Dees performs “Disco Duck” with the SHARE ladies at the 63rd Boomtown show

The SHARE ladies' Boomtown shows are legendary, and this year was no exception. The sensational 63rd Boomtown show had a flashback disco theme with entertainment from Grammy-winning singer Hazel Payne of “A Taste of Honey,” who launched the night with “Boogie Oogie Oogie.” The hilarious Yakov Smirnoff praised America throughout his retro cold war comedy routine, and the super-cool disco/soul band The Trammps featuring Earl Young got the ballroom blazing with their “Disco Inferno” tunes. Renowned radio personality Rick Dees was the emcee and performed his '70s hit “Disco Duck,” with SHARE cuties quacking up to the crazy tune.

The SHARE ladies had the mirror ball spinning all night in the Beverly Hilton ballroom, especially when they did all their energetic production numbers. The show was produced by Gary Smith and choreographed by award winning Anita Mann, who is said to have

“the patience of ten angels.” And it paid off when the gals did “Shake Your Groove Thing,” and personified the lyrics “Let’s show the world we can dance.”

Founded 63 years ago by seven women who wanted to help children and improve the world, SHARE (Share Happily and Reap Endlessly) is a fabulous charitable organization that can boast of a stellar roster of entertainers who have headlined the Boomtown gala fundraiser over the years (most at the behest of their wives). Johnny Carson hosted for ten years, and Dean Martin hosted 17 times. Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., John Wayne and Bob Hope are also among the luminaries who have appeared in the SHARE shows. Always a highlight is seeing the SHARE ladies turn into a chorus line of showgirls, dancing feverishly for their cause.

The disco fever theme was dubbed “An Evening at Studios 53,” because SHARE was founded in 1953. But the Boomtown guests still embraced the tradition of wearing “dressy western attire” to create a fun and comfortable atmosphere. A lot of glitzy buckaroos attended including producers Julie and Roger Corman, Candace and Steve Garvey, Shelby and Tommy Chong, Peter Repovich and Catherine Bach, Dyan Cannon, Kathleen Quinlan, Finola Hughes, George Chakiris, Sandra Taylor, Jen Lilley, Gia Carides, Adrienne Maloff, Lena Jolton, Ericka Joy, Jim Bowden, Dr. Lois Lee, Joanna Carson, and the indomitable charity maven Ruta Lee.

SHARE president Ellen Feder thanked the volunteers and supporters, and reported, “Since 1953 the amazing women of SHARE have raised over \$53 million to improve the lives of underserved children.” Feder also presented “The Member of the Year Award” to Diane Forrester. Kudos also go to auctioneer Jim Nye for his great job.



Catherine Bach, Margie Barron at SHARE’s Boomtown show

SHARE has 80 active members who strive to raise funds to better the lives of children. Most of the ladies are not dancers but they kick up their heels for their big fundraiser. The ladies of SHARE performers included Ellen Feder (president), September Sarno (Board Chairman), Barbara Aaron, Terry Baldwin, Lois Bloom, Geron “Caszper” Canidate, Sondra Currie-Levi, Samantha Faulkner, Carole Gaba, Nancy Gregory, Wendy Hammers, Cooley Jaxon, Joy Jolise, Adele Langdon, Bonnie Lythgoe, Dolores Nemiro, Esther Rosenfield, Linda Schlesinger, Sandra Siegel, Laura Stone, Christine Wallace, Jamy Woodbury, Dana Grilikhes Nassi (1<sup>st</sup> vice-president), and Anita Mann Kohl (choreographer). Veteran dancer and singer, who has her own cabaret show Neile Adams (the former Mrs. Steve McQueen) did a fancy routine and some daring leaps. Watching her was a joy.

Another delight was talking with enthusiastic Catherine Bach (of *The Dukes of Hazzard* fame), who said, “I’m giving it my all. I’ve enjoyed the Boomtown event before, but this is my first time dancing in the show. It always looked like fun, so I was thrilled to join the girls. I may not be the best dancer but I’m so proud to be part of this.” #