

## Cervantes's Spring Fling Raises Money for Scholarship Fund

### First Brooklyn Fling Is Cervantes' Most Successful Yet

LAWRENCE STREET — Mysterious weather patterns did not deter members and friends of the Cervantes Society who turned out Friday night for an informal Spring Fling at Harry O's in Downtown Brooklyn.

"It was pretty spooky out here," Cervantes president Luz Bryan said yesterday, recalling the spring thunderstorm that struck Brooklyn Friday morning, and the window-rattling thunder that crashed mysteriously through a clear blue sky, later in the afternoon.

Bryan said her organization sold 80 tickets to the dinner dance, a fundraiser for its Gilberto Ramirez Scholarship fund. The new scholarship program was announced last fall. It is named for the late Justice Ramirez, the first Puerto Rican and the first blind judge elected to the courts in New York City.

The first Gilberto Ramirez Schol-



Luz Bryan, Cervantes Society president, and Joseph Baccellieri, chief of the Court Officers Academy.

food, salsa dancing, a raffle and door prizes. Court Clerk Kevin Rawdon is a new proprietor of the restaurant.

"His chef's first attempt at Spanish food, and he did a good job — The food was delicious!" Bryan said.

Janis Borden, a Surrogate Court clerk, won the 50/50 raffle. Four others won free door prizes. Professional dance teacher Marisol Ramirez, of Latin Fever Dance Studio on Cortelyou Road, took the floor with her partner. Ramirez taught a popular salsa class during Hispanic Heritage Month last October.

Her performance inspired would-be dancing kings and queens to sign up for a new weekly salsa dance class being offered during the court's lunch hour. The class is already full, with 30 students, Bryan said.

The Cervantes Society's third annual Spring Fling drew about 60 people to the Lawrence Street venue and was declared a success. It raised \$1,180 after expenses — the most yet for this event, Bryan said.

"Brooklyn is the best — I told them!" Bryan said yesterday. "Brooklyn, we can turn people out!"

— Elizabeth Stull  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle



Edward Edmead, president of the Tribune Society and Luz Bryan, Cervantes Society president.

arship will be presented this fall to the child of a Cervantes Society member who is entering college. It is expected to include a stipend for textbooks. A scholarship committee has not yet determined the specific scholarship criteria, which will be announced in a membership newsletter this summer.

Several judges, including Administrative Judge Theodore Jones and Surrogate Judge Margarita Lopez Torres bought tickets to the scholarship fundraiser. The New York State Supreme Court Officers Association, with President John McKillop and Vice President Richard Krulish, bought a number of tickets.

Tracy Pardo, chief clerk of the Bronx Supreme Court came downtown for the event, as did Edward Edmead, Tribune Society president, and Marc Levine, president of the Gay Straight Alliance.

Friday night's informal event at Harry O's included Spanish



Supreme Court Secretary Lisa Cruz and Supreme Court Officer Jose Acevedo dance the night away at the Cervantes Society's Spring Fling.

Photos by Mario Belluomo