

Dancing tames zoo ball

After braving gale-force winds, hundreds take to dance floor at Circle of Life benefit gala.

Everything was lions, tigers and bears — and butterflies — as friends and supporters of the Palm Beach Zoo turned out for the annual fund-raising gala.

The Circle of Life dinner dance took place Jan. 28 at The Mar-a-Lago Club.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the original ballroom, where it was moved because of the evening's stiff — read *gale force* — winds that wreaked havoc with coifs and landscaping alike.

From there, guests moved to the Grand Ballroom, transformed into an enchanted forest with life-size animals — including sweet mother-and-baby zebras — and huge,

colorful butterflies that appeared to be fluttering everywhere, and leaf patterns projected onto the dance floor and walls.

The tables were covered in moss-green crushed dupioni silk and centered with a 10- (yes, 10) foot ficus tree made from painted canvas and gesso. The 6-foot branch spread of the tree created a canopy over each table.

After a dinner thankfully devoid of speeches — and kudos to the planners for acknowledging that guests who pay hundreds of dollars for a ticket *don't* do it to hear someone jabber on — it was dancing, dancing, dancing to the music of **Bob Hardwick** and his orchestra.

Frannie Scaife, **Eles Gillet** and **Joyce Sterling** were chairwomen of the dinner dance, which benefited the construction of a freestanding animal hospital at the zoo.

Dr. Rolla and **Kim Campbell** were honorary chairman and honorary chairwoman.

Nearly 450 people attended the event, including **George** and **Frayda Lindemann**, **Winston** and **Luce Churchill**, **Diana** and **Bill Wister**, **Bruce Bent**, **Barbara Wainscott** and other lovers of adorable little creatures. And animals.