

A man in a dark suit and a woman in a red dress are holding hands and smiling on a paved path outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a bright red sleeveless dress and black high-heeled sandals. They are standing on a light-colored paved path with green bushes in the foreground and trees in the background.

**Kevin & Terri**  
*Justice*

*Romantics*  
at Heart

by Chris Hayes  
Photography by Lynn Mozena

**A**merica's leading cause of death doesn't wear a mask. It hides in plain sight and can strike at any time – while playing tennis, driving to work, or even while you sleep.

It's your heart.

Terri and Kevin M. Justice, chairpersons of this year's Annual Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball, hope to give from their hearts to keep yours safe.

The Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball is approaching its fifteenth year of raising money and spreading awareness about heart disease and stroke. This coming Valentine's Day, their gala event, "The Heart of Romance – Under the Tuscan Sun," will play a major role.

The Heart Ball hits close to home with Kevin and Terri, who have lost close relatives on both sides of their family as a result of heart disease, one a former Olympic athlete in the Summer and Winter Games. Additionally, their daughter Katherine was born with a shunt in one of the valves of her heart.

The Justices have been involved with the Heart Ball for two years now; they learned of it from their friends Dr. Frank Cook and Julie Shrewsbury, chairpersons for last year's event. Last year the Justices acted as co-chairs, and now they have taken the reins as chairpersons for the event.

"It's not just about having parties with friends and colleagues. If we can get people to go and get themselves checked out, to learn more, pay attention to the telltale signs...if someone goes and gets checked out and they realize they had a potential life-threatening problem, then this was a great success," Kevin said.

Kevin and Terri have been enjoying wine for years; they have visited the wine regions of California, South Africa and Australia. "My husband and I are huge wine fans," Terri said. "He's very knowledgeable about wines, and we enjoy it with friends, and it's considered to be heart-healthy in moderation."

"I am not a wine snob," Kevin said. "I want people to learn to appreciate it more and the different complexities of it because there's so much about life to be enjoyed in wine."

The two hope to share their passion through this year's Heart Ball, which will reflect the romance and fine wine that can only be found in Tuscany.

"We were looking for a very romantic spot," Terri said. To recreate that romance, the Heart Ball is pulling out all the stops. As you pass through the red-iron gates at the front door of this black-tie gala at PGA National Resort & Spa, the amber up-lighting will recreate Tuscany at sunset, while the music of Paul Vesco and his orchestra, which includes an Italian singer, strolling musicians and a dance band, permeates throughout the room.

The event will include a multi-course sit-down dinner and both a live and silent auction. The silent auction will feature an assortment of fine wines, while the live auction includes a number of high-level items, like an eighteen-karat white gold heart-shaped necklace set with five carats of diamonds donated by Provident Jewelry.

"We think that it will be a great item for fundraising," Kevin said. "It was very generous on their part."

The proceeds earned from the Heart Ball will go toward research and education, as well as many of the American Heart Association's leading initiatives. These include Go Red for Women, The Alliance For a Healthier Generation, Start! and Power To End Stroke.

"I don't think people realize that if you're involved in North County and you've used the Palm Beach Gardens Hospital or Jupiter Hospital, how much this actually goes to help," he said.

Unlike many charitable organizations that can retain up to 60% of the money raised, the American Heart Association donates over eighty cents per dollar directly to their cause.

"To be able to see a majority of those dollars actually going to research...those are tangible results and people are willing to reward that," Kevin said.

Tickets to this year's Heart Ball are \$400 per person, but a donation of \$1,500 includes two tickets to the Heart Ball as well as a seat at the Donor Research Dinner at City Club; it also buys membership into the Heart Circle Society. The Heart Ball is expecting to raise about \$400,000 this year over the course of the year's events.

"The Ball is just a piece of the pie," Terri said. **PBG**

*For more information on the Northern Palm Beaches Heart Ball, call Pam Caldazilla at (561) 697-6603. To find out more about heart issues and stroke, visit [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org).*