

# Gloria's Night at Christmas Tree Lane

Norma Greer Fishkind, Special to the Desert Sun 7:01 a.m. PST December 27, 2015



Leo Milmet and mother Sara Milmet(Photo: Provided by ACT for MS)

The 15th Annual Christmas Tree Lane benefiting ACT for Multiple Sclerosis at the Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs was bittersweet. Beloved, award-winning journalist Gloria Greer was honored posthumously at the colorful event she had always chaired.

Greer founded the local desert charity along with friends Peggy Cravens and the late Jackie Lee Houston in 1998 after her daughter Norma was diagnosed with MS. Gloria Greer passed away October 30th after a one year battle with cancer.

“ACT for MS is about making sure our clients live stronger longer,” ACT for MS president **Suz Hunt** explained as she welcomed over 200 to the event which raised \$65,000 for free programs benefitting local clients diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Event hostess and star of stage and screen **Ruta Lee** kept the evening lively with her sparkle, wit, talent and gigantic enthusiasm.

**Bill Marx** and his band provided the right amount of jazzy Christmas music. **Patrick Evans** was auctioneer, and show producer **Richard DeSantis** provided his split-second magic.

Designer **Linda Williamson** did a yeoman's job chairing the event. Event sponsors included **Lori** and **Aubrey Serfling**, **Peggy Cravens**, **Penny Mason**, Hard Rock Hotel Palm Springs and Palm Springs Life.

Celebrities with trees in the lineup were Broadway star **Carol Channing**, academy award nominee **Carol Connors**, actress **Linda Gray**, author **Andrew Neiderman**, and actor / NFL legend **Fred “The Hammer” Williamson**.

**George Turner** of Turner Interior Designs and **Paris Henry** designed the two trees in Gloria Greer’s honor. Turner also designed a tree in honor of the late singer Jerry Vale and was seated with **Rita (Mrs. Jerry) Vale**. Desert Symphony and Steinway Society also had trees in the live auction.

**Tim Clark** and **Daniel Wright** of the Wright Group designed the Ruta Lee and Margaret O’Brien trees. **Barbara Sellers** of My Favorite Things designed the Carol Channing and Barry Manilow trees; Linda Williamson designed the Carol Connors, Fred Williamson, Desert Symphony and Linda Gray trees. **Debbie Ramsay** did the Wizard of Oz tree and **Atma Wiseman** did the Steinway tree. **Diane** and **Melissa Neiderman** designed the Andrew Neiderman tree.

Contributing designers for the boutique were **Jaimi Houston**, **Debra Lathrop** and **Sandy Woodson**. Attendees included **Harold Matzner**, **Donna MacMillan**, **Catharine Reed**, **Nancy Stone**, and **PS Mayor Rob Moon**. Committee members in attendance were **Jennie Inch**, **Margot Nelligan**, **Ann Greer**, **Norma Greer Fishkind**, and **Grace Robbins**.

The next ACT for MS event will be a Sunday Night Fever dance party on March 6, 2016. Phone 760-773-9806 or visit [www.actforms.org](http://www.actforms.org).