

and Peter Lyons of Wellesley and Pam and Paul Birmingham of Palm Beach, Fla.

Capturing the school spirit, guests sat at cafeteria tables arranged with plastic trays. Desserts came out in white metal lunchboxes. Instead of numbers, the tables were named after school courses, including "recess," which is where Clarke was sitting.

The benefit raised \$300,000.

Current event

Charles River enthusiasts got up close and personal with their favorite body of water Wednesday evening.

Charles River Conservancy founder and president Renata von Tscharnner brought some 60 people on a Charles Riverboat Company vessel for an informational cruise showcasing ongoing projects along the river.

Meteorologist Bruce Schwogler, a Conservancy advisory board member, was encoo, pointing out sights and sites along the way and introducing speakers Karl Haglund of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation, Kathy Abbott of the Campaign for Recreation and Conservation and John deVillars of the Charles River Watershed Association.

Also speaking were Susan Barrow-Williams of Community Boating, Patrice Tedesco of the Explorers Association, Bob Zimmerman of Blue Alliance, Wendy Landrum of Walk Boston and Colin Riley, project manager of the skate park now under construction in the New Banks Parklands.

Publick Theater artistic director Diego Arciniegas and producing director Susanna Mitter also spoke as the boat turned around at their outdoor theater on a man-made island at Christian Herter Park.

They also invited boaters to a volunteer appreciation event at the theater after the cruise. Guests included Boston City Councilor Sam Yoon, Mount Auburn Hospital CEO Jeannette Clough, skate park committee member Cheryl Hutchinson, North End and West End ABCD director Lia Yota and her niece Stephanie Capozza, and Lori Ribicco, coordinator of the Brockton Brownfields solar energy project, with her children Alice and Daniel Colombo.

'Play for the Future'



PETER LYNCH and JOHN FISH

Charles River Conservancy cruise



RENATA VON TSCHARNER and BRUCE SCHWOGLER



ROBERTA and STEPHEN WERNER



SAM YOON and JEANNETTE CLOUGH



LENNY CLARKE



STEPHANIE CAPOZZA

HERALD PHOTOS BY DANA BE