The Parrish Art Museum’s Midsummer Party, which takes place right in the center of Southampton Village every summer, tends to be one of the most exciting events of the Hamptons social season. This year’s honorees were the arts patron Beth Rudin DeWoody and the painter Rash Blackman. And sure enough, the crowd was pretty glad.

Dena Karan was there, being interviewed by Run TV, the local television network. The newly dressed singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright came too, and he was performing a concert Sunday at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center. The art advisor EU Topal and Teen Vogue editor Amy Astley were also in 3 Phillip Lim, and Mr. Lim mingled among them.

“I’m dressed by you,” Ms. Astley, who brought her husband, Christopher, a sculptor, told Mr. Lim. “I didn’t know you were going to be here.”

Debbie Bancroft, a social fixture and a trustee at the Parrish, said she was wearing an outfit made especially for her. “It’s python,” Ms. Bancroft said. “It’s real. Feel it.” A reporter obliged, uncomfortably. He asked whether there was any sort of link between wearing a snake dress and this particular event.

“No connection,” Ms. Bancroft explained. “It’s just cool.”

Cookiels took place, in part, in the Parrish’s main gallery space. Though the museum hosts a permanent collection of more than 4,000 works, Saturday’s exhibit belonged to the first American survey of work by the British-born realist painter Rackstraw Downes. Some of Mr. Downes’s oil paintings contrasted particularly well with the fancy dresses at hand. “Garbage Arriving in Bangor at Fresh Kills is Hauled to the Top of the landfill in Alley-Wagon” (1993), “U.S. Scrap Metal Gets Shipped for Reprocessing in Southeast Asia, Jersey City” (1994), and “The Mouth of the Passaquawakrag at Belfast, Maine, Seen From the Frozen Foods Plant” (1989).

Ramona Singer, one of the biggest names on "The Real Housewives of New York," was listening to Mr. Braver with her husband, Marco, and a few friends. She was wearing a skin-tight cobalt-blue gown. "For Oceanus," Ms. Singer explained. "And look—I wear my blue jewelry, too." She showed off a turquoise ring and a cuff bracelet.

"This is $200," Ms. Singer said of the bracelet. "This is for the women who want to have a red carpet look but don’t want to spend a million dollars. I copy my own pieces, pieces that I get from places like Buccellati. I make them less expensive. But they’re not trendy. They won’t go out of style. These are pieces that you can pass along to your child. And they last. They’re made of medium, which is an alloy of platinum."

Ms. Singer’s attention was drawn away from her own bracelets to the Oceanus Plastic mural. What did she think of it?

"I think it’s phenomenal. Fabulous," said Ms. Singer, "Kids are so talented."

Meanwhile, a ferry away in Sagaponack, Love Heals, the Alison Gitts Foundation for AIDS Education, was hosting its 11th annual benefit at Luna Farm. The evening was sponsored, in part, by Sony.

Dina von Muffling, one of the founders of Love Heals, said the owner of the property lent her the land every year to throw the event. "Years ago, I told him he had to buy it," Ms. von Muffling said. "It’s 30 acres and he got it for $5 million or something. Now it must be worth tens of millions of dollars. I live around the corner, but I don’t walk there. High heels," she explained, pointing to her feet.

Ms. von Muffling introduced a surprise to DeForest Gabby. He had driven up from Charleston, S.C., with his wife, as he has done for many of the Love Heals benefits, to cater the party with pork, ribs, and children. It had taken him two days to make the journey.

"I’m pulling a 5,000-pound trailer," he explained.

"I didn’t have the chance to cook on this sooner," Mr. Gabby said. "I won the whole hog state championship on this. I even spent the night out once. I stayed like toast all night.

Mr. Gabby, who said he was named after Humphrey Bogart, added that he doesn’t cook with any gas, but instead uses a combination of charcoal and wood. He said that he made 900 individual ribs for the event, and 422 pieces of chicken.

As the DJ played "California Gold" by Katy Perry, and several local movers and shakers posed for photos with Sony’s new Nex-6 camera or visited the Patina Doppa bar, Mr. Gabby said, "I’ll never be rich and skinny. I’ll always be happy and fat." He handed a reporter a Southern beer from his private stash and fixed her a jar of his special barbecue sauce.

"This is good on everything," Mr. Gabby said. "Even uncooked."