

# Oscar Fete Brings Out the Stars for Dade Charities

*Academy Awards Fundraising Soiree  
Presented in Miami Beach*



*Attorney Elizabeth Schwartz with Kenny Phillips, one of the event coordinators.*

## By Ian Drew

Oscar night kicked off in style on March 24 at a fundraising party held at the waterfront Miami Beach estate of author and personality David Leddick.

Nearly 300 people showed up to watch this year's Academy Awards telecast, and to donate money to the South Beach Gay Men's Chorus and Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (MGLFF).

Members of the chorus serenaded the crowd in between the awards presentations, some dressed as living Oscar statuettes and Marilyn Monroe look-alikes.

"This is the perfect tie-in to what we do," said Phillip Matthews, MGLFF Administrative Director. "The Oscars are the pinnacle event in the film industry. We are thankful to be chosen as one of the

benefactors of this event."

The bash was the first non-dance party event organized by Communion, a group that creates community-based events that benefit gay charities.

"We wanted to do something different than a typical dance party," said Kenny Phillips, Communion treasurer and chair of the event. "This was a way to bring people together and raise money in an unusual but fun venue."

Phillips says he feels that the success of this year's Oscar party will turn it into an annual event.

Leddick was asked to host the event at his sprawling mansion after members of the chorus suggested him to Phillips. Leddick often stars in chorus productions, and he joined members onstage for a special performance during the event.