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### **The Catskills Come to Boca Raton**

Boca Raton, Fla. (Dec 5, 2016)—Jack Godfrey, president of the Catskill Resort Museum, will be hosting “A Night in the Catskills” at Boca Black Box, located at 8221 Glades Rd., on Wednesday, Feb. 8, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to celebrate and preserve the history of the Catskill resorts and raise money for the Catskill Resort Museum.

Tickets for the event range from \$35-\$50 and can be purchased online at <http://bit.ly/catskillresort>.

“Over the last few years, my board and I have been working tirelessly to bring our vision for the Catskill Resort Museum to life,” said Godfrey. “We have tasked ourselves with creating a nonprofit in an area that has experienced severe economic hardships and is eager for its own rebirth. We are determined and hopeful that our efforts will rejuvenate the Catskills.”

The evening will begin with a short film about the history of the Catskills during the era that made it the entertainment capital of the world.

After the film, there will be performances from Josie O’Donnell, singer and comedienne, and Stewie Stone, comedian, that will invoke memories of the Borscht Belt’s heyday of vaudevillian entertainment.

Following the performance, presenter Elaine Grossinger Etes will talk about the history of Grossinger’s Catskill Resort Hotel, one of the great hotels of the world in its day. Etes will also tell stories about her family, celebrities who visited the resort, and the politics of the time. Etes is the granddaughter of the original owners of the resort, and daughter of Jennie Grossinger, who was responsible for turning the resort into a world-class destination.

The program will wrap up with another short film of the now dilapidated and abandoned Catskill resorts, followed by a discussion, led by Godfrey, on the importance of the history of the Catskill resorts and why that history must be preserved for future generations.

### **Stewie Stone**

Stone was born in Brooklyn, NY and got his start entertaining guests of the famed Concord Hotel in the Catskills. After opening for Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, he struck up a friendship with Valli, and toured with them over the next four years. Stone got his big break when he arrived in Las Vegas and opened for acts such as Paul Anka, Dionne Warwick, Ben Vereen, Bobby Vinton, Cher, and Engelbert Humperdinck. In Vegas, Stone has earned himself the reputation of being one of the best co-stars in the business.



Stewie Stone

### **Josie O'Donnell**

O'Donnell was born in Donegal, Ireland and made her stage debut in London after studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She switched early in her career from drama to musicals and had lead roles in London in "My Fair Lady," "Finian's Rainbow" and "Brigadoon" before crossing the Atlantic. She toured with Ted Lewis for five years, meanwhile doing shows in the Catskills and making appearances with Frank Sinatra, Danny Kaye, Myron Cohen, Rodney Dangerfield and Pat O'Brien - "all such wonderful personalities, so much fun to work with."



Josie O'Donnell

### **Elaine Grossinger Etes**

Etes is the granddaughter of the original owners of Grossinger's Resort, Asher and Malka Grossinger, and daughter of Jennie Grossinger, under whose control the resort became world famous. Like her mother, Etes was an industry leader. She served as chairman for the International Hotel and Motel Show in 1984 and was a member of the advisory council to the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee on Travel and Tourism. She also was the first woman president of the American Hotel and Motel Association. Today, she frequently lectures about Grossinger's and the Grossinger Family.



Elaine Grossinger Etes

From the 1920s to the 1970s, the Catskills was an entertainment and vacation destination. Many young performers got their start by taking menial jobs at the various resorts, and working their way up to performer. Athletes came from all across the country to train at the resorts. The celebrity atmosphere drew many vacationers to the area, but as air travel became more affordable, the Catskills lost some of its appeal, and the area's resorts began to decline. The legacy of the Catskills lives in the memories of those who grew up living or vacationing in the area. "A Night in the Catskills" will celebrate that legacy, and help to pass it on to younger generations by contributing all proceeds to the Catskills Resort Museum.

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The Catskill Resort Museum is a historical museum designed to disseminate, gather, display, educate and preserve the history of the Catskill resorts. The social history of the Catskill resort landscape shall be communicated with educational programs, special events and a lecture series. We intend to promote, inspire, inform and motivate creating an interactive experience of a memorable period in 20<sup>th</sup> century American culture.

Committee for Catskill Resort Museum, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2011. None of the trustees of this organization receive any form of remuneration. The entire proceeds from donations are directly invested in the formation of the Catskill Resort Museum project.