A Hamptons Party for the Literary Crowd

By Marshall Heyman

EAST HAMPTONS—Despite its reputation as a party destination, the Hamptons likes to think of itself as a literary haven, too.

The seventh annual Author’s Night benefitting the East Hampton Library manages to combine both of those social and literary elements, with the persistent impulse to buy and sell things also mixed in for good measure.

For the meet and greet cocktail portion of the evening, more than 100 local authors sit behind tables underneath a big tent representing and signing copies of their books for sale. The titles run the gamut between relatively old ("The Wonder Spot" by Melissa Bank) to new (Knopf published "Ladies and Gentlemen," a book of short stories by Adam Ross) or, in the case of "From the Ashes of Israel," a novel by a Hamptons resident.

The evening is over, those who want to participate further can attend a dinner hosted at a private home. On that night, the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History hosted a dinner for their son, Gideon, and his new book "How Wars End: Why We Always Fight the Last Battle.”

The dinner was hosted by Michael Connelly, the recent thriller, "The Fifth Witness." Ken Lipper threw a party for Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Tom Twomey and Judith Hope, hosts of "The Book of the Month." The event raised approximately $300,000 this year, said a spokesperson.

About 35 people ended up at a dinner at Water Mill hosted by John Randolph Hearst Jr., a.k.a. "Roby." This was the second annual event.

"She called me and said she was thinking about writing a memoir," Mr. DeMille said. "I told her to take two aspirins and lie down."

Ms. Luceri explained that the impetus to work on the book came from her son. "He told me, 'There's nothing I know I can't do,'" she said, referring to the character she has played for at least the last hundred years on "All My Children."

The future of that show, by the way, is still up in the air, she explained. The production company Prospect Park is having "several and earnest conversations" about putting it on the schedule of their online network. "It seems fitting to me that the show would be broadcast online," because Ms. Luceri explained, the soap opera has always played by its own rules.

Before dinner, Mr. DeMille was keen to survey the crowd about who reads real books, who reads on a Kindle and who uses another form of tablet. "It's the future," he said.

A few particular moments worth sharing:

"I originally thought I was going to be the American John LeCarre," he said. "But that damn Cold War ended."

"I like to go to the place I'm writing about, so the next book I've set in Tahiti."

"I thought writing a sequel would be easy," he explained, "but it isn't. Sequels are very tough. The worst part is you have to go back and read your own book, which you don't ever want to do."