

Speaking of big events . . .

A certain 13-year-old I know recently reproached me for using text-ease language in an e-mail. I was told such language is not only passé but that its use was exclusive to those of a certain youthful age and prohibited to others.

Well, there. I certainly don't think the fine folks at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute would approve of anyone limiting language to those falling within a certain demographic.

So: OMG!

Guess what the entrée was at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute benefit the other night? Rainbow trout! Can you believe it? Someone actually dared to serve fish other than salmon or something smoked and part of a canapé or salad.

The verdict: absolutely yummy. Kudos to the daring soul (no pun intended) who made that selection. And bravo to the Hillwood kitchen staff for serving fish that clearly slept in their native waters the night before. So long as the chef knows how to handle it, let's make this a trend.

The TFLI event attracted a vibrant collection of some Nashville society's most beloved democrats. A liberal dose of **Eskinds**, a splash of **Steve Cobb**, two parts **Jeanie Nelson-Will Martin** powerhouse, a dash of **Lolly** and **Douglas Henry** plus smattering of education types kept the conversation lively. Of course having Obama seal the deal that night only upped the excitement level.



[Will Martin, left, Jane Eskind, Jeanie Nelson and Paul Kuhn at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute event.](#)

The 100 or so had gathered Tuesday night at Hillwood Country Club to honor **Judy Liff Barker** at TFLI's Third Annual Senator Douglas Henry Award Dinner.

So what's the TFLI?

It's dedicated to strengthening intercultural communications through language instruction, translation services and cultural-awareness programs. Steve Cobb and Douglas Henry were the forces behind its establishment in 1986. And Judy Liff Barker founded the fund to support it in 1995. Since that time, TFLI has created elementary school programs and awarded \$40,000 in scholarships to 200 students to use language skills to advance their professional development or to ease their transition as newcomers to the US.

Paul Kuhn kicked off the evening at the podium and conversation flowed — albeit exclusively en anglais — at a table that included **Betty Brodie**, who is fluent in Flemish, French, English and Japanese, **Taylor** and **Phyllis Henry**, Cobb and **Jean Litterer**.

Now everyone knows Jean Litterer is smart as a tack. After resigning as Hillsboro High School principal in 2000, she is being constantly summoned by other educators to help or put out fires.

Hate to say it, Jean, but retirement just ain't in the cards for you, baby.

Dinner featured an Astoria Salad, rolls and the afore-complimented pecan-crusting rainbow trout with fennel marmalade, crumbled goat cheese and scarlet orange hollandaise. Dessert was a dark chocolate mousse and mocha served in a martini glass with blueberries.

Ann Cain made pretty arrangements of red and yellow roses using accessories donated by Ilex.

Judy's family showed up in force, including husband **Joe Barker** and her sons **Zach Liff, Darren Liff** and wife **Rachel** and **Joe's** son **Nate Barker** and his daughter **Michelle** with her husband **Stephen Froshin**.

Heloise Kuhn was there as were **Margot** and **Marty Deschenes Teri** and **John Bosio, Ester** and **Roger Cohn, Jane** and **Dick Eskind, Elizabeth** and **Lynn Greer, Hoyt Hill, Nancy** and **Waylon Holyfield, Terry Murray, Janice** and **Ernie Rodriguez, Ann** and **Owen Kelly, Ellen** and **Jon Lehman, Hazel O'Leary, Susan Edwards, Nancy** and **Alan Saturn, Susan Andrews Thompson, Ellen** and **Brent Soper, Christina Watson** and **Oscar Utterstrom** and **Lonnie Frey**.

The \$175 per ticket evening, plus its patrons, was expected to generate \$25,000 for the cause. The TFLI Fund has awarded almost \$60,000 in direct grants to the institute in the past five years.